

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Luther Henry Caldwell House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 209 Caldwell Street

CITY, TOWN Lumberton VICINITY OF 7th
STATE North Carolina CODE 37 COUNTY Robeson CODE 155
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Neill Archie Thompson

STREET & NUMBER 209 Caldwell Street

CITY, TOWN Lumberton VICINITY OF North Carolina 28358
STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Robeson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Lumberton STATE North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Set at the south end of Caldwell Street--named for the family of its builder--and the neighbor of other houses built for members of that family, this Queen Anne style house was built for Lumberton's "merchant prince" Luther Henry Caldwell in the last decade of the nineteenth century. Mr. Caldwell purchased the lot in 1893 and the house's construction is thought to have been initiated shortly thereafter.

Its picturesque asymmetrical composition incorporates the eclectic devices and motives used by builders in the late-nineteenth century and is the best preserved example of late-nineteenth century residential architecture remaining in Lumberton. Its elevations are sheathed with German siding and outlined and richly finished with decorative woodwork on the porches, bayed gable end projections, and gable fronts. The house's fenestration consists of one over one sash windows on both stories with some two over two sash in areas of the house enclosed in the remodeling following Mr. Caldwell's death. A stained glass window is set under the porch and illuminates the foyer while the attic windows contain colored glass. Louvered blinds flank the windows. Entrances from the porches into the house consist of single doors with large squares of glazing in upper half above paneled lower doors; each door is surmounted by a single pane transom. While the main (central) block of the house is basically rectangular and covered by a hipped roof, its elevations are irregularly composed with gable end bays and ells projecting from each of its elevations. Thus the appearance of each particular elevation--north, east, south, and west--is characterized by several planes with elements projecting to varying degrees while others are recessed about the main block which with its dormers and porches presents a complex and richly orchestrated composition.

The main feature of the front (north) elevation is a double tier porch which begins on the north side of a two-story bay-front ell on the east elevation, wraps the northeast corner of the house, and continues across the front elevation to a second projecting gable-front bay on the left side of this elevation. The second level of the porch terminates at this point while on the first story the porch breaks forward with a pedimented centerpiece and continues across the front of the projecting bay, wraps the northwest corner of the house, and continues along the west elevation terminating at the pendant ell on this elevation. An octagonal pavilion is incorporated into the northwest corner of the porch here; its angular form is repeated and complemented by the clipped corners of the two-story bays on the front and east (side) elevations. On both levels the supports of the porch are comprised of pairs of tapering molded columns resting on molded paneled piers. A railing with turned baluste carries between these piers--except on the screened sections of the porch where they have been removed. The paired columns rise to impost blocks which support molded panel connected by a spindle frieze. In plan the second story porch is set back behind the first story porch and appears to rest on its roof. Sawn bargeboards decorate the pediments over the entrance on the first story and above the center bay of the second story porch.

The angles of the bayed gable front and the corners of the rectangular mass of the house are marked by corner posts which rise to a friezeboard continuing around the house. A shaped apron carries across the top of the gable ends' second story; the returning eaves carry partially across these aprons. A friezeboard carries also along the pitch

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of the gable end which boasts a sawn work bargeboard. A tripartite attic window in a molded surround is set in the gable face; its arch-headed center window is repeated on the gable roof dormer set into the hipped roof of the main block. A cast iron terminal rests atop the hipped roof and completes this elevation's composition.

As noted above, the two tier porch and projecting gable front bay occupy much of the east (side) elevation; the gable front bay is a duplicate of the one on the front elevation. A one story ell--attached to the (south) rear elevation of the main block extends the first story elevation an additional three bays to the south; a large decorated gable roof dormer is set above the center bay.

Viewing the rear elevation of the house this ell is two bays wide on its south gable end. A one-story screened porch--now partially enclosed--begins on the east side of the ell, carries across the house's rear (south) elevation, wraps the southwest corner and continues along the west side of the house to where it stops two bays short of connecting to the front porch. Its northern end was enclosed to contain a kitchen in 1935-1936. The bargeboard and ornament ventilators on the gable end of the above ell are repeated on the gable end of a second one-story ell at the southwest corner of the house and on a two-story ell projecting from the center of the main block.

As already described, the west elevation of the house features a central two-bay wide two-story gable-front ell flanked by porches on the first story.

The floor plan of the house repeats the irregularity of the exterior except for the arrangement of the rooms along a central passage. The foyer forms the northern end of the passage, the hall occupies the center position with the office--formed from the rear porch at the southern end. The parlor, dining room, kitchen, pantry, and morning room are arranged along the west side of the hall while the sitting room, a pair of bedrooms, and a bathroom occupy the opposite positions.

The woodwork of the interior, like that of the exterior, and typical of substantial houses of its day, is eclectically organized from various sources with the predominant influence being the Colonial Revival style. The door and window surrounds are symmetrically molded with corner blocks decorated with carved ornaments and devices which vary from room to room. These are thought to have been done by an Italian carpenter from Wilmington where Mr. Caldwell had business associations there with the Sprunt family. The mantels are mostly two tier and all have enframed mirrors above the coal grates. The walls above the baseboards have been covered with wallpapers. The interior doors are five panel and surmounted by glazed transoms. The foyer, having a molded paneled wainscot below the chair rail, contains the stairwell which rises with two landings against the east wall to the second story. On its west wall a pair of five-panel doors give into the parlor. Here the mantel on the south wall is built of bird's eye maple and Rococo Revival in style with tapering terms flanking the coal grate and overmantel mirror and supporting a shelf above the mirror.

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Directly behind the parlor but entered from the center hall is the dining room. On its north wall a two-tier mantel is flanked by china cupboards. Lion's paw consoles flank the coal grate and support a shelf on which rest Corinthian columns flanking the over mirror and supporting a shelf above the mirror. The cupboards have doors glazed above and paneled at the bottom, continuing the line of diagonally paneled wainscot. A geometric pattern of tongue and groove sheathing covers the ceiling. The kitchen and pantry--now occupying the space formerly given to the butler's pantry and cold pantry--were installed in their present location in 1935-1936 by Mrs. Caldwell as part of the modernizing scheme effected after Mr. Caldwell's death. Central heating was another of her introductions at that time. South of the kitchen and occupying the original space of the kitchen is the morning room which is entered from the office or back porch.

Returning to the hall and through a door nearly opposite the entrance into the dining room is the sitting room. The mantel here on the south wall is a Colonial Revival type with a pair of columns flanking the coal grate, its surmounting shelf and the over mirror. The bedroom immediately south has a similar mantel while the back, and smaller, bedroom--originally a bathroom--is without a fireplace. A modern bathroom has been installed in the latter's southwest corner.

The rooms on the second story feature woodwork and mantels similar to but simpler than that found on the first story. The principal bedrooms are located above the parlor, dining room, and sitting room with a large storage room over the kitchen and morning room. The back part of the hall, the bedroom over the sitting room, together with the attic space above the two first-story bedrooms, have been fitted as a private apartment.

Outbuildings

1. The Dr. Neill Archie Thompson, Jr. House: In 1938 Mr. Caldwell's daughter and her husband built this one and a half story frame house as their residence. It is built on the site of Mr. Caldwell's frame barn which was pulled down earlier that same year. The house, resting on a full brick basement, is covered with asbestos siding and a gable roof. The front (north) elevation is dominated by a bellcast gable-roof ell which is fronted by a bay window. The house's fenestration features six over six sash in plain surrounds. There are six rooms with two bathrooms on the first floor and three rooms with one bath on the second.

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2. The Caldwell Springhouse: South of the Thompson House, on the bank of the Lumber River, is a one-story open-frame gable-roof building having an enclosed room on the south end. In the early 1940s it was adapted for use as a servant's room.

3. The Garage: Between the Thompson and Caldwell houses is a one-story frame gable-roof building which was built about 1918 but moved to its present site in 1938.

4. The Greenhouse: This small one-story brick building, having a flat roof, was built in the 1920s. It is located on the east side of the Caldwell House.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Luther Henry Caldwell House, built by Mr. Caldwell in the last decade of the nineteenth century on the bank of the Lumber River near other houses owned by members of his family, has long been regarded as a landmark in the townscape of Lumberton for both its historical and architectural associations. As the proprietor of the L. H. Caldwell Company, Mr. Caldwell earned a wide and honored reputation as a merchant and businessman and is particularly remembered for his generosity to various philanthropic and church-related causes in Lumberton, Robeson County, and the state. His well-preserved Queen Anne style house, originally painted a pale ochre with brown trim but now a bright yellow with white trim, presents a very picturesque image with its richly wrought elevations shaded by towering magnolia and other shade trees.

- Criteria Assessment:
- A. The house was the residence of Luther Henry Caldwell, an important business and social leader in Lumberton.
 - B. It embodies distinctive features of late-nineteenth century domestic architecture in Lumberton and is the most intact and best preserved example of its type in the city.
 - C. It is associated with Lumberton's turn of the century growth and expansion as the commercial center of Robeson County.

Handwritten note: need more info so long

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Luther Henry Caldwell, a son of John H. and Charity Lee Pope Caldwell, was born September 16, 1866, on his father's plantation in the Raft Swamp section of Robeson County.¹ In the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century John H. Caldwell (1830-1891) removed from the Raft Swamp Plantation into Lumberton where he organized mercantile and other commercial interests while continuing the management of the family firm. Luther Henry Caldwell continued this practice and owing to his own success and prominence came to be considered Lumberton's "merchant prince."

Luther Henry Caldwell attended local schools in Lumberton including that operated by Solomon W. Bennett. He later attended Captain Berry's² Preparatory School in Charlotte after which he enrolled at Wake Forest College. He did not graduate from Wake Forest but rather from Sadlers Bryant and Stratton Business College in Baltimore in 1887 with a diploma which certified him to be an "Intelligent and Competent Accountant." Immediately thereafter he returned to Lumberton where he joined the mercantile establishment begun by his father in a building at the corner of Elm and Third streets³; Mr. Caldwell had already established himself there as a leading merchant in the town.

On July 20, 1893, L. H. Caldwell purchased for \$450 a parcel of land at the junction of Caldwell and 8th streets--just a few blocks from his business office--from C. D. Townsend and wife, Florence.⁴ He is thought to have contracted for the erection of his residence soon thereafter; the principal builders were the brothers Moody and T. M. Burney. Much of the interior woodwork is attributed to an anonymous Italian ship carpenter from Wilmington with whose merchants Mr. Caldwell had business connections. Four years later on February 11, 1897, he married Nora Dean Godwin, a niece of Berry Godwin, a prominent landowner who was also active in the First Baptist Church in Lumberton.

Mr. Caldwell had joined the church in 1884 and would, like Mr. Godwin, become an active supporter of that congregation and its missions.⁵ "He was one of the most loyal and liberal members the church ever had. He gave liberally to the support of the church and to all the objects fostered by the Baptist Convention, especially to the North Carolina Baptist Orphanage work. He helped build East, North, and West Lumberton Churches and aided many others throughout Robeson County."⁶ In 1902 he became a trustee of the church and in 1914 was elected a deacon of the church which position he held until his death.

The importance of the firm, L. H. Caldwell, as a dry goods establishment was reinforced by the companion role as sellers of agricultural machinery and products. An advertisement in the 1900 number of the Robeson County Directory notes the full extent of the firm's goods and services and at the same time advertises their related activity as "buyer and shipper⁸ of cotton, furs, Hides, North Carolina cured hams, Bacon, Eggs, Potatoes, Peas, etc." As early as 1905, Luther Henry Caldwell had gained such a position of importance in the affairs of Lumberton that his residence was an illustratio

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In a special edition of the Lumberton Argus "containing much matter of interest to the Capitalist, the Home Seeker, and the natives of the Biggest and Best County in North Carolina."⁹ The impressive frame residence was then painted a pale ochre with a brown trim and certainly bespoke the prosperity of its era. And it was a businessman and merchant in addition to his philanthropic activities that Luther Henry Caldwell made his mark in Lumberton and Robeson County. His obituary noted that:

"the town of Lumberton and many of its institutions grew up with Mr. Caldwell. He was one of the organizers of the Lumberton Cotton Mills which later became the Mansfield system and also of the Jennings Mills and vice-president of the Mansfield system. He was also an organizer of the National Bank of Lumberton and had served as director through the forty years of its existence. He was president and third owner of the Planters Warehouse Company which firm owns the Farmers tobacco warehouse; vice-president and director of the Lumberton Warehouse Corporation which firm owns the Liberty tobacco warehouse; director of the Virginia and Carolina Southern railway and of the Robeson Manufacturing Company."¹⁰

Mr. Caldwell died Monday, July 22, 1935, and was buried the following day at Meadowbrook Cemetery.

Mrs. Caldwell, having been bequeathed the homeplace by her husband,¹¹ continued to live there until her death in November, 1965. One of Mr. Caldwell's daughters, Nora Christine Caldwell, married Dr. Neill Archie Thompson, Jr., whose father had founded Thompson Hospital--the first hospital in Robeson County. In 1970, Mrs. Thompson purchased the house from her mother's estate; she repaired damages caused by flooding in 1963-1964, and now maintains the house as her private residence.

While the Luther Caldwell House has only changed ownership twice there have been several real estate transactions which determined the present configuration of the house lot which is being nominated.

The first of these was effected August 23, 1920 when Mr. Caldwell purchased a lot of about one-half acre from Sallie Meill Dick which adjoined the back of his lot.¹² In 1938, Mrs. Caldwell together with Mr. Caldwell's heirs deeded a part of the home property (then the site of the barn) to Christine Caldwell Thompson who with her husband built a residence on the property.¹³ In 1940 a small easement was deeded by Mrs. Caldwell to Mrs. Thompson for use as a driveway to the newly built house.¹⁴ As noted above, Mrs. Thompson acquired the Luther Henry Caldwell House in 1970 for use as her own residence. In 1972 the rear portion of the Caldwell House lot, containing the parcel purchased from Miss Dick in 1920, was condemned by the City of Lumberton to provide acreage for the expansion of the city's water facilities.¹⁵ In 1974, Mrs. Thompson purchased a lot adjacent to the east boundary of the Caldwell House lot and bounded by Water Street on the east, 8th Street on the north, and the city property on the south

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from Sue Blount Shaw Schutt and Elizabeth Shaw Austin.¹⁶ This property was incorporated into the garden of the Caldwell House by Mrs. Thompson.

FOOTNOTES

¹Much of the information for this nomination, unavailable in printed sources, was taken from a comprehensive file on the Luther Henry Caldwell House in the Survey and Planning Branch, Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh. Unless otherwise noted, the material in this file supplied by Mrs. Neill Archie Thompson remains our chief document on the house and its builder.

²"Rites are Conducted Here for L. H. Caldwell, Pioneer Citizen," The Robesonian (Lumberton), July 25, 1935, hereinafter cited as The Robesonian.

³Robert C. Lowrance, The State of Robeson (Lumberton: J. J. Little and Ives Company /New York/, 1939), p. 12.

⁴Robeson County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Robeson County Courthouse, Lumberton, Deed book QQQ, p. 434-437, hereinafter cited as Robeson Deed Book

⁵Lowrance, The State of Robeson, p. 21.

⁶Minutes of the Robeson Baptist Association, 1936, p. 24.

⁷First Baptist Church, Lumberton, North Carolina, 1855-1955, p. 29.

⁸Directory of Robeson County, North Carolina, 1900, p. 92.

⁹"Special Edition containing much matter of interest to the Capitalist, the Home Seeker and natives of the Biggest and Best County in North Carolina," The Lumberton Argus, New Series, Vol II (Lumberton), July 28, 1905.

¹⁰The Robesonian, p. 1.

¹¹Robeson County Will Books, Office of the Clerk of Court, Robeson County Courthouse Lumberton, Will Book 7, p. 576.

¹²Robeson County Deed Book 7-E, p. 398.

¹³Robeson County Deed Book 8-Z, pp. 213-214.

¹⁴Robeson County Deed Book 9-G, p. 519.

¹⁵Robeson County Deed Book 18-H, pp. 305, 305A, 305B, and 305C.

¹⁶Robeson County Deed Book 19-J, p. 243.

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Minutes of the Robeson Baptist Association. 1936.

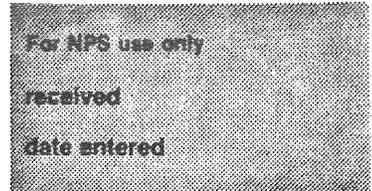
Robeson County Records. Robeson County Courthouse. Lumberton, North Carolina. Sub-
groups: Deeds and Wills.

The Robesonian. Lumberton. July 25, 1935.

Survey File of Luther Henry Caldwell House. Survey and Planning Branch. Archeology and
Historic Preservation Section. Division of Archives and History. Raleigh, North
Carolina.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



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Lumberton, Robeson County

Revision of Date of Construction:

In 1986, newspaper accounts which document the exact date of construction of the Caldwell House were brought to the attention of the State Historic Preservation Office. The house was constructed in 1903-1904. These references in the Lumberton Argus are as follows:

Lumberton Argus, May 14, 1903: "Mr. L. H. Caldwell is preparing to build an elegant residence."

Lumberton Argus, June 4, 1903: "Mr. L. H. Caldwell has succeeded in getting a fine overflowing well on the lot where he is building his new residence."

Lumberton Argus, August 20, 1903: "Mr. L. H. Caldwell's residence which is nearing completion will probably be the best and handsomest in town."

Lumberton Argus, November 19, 1903: "Mr. H. C. Freeman, the cabinet maker is completing some handsome mantels for the elegant new residence of Mr. L. H. Caldwell, and is rushing the turned work for Mr. J. P. McNeill's residence, which is well under way and promises to be a beauty."

Lumberton Argus, February 25, 1904: "The handsome new residence of Mr. L. H. Caldwell is nearing completion. The work is being finished up by Mr. John Murray, an expert mechanic in Norfolk, Va. This will be the most modern, up-to-date residence in this section."

Lumberton Argus, March 10, 1904: "Mr. L. H. Caldwell has moved into his handsome new residence."

Lumberton Argus, April 22, 1904: "Mr. John P. McNeill, Mr. L. H. Caldwell, Mr. Lawrence, attorney; Mr. Carl Fuller, Mr. L. H. Townsend and others are building new residences at average costs of \$3,000. One of these new homes will cost over \$5,000."

Lumberton Argus, August 19, 1904: "Electric lights are now being placed in the handsome new residence of Mr. L. H. Caldwell."

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby submit this amendment to the Luther Henry Caldwell House nomination and certify that this amendment has been evaluated according to the procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

William S. Pinn

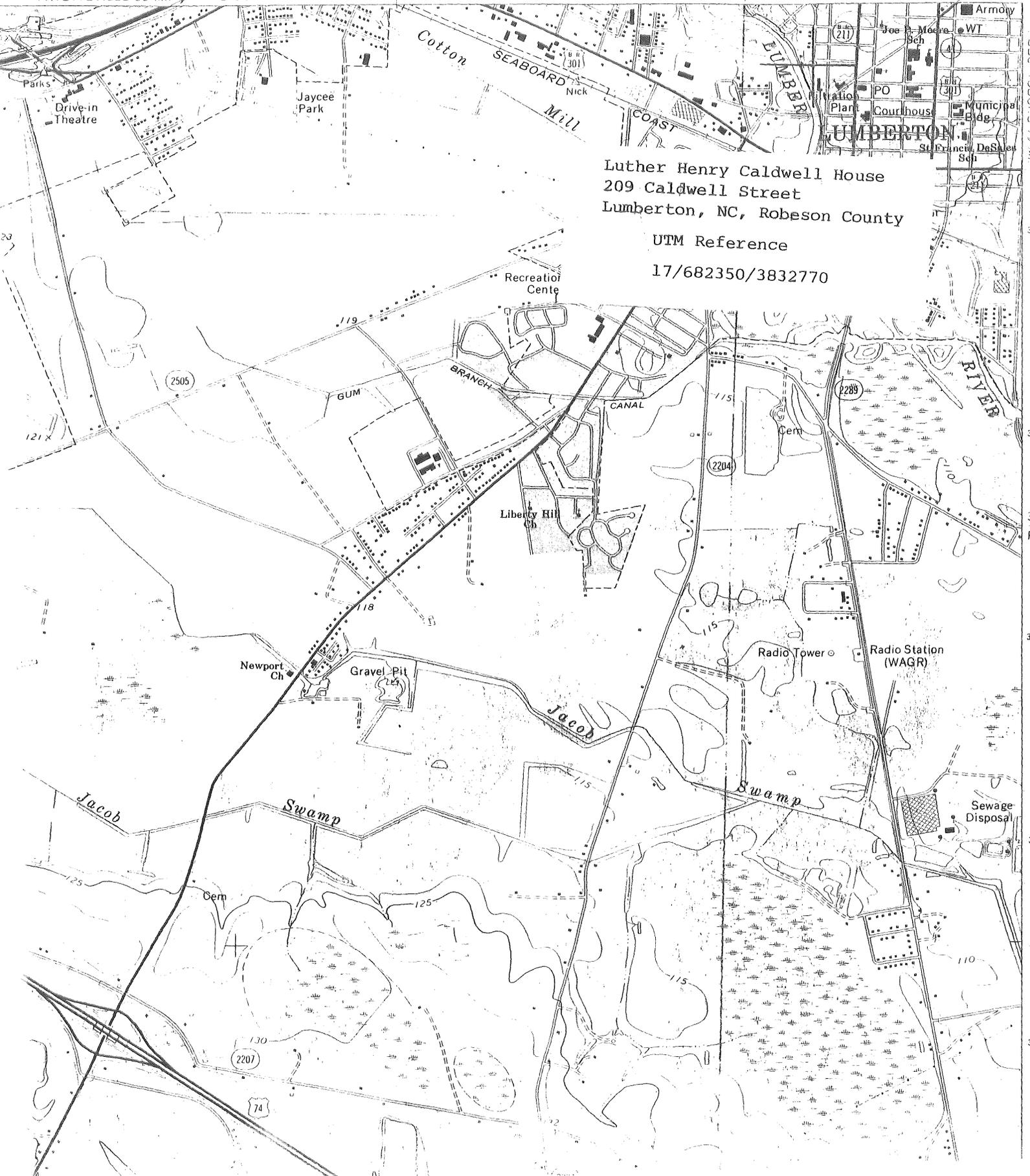
State Historic Preservation Officer

9 Dec 86

Date

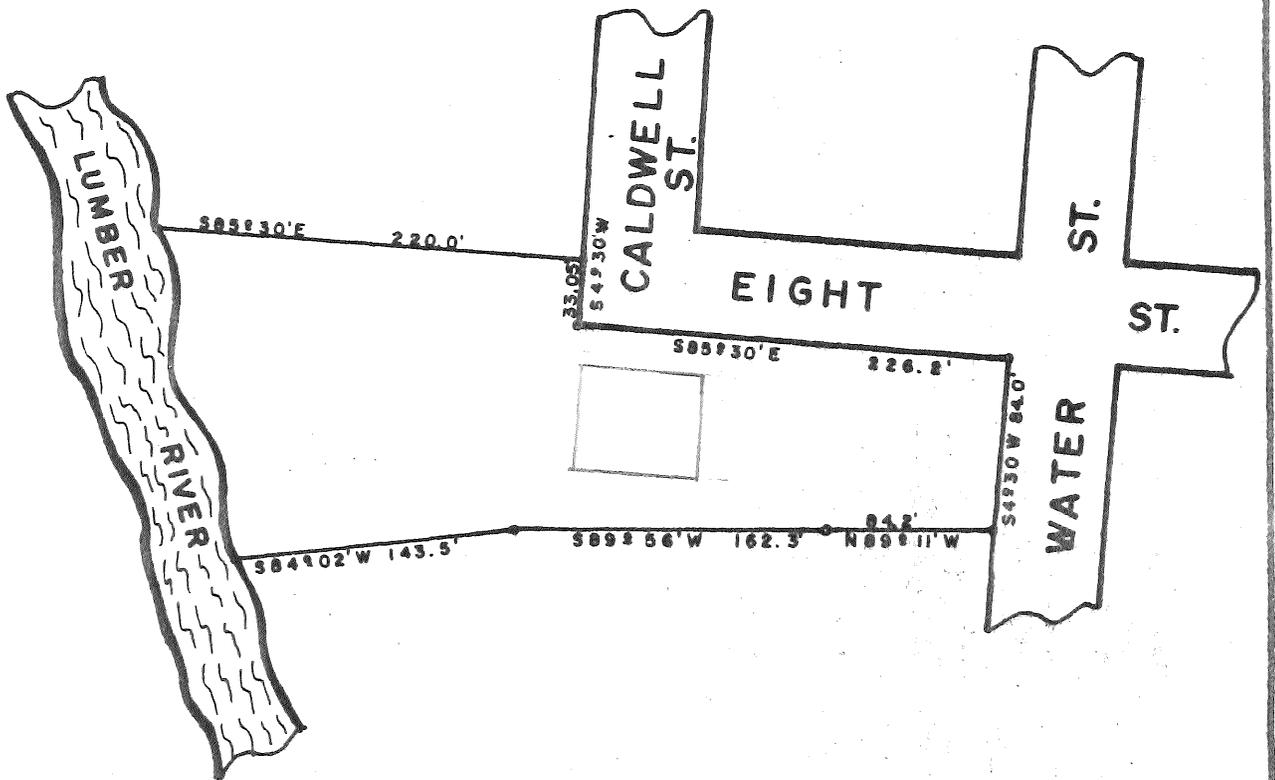
SOUTHWEST LUMBERTON QUADRANGLE
NORTH CAROLINA-ROBESON CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

FAYETTEVILLE 35 MI. 2'30" 680 1 990 000 FEET 681 682 ELIZABETHTOWN 24 MI. 79°



Luther Henry Caldwell House
209 Caldwell Street
Lumberton, NC, Robeson County

UTM Reference
17/682350/3832770



MAP MADE FOR
CHRISTINE C. THOMPSON

LUMBERTON

Township,

Robeson County, North Carolina

Scale 1" = 100'

DEC. 2, 1977.

See Deed Book 17- K
 19- J

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JOHNNY W. NOBLES AND ASSOCIATES
 SURVEYORS
 P. O. BOX 407, LUMBERTON, N. C.

Johnny W. Nobles

