

11

State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

Wilson COUNTY

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Winstead's Cross- QUAD
roads

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION
Wilson County

1 NAME

HISTORIC
W. H. Langley House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
N side SR 1003 .8 mi. E of jct. SR 1336 NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Elm City VICINITY OF Second CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE North Carolina CODE 037 COUNTY Wilson CODE 195

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mrs. W. H. Langley Jr. Mr. and Mrs. John Mullins
STREET & NUMBER
Box 541 2315 Redwood Drive Wilson NC 27893
CITY, TOWN Elm City VICINITY OF North Carolina STATE 27822

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Wilson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Nash Street
CITY, TOWN Wilson STATE North Carolina

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Kate Ohno, Preservation Consultant to Wilson County DATE October 19, 1981
ORGANIZATION
Survey & Planning Branch, Division of Archives & History TELEPHONE (919) 733-6545
STREET & NUMBER
109 E. Jones Street
CITY OR TOWN Raleigh STATE North Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The W. H. Langley House is located just north of Elm City in the middle of Toisnot Township, one of the richest agricultural areas in Wilson County. The house is situated on the north side of SR 1003 in a curve of the road and is visible from some distance across the wide expanse of the cleared fields that surround it.

The core of the Langley House was a late nineteenth century frame farmhouse of modest size. An 1897 photograph of this farmhouse shows a simple three-bay single-story dwelling with two exterior end chimneys, a wood shake shingle roof and a large front porch sheltering most of the facade. The porch had a shed roof trimmed with scalloped sawnwork ornament, plain square posts worked in a lattice design and a sawnwork balustrade. The central front door was flanked by two large six-over-six windows with louvered shutters. The house was set on brick piers and just visible in the background was a gable roofed structure which may have been a smokehouse or detached kitchen.

The present house, enlarged and remodelled in the Colonial Revival style in 1911, bears little resemblance to this earlier structure. The house stands in a grove of mature trees and is two and a half stories tall and five bays wide with a rear kitchen ell. A complex wraparound porch with projecting pedimented pavilions on each corner shelters three sides of the house. A steeply pitched gable roof permits the use of the attic and a Palladian window in each gable and four large pedimented dormers illuminate the attic space. The closed gables are further enhanced by lacy, sawnwork ornament and carved, faceted brackets. The overhanging eaves are likewise supported by similar brackets. A wide, plain frieze runs all the way around the house. One curious feature of the house which may give a clue to its origin as a one-story farmhouse is the placement of the interior chimney which rises through the middle of the roof between the two dormers and may express the placement of one of the original exterior end chimneys. The five bays on the first floor are not symmetrically arranged; two widely spaced bays are located on the left side of the facade while a door flanked by two windows are located on the right side.

The interior plan may likewise give clues to the original configuration of the earlier farmhouse even though the woodwork is that of a renovation carried out by W. H. Langley, Jr., in the 1930s. The front door of the house leads to a large sitting room divided from a dining room at the rear by multipaned glass doors. A narrow hall links the sitting room with a corresponding set of rooms on the left side of the house. This hall is located in the front of the house and the entrance to an enclosed stair is located in this hall. The kitchen is located at the rear of the house. The second floor was not accessible.

The only major change in the house besides the change of the interior woodwork in the 1930s was the recent addition of a carport to the western elevation which is accessible through the porch.

The house remains in use as a farmhouse and is surrounded by two hundred and five acres of land in agricultural use. Associated with the

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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immediate house property is a frame toolshed and a small frame storage shed of early twentieth century vintage. Other farm buildings include two log tobacco barns, three frame tobacco barns, a frame packhouse, and a frame tenant house and its associated buildings slightly west of the Langley House on SR 1003. The tenant house was built in the bungalow style circa 1930 and one single-story frame barn and one frame tobacco barn of similar vintage are associated with it.

The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

_____ NATIONAL

_____ STATE

 X LOCAL

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

ca. 1865; 1911 remod. BUILDER/ARCHITECT Mr. Winstead (remodeling)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The W. H. Langley House, situated on a 205-acre farm, is a noteworthy example of how turn-of-the-century economic prosperity altered the lifestyle of Wilson County's rural inhabitants. The present two-and-a-half-story frame house, considered a significant landmark in the Elm City area, is the product of a 1911 Colonial Revival remodeling of a modest one-story farmhouse built around 1865. During the remodeling, which was reportedly executed by a builder named Winstead, a second story was added, the facade was widened, and a wrap-around porch displaying design elements found only within the vicinity of Elm City was installed. The home belonged to William Haywood Langley, a farmer by trade, from 1867 until his death in 1918, and remains in possession of the Langley family.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Associated with the period of economic prosperity in the fertile agricultural region near Elm City, the progression of the W. H. Langley House from a small farmhouse to a substantial residence exemplifies the manner in which increased wealth affected the lifestyle of Wilson County's rural residents.
- B. Associated with William Haywood Langley, a farmer who owned the property for over 50 years, the W. H. Langley House and farm remains in the possession of Langley's heirs.
- C. The W. H. Langley House, originally a ca. 1865 farmhouse, was remodeled in 1911 in the Colonial Revival style. The home displays a wraparound porch with intricate sawnwork detailing unique to the vicinity of Elm City. The residence, which remains in use as a farmhouse, is considered a significant landmark in the Elm City area.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The W. H. Langley House is one of the best examples of how the turn of the century economic prosperity altered the lifestyle of Wilson County's rural inhabitants. The core of the Langley House was built between 1861 and 1866.¹ The original house was a modest farmhouse thought to have been built for Willie Williams.² The single-story three-bay frame farmhouse with its exterior end chimneys and large front porch was typical of Wilson County farmhouse architecture of the period. Little is known about Willie Williams except that he was born in 1835 and in 1860 he owned real property valued at \$1,250 and personal property valued at \$300.³ He married Amanda Green on May 17, 1856, in Wilson County and two children, John Austin (born in 1857) and Sallie (born September, 1859), were born to the couple.⁴ In 1861 he purchased two hundred and fifty acres of land from John G. Williams, the executor of the estate of Jeremiah Winstead.⁵ When Williams purchased the land in 1861 it was with the understanding that Nancy Winstead, the widow of Jeremiah Winstead, would have life rights to the property.⁶ According to Jeremiah Winstead's will, probated in 1851, his wife was to have life rights to the property which was to be sold upon her death and the profits divided between their children.⁷ Judging by the date of the sale, it is likely Nancy Winstead had died by 1861.

Willie Williams left no will, but apparently one-third of the property upon which the house was constructed became the property of his wife Amanda as her dower.⁸ Williams died between 1861, when he purchased the property, and July 17, 1866, when his wife, Amanda, remarried. On December 3, 1866 Williams' land was put up for sale and David L. Hardy purchased the house tract. Hardy resold the land in little more than a month, on January 25, 1867, to William H. Langley.⁹ William Haywood Langley married Amanda Green Williams on July 17, 1866, and the couple moved into the house said to have been built and occupied by Willie Williams in the following year.¹⁰

Amanda Langley died between 1866 and 1884, but she left no will. W. H. Langley then married Martha A. Pridgen in the Methodist Church in Toisnot (now Elm City).¹¹ William Haywood Langley was a farmer by trade and he was born on August 8, 1845, in Nash County.¹² He was the son of Singleton Langley and Mildred Louis.¹³ Langley added on to his holdings, acquiring more land in the late nineteenth century.¹⁴ A photograph in the possession of the Langley family shows the original farmhouse in 1897,¹⁵ but within fifteen years of the date of the photograph the house had become too modest

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edgecombe County Wills, Edgecombe County Courthouse.
Eighth Census of the United States: 1860. Wilson County
Wilson County Deeds, Wilson County Courthouse
Wilson County Marriage Licenses, Wilson County Courthouse.
Wilson County Vital Statistics Records, Wilson County Courthouse.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 205 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	239490	3967000	B	18	240140	3967200
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	18	240260	3965600	D	18	239460	3965660

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See enclosed planametric map with property outlined in red.

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and old-fashioned for the Langley family. According to family tradition Langley hired a builder named Winstead to enlarge and remodel the house in 1911.¹⁶ Winstead is said by the Langley family to have lived on the corner of North and Railroad streets in Elm City,¹⁷ and according to the Wilson County deeds a George Winstead, possibly the builder of the Langley House, purchased this property in the late nineteenth century.¹⁸ A search of the census records and contemporary business directories reveals a number of Winsteads from Elm City who were employed as builders or carpenters in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but the name of George Winstead does not appear in this list.¹⁹

The contractor raised the house to two and a half stories and changed it from a three-bay facade to a five-bay facade. A large wraparound porch of some complexity was also added to the house. This type of porch is only found within the vicinity of Elm City in Wilson County and may have been the trade mark of Winstead or some other builder which gained popularity locally. The remodelling of the house in the Colonial Revival style created a more imposing residence, one that has become a real landmark in the Elm City area. The house stands today much as it did when it was remodelled in 1911, and the Langley family continues to reside in the house.

When W. H. Langley, Sr., died in 1918 he devised the house in equal shares to his widow and his son, W. H. Langley, Jr.²⁰ W. H. Langley, Jr.'s widow now owns and occupies the house.

Footnotes

¹Willie Williams, the original owner of the property purchased the property in 1861; John G. Williams, executor of Jeremiah Winstead to Willie Williams, September 11, 1861, Book 1, 790, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson, hereinafter referred to as Willie Williams deed. A photograph of the house inscribed "Our Home 1897" is in the possession of Mr. W. H. Langley, Jr., of Elm City, hereinafter cited as W. H. Langley House photo, 1897.

²Author's interview with Mrs. W. H. Langley, Jr., present owner of the house, hereinafter cited as Langley interview.

³Eighth Census of the United States: 1850, Wilson County, North Carolina.

⁴Wilson County Marriage Records, Wilson County Courthouse, Wilson. See also Eighth Census of the United States: 1860, Wilson County, North Carolina.

⁵Willie Williams married Amanda Green May 17, 1856, Wilson County Marriage Licenses, Wilson County Courthouse. See also Willie Williams deed.

⁶Willie Williams deed.

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⁷ Jeremiah Winstead Will, September, 1850, Book F, 463, Edgecombe County Wills, Tarboro.

⁸ David L. Hardy to William H. Langley, January 25, 1867, Book 2, 591, Wilson County deeds, Wilson, assures a clear title for the property "except the right of dower in the said land which accrued to the wife of said Langley from her former husband Willie Williams."

⁹ David L. Hardy to W. H. Langley, January 25, 1867, Book 2, 591, Wilson County deeds, Wilson.

¹⁰ William H. Langley married Amanda Williams on July 17, 1866, Wilson County Marriage Licenses, Wilson County Courthouse.

¹¹ W. H. Langley married Martha A. Pridgeon [sic] on August 5, 1884, Wilson County Marriage Licenses, Wilson County Courthouse.

¹² Wilson County Vital Statistics records, Wilson County Courthouse.

¹³ Wilson County Vital Statistics records, Wilson County Courthouse.

¹⁴ See deeds conveying land to W. H. Langley from M. C. Pleasant (Book 68, 602) and John D. Wells & John L. Bailey (Book 28, 85), Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.

¹⁵ W. H. Langley House photo, 1897.

¹⁶ Langley interview.

¹⁷ Langley interview.

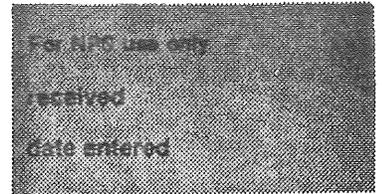
¹⁸ W. W. Parker to Susan Winstead, December 15, 1883, Book 22, 397, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.

¹⁹ Kate Ohno, Wilson County's Architectural Heritage (Wilson: 1981), 170, gives an Alex. Winstead, builder active in Toisnot (Elm City) c. 1884-1896, a Charles Winstead active c. 1880, a David S. Winstead active c. 1880, an Emerson Winstead active c. 1860 in the town of Wilson, a James G. Winstead active in Toisnot c. 1880, a Roberson Winstead active c. 1880 and the firm of Winstead & Braswell, builders, active in Elm City c. 1902-1903.

²⁰ W. H. Langley, Sr., will, September 17, 1918, Book 6, 145, Wilson County Wills, Wilson.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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10 Boundary Justification

The W. H. Langley House is being nominated with 205 acres of land. The core of the house was built on a 250-acre tract purchased by Willie and Amanda Williams in 1861. The property and house were purchased by W. H. Langley, farmer, in the late nineteenth century. Langley was responsible for the overbuilding of the original modest farmhouse. The original house, the overbuilding, and the farmland have been associated since the mid-nineteenth century, and the property continues to be a productive farm.

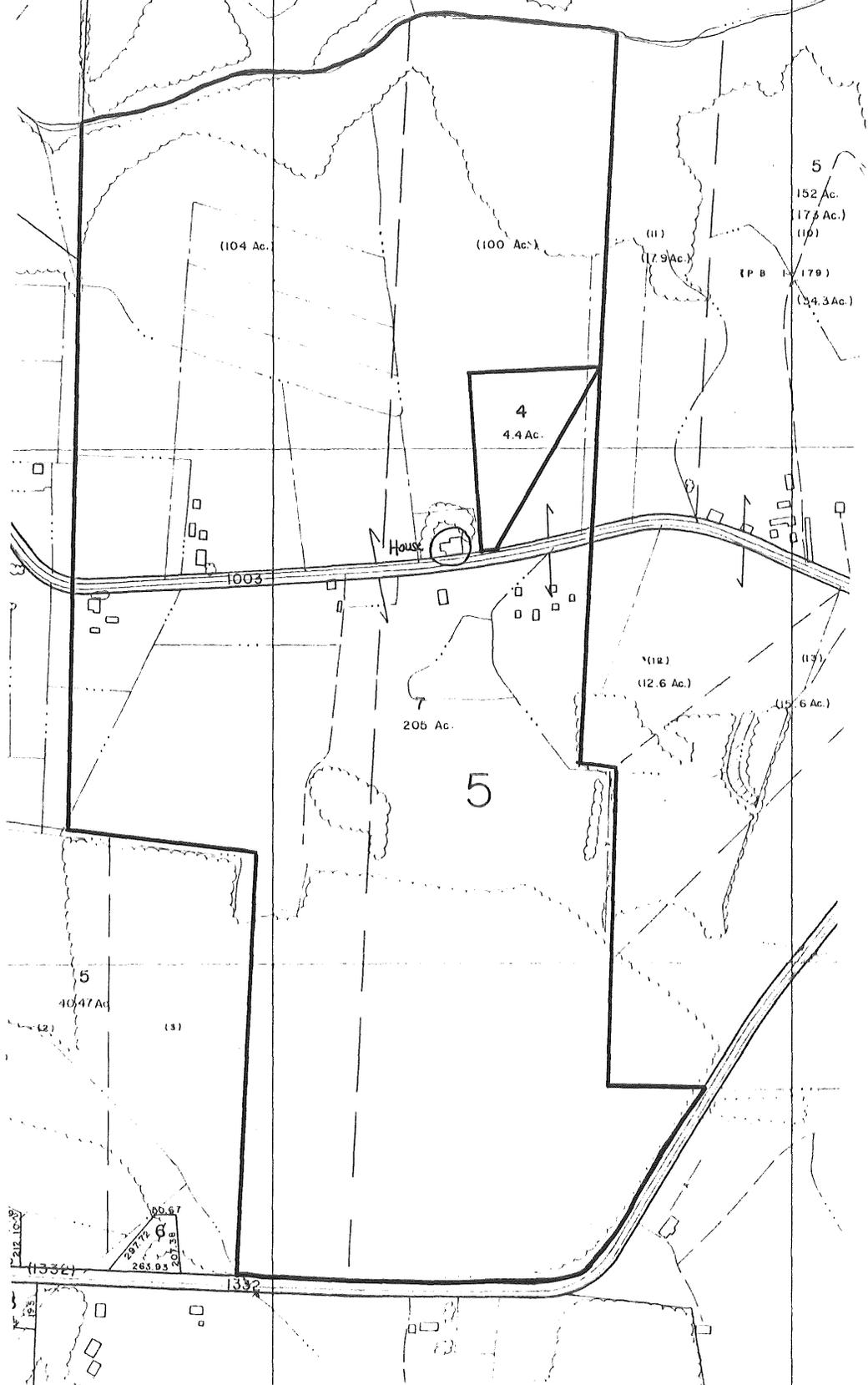
13 Photographs

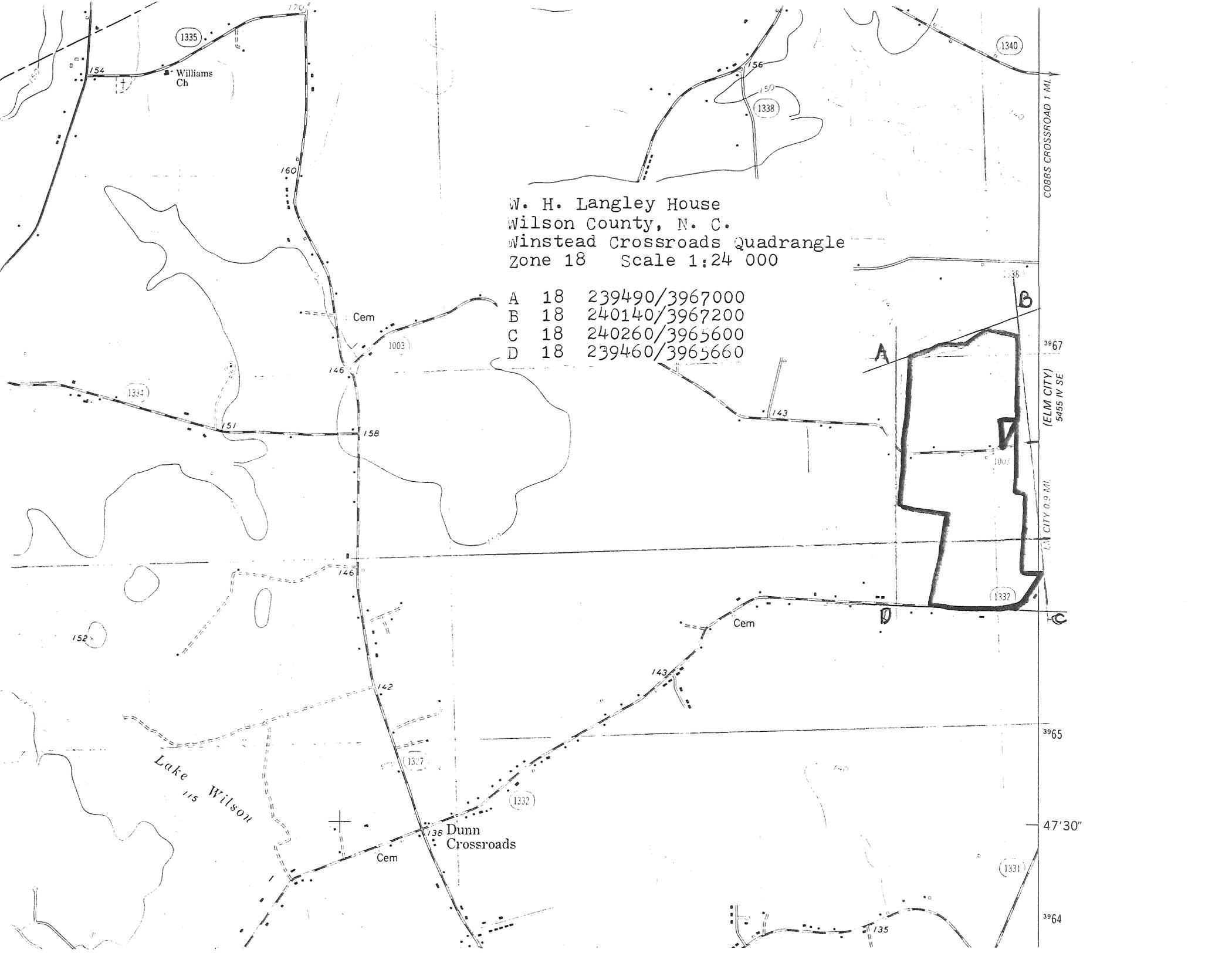
The W. H. Langley House was initially recorded in 1980 during the Wilson County survey. The site was revisited in 1985 to determine the condition of that property. The house is still occupied, and well-maintained and is accurately depicted in the 1980 photographs.

6
80 Ac.

#11 W. H. Langley House
Elm City vicinity
Wilson County planimetric
map # 305-5-7
Scale: 1 inch = 400 Feet

not to scale





W. H. Langley House
 Wilson County, N. C.
 Winstead Crossroads Quadrangle
 Zone 18 Scale 1:24 000

A	18	239490/3967000
B	18	240140/3967200
C	18	240260/3965600
D	18	239460/3965660

COBBS CROSSROAD 1 MI.

(ELM CITY)
 5455 IV SE

ELM CITY 0.9 MI.

47'30"

3964

Lake Wilson
 115

Dunn Crossroads

1335
 Williams Ch

Cem

Cem

Cem

A

B

D

3967

3965

1332

1331

1332

1337

1334

156

150

1338

1338

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