

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION
Wilson County

1 NAME

HISTORIC

W. H. Applewhite House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

W side Rt. 58 .4 mi. N of jct. SR 1627

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Stantonsburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Wilson

CODE

195

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS N/A
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE MUSEUM
 COMMERCIAL PARK
 EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS
 GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC
 INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION
 MILITARY OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

J. W. Applewhite

STREET & NUMBER

404 S. Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Stantonsburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

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 October 19, 1981

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Survey & Planning Branch, Division of Archives & History (919) 733-6545

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 E. Jones St.

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. Applewhite House was probably built in the late 1840s in the Greek Revival style for Henry Applewhite, a prominent planter. The house is situated in the remains of a grove of shade trees on the road (Rt. 58) which traditionally has joined the Wilson County area with the coast. The house is located between Toisnot Swamp and Contentnea Creek, the only navigable waterway in what later became Wilson County. The creek was used to ship naval stores and agricultural products from the Wilson County area to the coast from the eighteenth century until the postbellum period. Stantonsburg, the oldest incorporated town in what is today Wilson County (1817) lies just a few miles to the south of the house.

This two-story single-pile house is similar in size and massing to other contemporary Greek Revival structures in Wilson County. The three-bay facade is sheltered by a double-gallery porch which probably dates from the turn-of-the-century. Sawn and turned ornament adorns both levels of the porch. Exterior end chimneys grace both gable ends of the structure; a stepped double-shoulder common-bond chimney is located on the south elevation and a stepped single-shoulder chimney is on the north elevation. Both chimneys are flanked by elegant narrow windows on both the first and second floors which were probably installed circa 1870-1880 by William H. Applewhite during his post-war remodelling of his father's house. A one-story shed-roof wing runs the length of the rear of the house. Directly at the rear of the house, and attached to it by a screened breezeway is a one-story gable-roof kitchen. The kitchen appears to date from the late nineteenth century remodelling of the house. Two doors open onto both the north and south elevations and the south elevation is sheltered by an engaged porch and includes a shed room. An interior chimney serves both rooms in the kitchen wing. The facade of the main block consists of three widely spaced bays on both floors. Six-over-six windows flank the narrow double front doors. The doors boast both applied sawn ornament and panels formed by half-round moldings around and below the glazed panels in the upper sections of the doors. On the second floor sidelights flank the porch entrance.

On the interior the somewhat unusual plan may be a result of the late nineteenth century remodelling. A shallow entrance hall gives the impression of a central hall plan, with two main rooms opening off of the hall. The rooms in the shed wing have been remodelled as modern kitchen and utility rooms, and the stair ascends in a straight run from the rear of the house. The house may have originally followed a hall-and-parlor plan with two front doors giving access to the main rooms which was a common practice in Greek Revival residences in Wilson County. This theory is supported by the inconsistent form of the door surrounds found in the entrance hall. On the first floor the mantel in the north room is supported by plain square pilasters with molded caps. Also, the mantel's side and central panels consist of reeded mitered strips in a herringbone pattern. The mantel in the south room is slightly more sophisticated boasting broad reeded pilasters and three deeply recessed panels capped by a plain shelf. The mantels on the second floor are very simple, with only a crudely molded band forming the mantel shelf.

The house is surrounded by a variety of turn-of-the century farm buildings including a tenant house, packhouse, stables, sheds and tobacco barns.

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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 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 Unknown - ca. 1840s BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The W. H. Applewhite House is representative of substantial, plain Greek Revival dwellings of the late 1840s in Wilson County. The house was remodeled ca. 1870-80 by the addition of various Victorian details, both Greek Revival and Victorian detailing survive. Surrounding the main house are a variety of turn-of-the-century outbuildings. The plantation has been in the Applewhite family since 1841, except for a brief time during the Great Depression. The dwelling and its complement of outbuildings represent the long-term farming enterprise of the Applewhite family which has actively engaged in farming and various commercial activities during the more than 140 years it has been in Wilson County.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Associated with the development of the agricultural and commercial economy of Wilson County both before and after the Civil War, the house and its outbuildings are representative of substantial plantations within the county.
- B. The house is associated with the Applewhite family, which has owned the property since 1841, except for a brief time during the Great Depression. The family has been actively involved in agriculture and commercial development in nearby Stantonsburg.
- C. A typical, representative example of late 1840s Greek Revival architecture in Wilson County, the W. H. Applewhite House exhibits both Greek Revival and later Victorian detailing.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The W. H. Applewhite House was probably built in the late 1840s by Henry Applewhite. The Applewhite family has owned the property for one hundred and forty years.

Henry Applewhite was born in 1806,¹ probably in Wayne County. The 1830 and 1840 census records show a Henry Applewhite in Wayne County, and one in Halifax County. Family tradition maintains that Henry Applewhite grew up in Wayne County and later moved to Wilson (then Edgecombe) County. In 1829 Applewhite married Orpha Pike² and in 1841 the couple moved to what is now Wilson County. On November 26, 1841, Henry Applewhite purchased from Jesse Applewhite a tract containing four hundred and twenty-five acres on the west side of Toisnot Swamp, this being the land upon which Jesse Applewhite was then living.³ The location and appearance of the Jesse Applewhite house is not documented, but it seems probable that the Applewhites and their family probably lived in this house until they constructed a new house towards the end of the decade.

The documentary evidence and the style of the Applewhite House suggests that it was built in the late 1840s, just prior to Applewhite's death. Henry Applewhite died prior to 1850, for in March of that year his widow, Orpha Applewhite, was allotted her dower "containing one hundred and twenty-four acres...Including the new house &c."⁴ Orpha Applewhite was left to care for several minor children, including William H. Applewhite, who became the next owner of the house property. The agricultural schedule of the 1850 census indicates that two hundred acres of the Applewhite farm were under cultivation and that besides the five horses and two oxen the livestock included six milk cows, eight other cattle, twenty sheep and eighty-five hogs. Although wheat, barley, cotton and potatoes were grown the major crops were corn, peas and beans.

William Applewhite was born on July 28, 1840.⁵ His first wife was Virginia Whitley of Smithfield, whom he married circa 1862.⁶ William Applewhite saw active service during the Civil War; he enlisted in 1861 in Company D, 2nd Infantry Regiment, N. C. State Troops and was mustered in as a sergeant.⁷ He was promoted twice during the course of his service, achieving the rank of second lieutenant in March, 1863.⁸ Applewhite was wounded at Chancellorsville, but returned to his regiment by August, 1863.⁹

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Manarin, Louis H. and Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr. (Eds.). North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster. Raleigh, N. C.: Division of Archives and History.
- Ninth Census of the United States: 1870, Wilson County.
- Wilson County Deeds, Wilson County Courthouse
- Wilson County Vital Statistics Records, Wilson County Courthouse.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 176.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	24,37,20	3949620	B	1,8	24,48,20	3946220
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	24,52,00	3949740	D	1,8	24,41,00	3945140
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Property nominated includes 176.5 acres shown on Wilson County tax map 330-1-2. See tax map enclosed, outlined in red.

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He was captured at Strasburg, Virginia in October, 1864, and was held a prisoner of war for nearly eight months at Fort Delaware, Delaware.¹⁰

Applewhite returned home after June, 1865, and resided with his family in the Applewhite House. In the division of his father's estate he had received sixty-eight and one-quarter acres,¹¹ but he had also acquired other parcels from his father's estate upon reaching his majority. He had purchased two parcels from his father's estate, sixty acres from John A. Lane in 1863, and sixty-seven acres from Alvin Bagley in 1867.¹² The 1870 census showed that Applewhite was a planter owning \$2500 in real property and \$1000 in personal property.¹³ His mother, Orpha, lived with him until her death in 1896.¹⁴ Applewhite probably remodelled his father's plantation house between 1870 and 1880. Although the massing of the house is still that of the Greek Revival residence built by Henry Applewhite in the late 1840s, many Victorian features are also found in the house (see architectural description). Family tradition maintains that Applewhite did a great deal of work to improve the house after he returned home from the war, and the appearance of the house supports this tradition.¹⁵

Applewhite's first wife died circa 1887, and he married for the second time circa 1888 to Rachel Scarborough of La Grange.¹⁶ Applewhite continued to acquire property during the last quarter of the nineteenth century,¹⁷ and in 1903 he died intestate.¹⁸ When Applewhite died he owned an interest in the Stantonsburg Supply Company as well as his plantation.¹⁹ His son, W. H. Applewhite Jr., aged twenty-six, was the administrator of his estate.²⁰ W. H. Applewhite Jr. had received a parcel of land, including the family plantation, in 1890, but his father reserved life rights to the property for himself.²¹

William H. Applewhite Jr. was born on February 23, 1877 on his father's plantation.²² He became both a farmer and a merchant. It is uncertain that W. H. Applewhite, Jr., ever lived on his father's plantation after he reached his majority. By 1903 he was living at Moyton, just outside of Stantonsburg, and he was a stockholder in the Stantonsburg Supply Company.²³ In 1906 he purchased a lot in the town of Stantonsburg where he erected his house.²⁴ Applewhite married Nannie Barnes.²⁵ In 1910 and 1911 he acquired two commercial lots in the town of Stantonsburg²⁶ and in 1912 he was one of the principals in the firm of W. H. Applewhite & Co.²⁷ During the depression Applewhite was forced to sell the family plantation to R. C. D. Beaman,²⁸ but the family repurchased the property in 1934²⁹ and Applewhite and his heirs have owned and farmed the property since that date. The Applewhite House has been occupied by tenants since the early twentieth century when the present owner's father moved to town. Applewhite died in 1964³⁰ and his son, James William Applewhite, is the present owner.

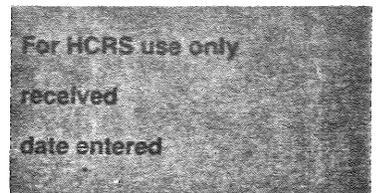
Footnotes

¹ Author's interview on March 19, 1981 with Virginia Applewhite Tyson, daughter of William H. Applewhite, Jr., hereinafter cited as Tyson interview.

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² Tyson interview.

³ Jesse Applewhite to Henry Applewhite, November 26, 1841, Book 23, 68, Edgecombe County Deeds, Tarboro.

⁴ Allocation of the dower of Orpha Applewhite, March 7, 1850, Book 25, 174, Edgecombe County Deeds, Tarboro.

⁵ Tyson interview.

⁶ Tyson interview.

⁷ Louis H. Manarin and Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr. (Eds.), North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1971,) V.3, 412, hereinafter cited as Manarin and Jordan, North Carolina Troops.

⁸ Manarin and Jordan, North Carolina Troops, V.3, 412.

⁹ Manarin and Jordan, North Carolina Troops, V.3, 412.

¹⁰ Manarin and Jordan, North Carolina Troops, V.3, 412.

¹¹ Land Division of Henry Applewhite, _____, 1852, Book 24, 574, Edgecombe County Deeds, Tarboro.

¹² John A. Lane to William H. Applewhite, March 29, 1863, Book 3, 225, and Alvin Bagley to William H. Applewhite, February 5, 1867, Book 2-3, 35, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.

¹³ Ninth Census of the United States: 1870, Wilson County.

¹⁴ Ninth Census of the United States: 1870, Wilson County, indicates that Orpha was part of W. H. Applewhite's household in that year. Family tradition maintains that she continued to live with her son until her death.

¹⁵ Tyson interview.

¹⁶ Tyson interview.

¹⁷ Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.

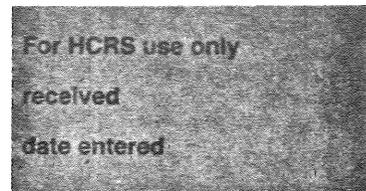
¹⁸ Tyson interview. See also application of Rachel Applewhite, widow, for one year's support, November 7, 1903, Special Proceedings, Book 5, 177, Wilson County.

¹⁹ Petition to sell real estate, January 13, 1906, Special Proceedings, Book 7, 377, Wilson County.

²⁰ Death Certificate of William H. Applewhite, Jr., 1964, #157, Wilson County Vital Statistics Records.

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²¹W. H. Applewhite to Henry Applewhite, April 1, 1890, Book 29, 119, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.

²²Death Certificate of William H. Applewhite, Jr., 1964, #157, Wilson County Vital Statistics Records. See also 1870 census, Wilson County.

²³Incorporation of the Stantonsburg Supply Co., June 5, 1903, Book 1, 136, Wilson County Courthouse.

²⁴S. H. Crocker to W. H. Applewhite, December 15, 1906, Book 76, 406, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.

²⁵Tyson interview.

²⁶S. H. Crocker to W. H. Applewhite, 1910, Book 85, 230 and 1911, Book 85, 295, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.

²⁷Incorporation of W. H. Applewhite & Co., November 2, 1912, Book 1, 415, Wilson County Courthouse.

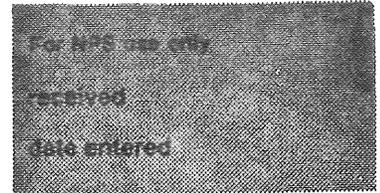
²⁸W. H. Applewhite & Co. to R. C. D. Beaman, February 8, 1932, Book 198, 591, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.

²⁹R. C. D. Beaman to W. H. Applewhite, February 8, 1934, Book 208, 434, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.

³⁰Death Certificate of William H. Applewhite, Jr., 1964, #157, Wilson County Vital Statistics Records.

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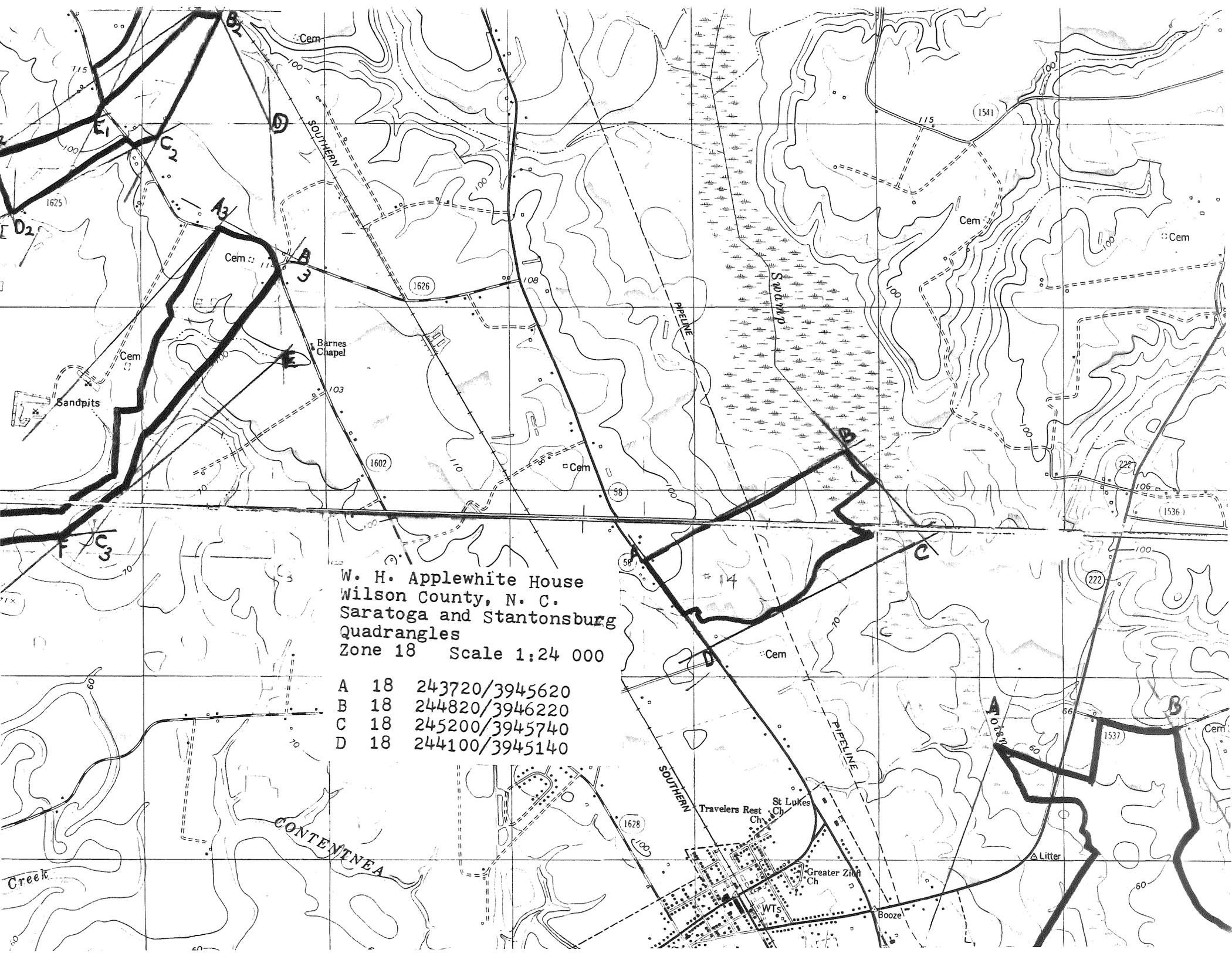
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10 - BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The 176.5 acres being nominated with the W. H. Applewhite house are part of the 124-acre dower property of Orpha Applewhite and a tract of 450 acres acquired by Henry Applewhite in 1841. The land still associated with the house is part of Henry and Orpha Applewhite's plantation and continues to be farmed.

13 - PHOTOGRAPHS

The W. H. Applewhite house was originally photographed in 1980 during the county-wide survey. The site was revisited in 1985 by Archives and History staff to determine its present condition. The house is still occupied and well-maintained. The 1980 photographs depict the 1985 condition of the property.



W. H. Applewhite House
 Wilson County, N. C.
 Saratoga and Stantonsburg
 Quadrangles
 Zone 18 Scale 1:24 000

A	18	243720/3945620
B	18	244820/3946220
C	18	245200/3945740
D	18	244100/3945140

Creek

CONTENTNEA

SOUTHERN

PIPELINE

Travelers Rest Ch
 St Lukes Ch
 Greater Zion Ch
 WTs

Booze

Litter

