

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Purefoy-Dunn Plantation

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number E. side US 1, 0.3 miles N. of jct. US 1A N/A not for publication

city, town Wake Forest vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Wake ccde 183 zip code 27587

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	<u>1</u>	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
None

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. Pinn Jr. 2-3-88
 Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Officer
 State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

 Signature of commenting or other official Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure

Agriculture/animal facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure

Agriculture/animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

concrete

roof asphalt

other tin

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Purefoy-Dunn Plantation consists of approximately 185 acres of rolling pasture and woodland located on the east side of US 1 southwest of Wake Forest, in Wake County. Built in the first quarter of the nineteenth century and renovated in the mid-nineteenth century, the two-story, frame Greek Revival style farm house sits on a plateau at the top of a small hill near the highway and at the south end of the tract. North of the house are a mid-nineteenth century smokehouse and several mid-twentieth century outbuildings. Although the house has lost its Greek Revival portico, and has had other alterations, it remains essentially intact and, surrounded by a substantial portion of its original acreage, it retains an integrity of design, setting, materials and feeling associated with its history as a working plantation and rural seat.

Recorded acreage figures for the plantation fluctuated during the nineteenth century, as its owners acquired land and according to the source tallying the acreage. By the mid-nineteenth century, however, the plantation was a distinct entity of between 650 and 750 acres. The construction of US 1 in the 1940s divided the plantation, separating off a large portion to the west. Additional acreage was sold for an industrial plant to the south. The current boundaries represent the remaining portion of land historically and continuously associated with the plantation. This rolling piedmont terrain today consists of a series of irregularly-shaped pastures framed by mature hardwoods, a meandering stream, a small lake, and the house, garden and outbuilding plots near the south end. Scattered through the plantation are the foundation remains of once-extant tenant or slave houses and other former outbuildings. Two large cedar trees and a depressed roadbed indicate the former road leading from the front of the main house to the Forestville Road, now US 1A.

The main house is a two-story, L-shaped building with a heavy timber frame sheathed in clapboards. Its low, hipped roof, now covered with asphalt shingles, is pierced at the ridge on the east side by a rectangular brick chimney stack. On the west end of the house is an exterior chimney with high, paved shoulders, rebuilt in the 1950s but

See continuation sheet

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with the same form shown in documentary photos. Original foundations for the house are of random ashlar stonework.

The present front elevation of the house faces south. However, the framing of the first floor suggests that the earlier house faced east, and that the present south elevation incorporates one end of that house. Three bays wide, the symmetrically-arranged front of the house has a central entrance with a single, two-panel door with sidelights. At either side of the doorway is a pair of Greek Doric pilasters with flushboarding between them, the remains of a one-story portico that was removed at least twenty years ago. Documentary photographs of WW II vintage show a shallow portico with four square columns at the front that matched the pilasters. The grade level at the front of the house was raised in the 1950s and the portico base replaced by a concrete slab and steps, with the remainder of the portico subsequently being removed in the 1960s or early 70s. Over the front door is a second-level entrance that is identical to the first floor doorway, and must originally have opened onto a flat roof.

At either front corner of the house are wide corner boards that take the form of panelled pilasters. There is also a board water table at the bottom of the wall. A shallow, boxed cornice encircles the house.

On all elevations of the building, the original windows are large, with six over six sash and wide surrounds with Greek ovolo backband moldings. Surviving hardware indicates that there were originally exterior blinds at these windows.

The east elevation of the house is also three bays wide, the central bay being filled with a small, shed-roofed portico, now enclosed. This portico retains its original foundations, as well as Greek Doric pilasters that flank a pair of one-panel doors. Its ceiling level has been lowered, obscuring a transom that is visible on the interior.

The northeast elevation of the house has only one small, six over six window that appears to replace a door. This elevation of the house was probably at some point joined to a kitchen or other outbuildings that show in documentary photos.

Inside the rear ell of the house is a two-story, frame bathroom addition added in the 1950s. The addition incorporates the original rear entrance of the house as remodelled in the Greek Revival style, its two-panel door flanked by sidelights having being moved out to the

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new exterior wall.

Interior

The single-pile south portion of the house has a central stair hall with an open-string, dogleg stair. At the foot of the stair is a bulbous, turned newel post, while on the landings are smaller turned newel posts with rounded caps. Door surrounds in the hallway, as in the two rooms that flank it, are wide, symmetrically-molded strips with mitered corners like those shown in Asher Benjamin pattern books. Doors are two-panel, with Greek ovolo moldings framing the panels.

The west parlor is typical of Greek Revival interiors of the 1840s and 50s, with plaster walls, symmetrically-molded window and door surrounds, high baseboards with molded caps and a carefully-detailed Greek Revival mantel that is either heavily-repaired or a modern copy of the earlier mantel. A small crown molding in this and other rooms is a modern addition.

On the east side of the stair hall is a sitting or dining room finished the same way, except that the mantel is clearly original and is more simply-detailed. A doorway on the north side of the room leads to a small antechamber for the side entrance and on to the servants' room or family dining room. On the opposite side of the mantel is a four-panel door, added later in the nineteenth century, which opens into a closet off the servants' room, converting it into a passageway.

More plainly-finished than the front rooms, the northeast room appears to have been a servants' work room or family dining room. Its window and door surrounds have plain fascias with Greek ovolo backbands, and the mantel is a modest Greek Revival one. At the northwest corner of this room is an enclosed rear stair.

The second-floor plan of the house is very similar, except that the two east bedrooms are entered directly from the front hall through a small trapezoidal passageway that appears to have been converted from a closet and a corner of one room. Prior to this change, which was probably done at the same time as the addition of the bathroom wing, the northeast bedroom does not appear to have been connected directly to the front of the house. While all of the second floor rooms have plainer two-panel doors and mantels and lower baseboards, the northeast bedroom is trimmed like the servants' room below it, to which it is connected by the rear stair.

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Beneath the house is a full basement with three rooms. Ghost marks indicate that the south two rooms were plastered. One may have been a winter dining room, the other, which has a larder, a winter kitchen. The north room has an open, whitewashed ceiling. Several doors in the basement are six-panel, Federal-style doors from the early nineteenth century that may have been relocated from the upper levels of the house at the time it was renovated.

Outbuildings

1. Smokehouse (C)

Small, mid-19th century gable-roofed frame smokehouse located northeast of the main house. Although somewhat altered on the exterior, it retains its original framing and nail-studded door.

2. Shed (NC)

Long, mid-20th century open frame shed with gabled agricultural tin roof.

3. Dairy Barn (NC)

Ca. 1940s large, deteriorated, gambrel-roofed frame barn with concrete block addition at front and sheds and frame extension at sides and rear.

4. Tenant House (NC)

Ca. 1950 one-story, hipped-roofed concrete block tenant house in fair condition.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1814-ca. 1850

Significant Dates

1832

(founding of
Wake Forest Univ.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Purefoy, John

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Located just east of U. S. 1 approximately 2 miles southwest of downtown Wake Forest, North Carolina, the Purefoy-Dunn Plantation is significant in the history of Wake County and Wake Forest as the early nineteenth century residence of Rev. John Purefoy (1778-1855), a founder and member of the first board of trustees of Wake Forest College who played a key role in the selection of the site for the college. Purefoy's activities in connection with the college were carried out while he was living in the house. Constructed in the early 19th century as a small Federal style dwelling, the main house was extended and remodelled in the Greek Revival style in the mid-19th century by later owner Samuel H. Dunn (ca. 1809-1891). In its remodelled form the house is a representative Wake County example of Greek Revival plantation seats built in the northern piedmont counties of the state during the period. The period of significance extends from construction of the house ca. 1814 to the approximate date of alterations made by Dunn, ca. 1850.

Historical Background

John Purefoy was born in Craven County, North Carolina in 1778. A brief biography of Purefoy in the Wake Forest Student indicated that he was orphaned at the age of twelve and went to live with relatives in Georgia, where he was later converted and began his career as a Baptist minister [Sikes: p. 19]. It is not clear precisely when Purefoy moved back to North Carolina, but by 1809 he was listed as paying taxes on 40.75 acres of land and two slaves in the Forest District of Wake County [WC Tax List: 1809]. He served as pastor of several churches in the Forestville-Wake Forest area until the late 1830s when he moved to Cumberland (later Harnett) County, the home of his second wife, Isabella Atkins whom he had married in 1833 [Sikes: p. 19; Index]

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Purefoy-Dunn Plantation

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In 1814, Purefoy purchased a 400-acre tract of land near Forestville from Nathaniel (White Plains) Jones [deed book Y: p. 49]. It seems likely that he built his residence on the land shortly thereafter. Purefoy apparently did not engage in extensive farming, as he never owned more than four slaves [WC Tax List: 1809-1830; Wynn: p. 221].

Although not formally educated himself, Rev. Purefoy was a strong advocate of education throughout his life. Included among his endeavors in the field was his service as a founder and trustee of the Macedonian Academy in nearby Forestville, which advertised in the Raleigh Register in 1822 as being ". . . under the superintendence of Mr. Samuel Higginson, who comes highly recommended as well as qualified to teach English Grammar, Geography, Astronomy, Book-Keeping, Surveying and the Elementary parts of the Latin Language" ["Macedonian Academy"].

Ten years later, Purefoy joined with William R. Hinton, Simon G. Jeffreys, Jr., and James G. Hall to purchase 615.5 acres of land northeast of Forestville from Calvin Jones, who had been operating the Wake Forest School on the site for several years [deed book: 14: p. 191; and "Wake Forest School"). The following month, plans were announced to open the Wake Forest Institute in February 1833, although the commencement of exercises eventually had to be postponed for another year [Raleigh Register, 28 September 1832 and 4 January 1933: p. 3]. From this institution developed Wake Forest College; today, Wake Forest University is one of the foremost church-related institutions of higher learning in the country. When the college moved to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in 1952, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary remained on the school's original campus in the town of Wake Forest.

George Washington Paschal described Purefoy's role in founding the college more fully in his History of Wake Forest College. He revealed how, in 1832, the education committee of the state Baptist Convention reported to the annual meeting of the Convention,

That we think it expedient and highly important to afford to our young ministers facilities for obtaining such an education as will qualify them to be able ministers of the New Testament. That for this purpose the plan which has recommended itself to us as combining the greatest advantages, is the purchase of a farm in a suitable situation, furnished with commodious buildings

The Committee have ascertained that such a farm as

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will be suited for carrying their views into immediate operation can be had in the county of Wake, within fifteen miles of the city of Raleigh, for the sum of \$2,000 . . . [Paschal: pp. 44-45]

Paschal went on to ask how sentiment for founding a college had crystallized since the previous meeting, who the prime mover had been, and why the farm at Wake Forest was selected. According to the historian, "In a modified way all these questions may be answered by naming one man, Rev. John Purefoy." [Paschal: p. 46] He lived nearby, was active in the church and education in the area, was prominent in the Baptist State Convention, and was a neighbor of Dr. Calvin Jones, from whom the land was acquired at a price five hundred dollars less than Jones had originally asked [Paschal: p. 46] In summary, Paschal noted,

We are not told by what argument Elder Purefoy led the Committee of the Convention to believe that the farm at Wake Forest was a proper place for the College, except that we know from the report of the Committee that it was urged that the price was very reasonable, the farm fertile, and suitable for a manual labor institution such as was proposed. The report also states that the location was central for the Baptist population of the State and near the State Capital. [Paschal: pp. 46-47]

John Purefoy remained a trustee of the school until his death in 1855 ["Death of an Aged Minister"]. He was also noted for a hymnal published in 1831, A Selection of Hymns and Spiritual Songs, in Two Parts. Of his four children, three were also prominent ministers in the Baptist church--George W., Nicholas A. and James S. Purefoy. Nicholas Purefoy wrote a history of the Sandy Creek Baptist Association [Taylor: p. 246]. James, who presented an address on the college's semi-centennial celebration, was a trustee for forty-five years. During his tenure as its treasurer, James Purefoy was called upon to raise large sums of money on more than one occasion to keep the college open [Paschal: p. 46; and Branson: p. 7].

In 1838, Purefoy sold his 429-acre farm to Samuel H. Dunn, a Wake County native and son of Benjamin A. Dunn, a prominent area planter and mill owner [deed book 13: p. 170; and Will Book 28: p. 141]. At some time during the next twenty years, the new owner added a two-story wing to the earlier house and remodeled the entire house in the Greek Revival style.

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Rural prosperity in North Carolina in the 1840s and 1850s, particularly in the piedmont counties close to the Virginia border, manifested itself in the construction of a large number of new plantation houses, the dominant mode for which was the Greek Revival style. Throughout the northern counties may be found two-story, single-pile, central-hall Greek Revival houses with low hipped roofs and one- or two-story columned porticos [Tar-Neuse: vols. J & K].

Although Wake County has not been comprehensively inventoried, several other examples of this form in the county are well-documented, including the Alpheus Jones House (NR) and Midway Plantation (NR), both near Raleigh. Although these are both larger and more sophisticated versions of the type, they share a common vocabulary of form and ornament. Another modest version of this type of house is the Bailey Williamson House near Shotwell.

The L-shaped form of the Purefoy-Dunn House, apparently arising out of the overbuilding of an earlier dwelling, is not common to most houses of this set, which generally have one-story rear wings. However, the plan of the Purefoy-Dunn House does closely match that of Woodside (NR), a Greek Revival plantation seat constructed in Caswell County in the late 1830s.

Samuel Dunn, in contrast to John Purefoy, engaged in a substantial farming operation; the principal products were wheat, corn, oats, cotton, wool, and swine. The proportions of improved land and unimproved woodland varied considerably, but in 1860, when Dunn was listed in the census as owning 24 slaves, he was working 500 acres of his plantation [US Census, slave and agriculture schedules: 1850 and 1860]. Also indicative of his relative prosperity were the notations in the 1855 Wake County Tax List that Dunn owned a carriage and a piano forte [WC Tax List: 1855]. By 1870, when he no longer had the benefit of slave labor, he had decreased his worked acreage to 100 [US Census, agriculture schedule: 1870].

According to the National Register nomination for Forestville Baptist Church (listed 25 October 1984), the Dunn family were "active Baptist laymen" [Bishir and Bullock]. Samuel's brother Peyton A. Dunn was a trustee of Wake Forest College and auditor of the North Carolina Baptist Publication and Sunday School Society. Three of the brothers, including Samuel, served on the board of managers of the Baptist State Convention. They were also among the founders, in 1859, of Forestville Baptist Church. The church building, completed in 1860, is believed to have been designed by contractor Jacob W. Holt of Warrenton, "one of the

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Purefoy-Dunn Plantation

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state's best known and most prolific builders in the antebellum period" [Bishir and Bullock]. Samuel Dunn donated the bell for the new church [Murphy: p. 70]

Samuel H. Dunn was married in 1833 to Mary S. Marriott [Index]. They had one daughter, Virginia, who cared for her father in the final years of his life ["Dunn"]. In 1882, nine years prior to his 1891 death, Dunn sold his farm to David F. Fort and moved into the village of Forestville [deed book 70: p. 1].

David F. Fort was also a farmer, but little else is known about him [US Census, population schedule: 1880]. Other members of the Fort family lived on the farm in the late 19th century. In 1898, Fort ceased making payments on the plantation, and it became the property of Rex Hospital of Raleigh. The Hospital sold the property at auction in 1902 to Augustus Wright of Petersburg, Virginia, who sold it six months later to W. W. Holding [deed book 171: p. 309; and deed book 173: p. 344].

William Willis Holding, Sr. (1862-1924) was a merchant and cotton broker in Wake Forest [Belvin and Riggs: p. 220]. He sold the property, which then consisted of 602.52 acres, to Ben T. Holden in 1918 [deed book 327: p. 518]. Holden mortgaged the property five years later, but was unable to keep up the payments, resulting in a foreclosure and auction sale in 1931 [deed book 612: p. 388]. The North Carolina Joint Stock Land Bank of Durham owned the property until 1942 when it was acquired by Dr. Zebulon Marvin Caveness, Sr., who carried out a dairy farming operation on the plantation [deed book 889: p. 287]. Dr. Caveness deeded the plantation to his son William F. Caveness in 1955 [deed book 1226: p. 181]. The latter's widow owns the surviving intact portion of the property, consisting of 185 acres of pasture and woodland, which is included in this nomination. A stock-farming operation is still carried out on the property.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 185 acres

UTM References

A

1	7
---	---

7	2	1	5	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	8	2	5	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

C

1	7
---	---

7	2	2	4	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	8	1	5	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B

1	7
---	---

7	2	2	2	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	8	2	3	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

D

1	7
---	---

7	2	1	8	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	8	1	1	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Purefoy-Dunn Plantation nomination are indicated by the dashed line on the accompanying Wake County Tax Map #231, drawn at a scale of 1 inch equals 200 feet.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Purefoy-Dunn Plantation are drawn to include the remaining acreage of the farm, assembled by John Purefoy and Samuel H. Dunn, which is still contiguous and is still associated with the house by ownership and use.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David R. and Allison H. Black/Architectural Historians
 organization Black & Black, Preservation Consultants date November 16, 1987
 street & number 620 Wills Forest Street telephone (919) 828-4616
 city or town Raleigh state North Carolina zip code 27605

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"Dunn." Biblical Recorder, 1 July 1891, p. 7.

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"Wake Forest Institute." Raleigh Register and North Carolina Gazette, 28 September 1832, p. 3.

"Wake Forest School" advertisement. Raleigh Register and North Carolina Gazette, 2 January 1829, p. 1.

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Purefoy-Dunn Plantation
Wake County, NC

Section number _____ Page _____

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

Stephen J. Cross SHPO

5/29/97

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
National Register.
- removed from the National
Register.
- other. (explain) _____

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Purefoy-Dunn Plantation (Amendment)
Wake County, NC

Section number 10 Page 2

This amendment for the Purefoy-Dunn Plantation is to correct the USGS map that was submitted to the National Register in February, 1988. During the research process for the boundary decrease amendment to the Purefoy-Dunn Plantation nomination in 1997, the consultant discovered that the boundaries drawn on the map submitted in 1988 indicated only 100 acres of the 185 acres being nominated. The correction had to be made to the original map before the boundary decrease could be correctly plotted on a new map. Please accept this amended page as a correction of the original boundaries for the Purefoy-Dunn Plantation nomination. An amended/corrected U.S.G.S. map is included as well as a copy of the tax map showing the boundaries at the time of the 1988 nomination.

UTM References

Zone	Easting	Northing
A. 17	721540	3982740
B. 17	722120	3982620
C. 17	722320	3982430
D. 17	722340	3981530
E. 17	722010	3981220
F. 17	721840	3981090

Verbal Boundary Description

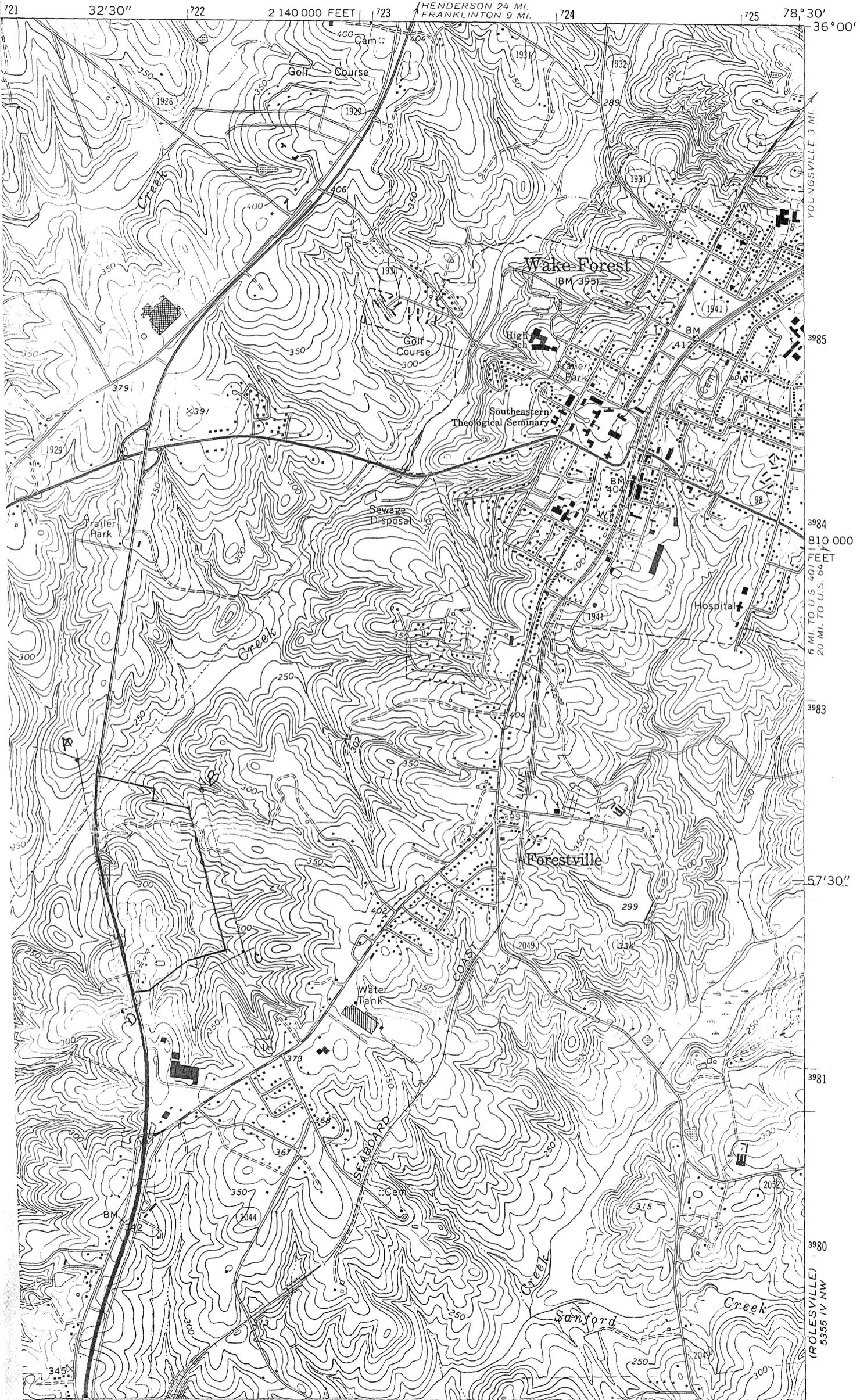
The boundaries of the Purefoy-Dunn Plantation nomination are indicated by the dashed line on the accompanying Wake County Tax Map #231, drawn at a scale of 1 inch equals 200 feet.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Purefoy-Dunn Plantation are drawn to include the remaining acreage of the farm, assembled by John Purefoy and Samuel H. Dunn, which is still contiguous and is still associated with the house ownership and use.

WAKE FOREST QUADRANGLE
 NORTH CAROLINA—WAKE CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
 NE/4 RALEIGH 15' QUADRANGLE

5356 III SW
 (FRANKLINTON)



PUREFOY - DUNN PLANTATION
 ZONE 17 - 1:24 000
 A E - 721540 N - 3982530
 B E - 722210 N - 3982380
 C E - 722450 N - 3981520
 D E - 721820 N - 3981180

