

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Alfred Moore Scales Law Office

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 307 Carter Street _____ not for publication

city, town Madison _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Sixth

state North Carolina code 037 county Rockingham code 157

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: (out-building) |

4. Owner of Property

name Jesse McCollum

street & number 307 Carter Street

city, town Madison _____ vicinity of _____ state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rockingham County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Wentworth _____ state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

An Architectural and Historic Inventory of Madison,
title North Carolina has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh _____ state North Carolina

7. Description

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>1920s</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Alfred Moore Scales Law Office is a one-story gable-roofed frame structure sheathed in plain weatherboarding. The exterior of the building features finely finished box cornices with returns and raking cornices with molded ends flush with the gable-end walls. Simple molding tops the post and lintel surround of the original single door in the west flank. Exposed lathes bearing the remnants of original plaster mark the one-room interior. The shed additions on the east flank and the double doors in the north gable end probably were constructed when the office was converted to a storage building (perhaps late in the nineteenth century). Although it is possible that a short chimney with a free-standing stack once existed in the north gable end, no evidence of such a feature (or of a hearth) remains.¹

¹David R. Black, letter to Diane Lea, March 9, 1979.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates

1856

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Alfred Moore Scales, lawyer, Civil War hero, politician and governor of North Carolina from 1885-1890, has been called a "forgotten hero." He came from the simple beginnings common to many of North Carolina's leaders. The story of his life and career has not been investigated as have those of North Carolina's more famous statesmen.

Perhaps this lack of recognition is one reason that nearly all the properties associated with Scales have fallen to the vicissitudes of time - all save one. The small, modest office building where Scales spent the early years of his law practice and won his first forays into elected politics stands today in Madison, North Carolina. It is within a few yards of its original location, which Scales in an 1856 newspaper advertisement noted was "across from Dr. Thomas Coyle." (The Coyle house, a landmark in Madison, was destroyed in the early 1970s.) The town of Madison is interested in preserving the office which is the last tangible piece of history associated with Scales.

Criteria Assessment:

- B. The Alfred Moore Scales Law Office in Madison, North Carolina is the last remaining known structure associated with Scales who distinguished himself as a soldier, lawyer, politician and governor of North Carolina.

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The period immediately preceding the outbreak of the Civil War was an important time in the history of Madison, North Carolina, as it was for many other North Carolina communities. In Madison, as elsewhere, the 1850s promised prosperity and progress.¹ The decade found Madison established as a thriving trading center for hogs and cattle with a growing importance as a tobacco selling and manufacturing town. Located within ten miles of the Rockingham County Courthouse in Wentworth, Madison had a population of farmers and merchants, many of whom were men of substantial wealth.² It was an ideal community for an aspiring young lawyer looking for a place to set up practice.

The choice of Madison as a location for practicing law was even more logical for Alfred Moore Scales, a member of the town's founding family.³ Alfred Moore Scales graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1846, and shortly thereafter embarked on a disastrous marriage to a Louisiana belle that took him for a brief time to that state. By 1850, the marriage had failed and Scales returned to North Carolina to read law under Judge William H. Battle.⁴ In 1851, the year he was admitted to the bar, Scales filed for divorce. He purchased a house on Murphy Street, Madison's downtown block, and began his law practice.⁵

Family letters attest to the fact that this was a difficult time in the young man's life and that he was unsettled as to what direction his life should take.⁶ However, Scales plunged into the political career which eventually led him to the North Carolina Governor's office in 1884. In 1852 Scales was elected to the North Carolina House of Commons. The next year he was elected county attorney for Rockingham and was re-elected to the House. After an unsuccessful attempt to gain a seat in the U. S. Congress in 1855, Scales served another term in the House (1856-1857).⁷

Also in 1856, Scales purchased from William Whittis two acres of land west of Madison. The property was situated along the Madison Road, also called the Salem-Petersburg Road, leading to the ford on the Mayo River, a growing area of the township.⁸ Here Scales occupied a small office, which he probably had built, on the property across from the residence of Dr. Thomas M. Coyle. Coyle, a noted Madison physician, purchased land and built his house in 1847 and so the location of his home was well known.⁹ Soon after the move, a notice in the Rockingham Democrat (Madison, N. C., March 6, 1856, Vol. I, No. 20) announced, "A.M. Scales, attorney at law, can be found at his office, nearly opposite the residence of Dr. Thomas Coyle. Madison, January 31, 1856."¹⁰

Oral history taken from Mrs. Lizzie Scales Chambers by local Madison historian Nancy Watkins in 1938 adds a few details about Scales' days in his little office. Mrs. Chambers was born in 1852. In her interview with Watkins, she recalled that Scales

"lived in a tiny house located on the 1939 campus of the graded school, and had no nearer neighbors than Thomas Dalton on the corner of Wall and Decatur, Nicholas Dalton and on the west, Dr. Robert Callaway in the present Sam Smith, III home. Mr. Scales had a colored man to do his housekeeping for him. After he left Madison, he became a politician and Governor of North Carolina."¹¹

The Madison inventory located both the Galloway-Smith House on Decatur Street and the Dalton House on Murphy Street. Both structures date from the 1840s and are near the site of the Scales property,¹² though not as near as Dr. Coyle, whose house

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was torn down in the early 1970s to make way for a modern apartment building.¹³

In 1858 Scales attained the seat in Congress which had eluded him in 1855.¹⁵ That same year, Scales finalized his divorce from his long-estranged wife, who married again and moved to Arkansas with her new husband. Her cooperation with Scales' latest suit could have been due to her bigamous position.¹⁶

Scales' dual career as a lawyer and a politician seems to have proceeded smoothly and in 1860, the year before the Civil War erupted, he was chosen as a presidential elector on the Democratic ticket of John C. Breckenridge and Joseph Lane.¹⁷ His duties during this campaign may account for his absence in the 1860 census; however, he was listed as the owner of one male slave in a separate section of that document.¹⁸

Thomas Coyle, his near neighbor, did appear in the census record establishing the fact that he was still a resident of Madison township and verifying Scales' use of his name in the 1856 newspaper advertisement.¹⁹

The Civil War seems to have marked a turning point in Scales' life. He marched off to Wentworth with other volunteers from Madison and was elected captain of his company. Scales acquitted himself bravely throughout the course of the war and sustained wounds at Chancellorsville and at Gettysburg where, as a newly-commissioned Brigadier General, he led his men against Union General Abner Doubleday. Scales' brigade carried the ridge he sought to win, but at a tragic price. All but one of his fellow officers were killed and Scales was again severely wounded.²⁰

During the second year of the war, Scales married Katherine Henderson, daughter of Archibald Henderson. After the war, the couple decided to make their home not in Madison but in Wentworth, the county seat. There Alfred and Katherine Scales settled into married life.²¹ Scales practiced law in the town for a decade and became an elder in the Wentworth Presbyterian Church, a position he had also held in the Madison Presbyterian Church.²² After four years of married life, the Scales, childless themselves, arranged to raise Scales' niece, Katie Lewis Scales, daughter of James Pinckney Scales, as their own child.²¹

In 1863, perhaps in preparation for life with his new bride, Scales had sold his tiny law office in Madison to Marshall S. Black.²³ That same year, the Thomas Coyle family, Scales' old neighbors, moved to Thomasville, Georgia.²⁴ The two acres passed from Black to J. M. Lindsey in 1866, but it was still identified in the deed as the property "formerly owned by A. M. Scales."²⁵

Two years after purchasing the property, Jim Lindsey sold it and an adjoining parcel he had purchased to Joseph Vaughn.²⁶

Within six months, Vaughn sold Scales' two acres to H. J. McGehee in whose estate it remained until it was purchased as part of the Madison High School property.²⁷

A 1925 Sanborn map of Madison shows a small structure which meets the description of the Scales office close by the rear lot line of a residence which adjoins the school yard. It is likely that the office was moved to the rear of the lot, where it remains today, probably to make way for an alley which now runs parallel to the school yard and connects Carter Street and Decatur Street - two boundaries for the school property.²⁸

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This modest office, which suffered minor changes when it was adapted to an outbuilding, survives as the last remaining physical evidence connected with Alfred Moore Scales.

It is interesting to note that after the war Scales went on to serve five terms in the United States Congress and in 1884 received the Democratic nomination for Governor of North Carolina. He resigned his congressional seat to take office in January, 1885. The four years of his term were characterized by "peaceful growth, prosperity and renewed confidence in the government of the state."²⁹

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¹ Diane Lea and Claudia Roberts, An Architectural and Historical Survey of Madison North Carolina (North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1979) p. 3.

² Ibid., p. 2.

³ Ibid., p. 1.

⁴ Greensboro Patriot, February 14, 1852.

⁵ Rockingham County Deed Book 2nd S, p. 3, March 5, 1852.

⁶ Unpublished letter December 31, 1853, Junius I. Scales at Ingleside to James Pinckney Scales Carrolton, Mississippi, owned by Mrs. Kate LaPrade.

⁷ Biographical Dictionary of the American Congress, 1774-1961, Washington, D.C., 1961, p. 1566.

⁸ Rockingham County Deed Book, 2nd V, page 142, 1856.

⁹ Rockingham County Deed Book, 2nd O, page 411 and 2nd P, page 184, 1847.

¹⁰ Advertisement, Rockingham County Democrat, March 6, 1856, Madison, N.C.

¹¹ Papers of Miss Nancy Watkins, private, Charles D. Rodenbough.

¹² Lea and Roberts, p. 12.

¹³ Interview with Charles Rodenbough, 1979.

¹⁴ Session Minutes of Madison Presbyterian Church, Madison, N.C.

¹⁵ Biographical Dictionary, p. 1566.

¹⁶ November Term 1858, State of Arkansas, Phillips County, "Complaint of Divorce." Spring Term 1858, State of North Carolina, Rockingham County, Clerk of Equity.

¹⁷ Lindley A. Butler, Our Proud Heritage: A Pictorial History of Rockingham County, N.C. (Bassett, The Bassett Printing Corporation, 1971) p. 20-21.

¹⁸ Eighth Census of the United States, State of North Carolina, Rockingham County, 1860, 379-370.

¹⁹ Ibid., 365-356.

²⁰ Address on Alfred Moore Scales delivered by R. D. W. Connors, Wake County Memorial Association, May 10, 1907, in Hall of House of Representatives, Raleigh, N.C., p. 19. Also, Reverend William E. Thompson, Alfred Moore Scales: Forgotten Hero. (The Presbyterian News, Dec., 1970, p. 3).

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²¹ Charles Maurice Scales, Jr., "A History of the Scales of Northeast Mississippi" (Macon, Mississippi: 1966) p. 93.

²² Ibid.

²³ Rockingham County Deed Book, 2nd X, p. 323, March 16, 1863.

²⁴ Geneological Research, Charles D. Rodenbough.

²⁵ Rockingham County Deed Book, 2nd X, p. 310, August 10, 1866.

²⁶ Rockingham County Deed Book, 3rd C, p. 13, November 5, 1868.

²⁷ Rockingham County Deed Book, 3rd C, p. 932, October 31, 1874.

²⁸ Rockingham County Deed Book, p. 507, January 1, 1901.

²⁹ Bettie Sue Gardner, History of Rockingham County, N.C. (Reidsville, N.C., 1964) p. 34.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre
 Quadrangle name Mayodan Quad Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| A | <u>1</u> <u>7</u> | <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> | <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> | B | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | D | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
| E | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | F | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
| G | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | H | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Southerly 50' of Lot 2, Block 4, Map 408, Madison Township, Rockingham County, North Carolina and including only the land on which the office stands.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Architectural description and Significance: Diane E. Lea
Claudia Roberts, Consultants
 organization Division of Archives and History
Archaeology and Historic Preservation date June, 1980
Survey and Planning Branch
 street & number 109 E. Jones Street telephone (919) 733-6545
 city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

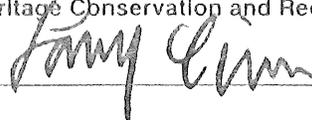
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 16, 1980

| | |
|---|------|
| For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register | date |
| Keeper of the National Register | date |
| Attest: | date |
| Chief of Registration | |

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Rockingham County Deed Book. 2nd X, August 10, 1866.

Rockingham County Deed Book. 3rd C, November 5, 1868.

Rockingham County Deed Book. 3rd C, October 31, 1864.

Rockingham County Deed Book. January 1, 1901.

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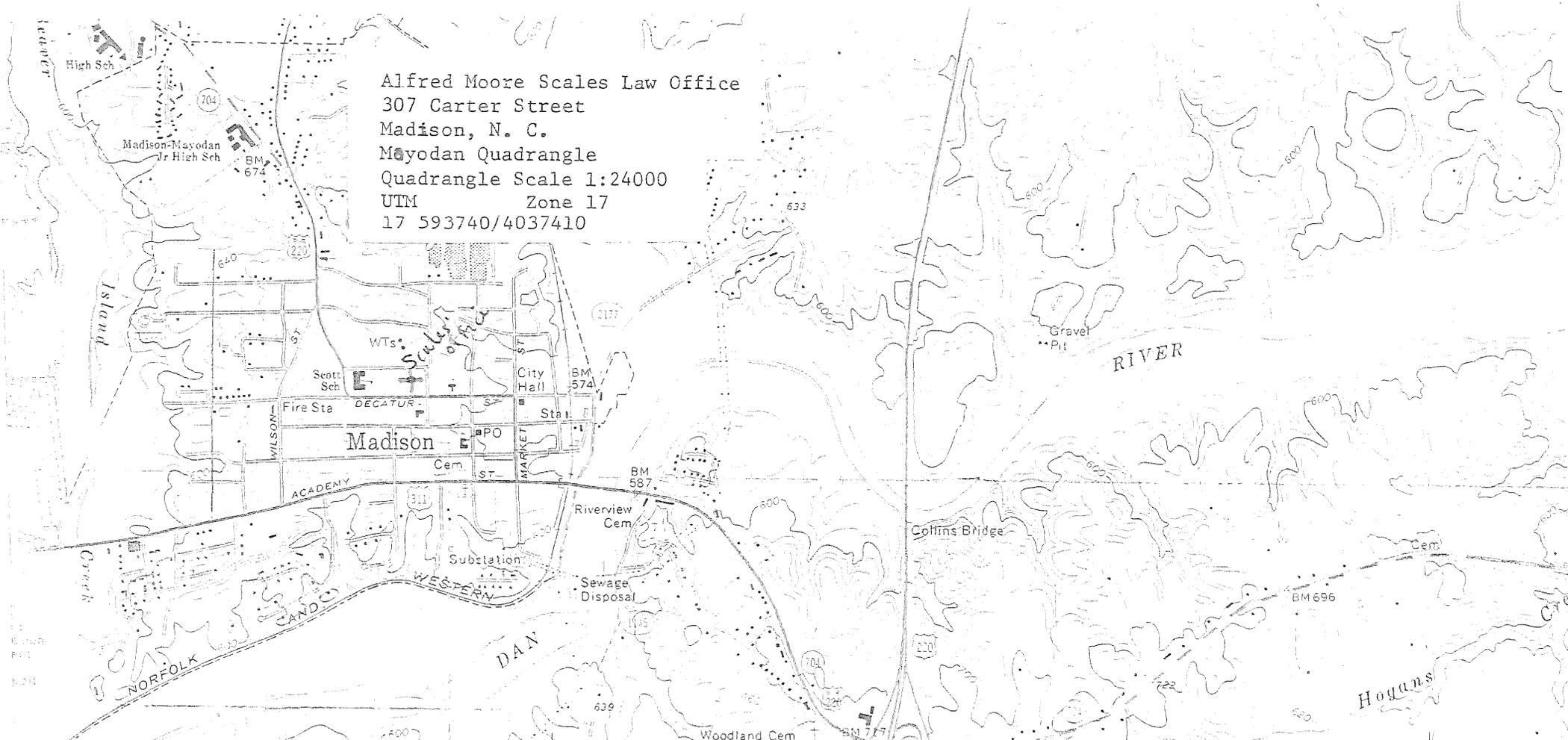
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Alfred Moore Scales Law Office
 307 Carter Street
 Madison, N. C.
 Mayodan Quadrangle
 Quadrangle Scale 1:24000
 UTM Zone 17
 17 593740/4037410



10000 FEET 592 593 57'30" 594 595 (ELLISBORO) 5056 IV SW 596 597 55'

SCALE 1:24000

Geological Survey

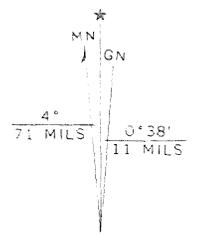
Aerial photographs

Carolina

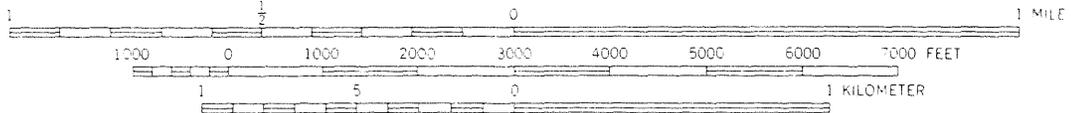
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and field lines where information is unchecked

buildings are shown

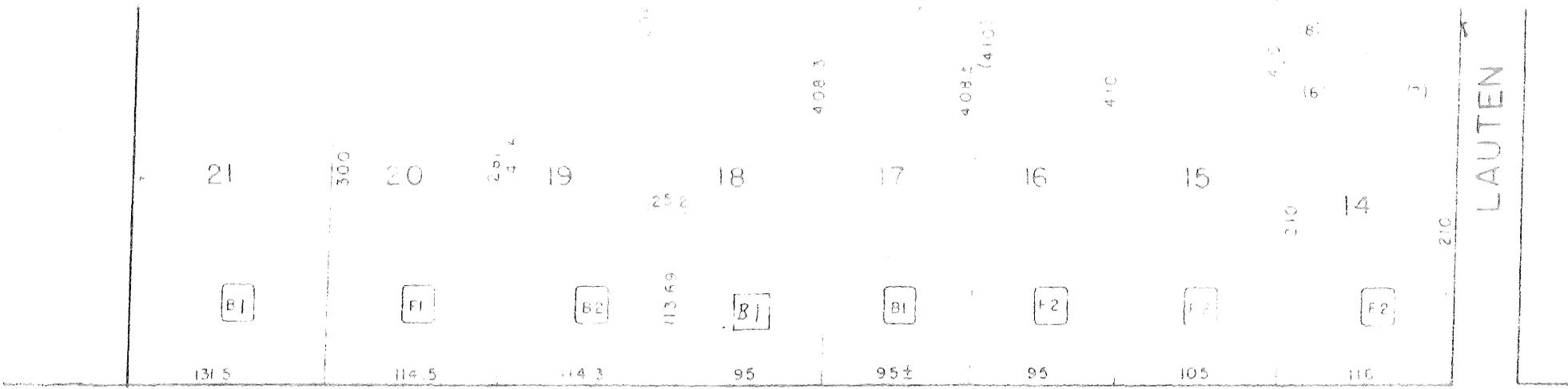


UTM GRID AND 1971 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

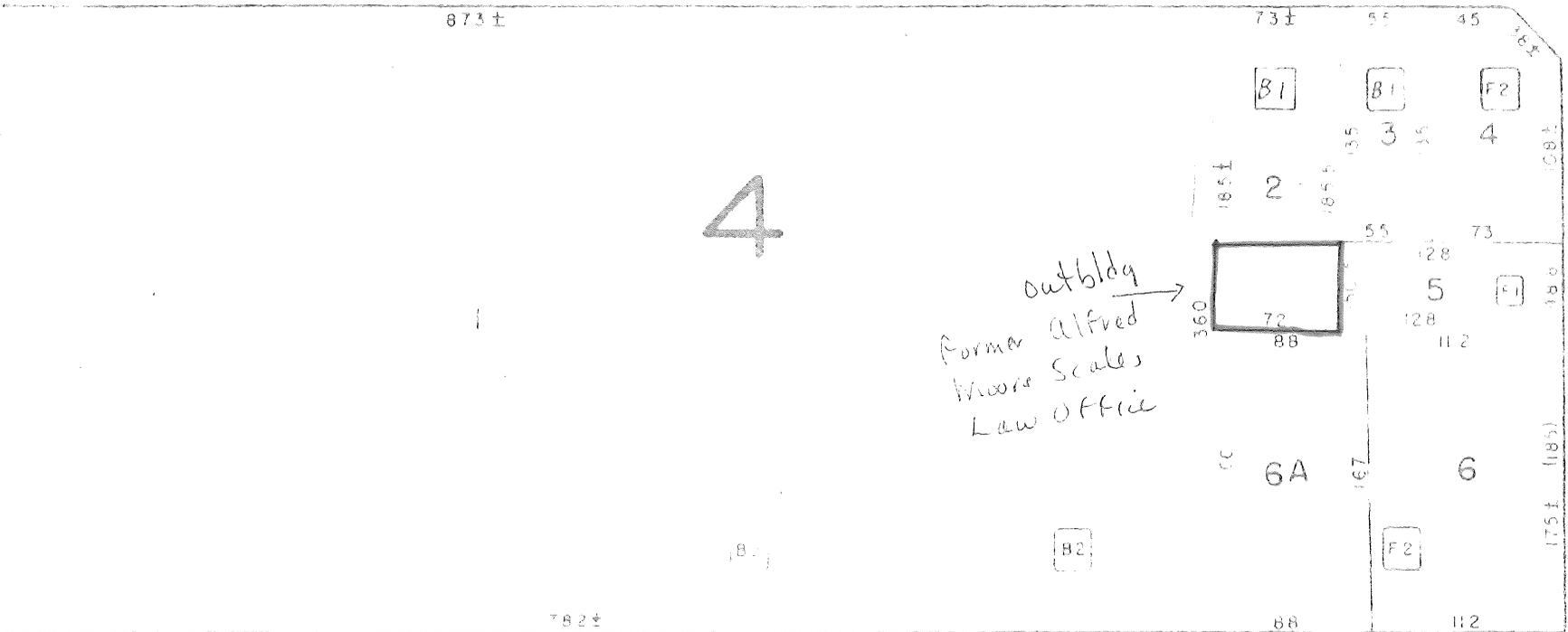
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



CARTER

STREET

LAUTEN



DECATUR

STREET

405

**ROCKINGHAM COUNTY
TAX MAPS**

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| MADISON TOWNSHIP MADISON | MAP NUMBER 408 | REVISED 9-61 9-73 |
| | | SCALE 1" = 100' |

