

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

Name of Property

historic name HOLDEN-ROBERTS FARM

other names/site number ROLLING ACRES FARM

2. Location

street & number NORTH SIDE SR 1002, 1 MILE EAST OF SR 1538 not for publication N/A

city or town HILLSBOROUGH vicinity X

state NORTH CAROLINA code NC county ORANGE code 135 zip code 27278

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Crow SHPO 3/5/02
Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

____ entered in the National Register
____ See continuation sheet

____ determined eligible for the National Register
____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined not eligible for the National Register

____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain):

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

private

building(s)

Contributing

Noncontributing

public-local

district

9 6 buildings

public-State

site

1 sites

public-Federal

structure

structures

object

objects

10 6 Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously

listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: _____ Sub: _____

DOMESTIC/ SINGLE DWELLING

DOMESTIC/ SECONDARY STRUCTURE

AGRICULTURAL SUBSISTENCE: AGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDING

AGRICULTURAL SUBSISTENCE: AGRICULTURAL FIELD

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: _____ Sub: _____

DOMESTIC/ SINGLE DWELLING

DOMESTIC/ SECONDARY STRUCTURE

AGRICULTURAL SUBSISTENCE: AGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDING

AGRICULTURAL SUBSISTENCE: AGRICULTURAL FIELD

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: TRI-GABLE I-HOUSE

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WEATHERBOARD

roof ASPHALT SHINGLE

METAL SHINGLE

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

1873-1874

1900 - 1950

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Dates

1873 -1874

1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

HOLDEN-ROBERTS FARM
Name of Property

ORANGE COUNTY, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 68.73

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title BETSEY GOHDES-BATEN

organization _____ date JUNE 23, 2000

street & number 3508 WEDGEWOOD COURT telephone 804-293-5552

city or town KESWICK state VA zip code 22947

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name DRS. NELS and NANCY ANDERSON

street & number 3828 ST. MARY'S ROAD telephone 919-732-2302

city or town HILLSBOROUGH state NC zip code 27278

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

Holden-Roberts Farm
Orange County, NC

Section number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Encompassing sixty-eight- and seven-tenths acres of fields and woodlands in Eno Township of Orange County, North Carolina and situated approximately three miles east of the town of Hillsborough, the Holden-Roberts Farm, known today as Rolling Acres Farm, contains a rare Reconstruction-period I-house and a largely intact grouping of agricultural outbuildings constructed at various times from 1900 through 1950. Located in the proposed St. Mary's Road Historic District north of State Route 1002 (St. Mary's Road) and approximately one mile east of State Route 1538 (New Sharon Road), the farm takes the shape of an irregular polygon. The west boundary travels in a straight line through woodlands, the north and east boundaries angle along a subdivision road and a fence line, and the jagged south boundary follows fence lines and a farm lane.

In the north-central sector, the focal point of the farm is a handsome and well-preserved I-house with modest Greek Revival detailing that was built in 1873 and 1874 for Addison Holden, half-brother of North Carolina's Reconstruction Governor, William Woods Holden. One of a very few dwellings built during Reconstruction in Orange County, the farmhouse retains many original architectural details, and later-made additions and renovations have been sensitive and careful. To replace a detached kitchen, Addison Holden enclosed the northern two-thirds of a large porch on the east elevation as a kitchen and parlor around 1900. At the same time, he extended a shallow porch from the east elevation of the enclosure and added a small frame structure at the north end. About 1930, George Cain Roberts, who purchased the farm from Holden in 1908, installed wood-composition wall board in the north parlor of the original block, added a one-story frame wing to the north facade, remodeled the kitchen, and installed Craftsman-style piers and posts on the south sector of the east-facing 1873-1874 porch. No other significant additions or alterations were made until ca. 1970 when the current owners, Drs. Nels and Nancy Anderson, installed a bathroom in a portion of the ca. 1900 porch, replaced a front porch post and rotted decking on all porches, and modernized the wing with sheetrock walls, new bathroom fixtures, and a small kitchenette.

Eight outbuildings also contribute to the historic character of the farm. Addison Holden constructed a granary southeast of the farmhouse ca. 1900. Cain Roberts erected three frame chicken houses ca. 1910; two are northwest and one is northeast of the farmhouse. In addition, Roberts added a brick shed-roofed garden house ca. 1915 north of the farmhouse, and an equipment shed ca. 1930 south of the farmhouse along the lane. After Roberts's death, his widow, Carrie, leased the farm to Jerome "Bud" Garrard who, with his sons "Vic" and "Julian," constructed two pole barns ca. 1950 south of the farmhouse near the lane.

Six additional outbuildings reflect agricultural uses but are noncontributing. A frame chicken house northwest of the farmhouse, and a small frame building near the eastern boundary of the

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Holden-Roberts Farm
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farm, both built ca. 1910 by Cain Roberts, have deteriorated, and a large concrete block chicken house west of the farmhouse, built ca. 1950 by the Garrards, has been extensively renovated. After 1950, the last year for which the Holden-Roberts Farm is eligible for the National Register, Thomas Bacon added a frame and concrete block egg house northeast of the farmhouse in 1963; James Rae Freeland built a frame pole barn in the east field ca. 1965; and Nels Anderson constructed a frame sawmill shed east of the Garrards' barns in 1998.

INTEGRITY STATEMENT:

The Holden-Roberts Farm has a long history of continuous usage. Historic land use patterns remain, and the lay of the land is much the same as formerly. Pastures and fields are in their early-twentieth-century locations, and although livestock and poultry are no longer raised, the farm produces a large annual crop of grass hay. Buildings on the farm have been constructed, repaired, and destroyed, or allowed to deteriorate by various owners and tenants as farming activities and emphases have changed over time. The most important early- and mid-twentieth-century buildings are in good repair and convey a strong sense of agricultural use while the noncontributing buildings complement them in scale and character.

1. LANDSCAPE, contributing:

Although its acreage has varied over time, the Holden-Roberts Farm is today a sixty-eight- and seven-tenths-acre tract, dominated by agricultural fields that slope gently upward from the south boundary near SR 1002 to woodlands along the north and west boundaries. Mature poplars, oaks, maples, and pines dominate the woodlands and cedars grow intermittently near fence lines around the farm. Beginning at SR 1002, a winding dirt and gravel lane, part of a network of unimproved roads abandoned by Orange County before 1936,¹ extends in a north-south direction and bisects the farm to divide a large open field of approximately thirty-five acres on the west from two smaller fenced fields of approximately eight and ten acres on the east. As it reaches the farmhouse in the north-central sector of the farm, the lane curves to the west and then continues in a west-northwest direction off the property to State Route 1538. On a gentle eastern slope, the farmhouse faces west toward the lane, sheltered on the east by two tall pecan trees. Outbuildings around the farm, constructed over a fifty-year period of agricultural significance and set in loose proximity to the lane from south to northwest, clearly convey an association with Orange County's diversified farming economy from 1900 to 1950.

2. THE HOLDEN-ROBERTS FARMHOUSE, ca. 1873-74, with additions ca. 1900, 1930, and 1970 (*Floor plans of the house are attached as Exhibits A and B*):

The Holden-Roberts Farmhouse comprises a handsome frame tri-gable I-house constructed in 1873 and 1874, a ca. 1900 one-story frame kitchen-parlor-porch addition on the east elevation,

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Holden-Roberts Farm
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and a ca. 1930 one-story frame wing on the north elevation. The original block is well preserved and sensitive modifications have been made to the addition and the wing.

Original Block, 1873-1874:

Resting on a clay-mortared fieldstone foundation, the original block of the Holden-Roberts farmhouse, constructed in 1873-1874 for Addison Holden, has a timber frame that is said to have been assembled at the site from pre-constructed components.² The dwelling is covered with weatherboard siding, capped by a gable roof now covered with gray asphalt shingles, and flanked by two stately single-shouldered end chimneys with soapstone bases and corbelled brick stacks. Windows around the original block are six-over-six double-hung sash, and except for the first floor of the west elevation, fenestration is regular.

Breaking the symmetrical fenestration pattern found elsewhere, the west or front elevation of the main block is divided into four bays on the first floor with an unusual bank of three windows at the north end. Close inspection of its components reveals that the bank is original except that the top sash in the northern-most window is a recent replacement containing streaked opalescent glass. Two windows at the south end of the first floor mirror the placement of end windows in the bank. The windows bracket a central double-leaf entry door with horizontal panels that is topped by a three-light transom. The door opens onto a less-than-full-width porch sheltered by a hipped roof. One post and the decking on the porch have been replaced in a tasteful manner in keeping with the design of the house. There are three regular bays on the second floor of the west elevation and windows are located on each side and in the center. Above the center window, a wall gable is defined by prominent cornice returns and ornamented with a small quatrefoil-shaped ventilator.

Typical of vernacular farmhouses in the mid-South, secondary elevations of the original block are plainer. On the south elevation, there is no fenestration on the first floor, and on the second, cornice returns and windows flank a chimney secured to the house by an iron rod around its base. The east and north elevations are partly concealed by the addition and the wing but reflect opposite elevations where they are visible. Notable on the east elevation, second-floor windows have louvered shutters.

The interior of the original block has a center hall plan. A stair hall divides two parlors of similar proportions on the first floor, and an open stairway rises in two runs separated by a shallow landing to a front hall on the second floor. Two bedrooms of the same approximate placement as the parlors below open onto the second-floor hall.

Many original architectural features enhance the interior. Random width beaded-board paneling covers the walls and ceilings in all rooms except that wood-composition wall board was installed in the north parlor ca. 1930. The parlors and bedrooms have identical Greek

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Holden-Roberts Farm
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Revival-style mantels with simple pilasters, arched frieze boards, and plain shelves. Four-panel doors retain porcelain knobs, cast iron locks, and large impression bronze hinges. The staircase is lined with turned balusters and accentuated by a handsome octagonal newel on the first floor and by chamfered newels with ball finials on the landing and second floor. Other remarkable features include hand-carved door knobs on closet doors in the bedrooms and pine plank flooring that is exposed in the hallways and on the stairs but covered with carpeting in the parlors and bedrooms.

Kitchen-Parlor-Porch Addition, ca. 1900 and 1930:

Using frame construction, Addison Holden enclosed the northern two-thirds of a large hip-roofed porch on the east elevation to create a kitchen and a parlor around 1900. At the same time, he extended a shallow hip-roofed porch from the east elevation of the enclosure and joined a small frame gable-roofed structure at the north end. Exterior features include original metal shingles on the roof, and a tall stove chimney. Inside, back-to-back corner flues serve a stove pipe in the kitchen and a fireplace in the parlor. A mantel with fluted pilasters enhances the firebox, and baseboards and chair rails further decorate the parlor. About 1930, Cain Roberts remodeled the kitchen and added brick piers and battered box posts to the remainder of the 1873-1874 porch.³ Nels Anderson enclosed a portion of the ca. 1900 porch to create a bathroom, and replaced the decking on the 1873-1874 porch ca. 1970.⁴

Wing, ca. 1930:

A small, frame, one-story, gable-roofed wing that contained a bedroom and a bathroom was added to the north elevation of the original block ca. 1930.⁵ The exterior displays original weatherboard siding and metal roof shingles but the interior was renovated ca. 1970 when the Andersons installed sheetrock to replace board paneling, updated the bathroom fixtures, and divided the space to incorporate a small kitchenette.⁶

Other features of the Holden-Roberts Farm are (Numbers are keyed to Exhibit C):

3. GRANARY, ca. 1900, contributing:

The oldest outbuilding on the Holden-Roberts Farm is a frame, weatherboarded, front-gable granary thought to have been built by Addison Holden.⁷ It is notable for a fieldstone foundation, a crimped metal roof, and a board-and-batten door on the south elevation.

4. CHICKEN HOUSE, ca. 1910, contributing:

The westernmost structure in a group of three frame chicken houses is set atop brick and stone piers, covered by weatherboard siding, and capped by a shed roof. Oriented to face south, it

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was built by Cain Roberts northwest of the farmhouse near the woods and now serves as a storage shed.⁸

5. CHICKEN HOUSE, ca. 1910, contributing:

The easternmost structure in the same group of chicken houses is also a frame weatherboarded shed-roofed building set atop brick and stone piers and oriented to face south. Very similar to contributing building four, it, too, was built by Cain Roberts and is presently used for storage.⁹

6. CHICKEN HOUSE, ca. 1910, contributing:

A frame, weatherboarded, shed-roofed chicken house, smaller than contributing buildings four and five, was built by Cain Roberts just northeast of the farmhouse. Like the others, it faces south and is presently used for storage.¹⁰

7. GARDEN HOUSE, ca 1915, contributing:

A south-facing brick shed-roofed garden house was built by Cain Roberts north of the farmhouse.¹¹ The glazing has been removed, and it appears the brick end walls have been rebuilt -- using some new brick.

8. EQUIPMENT STORAGE SHED, ca. 1930, contributing:

A frame weatherboarded equipment shed, constructed by Cain Roberts and located south of the farmhouse along the lane, faces east and permits ready access to farm machinery from four open bays supported by peeled log posts.¹²

9. SMALL POLE BARN, 1950, contributing:

Southeast of the farmhouse and adjacent to the lane, Bud Garrard and his sons constructed this gable-roofed frame barn with an open east-facing loafing shed. Sturdy poles with king-post trusses support the building, and it is covered with standing-seam metal on the north and west facades and on the roof. The original barn on the farm, built by Addison Holden and located nearby, was struck by lightning and burned in the late 1940s.¹³

10. POLE BARN, ca. 1950, contributing:

The Garrards constructed this large frame gable-roofed barn just north of contributing building number eight. The structure has agricultural metal siding and a standing seam metal roof. On the interior, supporting poles have king-post trusses and hayracks are installed along a center aisle that parallels the roof ridge. Openings at the south end of the barn permitted cattle to enter and feed at will.

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11. CHICKEN HOUSE, ca. 1910, noncontributing:

The southernmost structure in the group of three chicken houses northwest of the farmhouse that contains contributing buildings three and four is noncontributing because it is deteriorated.¹⁴

12. FARM BUILDING, ca. 1910, noncontributing:

A small weatherboarded, gable-roofed building, built by Cain Roberts near the eastern boundary of the farm, is noncontributing because it is deteriorated.¹⁵

13. LARGE CHICKEN HOUSE, 1950, noncontributing:

A large concrete block gable-roofed chicken house near the west boundary of the farm was constructed by the Garrards ca. 1950 and has been extensively remodeled as an office-studio by Nels and Nancy Anderson.¹⁶

14. EGG HOUSE, 1963,¹⁷ noncontributing:

A frame front-gabled building with a raised concrete block basement located immediately northeast of the farmhouse is noncontributing because of its recent age.

15. LARGE POLE BARN, ca. 1965,¹⁸ noncontributing:

A large gable-roofed pole barn, partially enclosed by modern wood-composition siding, was built by James Rae Freeland and located in an open pasture southeast of the farmhouse. This structure is noncontributing because of its recent age.

16. SAWMILL SHED, 1998, noncontributing

An open frame shed containing a sawmill that was constructed by Nels Anderson a short distance east of the Garrards' pole barns is noncontributing because of its recent age.

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Holden-Roberts Farm
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Holden-Roberts Farm qualifies for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A with local significance in Orange County, North Carolina as a largely intact complex representing diversified farming and specialized chicken farming during the first half of the twentieth century. Although the land has been farmed more or less continuously since the late-eighteenth century, the remaining outbuildings depict the period from 1900 to 1950. The centerpiece of the farm complex, a handsome, well-preserved, tri-gable I-house built for Addison Holden in 1873-1874, also has local significance and is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its fine vernacular architecture. The dwelling is unusual for its asymmetrical front facade that exhibits four bays on the first floor with a bank of three windows at the north end, a central double-leaf door, and two windows at the south end that mirror the placement of end windows in the bank. More typical of I-houses in central North Carolina, three second-floor windows are regularly spaced, one above the center window of the bank on the north end, one above the door, and one above the space between the windows at the south end. Machine-made mantels and newels, a center wall gable with a quatrefoil ventilator, and large impression bronze hinges are other remarkable details. One of a very few dwellings in Orange County to be built during Reconstruction, the house was enlarged with a kitchen-parlor-porch addition ca. 1900, and a wing containing a bedroom and a bath ca. 1930. Around 1970, the wing was renovated, and the house updated with another bathroom on the ca. 1900 porch. The additions and renovations have been sensitive to the original plan and fabric of the dwelling, and the Holden-Roberts Farmhouse reflects the 1873-1874 period of its architectural significance.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT:

Before the second quarter of the twentieth century, farmhouses constructed in the upland South were often rectangular, two-story, one-room-deep structures with gable or hip roofs and exterior chimneys that are now called I-houses.¹⁹ The house type originated in English folk culture but its name was coined for builders who were thought to have brought the form from Iowa, Indiana, and Illinois, states whose names begin with "I," to Louisiana.²⁰ The first I-houses had simple upward extensions of the hall and parlor plan, but by the mid-nineteenth century, a symmetrical center-hall room arrangement was preferred.²¹ The proportions and features of these dwellings changed slightly over time, offering a few concessions to current architectural fashion.²² During the late-nineteenth century, builders of I-houses in North Carolina often retained hints of the Greek Revival style through the use of cornice returns and double-leaf entry doors. They also began to utilize a prominent decorative front central wall or roof gable. This feature, when combined with the traditional gable ends, served to create a tri-gable variant that proved extremely popular throughout the state. The front gable was derived from the Gothic Revival or Downing cottage style that featured steep central gables and richly ornamented

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sawnwork decoration. The true Gothic Revival style, however, was not widely used in North Carolina's residential architecture for center gables on I-houses are usually shallow and plain or enhanced modestly with shingles and small windows or ventilators.

As elsewhere in North Carolina, I-houses were constructed by prosperous Orange County residents for many years, but very few were built during Reconstruction (1865-1877). Of these few, the Holden-Roberts Farmhouse, constructed for Addison Holden, a man who had inherited a moderate-sized estate and whose half-brother was the Governor of North Carolina, is a substantial example with machine-made ornamentation. Only one additional I-house in the general area is known to have been built during Reconstruction. The Kinchen Holloway House (SL), was constructed ca. 1870 in what is now northwest Durham County.²³ Like the Holden-Roberts Farmhouse, this dwelling is frame, and has six-over-six windows, a gable roof, and fieldstone and brick end chimneys. However, Kinchen Holloway, a miller and a less wealthy man than Holden, built a plainer house. Holloway's dwelling does not have a double-leaf entry door, ornamental hinges, a center gable, or a bank of windows, and the mantels and newels in his house are handmade.

In closer proximity, other I-houses in the proposed St. Mary's Road Historic District were constructed at around the turn of the twentieth century or later. The manager's house at Foxhill Farm, built in 1897 for Nannie Turner Hughes, is frame and has a gable roof, regular fenestration in three bays, and end chimneys. It, too, is plainer than the Holden-Roberts Farmhouse; there is only a single-leaf entry door and no center gable, and it is not possible to determine whether the interior was plain or fancy for it has been extensively modernized. Only the Watkins-Jones House, built around 1915 and also a frame tri-gable variant with regular fenestration and end chimneys, has modest decorative detailing. Notwithstanding, the sawnwork trim on the center gable, classic porch posts, turned balusters, and bracketed mantels were machine made at a later and prosperous time when such components were cheap and widely available.

Thus, the Holden-Roberts Farmhouse, with many original architectural features intact, provides rare and important documentation of decorative enhancements chosen by a well-connected farmer, one of a very fortunate few in Orange County who could afford to build during 1873 and 1874.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND AGRICULTURAL CONTEXT:

The Holden-Roberts Farm appears to fall within the boundaries of two parcels of land granted by John, Earl Granville, in the eighteenth century, one to Michael Synnott in 1752, and the other to John Kelly at an unspecified date.²⁴ The records show that both Synnott and Kelly were owners of large tracts of land at various locations within Orange County, and each no doubt bought and sold real estate striving to increase his personal wealth.²⁵ While Kelly retained his subject parcel, Synnott conveyed his to a man identified as Thomas Holden, a weaver by trade, in 1755.²⁶ Holden's six children included a son, Thomas Whitted, and a daughter, Mary, who

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married John Kelly, possibly the neighboring landowner or his son.

The Holden and Kelly lands, or portions of them, were joined and farmed as part of a larger holding by an undetermined number of owners until in 1826, Young Dorch, a wealthy Orange County farmer, bequeathed 100 acres of land “. . . on which I now live,” and several slaves to his wife, Nancy, with instructions that at her death, the land should go to their daughter, Lucy Walker.²⁷ Two deteriorated fieldstone chimneys located in woods north of the Holden-Roberts Farm may date from the period of his or Walker’s occupations.

On January 1, 1868, Isaac Holden purchased 146 acres, one rod, and twenty perches²⁸ from Lucy Ann Walker, widow of George W. Walker, for \$500.²⁹ The deed shows that reversions, remainders, and rents were due to the buyer, implying that Lucy and her family had farming ventures under way that might be expected to yield produce or income, though the nature of these is not specified. Isaac Holden kept the farm only for a short period, and, on June 26, 1871, he sold the 146 acres plus seven more purchased from James Hicks and wife, to his nephew, Addison L. Holden, for \$856.87.³⁰ A sum of \$256.87 in cash was all that was required of Addison at the time of the sale, for the remaining \$600 due was his share of his father’s estate and already in his uncle’s possession as trustee.

At the time of his purchase, Addison Holden was a thirty-three-year-old Confederate veteran, a widower, and the father of several young children. His family was well established in North Carolina, and it is possible to determine something of his life from documentation that is available. He was born in 1837, and among the younger of ten children born to Thomas Whitted Holden and his wife, Sarah Nichols Holden.³¹ The year after Addison’s birth, his father advertised schooling for boys at a charge of thirty-six dollars for tuition and five months board.³² Education was important to the Holdens; Thomas’s will of 1852 specifies that money be set aside to educate the three youngest children, and Addison is named as one who has already benefited from schooling.³³ The family’s main livelihood, however, came from a mill that Thomas Holden operated in partnership with John Lyon on the Eno River.³⁴

Despite his success at the mill, and the family’s relatively comfortable circumstances, Thomas Holden was shadowed by a dalliance with Priscilla Wood (or Woods) before his marriage that had produced a son, William Woods Holden.³⁵ One source relates that this young man was taken from his impoverished mother to live with his father’s family after Sarah Holden learned of his existence.³⁶ Several decades later, William Woods Holden became North Carolina’s controversial and unpopular Reconstruction governor.

Thomas Holden and his family left Orange County well before the Civil War, moving north to Milton, North Carolina, and later to Halifax County, Virginia. There Thomas was, again, a successful miller, for his will gives instructions about the disposition of six slaves, and the handling of milling operations in which he and his sons were engaged.³⁷

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Holden-Roberts Farm
Orange County, NC

Addison Holden enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1861, serving as a private in Company E of the twenty-third Regiment, Virginia Infantry. He was stricken with "something so that [he] could not walk."³⁸ Though disabled in this fashion, he had recuperated sufficiently to serve as an attendant at a hospital in Danville at the time of Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomatox.³⁹

After the war, he returned to North Carolina and married Loretta Lyon, perhaps the daughter or relative of John Lyon, his father's former partner, on January 2, 1865.⁴⁰ The couple had three children, Sallie Elizabeth, Loretta J., and Harry, when Loretta died in 1869. Five years later, on December 30, 1874, Addison married fifteen-year-old Elizabeth Edney Breeze, called "Bettie." This union took place just as he completed the farmhouse that was to be home to his family for the next thirty-seven years.⁴¹

Victor Garrard, a son of Bud Garrard, lessee of the Holden-Roberts farm from 1947 until 1963, recalls that his grandfather, Wade Cates, then aged seventeen, helped to bring pre-constructed panels to the farm via horse-drawn wagon and to assemble the handsome I-house for Addison Holden.⁴² Using his grandfather's age as a guide, Garrard dates the construction of the house to 1873 and 1874.⁴³ Records show that Isaac Holden loaned his nephew \$242.48 on October 14, 1874, and received a mortgage against the land as security.⁴⁴ Garrard also reports that the stone for the chimneys was taken from a quarry northwest of the farm.⁴⁵

After the house was completed, Addison Holden is thought to have lived quietly among his neighbors, wishing to avoid any unpleasantness associated with the unpopularity of his half-brother. Governor William Woods Holden was impeached in office, and family members are said to have been threatened on occasion by angry neighbors.⁴⁶

Addison Holden made a payment of \$158 in August of 1880 that settled the debt to his uncle. That year population and agricultural censuses, taken in June, give the only official records of his family and farming activities. The population census lists Addison as a farmer, aged 42, and Bettie, aged 26, as a housekeeper. Other members of the household noted were the children from Addison's marriage to Loretta Lyon: Sallie Elizabeth, aged sixteen; Loretta J., thirteen; Harry S., twelve; and Addison's sister, Maggie G., fifty-two. Two additional children, Ralph and Koma, are reported to have been born to Addison and Bettie Holden several years later.⁴⁷

Diversified agriculture was the basic economic pursuit in North Carolina after the Civil War, but prices of agricultural staples such as cotton, corn, and wheat collapsed because of over-production in the late 1870s. Crop liens, higher taxes, fence laws, and the development of the North Carolina Railroad that linked nearby Hillsborough with urban markets encouraged a shift from self sufficiency to the growing of cash crops such as cotton and tobacco. Profits declined, and indebtedness forced many farmers to take jobs in factories and mills springing up in nearby towns. By the late 1800s, nearly forty percent of all farmers in Orange County were sharecroppers working an average of twenty to sixty acres of land.⁴⁸

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Holden-Roberts Farm
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The agricultural census of 1880 showed that Addison Holden had forty-five acres under cultivation, and 108 acres fallow or in woods. The value of his farm was given as \$600. Farming implements and machinery were valued at seventy-five dollars, and livestock, including one horse, two milk cows, two other cows, two calves, and two cattle slaughtered for meat, at \$100. The total farm production was worth \$710. Though this included 200 lbs. of butter, 200 bushels of Indian corn, 200 bushels of oats, forty bushels of wheat, and 100 bushels of apples, the Holdens' main cash crop was 1,700 lbs. of tobacco which was, no doubt, sold at newly established sales warehouses in Durham. But 1880 brought losses, too, for seven cattle strayed, were stolen, or died, and a peach orchard of seventy trees bore no fruit.⁴⁹

Around 1900, Holden enlarged the house by enclosing the northern two-thirds of a large porch on the east elevation to create a parlor and a kitchen. At the same time, he also extended a shallow shed porch with a small gable-roofed structure at the north end from the east elevation of the enclosure. The original detached kitchen is said to have served as a wash house until it was destroyed in the 1950s.⁵⁰

Although semi-subsistence farming in Orange County continued into the early years of the twentieth century, an abundance of cash crops resulted in oversupplies and further price declines. Whether for this reason, or because the rigors of farming were increasingly strenuous for Addison and Bettie, now in their later years, the property was sold to George Cain Roberts for the sum of \$2000 in 1908.⁵¹

In his architectural survey report evaluating the St. Mary's Road corridor, Geoffrey B. Henry notes a shift from semi-subsistence farming and cash crops to raising chickens and dairy cattle among some farmers in the area during the early-twentieth century. Appropriate outbuildings were constructed, often according to standardized designs or plans supplied by the Agricultural Extension Service or Agricultural Experiment Station at NC State College (now NC State University).⁵² Cain Roberts added four frame chicken houses to the farm ca. 1910, and George Washington Walker, Jr., a nearby neighbor on St. Mary's Road, constructed similar ones at about the same time.⁵³

Cain and his wife, Carrie Bacon Roberts, made a specialty of raising chickens, typically keeping about 800 White Leghorns as layers.⁵⁴ In 1917, they added thirty-eight acres along the northwest border of the farm, purchased for \$716.25 when Cain's father's estate was settled.⁵⁵ Now with 191 acres of land and hens thriving, the Roberts's were considered by neighbors to be a hard-working and successful couple.⁵⁶ By 1920 their assets greatly exceeded the Orange County averages of ninety acres and twenty-eight chickens per farm.⁵⁷

Cain and Carrie Roberts had no children, but took Edrie Martin, aged eight; Aubrey Martin, seven; and Vance Martin, four, to live with them after Virginia, their mother and Cain's sister, died in 1926.⁵⁸ In 1930, Aubrey Martin helped his uncle remodel the kitchen and add the one-

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Holden-Roberts Farm
Orange County, NC

story wing to the north facade of the farmhouse, making a bedroom and bath for Vesta Bacon, Carrie's sister, who came to live with them also. During the 1930s and 1940s, the Martin children assisted their uncle in raising tobacco on a four-acre allotment, planting and harvesting 300 bushels of wheat, oats, and barley, and two to 300 bushels of corn, milking six to eight cows, feeding the chickens, and gathering several thousand dozen eggs annually.⁵⁹ During this period, the number of chickens and egg production on the farm continued to exceed Orange County averages. The agricultural census of 1940 lists Orange County with 1,870 farms that had an average forty-four chickens per farm and 1,733 farms that produced an average 377 dozen eggs per farm.⁶⁰

When Cain Roberts died in 1943, his will directed that "my entire estate of real and personal property" be conveyed "to my beloved wife, Carrie B. Roberts."⁶¹ After her husband's death, Carrie did not stay on the farm but moved to Hillsborough with Vesta Bacon and Vance Martin. Aubrey Martin operated the farm for several years before it was leased to Bud and Della Garrard in 1947.⁶²

The Garrards remained at the farm for sixteen years, making a specialty of chickens and eggs as the Roberts family had done.⁶³ In 1950, with production slightly greater than that of the Roberts's, the Garrards also surpassed Orange County averages. In that year, 1,777 Orange County farms had an average seventy-three chickens and 766 farms produced an average 1,093 dozen eggs.⁶⁴ Assisted by his sons, Victor and Joseph "Julian," Bud Garrard constructed a large concrete block chicken house west of the farmhouse and two pole barns near the southern end of the farm during 1950.⁶⁵

After Carrie Roberts's death in 1963, her heirs divided the farm, selling a twenty-acre parcel to the Garrards' sons, a fifty-eight-acre parcel containing the house and outbuildings to Thomas Bacon, Jr., and the remainder of the land to Wallace Bacon.⁶⁶ Two years later, Thomas Bacon sold his property to James Rae and Betty Freeland who constructed the large gable-roofed pole barn in the northeast field, and sold the property to Drs. Nels and Nancy Anderson, the present owners, within a year.⁶⁷ In 1970, the Andersons purchased one half of the Garrard brothers' land, thus acquiring another portion of the original Holden-Roberts farm.⁶⁸

Around 1970, the Andersons made sensitive and practical alterations to the farmhouse that included enclosing a portion of the ca. 1900 porch as a bathroom; renovating the ca. 1930 wing with sheetrock on interior walls and new bathroom fixtures, and dividing the space to include a small kitchenette. The Andersons also replaced a front porch post and rotted decking on the front and south porches.

Under the Andersons' ownership, the outbuildings have been preserved and utilized in farming activities that have included raising sheep and cattle, keeping horses, and cultivating grass hay.⁶⁹ The Holden-Roberts Farm thus retains an intact and rare Reconstruction-period dwelling

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and an extensive group of outbuildings utilized in diversified farming and chicken farming in Orange County, North Carolina, during the first half of the twentieth century.

Endnotes:

¹ A network of dirt roads that appears on the 1918 soil map of Orange County published by the Agricultural Extension Service is not shown on a 1936 road map of Orange County. Maps in Public Documents, Perkins Library, Duke University Durham, NC.

² Victor Garrard, personal interview, 17 May, 1995.

³ Aubrey Martin, personal interviews, 14 July, 1994 and 16 May, 1995.

⁴ Dr. Nancy Anderson, personal interviews, 16 December 1994, and 14 May, 1995.

⁵ Martin, interviews.

⁶ Anderson, interviews.

⁷ Martin, interviews.

⁸ Martin, interviews.

⁹ Martin, interviews.

¹⁰ Anderson interviews.

¹¹ Thomas Bacon, personal interview, 17 May, 1995.

¹² Martin, interviews.

¹³ Garrard, interview.

¹⁴ Martin, interviews.

¹⁵ Martin, interviews.

¹⁶ Garrard, interview, Anderson, interviews.

¹⁷ Thomas Bacon, personal interview, 17 May, 1995.

¹⁸ Bacon, interview.

¹⁹ Kniffen, Fred, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 55, No. 4, Dec. 1965, p. 553.

²⁰ Kniffen, p.553.

²¹ Southern, Michael, "The I-House as a Carrier of Style in Three Counties of the Northeastern Piedmont", in Swaim, Doug, ed., *Carolina Dwelling*, North Carolina State University, 1978, p. 72.

²² Southern, p.72.

²³ Durham County was a part of Orange County until 1881.

²⁴ Markham, A. B., Map of Land Grants to Early Settlers in Old Orange County, North Carolina, copy in Documents division, Perkins Library, Duke University, Durham, NC.

²⁵ Orange County Land Records show numerous transactions made by these men.

²⁶ Browning, Hugh Conway, Orange County genealogist, In a letter dated August 18, 1964 to John A. Holden, Browning describes the ancestry of the Holden family. This letter is among Holden family papers now in possession of the Duke University Archives, Durham, NC.

²⁷ Will of Young Dortch dated October 1, 1826, Orange County Estate Records, Hillsborough, NC, Book C, p. 315-16.

²⁸ Lounsbury, Carl R., *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1994, p.267. Lounsbury notes that a "perch" is sixteen and one half feet long and most often used for measurement of stone fences. It is rare to find it referring to land measurements.

²⁹ Book 38, pages 145-6, Orange County Register of Deeds Office, Hillsborough, NC.

³⁰ Book 48, pages 397-8, Orange County Register of Deeds Office, Hillsborough, NC.

³¹ Holden, Addison, Application for a Pension as a Civil War Veteran, Raleigh, NC, collection, North Carolina Archives, 21 June, 1915. This document lists Holden's age as 78 in 1915.

³² Blackwelder, Ruth, *Age of Orange*, Charlotte, Loftin, 1961, p. 129.

³³ Will of Thomas W. Holden dated July 27, 1852, Book G, pages 158-61. Orange County Estate Records, Hillsborough, NC.

³⁴ The stone foundations of this mill are in the Eno River State Park.

³⁵ Browning, letter, p.7.

³⁶ Browning, letter, p.7.

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- ³⁷ Will of Thomas W. Holden .
- ³⁸ Holden, Application for Soldier's Pension.
- ³⁹ Holden, Application for Soldier's Pension.
- ⁴⁰ Browning, letter, p.6.
- ⁴¹ Browning, letter, p.6.
- ⁴² Garrard, interview.
- ⁴³ Garrard, interview.
- ⁴⁴ Orange County Deed Book 42, p. 550.
- ⁴⁵ Garrard, interview.
- ⁴⁶ Jones, interview, and Browning, letter, p.8. W. W. Holden doubled North Carolina's debt by the corrupt issuance of railroad bonds; raised taxes exorbitantly to pay interest on these obligations; gave hefty per-diem allowances to state legislators, most of whom were felt to be carpetbaggers and scalawags; encouraged newly-freed blacks to vote and run for election to political offices; ordered Colonel George W. Kirk and the state militia into Caswell and Alamance Counties to suppress opposition and Klu Klux Klan activities with force; and jailed influential newspaper editor Josiah Turner of Raleigh who spoke out against him in print.
- ⁴⁷ Jones, interview.
- ⁴⁸ Graybeal, Kay, and Shannon Sexton, Cedar Grove Historic District National Register Nomination, Section 8, p.30, on file with the NC State Historic Preservation office, Survey and Planning Branch, Raleigh, NC.
- ⁴⁹ Agricultural Census for North Carolina, 1880.
- ⁵⁰ Martin, interviews.
- ⁵¹ Martin, interviews.
- ⁵² Henry, p. 19.
- ⁵³ Carter Jody, and Todd Peck, Architectural Survey form for the George Washington Walker, Jr., Farm, 1992-1993, on file with the State Historic Preservation office, Survey and Planning Branch, Raleigh, NC.
- ⁵⁴ Martin, interviews.
- ⁵⁵ Orange County Deed Books 72 and 73, pp. 543 and 396.
- ⁵⁶ Mary Lena Bacon, personal interview, 16 May, 1995.
- ⁵⁷ The Fourteenth Census of the United States taken in 1920, Volume VI, part 2, p. 238 & 249.
- ⁵⁸ Bacon, M. L., interview.
- ⁵⁹ Martin, interviews.
- ⁶⁰ North Carolina Agricultural Census for 1940, on file at NC State Library, Raleigh, NC.
- ⁶¹ Orange County Will Book L, p. 505 and Orange County Deed Book 63, p. 389.
- ⁶² Garrard, interview.
- ⁶³ Garrard, interview.
- ⁶⁴ North Carolina Agricultural Census for 1950, on file at NC State Library, Raleigh, NC.
- ⁶⁵ Garrard, interview.
- ⁶⁶ Orange County Deed Books 183 and 196, pp. 565 and 675, and Bacon, T., interview.
- ⁶⁷ Orange County Deed Books 202 and 210, p. 136 and p. 811.
- ⁶⁸ Orange County Deed Books 227 and 341, pp. 1538, and 507.
- ⁶⁹ Anderson interviews.

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Deed Books of Orange County, Vols. 38, 48, 63, 72, 73, 183, 196, 202, 210, 227, 341, Register of Deeds Office, Hillsborough, NC.

Wills and Estate Records of Orange County, Vols. C, G, L, Orange County Courthouse, Hillsborough, NC.

U.S. Census for North Carolina and Agricultural Census for North Carolina, 1880.

Interviews:

Drs. Nels and Nancy Anderson, owners of Rolling Acres, the Holden-Roberts Farm, 16 December, 1994, and 14 May, 1995, and by letter on 1 July, 1995.

Mary Lena Bacon, neighboring property owner and relative of Carrie Bacon Roberts, 15 May 1995.

Thomas Bacon, relative of Carrie Bacon Roberts and owner of the Holden-Roberts Farm, 1963-65, 17 May, 1995.

Victor Garrard, son of Jerome "Bud" Garrard, tenant on the Holden-Roberts Farm, 1947-1963, 17 May, 1995.

Clarence Jones, Director, Hillsborough Historical Society, 12 July, 1994.

Aubrey Martin, nephew of Cain Roberts, 14 July, 1994 and 16 May, 1995.

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Holden-Roberts Farm
Orange County, NC

10. UTM REFERENCES FOR THE HOLDEN-ROBERTS FARM, ORANGE COUNTY, NC:

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A.	17	676535	3998000
B.	17	676700	3998095
C.	17	676980	3998160
D.	17	676945	3997420
E.	17	676880	3997420
F.	17	676880	3997600
G.	17	676540	3997600

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the Holden-Roberts Farm is shown on the attached tax map (1"=200'). It includes two parcels, one of fifty-eight- and four-tenths acres that is described and recorded in Volume 210, page 811 in the Orange County Register of Deeds Office, Hillsborough, North Carolina, and one of ten- and three-tenths acres that is described and recorded in Volumes 227 and 341, pages 1538 and 507 in the Orange County Register of Deeds Office, Hillsborough, North Carolina.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundary encompasses sixty-eight- and seven-tenths acres around the Holden-Roberts Farmhouse, and includes the land on which the outbuildings, fields, and woodlands that have historically comprised the core of the Holden-Roberts Farm are located. Though the actual acreage of the farm has varied throughout its history, the present boundary is sufficient to convey the historic context of the property and to protect its architectural and agricultural character.

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Holden-Roberts Farm
Orange County, NC

All photographs are of the:
Holden-Roberts Farm
Orange County, North Carolina
Betsy Gohdes-Baten, photographer

Photographs and negatives are on file with the Survey and Planning Branch of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC. (Letters correspond to locations on the Holden-Roberts Farm Photo Diagram).

A. DATE: May 2, 2000
VIEW OF: Farmhouse, from southwest.

B. DATE: May 2, 2000
VIEW OF: Farmhouse, from northeast.

C. DATE: May 2, 2000
VIEW OF: Interior, entry door, looking west.

D. DATE: May 2, 2000
VIEW OF: Interior, mantel and windows in south bedroom, looking south.

E. DATE: May 2, 2000
VIEW OF: Granary, CB#3, from southwest.

F. DATE: May 2, 2000
VIEW OF: Chicken house, CB#4, from southeast.

G. DATE: May 2, 2000
VIEW OF: Chicken house, CB#5, from south.

H. DATE: May 2, 2000
VIEW OF: Chicken house, CB#6, from south.

I. DATE: May 2, 2000
VIEW OF: Garden house, CB#7, from southeast.

J. DATE: May 2, 2000
VIEW OF: Equipment shed, CB#8, from northeast.

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Holden-Roberts Farm
Orange County, NC

K. DATE: May 2, 2000
VIEW OF: Pole barn, CB#9, from south.

L. DATE: May 2, 2000
VIEW OF: Large pole barn, CB#10, from southwest.

HOLDEN-ROBERTS FARM
ORANGE COUNTY, NC
Photo Diagram

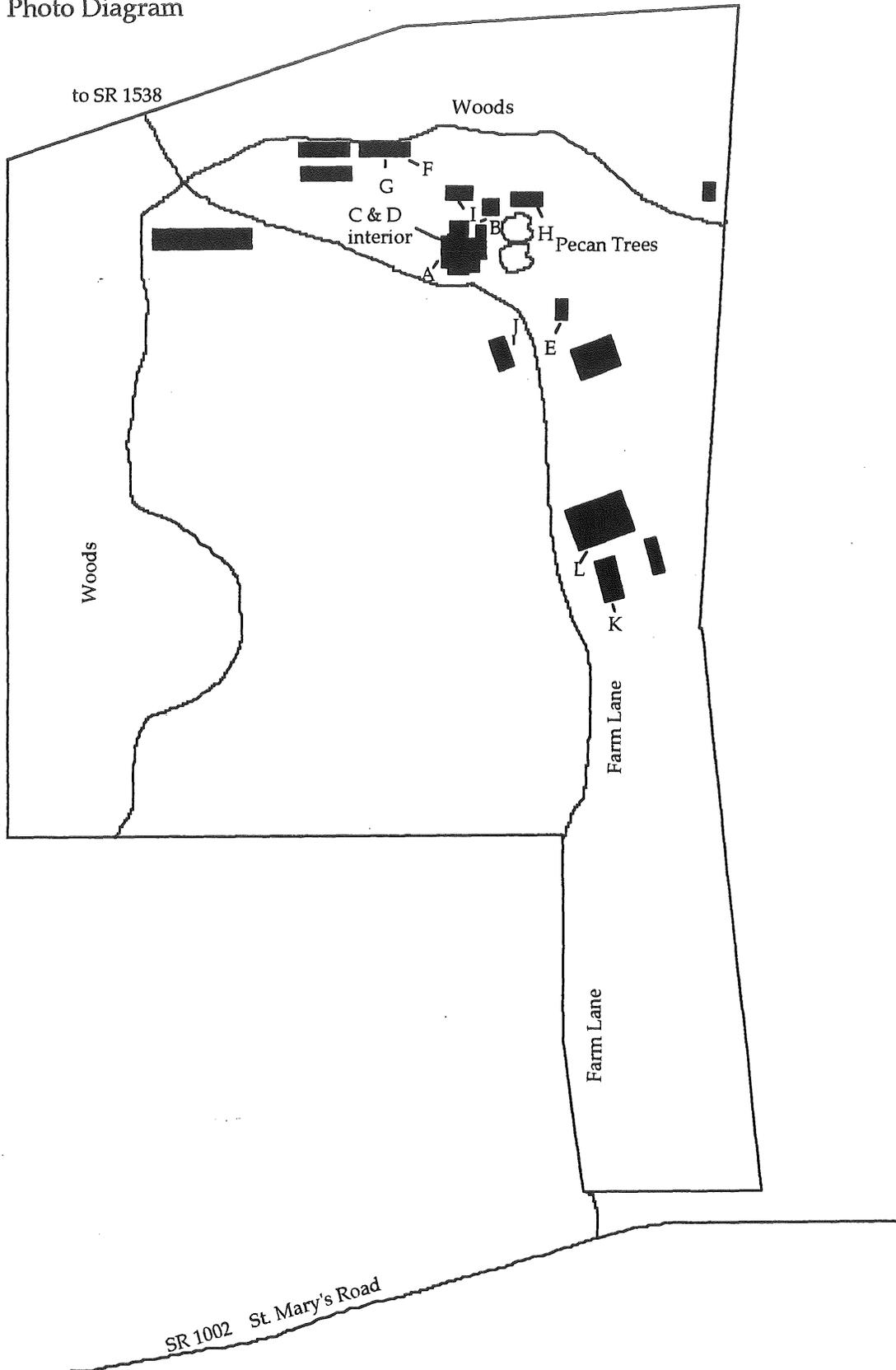


EXHIBIT A
FLOOR PLANS, HOLDEN-ROBERTS HOUSE, FIRST FLOOR
ORANGE COUNTY, NC
NOT TO SCALE

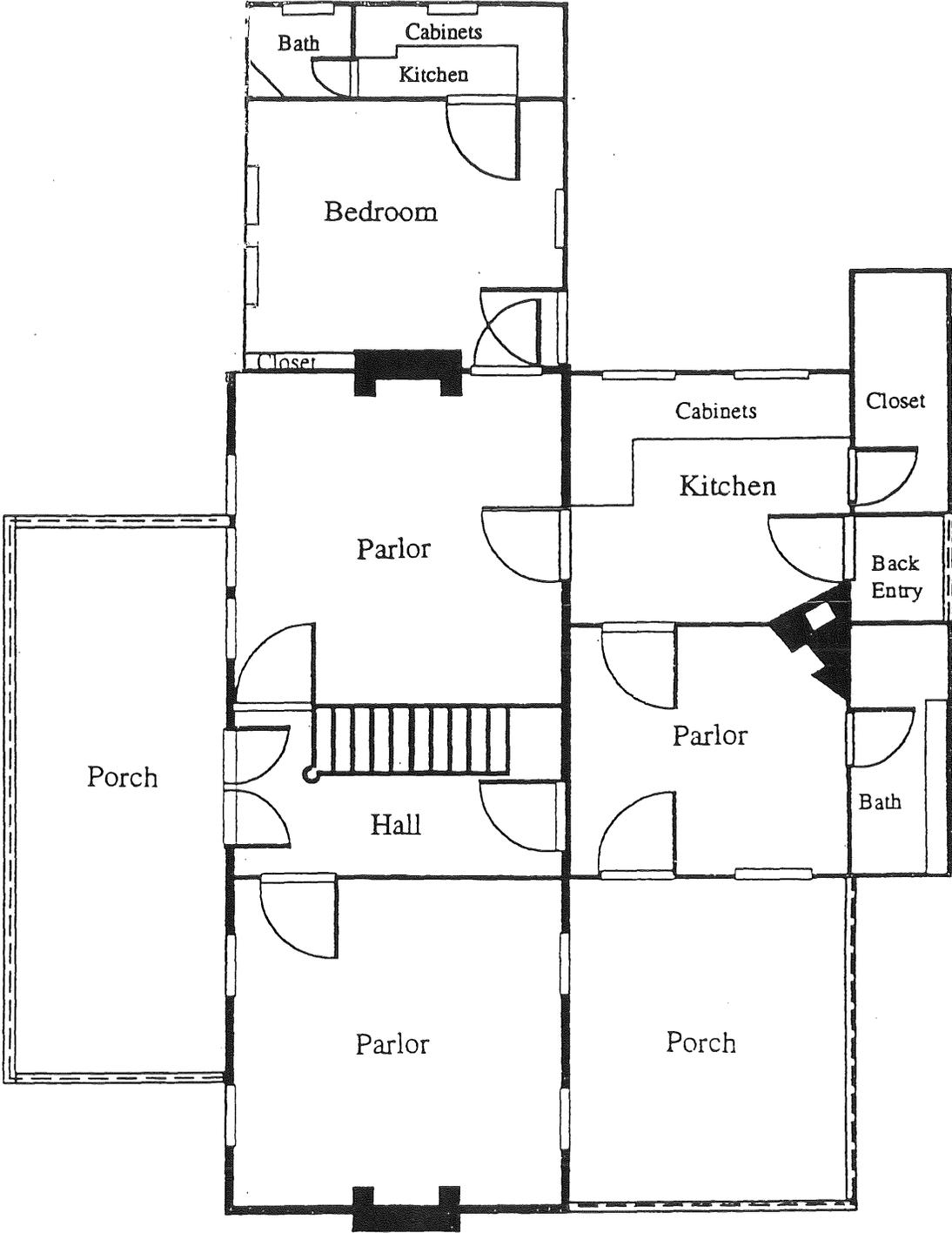


EXHIBIT B
FLOOR PLANS, HOLDEN-ROBERTS HOUSE, SECOND FLOOR
ORANGE COUNTY, NC
NOT TO SCALE

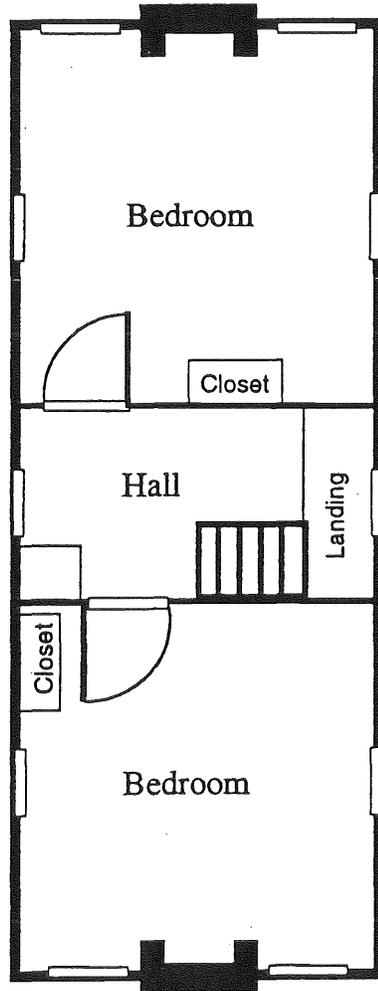
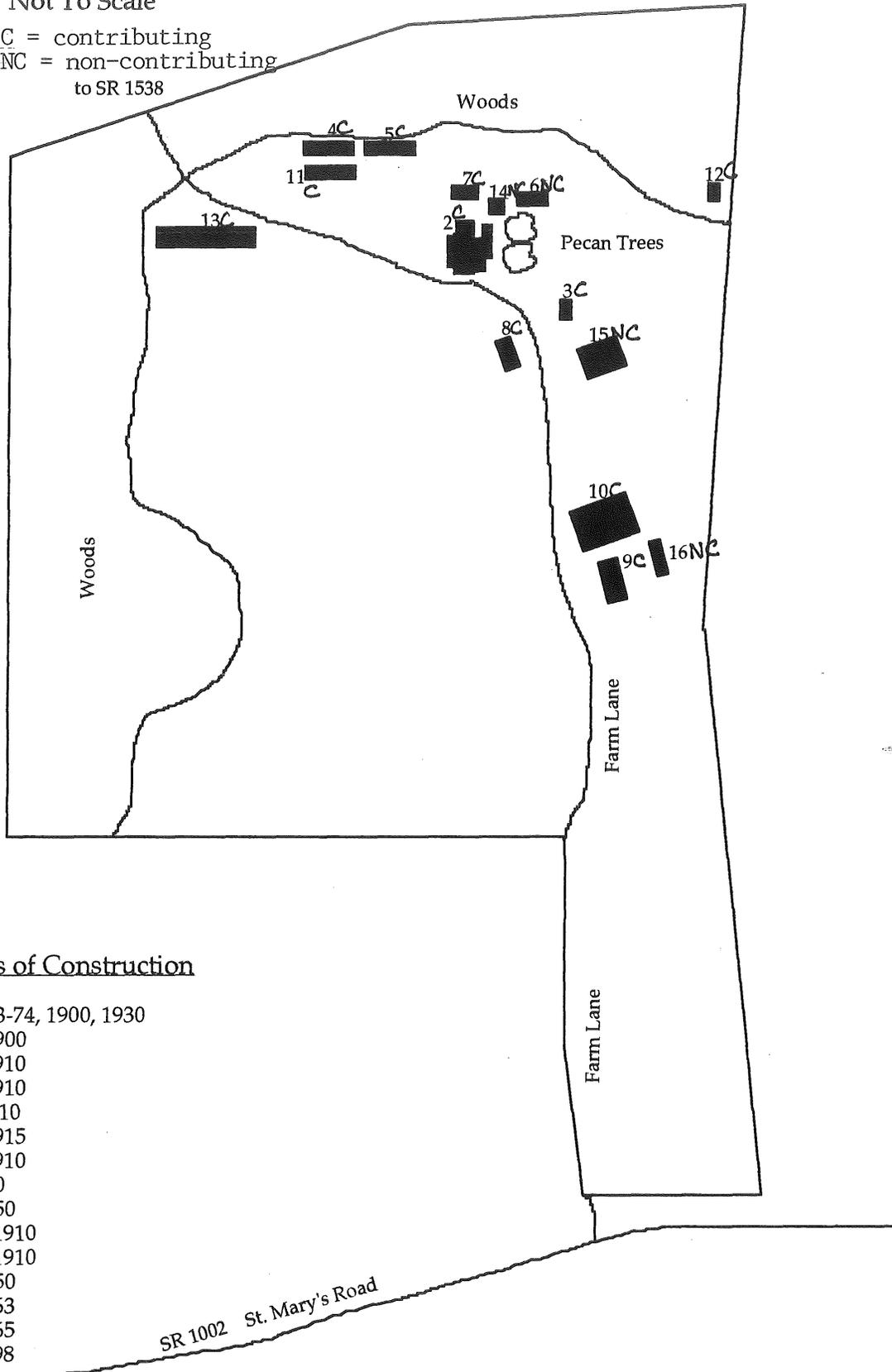


Exhibit C
 HOLDEN-ROBERTS FARM SITE MAP
 ORANGE COUNTY, NC
 Not To Scale

C = contributing
 NC = non-contributing
 to SR 1538



Dates of Construction

- 2. 1873-74, 1900, 1930
- 3. c. 1900
- 4. c. 1910
- 5. c. 1910
- 6. c. 1910
- 7. c. 1915
- 8. c. 1910
- 9. 1950
- 10. 1950
- 11. c. 1910
- 12. c. 1910
- 13. 1950
- 14. 1963
- 15. 1965
- 16. 1998

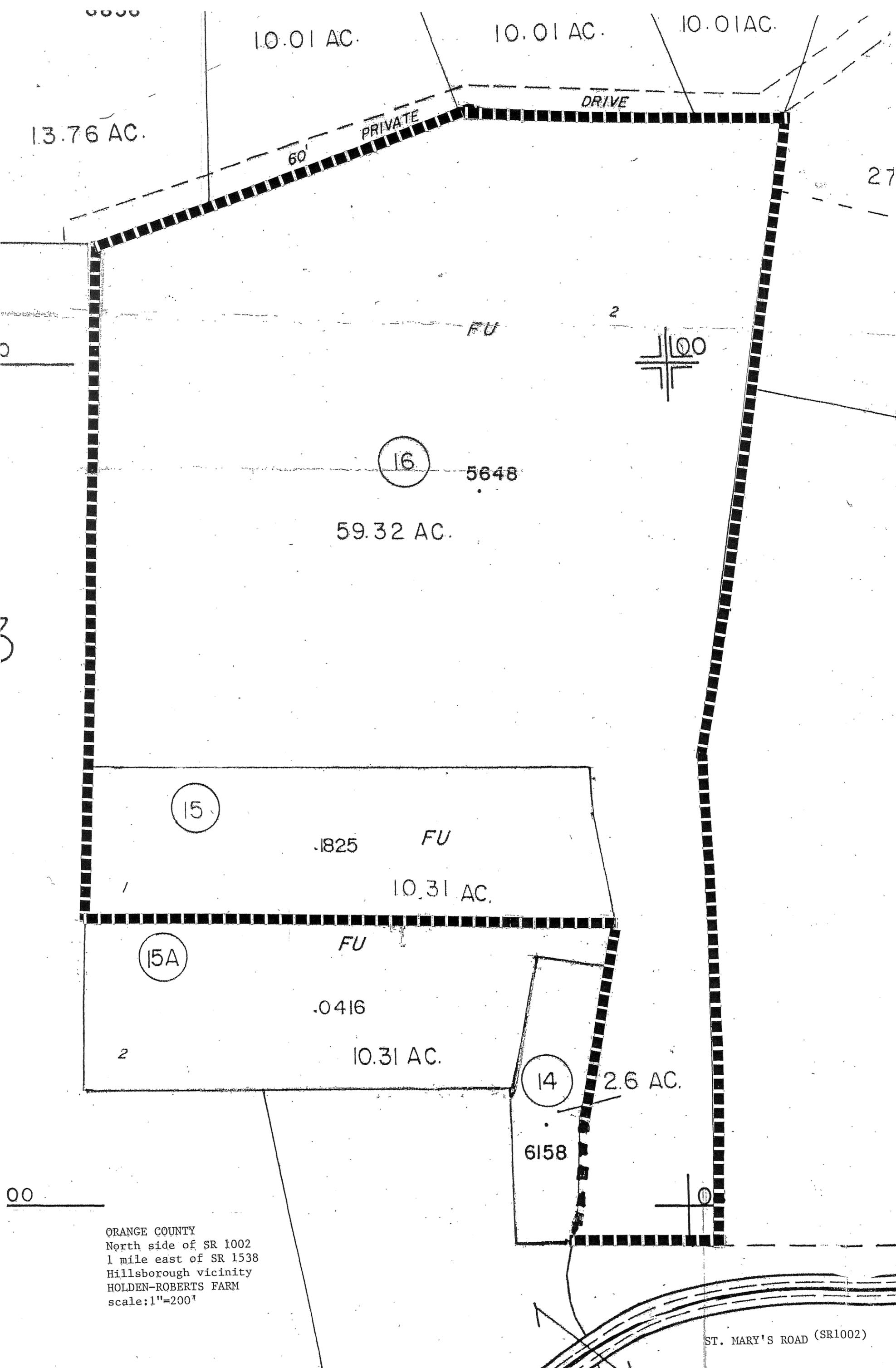
HILLSBOROUGH QUADRANGLE
 NORTH CAROLINA—ORANGE CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5256 III NW
 (ROUCEMONT)

6 2'30" 1 990 000 FEET 677 678 679 79°00' 36°07'30"



3999
 860 000
 FEET
 3998
 HOLDEN-ROBERTS
 FARM
 ORANGE CO., NC
 ZONE 17
 A E 676535
 N 3998000
 3997
 E 676700
 N 3998095
 C E 676980
 N 3998160
 D E 676954
 N 3997420
 3996
 E 676980
 N 3997420
 F E 676980
 N 3997600
 3995
 E 676540
 N 3997600
 3994



ORANGE COUNTY
 North side of SR 1002
 1 mile east of SR 1538
 Hillsborough vicinity
 HOLDEN-ROBERTS FARM
 scale: 1"=200'

ST. MARY'S ROAD (SR1002)

