

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

1. Name

historic Fuquay Mineral Spring

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Northeast corner of Main and West Spring Streets not for publication

city, town Fuquay-Varina vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Wake code 183

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
XX site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: site

4. Owner of Property

name Zazelle L. Johnson (Mrs. Woodrow W.)

street & number 105 West Spring Avenue

city, town Fuquay-Varina vicinity of state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wake County Courthouse, Register of Deeds (Lot Nos. 1-4, Book of

Maps 1938, p. 107)

street & number Fayetteville Street Mall

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

The Fuquay Mineral Spring is situated on the northeast corner of an approximately three acre wooded lot in the town of Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina. The current owner, Mrs. Zazelle Johnson and her husband (now deceased) purchased the property in 1943.¹ The spring site, bounded by Spring Avenue, West Spring Street, and Main Street, encompasses slightly over an acre of land.² Neal's Creek curves around the spring on the north and east sides. The creek was dredged by W. H. Aiken sometime in the late 1920s or early 1930s as a flood prevention measure.³ The property is more heavily wooded now than it was during its hey-day eighty years ago. The new growth along the creek bank serves as a buffer between the spring and heavily traveled Main Street. The Johnsons, over the years, tried to preserve the integrity of the site by maintaining the spring's park-like setting, repairing the original gazebo, and providing public access to the mineral water.

A gazebo covering the spring and an open-sided pavilion stood on the site during the early 1900s. The pavilion, erected by 1908,⁴ was demolished and removed by 1943.⁵ The site of the pavilion is discernable and affords the potential for archaeological study. The gazebo still covers the spring and retains its original form. The concrete base and the four solid wooden posts supporting the roof are part of the original structure and may predate the pavilion. The year "1901" is carved on one of the supporting posts. The original roof was constructed of wooden shingles. The Johnsons replaced the wooden shingles several times but about five years ago the deteriorating condition of the roof forced Mrs. Johnson to reroof the structure with asbestos shingles. The Johnsons, also, replaced the crumbling concrete floor of the gazebo with new concrete, and enclosed the structure with a picket type fence to keep vandals from contaminating the source of the spring's water,⁶ and placed a flat iron footbridge over Neal's Creek. All these changes are at least twenty years old.⁷ A flat wooden footbridge spanned the creek in the 1920s. Other than the gazebo, the 1940s dwelling of the current owner is the only structure on the property. The house is located on the southern end of the lot away from the immediate area of the spring.

The mineral water flows out of the gazebo through a pipe and empties into a concrete basin on the edge of Neal's Creek. The mineral water flows freely, as it has for centuries. It is periodically tested for its purity and mineral content and continues to be available to the passerby, without charge, just as it has been since the spring's discovery in the 1850s.

¹ Wake County Deeds, book 891, p. 504.

² See attached map of property from Wake County Book of Maps 1938, p. 107.

³ Researcher's interview: Annie Mae Aiken and Sarah Aiken, Fuquay-Varina, NC, 21 March 1986.

⁴ Picture post card dated 20 June 1908. Reproduced in the Independent, 1 August 1984, p. 5.

⁵ Researcher's interview: Zazelle L. Johnson, Fuquay-Varina, NC, 12 August 1986.

⁶ Ibid. Mrs. Johnson was uncertain of the exact dates these improvements and changes were made to the spring property.

⁷ See attached documentary photograph showing the spring site during the 1920s.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–1930	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)				
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention						

Specific dates 1900–1930 Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fuquay Mineral Spring site is of considerable local importance and significance. It has served as a focal point for the town of Fuquay-Varina and the surrounding area since its discovery in the 1850s. During the height of its popularity, from 1900 to 1930, thousands of people visited the spring to drink the mineral water reputed to cure kidney and intestinal ailments. Special celebrations held on Easter Monday and July 4th brought additional visitors to the spring, many arriving by horse and buggy and on special excursion trains. Throughout the year visitors to the spring stayed at nearby boarding houses and hotels and thus helped bolster the economy of the small town known at that time as Fuquay Springs. Fuquay Mineral Springs operated during the end of an era when it was considered fashionable and beneficial to attend health spas. The site represents an important, albeit lesser known, example of one of the few health resorts still operating in North Carolina during the early part of the twentieth century.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Fuquay Mineral Spring is associated with the early development of the town of Fuquay-Varina and represents one of the varied genre of health resorts existing in North Carolina during the turn of the century.

HISTORY

The Fuquay Mineral Spring site is situated on land purchased by the Fuquay family between 1804 and 1852.¹ Local tradition says the spring was discovered by the Fuquay family in the 1850s. It first appears in official records in 1860 when Stephen Fuquay sold ". . . a certain tract or parcel of land including the Spring known as Fukuway [sic] Mineral Spring. . . on Neals Creek. . ."² to ten men from Wake and Harnett Counties. Wake County land records indicate that these individuals soon formed the Wake County Chalybeate Spring Company with the intent of developing the Fuquay mineral spring as a health resort.³ The first lot in the town reportedly was sold to a Dr. McLean's widow who built a boarding house to accommodate visitors to the spring.⁴ The high iron and bicarbonate content of the mineral water made it especially suited for the treatment of kidney, liver, and intestinal ailments.⁵

Little is known about the development of the spring site during the latter part of the nineteenth century. At the very least, it served as a local gathering place. A Democratic barbecue was held at the site in 1868 and was reported to have been ". . . one of the largest local gatherings ever assembled in the County."⁶ Annual Easter Monday and July 4th celebrations were held at the site in the early 1900s. A gazebo covering the spring stood on the site by 1901 and open-sided pavilion had been erected by 1908.⁷

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During the 1890s members of the Wake County Chalybeate Spring Company and their descendants began selling their interests in the mineral spring property. Through a series of complicated land transactions the property eventually was purchased by W. H. Aiken in 1910 and 1915.⁸ Aiken, who moved from Granville County to Fuquay Springs in the early 1900s, played an important role in the development of the town during the early twentieth century. He built the first tobacco warehouse in Fuquay Springs and was instrumental in bringing the tobacco industry to the area.⁹ He also served as mayor of the town in 1915.¹⁰

During that same year, Aiken, along with his eldest son, W. H. Aiken, Jr., and another local businessman, Kemp B. Johnson, formed the Fuquay Mineral Springs Corporation.¹¹ They hoped to capitalize on the spring's established popularity. The objectives of the corporation were to

Develop Mineral Spring properties, Bottle water and sell the same; build, erect, construct, manage and occupy buildings for hotel purposes, dwelling houses, apartment houses and other structures; . . . to keep, manage and carry on hotels, apartment houses, dwelling houses, restaurants and places for the accommodation and amusement of the public and of individuals, . . . To fit up and furnish the same, and to carry on the business of hotel and inn-keepers and a livery stable keeper.¹²

Although Aiken and Johnson purchased a great deal of property in Fuquay Springs there is no evidence their corporation ever achieved the large scale development envisioned in their articles of incorporation.

They did bottle and sell the mineral water. Five gallon demijohns were shipped for \$2 a container with a \$1 rebate on the demijohn. Gallon jugs sold for 20¢ if shipped and 15¢ if purchased at the spring.¹³ Hotels and boarding houses had been serving visitors to the spring for a number of years prior to Aiken's purchase of the mineral spring property. The Blanchard Hotel, built around 1908,¹⁴ and the Barham and Ellis hotels, built by 1910,¹⁵ were within walking distance of the spring. Ragsdale's boarding house, and similar establishments run by Millie Jones and L. E. Rollins, also provided visitors with a place to sleep and plenty of good food to eat.¹⁶ The records do not indicate whether or not the Fuquay Mineral Springs Corporation ever built or operated their own hotels or boarding houses.

Twice a year, on Easter Monday and July 4th, special celebrations were held at the spring. Families would arrive by the hundreds to picnic by the spring, dance under the pavilion, and watch the local baseball teams play at a nearby field.¹⁷ Special excursion trains would run to Fuquay Springs for these two events.¹⁸

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Fuquay Mineral Springs, like Panacea Springs near Littleton, NC, was one of the few remaining health spas operating in North Carolina at the turn of the century. The era of "taking the waters" had begun before the Civil War when it was considered fashionable for wealthy planters and their families to spend the summer traveling from one spring to another. White Sulphur Springs and Hot Springs in Virginia and Catawba Springs, Shocco Springs and Jones' White Sulphur Springs in North Carolina were only a few of the popular resorts of the nineteenth century. The extensive social and economic changes wrought by the effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction saw the demise of many resorts; however, there was a resurgence of their popularity¹⁹ in the 1880s and 1890s as the economy of the South began to recover.

The advent of the automobile contributed to the final decline in the popularity of Fuquay Springs. By the late 1920s fewer and fewer families were attending the annual celebrations held at the spring. Instead they chose to travel further distances from home. Seaside resorts soon replaced the mineral springs' popularity. In 1933, R. E. Aiken inherited the Fuquay mineral spring property from his father, W. H. Aiken, Sr. He sold his interest to Skipwith²⁰ Staples who, in turn, sold his interest in 1943 to the current owner and her husband.

The pavilion is gone but the gazebo still covers the Fuquay Mineral Spring. Today's park-like setting beckons visitors back to an earlier time when ladies in white dresses and gentlemen in straw boaters strolled beneath the tall pines, crossed Neal's Creek and "took the waters" of Fuquay's mineral spring.

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¹ Wake County Deeds, book T, p. 65; book 6, p. 98; book 22, p. 480.

² Wake County Deeds, book 145, p. 265.

³ Wake County Deeds, book 285, p. 230.

⁴ Wright, Mrs. S. G., "Early Days in Fuquay Springs Are Recalled By Mrs. Stephen G. Wright," Independent (Fuquay-Varina), undated newsclipping.

⁵ Ashworth, Daphne A., "Springs Attracted Many to F-V Area," Independent (Fuquay-Varina), 3 April 1975, p. 14; hereinafter cited as Ashworth, "Springs Attracted Many."

⁶ Raleigh Daily Sentenial, 11 August 1868, p.3; 12 August 1868, p.3.

⁷ The date "1901" is carved on one of the supporting posts of the gazebo. The pavilion appears in a picture post card dated 20 June 1908, reproduced in the Independent (Fuquay-Varina), 1 August 1984, p. 5.

⁸ Wake County Deeds, book 249, p. 482; book 301, p. 318.

⁹ Researcher's interview: Annie Mae Aiken and Sarah Aiken, Fuquay-Varina, NC, 21 March 1986.

¹⁰ North Carolina Year Book and Business Directory, (Raleigh: News and Observer Publishing Company, 1915), p. 462.

¹¹ "Certificate of Incorporation of Fuquay Mineral Springs Corporation," 24 December 1915. Secretary of State Office, Corporations Division, Raleigh, NC.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ashworth, "Springs Attracted Many," p.14.

¹⁴ The hotel appears in a picture post card dated 20 June 1908, reproduced in the Independent, 1 August 1984, p.5.

¹⁵ The North Carolina Year Book and Business Directory, (Raleigh: News and Observer Publishing Company, 1910), p. 479.

¹⁶ Fuquay Springs North Carolina (Fuquay Springs: Fuquay Publishing Company, 1915), p. 9.

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17 News and Observer (Raleigh), 3 April 1920, p. 10; 5 July 1920, p.2; 26 March 1921, p. 7; 28 March 1921, p.3; 3 July 1921, p. 11; 16 April 1922, p.13; 18 April 1922, p. 7.

18 News and Observer (Raleigh), 1 July 1910, p. 4; 2 July 1912, p. 11.

19 Rives, Ralph Hardee, "Panacea Springs; Fashionable Spa," North Carolina Historical Review, XLII(October 1965), pp. 430-439; Miller, Kay, "On Taking the Waters," News and Observer (Raleigh), 1 December 1974, Section V, pp. 1-8; Davidson, Chalmers G., "Catawba Springs--Carolina's Spa," North Carolina Historical Review, XXVIII (October 1951), pp. 414-420; Haswell, Joel, "Gala Days Long Gone," Durham Morning Herald, 14 November 1971, Section D, p. 1.

20 Wake County Deeds, book 872, p. 170; book 891, p. 504.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.24 acres

Quadrangle name Fuquay-Varina

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	[1] [7]	[6] [9] [9]	[2] [8] [0]	[3] [9] [3] [9]	[3] [8] [0]
Zone	Easting	Northing			
C					
E					
G					

B					
Zone	Easting	Northing			
D					
F					
H					

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property being nominated encompasses lots 1-4, Mineral Springs Property, Wake County Book of Maps 1938. A copy of the survey map with the researcher's notations is attached.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michelle A. Francis, Contract Researcher

organization	Town of Fuquay-Varina	date	4 September 1986
street & number	1542 Sunrise Avenue	telephone	919-787-6313 (W) 919-821-4639 (H)
city or town	Raleigh	state	North Carolina 27608

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. Francis

title	date
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For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Ashworth, Daphne A. "Springs Attracted Many to F-V Area." Independent (Fuquay-Varina), 3 April 1975.

Raleigh Daily Sentenial
11, 12 August 1868

Davidson, Chalmers G. "Catawba Springs--Carolina's Spa." North Carolina Historical Review, XXVIII (October 1951), 414-420.

Fuquay Springs, North Carolina. Fuquay Springs: Fuquay Publishing Company, 1915.

Haswell, Joel. "Gala Days Long Gone." Durham Morning Herald, 14 November 1971.

Independent (Fuquay-Varina)
1 August 1984

Interviews: Aiken Sarah and Annie Mae Aiken Apple, Fuquay-Varina, NC, 21 March 1986.
Johnson, Zazelle L., Fuquay-Varina, NC, 12 August 1986.

Miller, Kay. "On Taking the Waters." News and Observer (Raleigh), 1 December 1974.

News and Observer (Raleigh)
1 July 1910
2 July 1912
3 April 1920
5 July 1920
26, 28 March 1921
3 July 1921
15, 18 April 1922

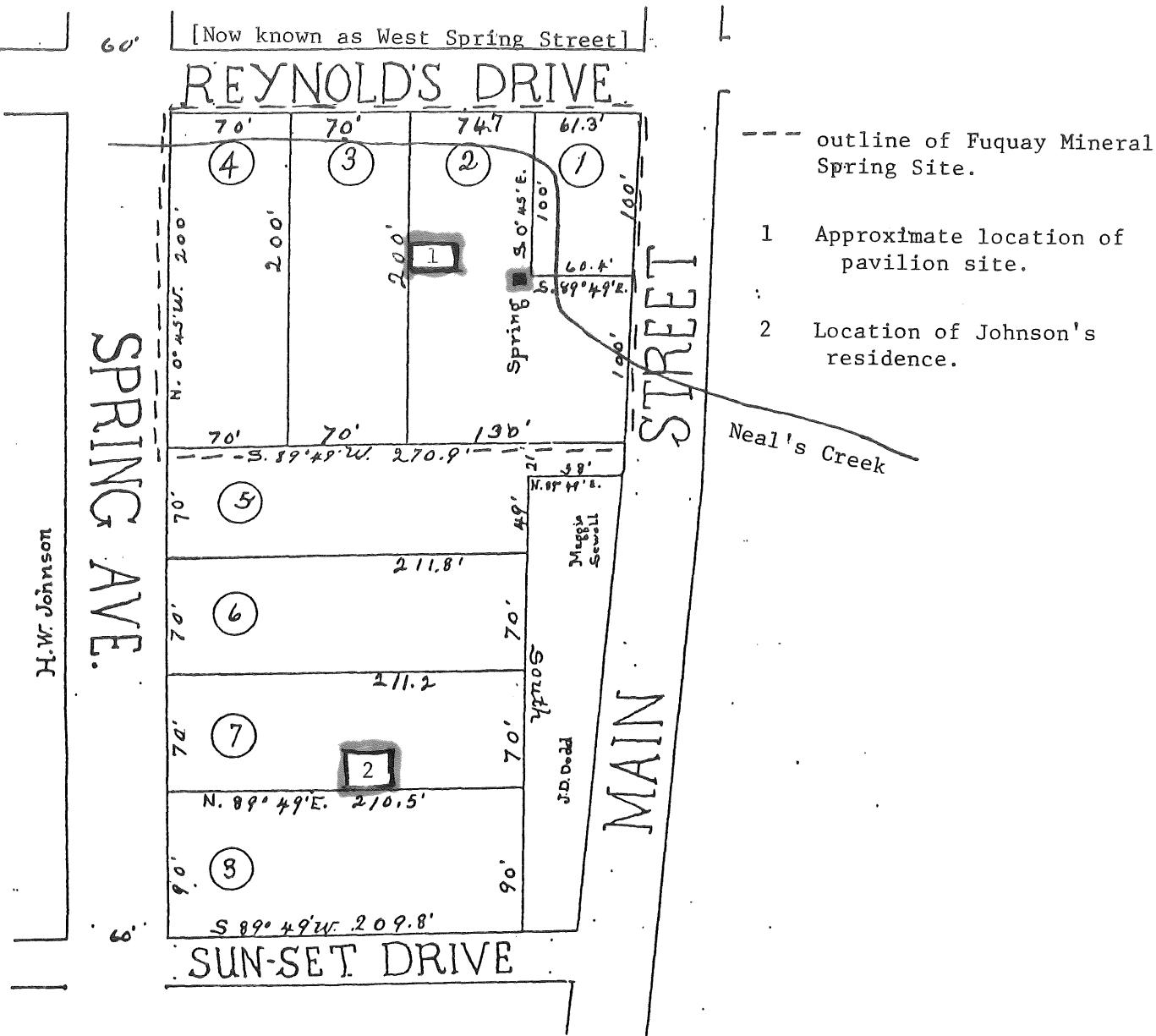
North Carolina Year Book and Business Directory. Raleigh: News and Observer Publishing Company, 1910, 1915.

Records of Incorporations, Secretary of State Office, Raleigh, NC.

Rives, Ralph Hardee. "Panacea Springs: Fashionable Spa." North Carolina Historical Review, XLII (October 1965), 430-439.

Wake County Deeds

Wright, Mrs. S. G. "Early Days in Fuquay Springs are Recalled by Mrs. Stephen G. Wright." Independent (Fuquay-Varina), undated newsclipping.

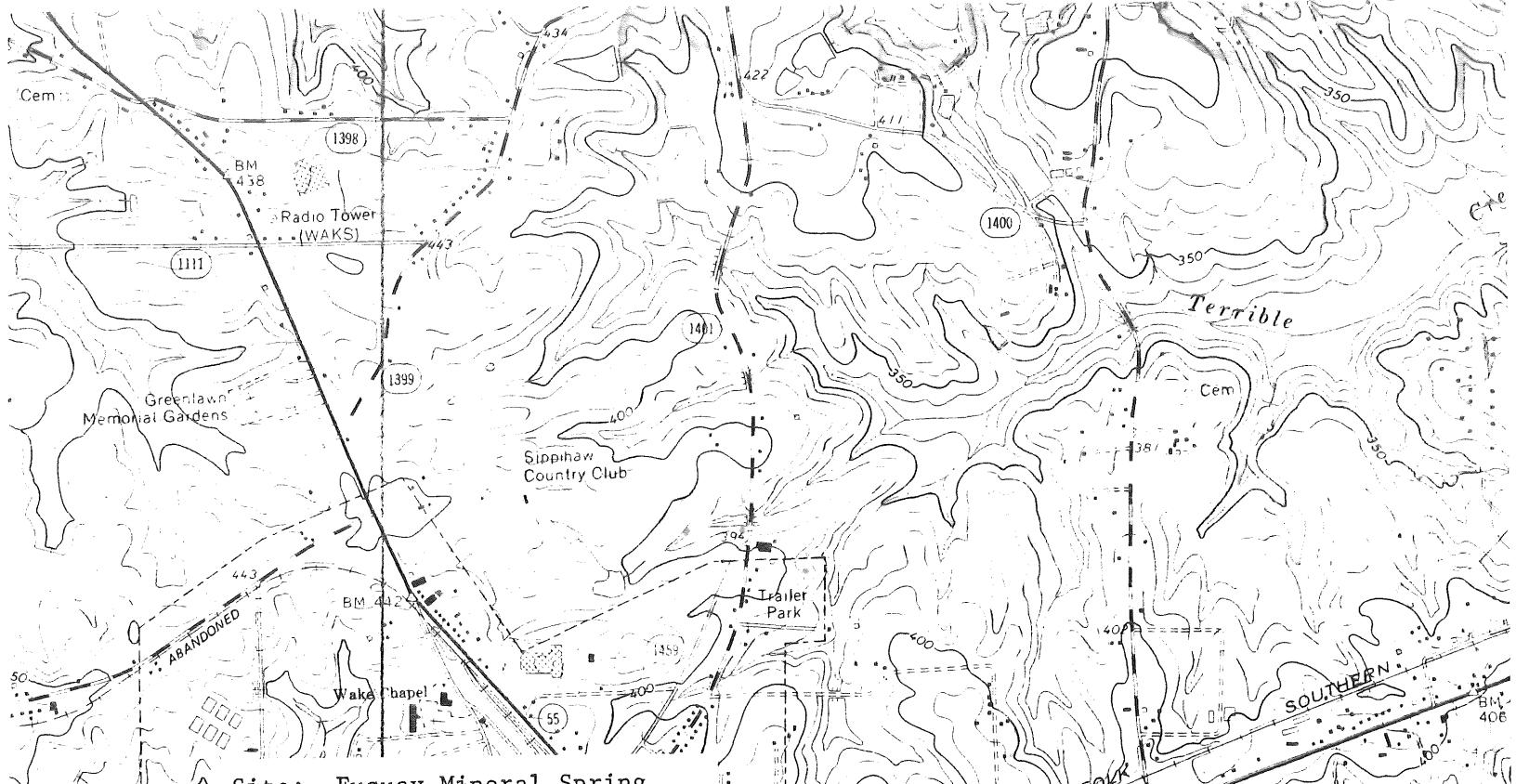


Mineral Spring Property Fuquay Springs, N.C.

Surveyed and mapped Oct. 28, 1940 by
W.H. Blanchard, surveyor, with all magnetic
bearings stated in their true relation to the
true meridian as indicated by monuments
at State College, Raleigh, N.C.

This 28th day of October, 1940.

*W.H. Blanchard
Surveyor*



Site: Fuquay Mineral Spring
Quadrangle: Fuquay-Varina
Zone: 17 Scale: 1:24,000

A 17 699280/3939380





