

EXP 12-31-84

OMB 1024-0018
EXP 12-31-84United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Thomas J. Gill House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 203 Cronly Street not for publication

city, town Laurinburg vicinity of congressional district Eighth

state North Carolina code 037 county Scotland code 165

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture	☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☒ commercial	☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational	☐ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment	☐ religious
☐ object	☐ in process	☐ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial	☐ transportation
	N/A	☒ no	☐ military	☒ other: office

4. Owner of Property

name Scotland County Historic Properties Commission Richard Brown, Chairman

street & number Post Office Box 1824

city, town Laurinburg vicinity of state N.C. 28352

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Scotland County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Laurinburg state N.C. 28352

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

An Inventory of Historical and Architectural Resources

title in Scotland County (Unpublished) has this property been determined eligible? yes ☒ nodate federal ☒ state county local

depository for survey records Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History

city, town 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh state N.C. 27611

7. Description

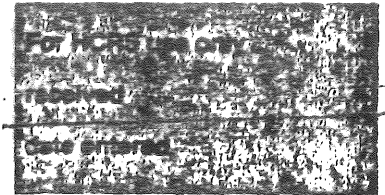
Condition		Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☒ unaltered	☒ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved
☒ fair	☐ unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

In 1904 Thomas Jefferies Gill (1861-1935), a prominent local businessman, built this large two-story-with-(full)-attic house on the site of a traditional frame house built in the late 1870s by his father, Washington Augustus Gill (1839-1886). The elder Gill came to Laurinburg in about 1862 as the master mechanic with the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherfordton Railroad shop here; he was to become a prominent citizen and partner in a pioneer Laurinburg mercantile firm. It was in this house that Tom Gill, also a prominent and successful businessman, and his wife raised their family of seven children. The children became prominent local citizens; the four unmarried daughters were much-loved local school teachers and lived here their entire lives. The youngest child, Edwin M. Gill (1899-1978), went on to a distinguished career of public service in North Carolina from 1929 until his retirement in 1976. Despite his long career in Raleigh, this house always remained his legal residence. The Gill house, a weatherboard and stucco structure sheltered under a dominant hip roof and fronted with a peculiar porch with Stick Style brackets, was given to the Scotland County Historic Properties Commission by the Gill family as a memorial to Edwin Gill. The first floor, presently occupied by a luncheon-tea room, was renovated in fall 1981.

The house, sheltered under the broad sweeping lines of the dominant hip roof with deep projecting eaves supported by shaped rafters, has a frame, weatherboarded, three-bay-by-three-bay, two-story-with-attic main block. This exterior elevation of the tall attic is distinguished by a stuccoed surface, which is repeated on the broad horizontal railing enclosing the top of the three-bay front porch. The porch's three large square pillars and the small, decorative balcony at the front north bay of the attic are also stuccoed. The north bay of the front (northeast) facade projects five feet (toward the street) breaking the house's overall square plan and roof line. A three-bay porch extends across the facade; the stuccoed pillars have brackets in a Stick Style/Bungalow manner that support the open second story porch. This porch, accessible from the upstairs hall, has a sloping floor which enables drainage. Window sash are fifteen-over-two (an unusual arrangement) on the first two stories with six-pane sash on the attic; the surrounds are flat. Further exterior details include cornerboards which support a frieze that separates the weatherboarded first two floors from the stuccoed attic, a three sided projecting bay rising the height of the house in the second bay from the front on the northwest elevation, and tall interior stuccoed chimneys. Across the rear southwest elevation is a hipped roof ell at the west corner and the gabled roof kitchen ell at the south end. A rear porch connects these two appendages. The deteriorated board-and-batten cook's house, a two-room structure, was razed during renovation in the summer of 1981. At the same time the rear porch was enclosed with glass.

The house's plaster interior is finished with the Colonial Revival elements characteristic of the area's fine turn-of-the-century houses. The center hall is divided into two sections by a screen formed by Tuscan columns supporting a dentiled entablature. The wide front entrance hall gives access through a pair of diagonally-set doors to the projecting north (front) parlor; access to the front east parlor is through a pair of sliding doors recessed into the wall. The library, the second room on the northwest, is also entered from the front hall. From the rear of the narrower back portion of the hall rises the

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quarter-turn stair with winders. The hall has a wainscot of beveled sheathing. The short rear hall, continuing onto the rear porch, provides access to the rear west room (a bedroom) and the dining room, the second room from the front on the southeast side of the house. The dining room, the largest room in the house, has a tall wainscot of sheathed, bevel-edged boards with a plate rail above its upper ledge, and a built-in china cabinet flanking the mantel and its overmantel. The other rooms have handsome, though representative, mantels; overmantels are in the front parlors. The plan of the second floor follows that of the first, with the exception of the rear west bedroom which is smaller than the bedroom on the first floor. This small room was Edwin Gill's bedroom. An enclosed stair rises to the large unfinished attic, which has always been used for storage.

The only outbuilding is the lattice, octagonal gazebo which was returned to the site and placed behind the house in fall, 1981, after several years absence; the gazebo is shown in the front yard in a 1904 documentary photograph. The Gill House, situated at the edge of the downtown area, retains several of the large oak street trees which have become the city's trademark. (The lot on the northwest is now a parking lot for the adjacent Laurinburg Exchange newspaper office; this lot was the site of a simple frame house built in the late-nineteenth century by the Gill family and was the home of Thomas J. Gill, Jr. (1892-1969.)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☒ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1904 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Thomas J. Gill House, built in 1904, was the home of a prominent Laurinburg family. Gill (1861-1935) was a successful businessman and a leading citizen. His four unmarried daughters were longtime and much-loved school teachers in town and lived their entire lives here. The best known member of the family was the builder's youngest child, Edwin M. Gill (1899-1978), who distinguished himself as one of the state's ablest public servants from 1929 until 1976. From 1953 until his retirement in 1976 he served as the State Treasurer, an office that, for twenty-three years, was synonymous with his name. Although he lived his public life in Raleigh, he always retained this his childhood home as his legal residence. The house is a large, two-story house with a tall attic dwelling, sheltered under a dominant hip roof with prominent projecting eaves supported by shaped brackets. The design of its exterior elevations, bearing the influences of the Stick and Bungalow styles, is unique in Laurinburg and then, as now, presented a striking contrast to its Queen Anne style contemporaries.

Criteria Assessment:

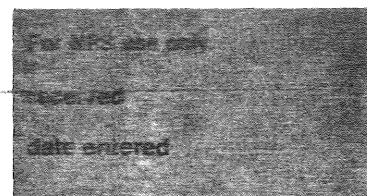
B. The house is associated with the lines of the locally prominent Gill Family -- the builder, Thomas J. Gill, his four daughters, and son Edwin M. Gill. The house was the childhood home and lifetime legal residence of Edwin M. Gill (1899-1978), a prominent state leader, State Treasurer from 1953 until retirement in 1976.

C. Built in 1904, the house is an unusual structure exhibiting a combination of Bungalow and Stick Style influences on the exterior and Colonial Revival inside. It truly exhibits an unique character in Laurinburg.

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Around 1862 Washington A. Gill, a master mechanic with the Wilmington, Charlotte, and Rutherford Railroad, left Wilmington and came to Laurinburg in Richmond (now Scotland) County. At that time the Civil War raged, and the WCRR moved its shops to Laurinburg for safekeeping.¹

After the war Gill remained in Laurinburg as a mechanic on the WCRR which subsequently became the Carolina Central Railroad. Soon, however, he entered the general store and dry goods business as a partner in the firm of Everett Brothers and Gill of Laurinburg.² In 1880 he purchased a lot on Cronly Street and built the house which still bears his family name.³ The dwelling was typical of the residences built by small town merchants who became financially successful in agricultural North Carolina in the late nineteenth century. As part of the crop-lien system born as a result of the Civil War, such merchants profited from the sale of goods and supplies on credit to farmers.⁴ Gill continued to expand his business and landholdings in Laurinburg, and he became a well known business leader in the community.

When Gill died in 1886, his son Thomas J. Gill inherited the Cronly Street house. Thomas J. Gill was born in 1861. He later attended the University of North Carolina and then returned to Laurinburg where he became a bookkeeper for Everett Brothers and Gill. In 1893 he joined investors Alexander L. James and Walter H. Neal in organizing the Bank of Laurinburg, and he became cashier at that institution. He also subsequently assumed the office of treasurer for the town of Laurinburg and held that position until his death in 1935. Gill served his community as a charter member of the board of trustees of the Laurinburg Graded School district, established in 1909, and was secretary and treasurer of that organization. In addition he was treasurer of the local Methodist Church.⁵ Gill remodeled the Cronly Street house in 1904, and the renovation reflected the standing of one of Laurinburg's best known and most active citizens.

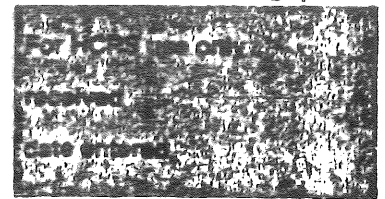
When Thomas J. Gill died in 1935, the Laurinburg house passed to his wife and children. His widow, Mary S. North Gill, continued to live there until her death in 1942. The house was then owned by the Gill heirs. The best known of these was Edwin M. Gill, one of North Carolina's leading governmental figures.⁶

Edwin Maurice Gill was born at the Cronly Street residence in 1899. He subsequently studied law at Trinity College (now Duke University) and was admitted to the bar in 1924. He practiced law in Laurinburg until 1931. During that period he served two terms in the state legislature. Between 1931 and 1933 he held the position of private secretary to Governor O. Max Gardner, and in the latter year Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus appointed Gill to the head of the newly-created North Carolina Paroles Commission. Gill remained in that office until 1942 when Governor Melville Broughton named him state commissioner of revenue. He served in that capacity until 1949.

In the following year President Harry S. Truman appointed Edwin M. Gill United States Collector of Revenue for the district of North Carolina. After one year Gill became the director of the United States Department of Revenue and remained in that office for two years. In 1953 he was appointed treasurer of the State of North Carolina and was continuously reelected to that office until his retirement in 1977. Edwin M. Gill is widely remembered in North Carolina for his administrative ability and sound fiscal management.

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In the following year, President Harry S. Truman appointed Edwin M. Gill United States Collector of Revenue for the district of North Carolina. After one year Gill became the director of the United States Department of Revenue and remained in that office for two years. In 1953 he was appointed treasurer of the State of North Carolina and was continuously reelected to that office until his retirement in 1977. Edwin M. Gill is widely remembered in North Carolina for his administrative ability and sound fiscal management while serving as state treasurer. In addition to the positions named, he served on numerous governmental, private, and charitable committees, boards, and commissions. His name is particularly associated with education and local government. When Gill died in 1978, he was well known in North Carolina and throughout the country for his devotion to public service.⁷ Edwin M. Gill owned the Cronly Street house at his death. It is now owned by the Scotland County Historic Properties Commission.⁸

The Gill House is an unusual residence and is indicative of the variety of dwellings built in the early-twentieth century. A dominant hipped-roof, exterior stucco and brackets reminiscent of the Shingle and Bungalow styles give this house a unique appearance in town; especially when considering that its contemporary houses in Laurinburg were of much more traditional Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Classical Revival styles.

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For NPS use only
received _____
date entered _____

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NOTES

¹ Interview of Tom Butchko, architectural historian, with Mrs. Sarah Gill, Laurinburg, 1981, hereinafter cited as Gill interview; John G. Barrett, The Civil War in North Carolina (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1963), 300.

² Levi Branson (ed.), The North Carolina Business Directory, 1877 and 1878 (Raleigh: Levi Branson Publisher, 1878), 257; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Richmond County, Population Schedule, 376.

³ Richmond County Deed Books (microfilm), Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, Deed Book GG, 103.

⁴ Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, North Carolina: The History of a Southern State (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1973), 522-525.

⁵ Laurinburg Exchange, February 21, 1935.

⁶ Gill interview.

⁷ Stephen E. Massengill, "Edward Maurice Gill, 1899-1978," an unpublished manuscript, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, 1-2. Massengill's manuscript has been prepared for a forthcoming biographical directory of North Carolina legislators.

⁸ Gill interview; Laurinburg Exchange, March 31, 1980.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hugh Talmadge Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, North Carolina: The History of a Southern State (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1973)

Stephen Massengill, "Edward Maurice Gill, 1899-1974," an unpublished manuscript, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.21 acres

Quadrangle name Laurinburg

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UMT References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property being nominated is the house lot at 203 Cronly Street shown on Tax Map 1 as Lot 15 in Block 7, in the Tax Collector's Office of the Scotland County Courthouse in Laurinburg. A copy of the Tax Map is attached.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Historical research by Joe A. Mobley (staff), Division of Archives and History

Architectural description by

organization Thomas Butchko (consultant)

date

street & number 109 East Jones Street

telephone 733-6545

city or town Raleigh

state N.C. 27611

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

William S. Price, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 8, 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

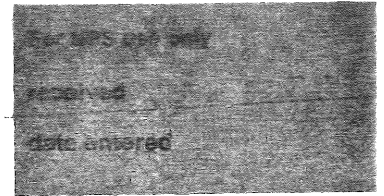
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Item number 9

Page 1

Barrett, John G. The Civil War in North Carolina. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1963.

Branson, Levi (ed.). The North Carolina Business Directory, 1877 and 1878. Raleigh: Levi Branson Publisher, 1878.

Interview of Tom Butchko, architectural historian, with Mrs. Sarah Gill, Laurinburg, 1981. Notes of the interview are at Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Laurinburg Exchange, February 21, 1935; March 31, 1980.

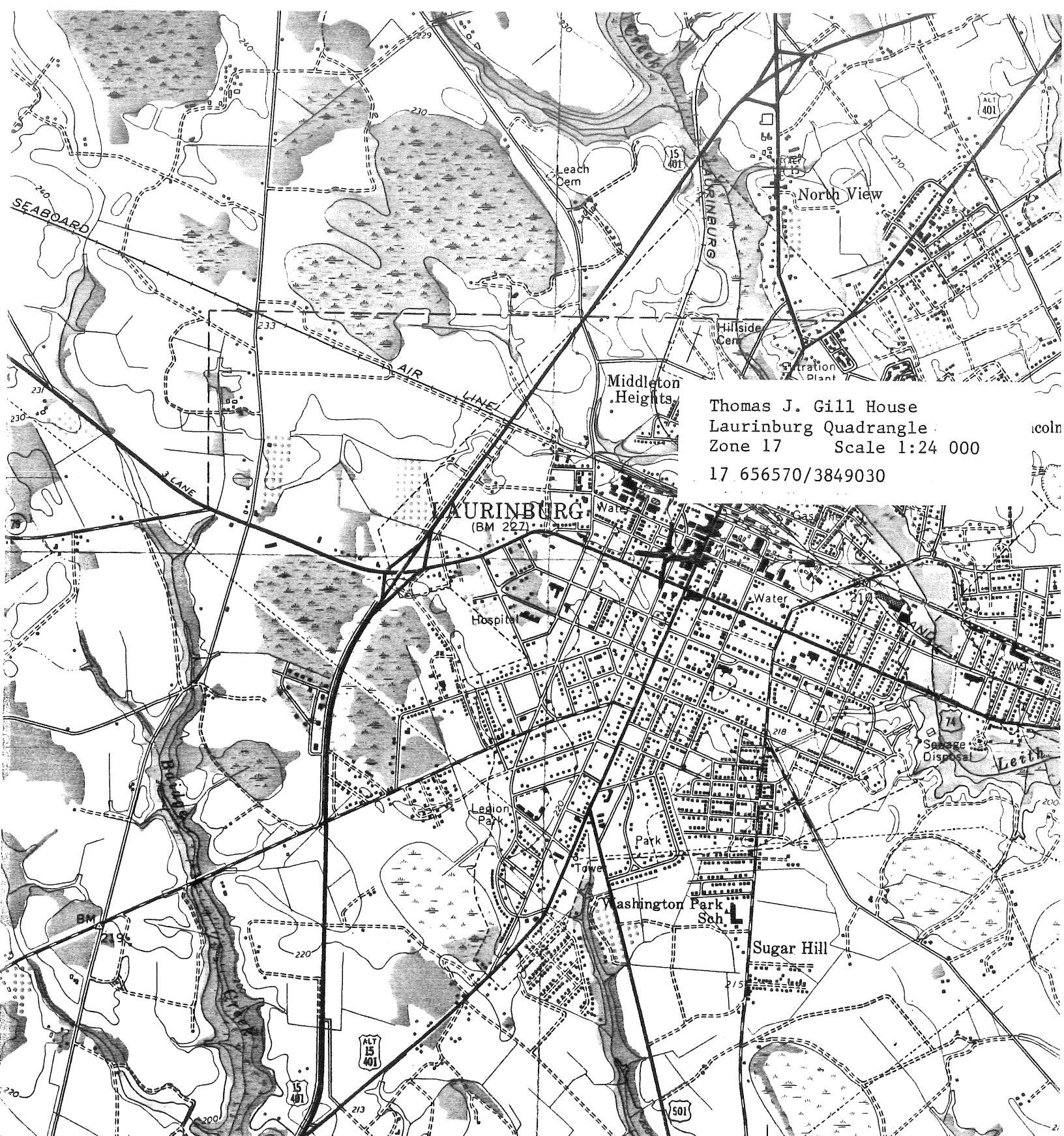
Lefler, Hugh Talmage and Newsome, Albert Ray. North Carolina: The History of a Southern State. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1973.

Massengill, Stephen E. "Edward Maurice Gill, 1899-1978," an unpublished manuscript. Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. Massengill's manuscript has been prepared for a forthcoming biographical directory of North Carolina legislators.

Richmond County Records. Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. Record Series: Deeds.

United States Bureau of the Census. Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Richmond County, North Carolina, Population Schedule.

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Thomas J. Gill House
Laurinburg Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:24 000
17 656570/3849030

MC COLL. S. C. (JUNC. S. C. 381) 8 MI.
BENNETTSVILLE. S. C. 17 MI.
1860 000 FEET
JOHNS 3.3 MI.
ROWLAND (JUNC. U.S. 301) 19 MI.

Map by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1948-1949. Culture and drainage revised
from aerial photographs taken 1955-1956. Field check 1957
Cylindrical projection. 1927 North American datum
600,000-foot grid based on North Carolina coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
Zone 17, shown in blue

2 1/2°
TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH

