

FEB 4 1986

# 13

Sampson COUNTY

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Arkinson, N. C. QUAD

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR  THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC Dr. John B. Seavey House and Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER E side SR 1100, 0.3 mi S of SR 1007

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Third

CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF Harrells

STATE North Carolina CODE 037 COUNTY Sampson CODE 163

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Edward Bowen (919) 532-4183

STREET & NUMBER Route 1

CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF Harrells, NC 28444 STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC REGISTER OF DEEDS Book 705, Page 275

STREET & NUMBER SAMPSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

CITY, TOWN CLINTON, N.C. 28328 STATE

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Thomas Butchko Jim Sumner, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Survey & Planning Branch Research Branch

May 24, 1985

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street

(919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh,

North Carolina 27611

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Superbly sited on the eastern bluff of the picturesque Black River among a grove of moss-hung trees and overlooking the adjacent woods and fields, the Dr. John B. Seavey House, built in 1841, occupies a prominent place in the antebellum architectural development of Sampson County. With construction attributed to Isaac B. Kelly of Kenansville—who is said to have also built three similar houses nearby, of which only the 1844 James Kerr House survives—the splendid two-and-a-half story Greek Revival house features the county's finest double-tier portico, with a pedimented gable. Interior detailing includes marbleizing, feathering and a superb staircase rising three floors. The plaster in the northwest parlor was originally completely painted to simulate oak paneling; this was removed during renovation soon after 1960. Local tradition suggests that Seavey, a native of Rochester, New Hampshire, was traveling through this area when his horse threw him. While waiting for help, he decided that this was the place to settle. Having married Ann Julia Newkirk of a prominent area family, Seavey built his stately residence in 1841. The current owners, who purchased it in 1960 from a Seavey grandson, have maintained the house and plan an eventual complete restoration.

The two-and-a-half story, single pile, frame house has the finest Greek Revival exterior of rural Sampson County residences. Flush gable eaves terminate the standing-seam metal roof with exterior end, common bond brick, single stepped-shoulder chimneys. Fully-developed corner pilasters help carry the box-cornice. Projecting from the center bay of the five-by-two-bay front block is the elegant two-tier portico. Supported by pillars with vernacular classical capitals which are connected by a rounded handrail with slender, square spindles, and surmounted with a handsome pediment, the west-facing portico is an eloquent statement of the carpenter's expertise in the graciousness of the Greek Revival. Entrance on both levels is through large, unusual, eight-panel doors crowned with four-pane transom lights. Second floor fenestration in nine-over-six, with two-over-two sash replacing the probable nine-over-nine first floor sash; flanking the chimney shafts at the attic are twin six-over-six windows. Surrounds are flat, two-part with simple corner blocks. Louvered shutters remain on all but the attic and rear ell dormer windows. On the rear northeast of the house is a large L-shaped ell. The ell is one-and-a-half stories in height and marked with six pedimented and pilastered gable roof dormers. An enlarged and remodeled porch carries along the ell's southern elevation. The window sash are replacement two-over-two with flat two-part surrounds; cornerboards are simply treated as pilasters.

Upon entrance into the plastered, center hall interior one is greeted by the handsome open string staircase rising three floors. The rounded handrail, carried on twin, slender, turned balusters, curls at the bottom to form a newel and rises two floors with fitted corners; square spindles carry the railing to the attic. From the intermediate landing is a door consisting of eight short raised panels leading to the partially finished rooms over the ell. These rooms, like the rest of the ell, have classical pilaster and frieze mantels. On the stair treads are remains of former stenciling, protected by having been covered with carpet. The woodwork in the entrance hall — the large, eight-panel doors, the cornerblock surrounds, and the baseboard — are all simply and decoratively feathered.

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

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet Dr. John B. Seavey House

Item number 7

Page 1

The south parlor is the more formal of the two first floor rooms, having fluted surrounds with corner blocks with gold-painted medallions; surrounds extend to the baseboard and enclose a recessed panel. Marbleized bases anchor the classical pilaster-and-frieze mantels. It is not known what other parts of this mantel were marbleized. However, judging from the fully-marbleized one in the James Kerr House—also attributed to Isaac B. Kelly—one feels certain that more than just the bases were marbleized. A celotex ceiling covers the original plaster. The north parlor, the one whose plaster was originally painted to resemble oak paneling, is similarly detailed, with surrounds similar to those in the hall and a simple pilaster-and-frieze mantel. A low, paneled wainscot highlights this room.

The second floor bedrooms have had their plaster removed for eventual renovation. Mantels and surrounds here are similar to those of the north downstairs room. From the half-story attic, used as sleeping rooms, is a trap-door onto the rear gable roof for use as an emergency fire escape. The ell bedrooms have simple classical mantels and are plastered. A rear enclosed stair affords convenient access from the ell to the half-story ell rooms; it originally opened onto the porch.

The only surviving outbuildings include the grape arbor, a smokehouse, and a barn. Along the ell porch are several sections of a handsome paling fence, one which probably once enclosed much of the yard. Nearby is the Seavey family cemetery, whose ownership remains with Seavey heirs. The current owners hold 107 acres, being lot 1-A in the division of the lands of Jeremiah B. Seavey, a son of the builder.



## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The John B. Seavey House is located in the southeast corner of Sampson County, near the community of Harrells. The house dates from the early 1840s and is attributed to Duplin County carpenter Isaac Kelly, who also built the 1844 James Kerr House.

Seavey was born in Rochester, New Hampshire in 1815. He was educated as a physician at Maine's Bowdoin College. According to local tradition, he was shipwrecked near Wilmington while on his way to South America. He made his way to Sampson County where he became a tutor to the children of Bryan and Mary Newkirk. He eventually married one of these children, Julia Ann Newkirk (1826-1900) in the 1840s. They had at least four children. Seavey became one of the area's leading physicians and a planter of note. In 1860, he owned 12 slaves, real estate valued at \$12,000, livestock valued at \$800, and grew typical crops such as corn, sweet potatoes, and hay.

Dr. Seavey continued practicing medicine and farming after the war. Following his death in 1881 and his wife's death in 1900, the property was divided among the children. The house eventually became the property of his daughter, Eugenia; her husband, James Alexander Moore; and later, their son, George Layton Moore. From 1894 until 1915, the house was used as a post office. Postmasters included the builder's son, Jeremiah Seavey. In 1960, George Moore sold the house to its present owner, Edward Bowen. Included on the property is a cemetery which includes the graves of John B. Seavey, Ann Seavey, Eugenia Seavey Moore, and James Moore.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Oscar M. Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina (Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company for the Sampson County Historical Society, 1983), 257, hereinafter cited as Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, New Hanover County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, New Hanover County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule. The Seavey home was located close to what was then the border of Sampson and New Hanover counties. This accounts for Seavey's listings in New Hanover County.

<sup>2</sup>Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 20, 257; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Sampson County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Sampson County Will Book 3, p. 225; Sampson County Deed Book 705, p. 275.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bizzell, Oscar M., ed. The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina. Winston-Salem: The Hunter Publishing Company, 1983.

Interview with the owner.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 107

### UTM REFERENCES

A	17	754200	3840900	B	17	754950	3840500
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	17	754950	3840500	D	17	755675	3840325

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property to be nominated is lot 1-A, containing 107.0 acres, more or less, and the family cemetery plot, as shown on the Map of the Division of the Jeremiah B. Seavey Lands, surveyed 1952-53 and registered in the Sampson County Register of Deeds Office, Map Book 3, Page 52. Also described in Deed Book 705, Page 275 and dated 9 March 1960. A copy of both the map and the deed is attached.

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

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet Dr. John B. Seavey House Item number 8

Page 1

- C. The county's finest rural Greek Revival house, the Seavey House is an outstanding example of the large, gracious residences built by the county's planter class. Its pillared, two-tier, pedimented portico is outstanding, as is the superbly detailed interior. Equally impressive is the house's setting, facing the setting sun and sheltered by the many moss-hung oaks.
- D. Is likely to yield valuable archaeological information important to the study of mid-19th to early 20th century history.

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Continuation sheet Dr. J. B. Seavey House Item number 10 Page 1

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

Along with the Dr. Seavey House are 107 acres, more or less, to be nominated. This land what remains of the Seavey landholdings and contains the house, outbuildings, and a family cemetery as well as fields and woodlands which help preserve the rural, agrarian setting of the dwelling.

*Landscape*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Seavey, Dr. John B. House and Cemetery  
(Sampson County MRA)  
Sampson County  
NORTH CAROLINA

Working No. FEB 4 1986

Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due: 3/6/86 - 3/21/86

Action: ACCEPT

RETURN 3/17/86

REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

<b>Condition</b> <input type="checkbox"/> excellent <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> ruins <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<b>Check one</b> <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> altered	<b>Check one</b> <input type="checkbox"/> original site <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
--	---	--	---

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

**8. Significance**

Period      Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates                      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Form Prepared By**

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: *Please indicate "Level of Significance"*

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title                      date

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed *Joyce M. McPherson*      Date *3/17/86*      Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

FEB 4 1986  
MAY 21 1986

# 13  
Sampson COUNTY  
Atkinson, N. C. QUAD

# INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR  THEMATIC NOMINATION

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC Dr. John B. Seavey House and Cemetery  
AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER E side SR 1100, 0.3 mi S of SR 1007  
CITY, TOWN Harrells  
STATE North Carolina CODE 037 COUNTY Sampson CODE 163  
VICINITY OF Harrells  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Third  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Edward Bowen (919) 532-4183  
STREET & NUMBER Route 1  
CITY, TOWN Harrells, NC 28444 STATE

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. REGISTER OF DEEDS Book 705, Page 275  
STREET & NUMBER SAMPSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
CITY, TOWN CLINTON, N.C. 28328 STATE

## 6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Thomas Butchko Jim Sumner, Researcher  
ORGANIZATION Survey & Planning Branch Research Branch DATE May 24, 1985  
STREET & NUMBER 109 East Jones Street TELEPHONE (919) 733-6545  
CITY OR TOWN Raleigh, STATE North Carolina 27611

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Superbly sited on the eastern bluff of the picturesque Black River among a grove of moss-hung trees and overlooking the adjacent woods and fields, the Dr. John B. Seavey House, built in 1841, occupies a prominent place in the antebellum architectural development of Sampson County. With construction attributed to Isaac B. Kelly of Kenansville- who is said to have also built three similar houses nearby, of which only the 1844 James Kerr House survives- the splendid two-and-a-half story Greek Revival house features the county's finest double-tier portico, with a pedimented gable. Interior detailing includes marbleizing, feathering and a superb staircase rising three floors. The plaster in the northwest parlor was originally completely painted to simulate oak paneling; this was removed during renovation soon after 1960. Local tradition suggests that Seavey, a native of Rochester, New Hampshire, was traveling through this area when his horse threw him. While waiting for help, he decided that this was the place to settle. Having married Ann Julia Newkirk of a prominent area family, Seavey built his stately residence in 1841. The current owners, who purchased it in 1960 from a Seavey grandson, have maintained the house and plan an eventual complete restoration.

The two-and-a-half story, single pile, frame house has the finest Greek Revival exterior of rural Sampson County residences. Flush gable eaves terminate the standing-seam metal roof with exterior end, common bond brick, single stepped-shoulder chimneys. Fully-developed corner pilasters help carry the box cornice. Projecting from the center bay of the five-by-two-bay front block is the elegant two-tier portico. Supported by pillars with vernacular classical capitals which are connected by a rounded handrail with slender, square spindles, and surmounted with a handsome pediment, the west-facing portico is an eloquent statement of the carpenter's expertise in the graciousness of the Greek Revival. Entrance on both levels is through large, unusual, eight-panel doors crowned with four-pane transom lights. Second floor fenestration in nine-over-six, with two-over-two sash replacing the probable nine-over-nine first floor sash; flanking the chimney shafts at the attic are twin six-over-six windows. Surrounds are flat, two-part with simple corner blocks. Louvered shutters remain on all but the attic and rear ell dormer windows. On the rear northeast of the house is a large L-shaped ell. The ell is one-and-a-half stories in height and marked with six pedimented and pilastered gable roof dormers. An enlarged and remodeled porch carries along the ell's southern elevation. The window sash are replacement two-over-two with flat two-part surrounds; cornerboards are simply treated as pilasters.

Upon entrance into the plastered, center hall interior one is greeted by the handsome open string staircase rising three floors. The rounded handrail, carried on twin, slender, turned balusters, curls at the bottom to form a newel and rises two floors with fitted corners; square spindles carry the railing to the attic. From the intermediate landing is a door consisting of eight short raised panels leading to the partially finished rooms over the ell. These rooms, like the rest of the ell, have classical pilaster and frieze mantels. On the stair treads are remains of former stenciling, protected by having been covered with carpet. The woodwork in the entrance hall - the large, eight-panel doors, the cornerblock surrounds, and the baseboard - are all simply and decoratively feathered.

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Continuation sheet Dr. John B. Seavey House

Item number 7

Page 1

The south parlor is the more formal of the two first floor rooms, having fluted surrounds with corner blocks with gold-painted medallions; surrounds extend to the baseboard and enclose a recessed panel. Marbleized bases anchor the classical pilaster-and-frieze mantels. It is not known what other parts of this mantel were marbleized. However, judging from the fully-marbleized one in the James Kerr House—also attributed to Isaac B. Kelly—one feels certain that more than just the bases were marbleized. A celotex ceiling covers the original plaster. The north parlor, the one whose plaster was originally painted to resemble oak paneling, is similarly detailed, with surrounds similar to those in the hall and a simple pilaster-and-frieze mantel. A low, paneled wainscot highlights this room.

The second floor bedrooms have had their plaster removed for eventual renovation. Mantels and surrounds here are similar to those of the north downstairs room. From the half-story attic, used as sleeping rooms, is a trap-door onto the rear gable roof for use as an emergency fire escape. The ell bedrooms have simple classical mantels and are plastered. A rear enclosed stair affords convenient access from the ell to the half-story ell rooms; it originally opened onto the porch.

The only surviving outbuildings include the grape arbor, a smokehouse, and a barn. Along the ell porch are several sections of a handsome paling fence, one which probably once enclosed much of the yard. Nearby is the Seavey family cemetery, whose ownership remains with Seavey heirs. The current owners hold 107 acres, being lot 1-A in the division of the lands of Jeremiah B. Seavey, a son of the builder.

**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 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**

1841

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT**Isaac B. Kelly, attributed  
(Kenansville)**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Picturesquely sited on the bank of Wild Cat Creek and overseeing the rolling wooded countryside through magnolias and moss-hung oaks, the Seavey House is a classic example of the antebellum Greek Revival plantation house. The large, 1841, two-and-a-half-story house with a gracious central portico is attributed to Isaac B. Kelly of Kenansville, to whom is also attributed the similar 1844 James Kerr House and two other houses which have burned. The interior is among the area's finest; its graceful staircase with a curved handrail rises three stories. While some marbleizing survives, the north parlor's plaster, which was entirely woodgrained to simulate oak paneling, was lost in a 1960 renovation. Seavey (1815-1881), a leading local physician, was a native of Manchester, New Hampshire, and married a daughter of the prominent, nearby pioneer Newkirk family. The house was inherited by his daughter, Eugenia Seavey Moore (1847-1905). In 1960 Ed Bowen, a local farmer, purchased the property from the builder's grandson and has renovated the first floor as his residence.

**CRITERIA ASSESSMENT**

- A. The John B. Seavey House is one of the county's outstanding examples of the large plantation houses that were prevalent and important to the area's pre-Civil War economy. It's location on the bluff of Wild Cat Creek is representative of the advantageous siting of houses in an area of slow moving rivers with wide flood plains.
- B. D. John B. Seavey (1815-1881) was a prominent physician and wealthy planter. His wife, Ann Julia Newkirk (1826-1900) was a member of the prominent pioneer family of the nearby Newton's Crossroads vicinity. The attributed builder, Isaac B. Kelly of Kenansville, was a prominent Duplin County carpenter and is said to have built three other area homes. Only one, the 1844 James Kerr House survives.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The John B. Seavey House is located in the southeast corner of Sampson County, near the community of Harrells. The house dates from the early 1840s and is attributed to Duplin County carpenter Isaac Kelly, who also built the 1844 James Kerr House.

Seavey was born in Rochester, New Hampshire in 1815. He was educated as a physician at Maine's Bowdoin College. According to local tradition, he was shipwrecked near Wilmington while on his way to South America. He made his way to Sampson County where he became a tutor to the children of Bryan and Mary Newkirk. He eventually married one of these children, Julia Ann Newkirk (1826-1900) in the 1840s. They had at least four children. Seavey became one of the area's leading physicians and a planter of note. In 1860, he owned 12 slaves, real estate valued at \$12,000, livestock valued at \$800, and grew typical crops such as corn, sweet potatoes, and hay.

Dr. Seavey continued practicing medicine and farming after the war. Following his death in 1881 and his wife's death in 1900, the property was divided among the children. The house eventually became the property of his daughter, Eugenia; her husband, James Alexander Moore; and later, their son, George Layton Moore. From 1894 until 1915, the house was used as a post office. Postmasters included the builder's son, Jeremiah Seavey. In 1960, George Moore sold the house to its present owner, Edward Bowen. Included on the property is a cemetery which includes the graves of John B. Seavey, Ann Seavey, Eugenia Seavey Moore, and James Moore.

## NOTES

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Interview with the owner.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 107

### UTM REFERENCES

A	17	75,420,0	3,840,900	B	17	75,495,0	3,840,500
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	17	75,495,0	3,840,500	D	17	75,567,5	3,840,325
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property to be nominated is lot 1-A, containing 107.0 acres, more or less, and the family cemetery plot, as shown on the Map of the Division of the Jeremiah B. Seavey Lands, surveyed 1952-53 and registered in the Sampson County Register of Deeds Office, Map Book 3, Page 52. Also described in Deed Book 705, Page 275 and dated 9 March 1960. A copy of both the map and the deed is attached.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Dr. John B. Seavey House Item number 8

Page 1

- C. The county's finest rural Greek Revival house, the Seavey House is an outstanding example of the large, gracious residences built by the county's planter class. Its pillared, two-tier, pedimented portico is outstanding, as is the superbly detailed interior. Equally impressive is the house's setting, facing the setting sun and sheltered by the many moss-hung oaks.
- D. Is likely to yield valuable archaeological information important to the study of mid-19th to early 20th century history.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Dr. J. B. Seavey House Item number 10 Page 1

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

Along with the Dr. Seavey House are 107 acres, more or less, to be nominated. This land what remains of the Seavey landholdings and contains the house, outbuildings, and a family cemetery as well as fields and woodlands which help preserve the rural, agrarian setting of the dwelling.

NORTH CAROLINA,  
SAMPSON COUNTY.

VOL 705 275  
DEED.

THIS DEED OF CONVEYANCE, Made this the 9th day of March, 1960,  
by GEORGE L. MOORE and wife, LUCY G. MOORE, of the County of Volusia,  
State of Florida, parties of the first part, to EDWARD C. POWEN and wife,  
LOTA C. POWEN, of the County of Sampson, State of North Carolina, parties  
of the second part;

W I T N E S S E T H:

That the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration  
of the sum of Ten Dollars and other valuable considerations to them paid by  
the parties of the second part, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged,  
have bargained and sold, and by these presents do hereby grant, bargain, sell  
and convey unto the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns,  
in fee simple forever, all that certain tract or parcel of land lying and  
being in Franklin Township, Sampson County, North Carolina, and described  
as follows:

BEGINNING at the center of the bridge over Wild Cat Branch on the  
Harrell Store and Kerr Road, beginning corner of Lot No. 1-B, and runs as  
the center of the Kerr Road South 11 deg. 15 min. West 0.65 chains to the  
intersection of the center of the Ivanhoe Road; thence as the center of the  
Ivanhoe Road South 53 deg. East 7.28 chains, South 45 deg. 30 min. East 3.20  
chains to a corner of the Seavey Cemetery Lot; thence as the cemetery lot  
North 79 deg. East 2.55 chains to the northeast corner of the cemetery lot;  
thence again with the cemetery lot South 11 deg. East 1.53 chains, and South  
79 deg. West 1.67 chains to the center of the Ivanhoe Road; thence as the  
center of the road South 33 deg. East 1.41 chains, South 28 deg. 30 min. East  
10.60 chains, South 24 deg. 15 min. East 2.0 chains, South 18 deg. 45 min.  
East 2.0 chains, South 11 deg. 30 min. East 2.0 chains, South 4 deg. East  
2.0 chains, and South 3 deg. West 1.20 chains; thence leaving the road and  
runs North 83 deg. East 12.50 chains; thence North 65 deg. 45 min. East 26.70  
chains to a stake on the run of Wild Cat Branch; thence as the meanders of  
the run of Wild Cat Branch North 34 deg. West 20.0 chains and North 51 deg.  
West 19.0 chains to the mouth of a small branch, the corner of Lot No. 1-B;  
thence with the line of Lot No. 1-B and down the meanders of Wild Cat Branch  
to the beginning, containing 107.0 acres, more or less, and being Lot No. 1-A  
in the division of the lands of Jeremiah L. Seavey, as shown on a plat thereof  
prepared by E. F. Moore and J. C. Moore, Surveyors, in 1952 and 1953, said  
plat being recorded in Plat Book 3, page 52, of the Sampson County Registry.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the aforesaid tract or parcel of land, together  
with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, or in anywise  
thereunto appertaining unto them, the said parties of the second part, their  
heirs and assigns, to their only use and behoof in fee simple absolute forever.

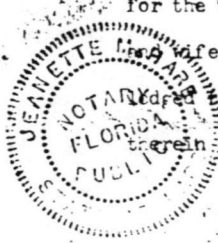
And the said parties of the first part do, for themselves, their  
heirs, executors and administrators, covenant to and with the said parties

of the second part, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, that they are seized of said premises in fee and have a good right to convey the same in fee simple; that the same are free and clear from all encumbrances, and that they do hereby warrant and will forever defend the said title to the same against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals, the day and year first above written.

George L. Moore (SEAL)  
George L. Moore  
Lucy G. Moore (SEAL)  
Lucy G. Moore

STATE OF FLORIDA,  
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA.



I, Jeannette M. Hare, a Notary Public in and for the County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that George L. Moore and his wife, Lucy G. Moore, personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing deed of conveyance for the purposes therein expressed.

Witness my hand and notarial seal, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1960.

Jeannette M. Hare  
Notary Public.  
My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

NORTH CAROLINA,  
SAMPSON COUNTY.

The foregoing certificate of Jeannette M. Hare a Notary Public of the County of Volusia, State of Florida, is adjudged to be correct. Let the instrument, with these certificates, be registered.

Witness my hand this the 15 day of March, 1960.

J. C. Moore  
Clerk of Superior Court of Sampson County.

Filed for registration on the 15 day of March 1960 at 11:15 o'clock A.M. and registered in the office of the Register of Deeds of Sampson County on the 1 day of April 1960 in Book No. 705 Page No. 275  
Edith N. Hoodwin  
Register of Deeds



FILED Edward C. Owen  
MAILED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED UP Edward C. Owen  
4-1-60 29-2-61

D E ED  
EMMETT D. HIGHSMITH, SINGLE

GO  
DENNIS E. HOOVER ET AL.

REVENUE STAMP \$6.60

NORTH CAROLINA.

SAMPSON COUNTY

THIS DEED made this 25th day of December, 1945, by Emmett Highsmith, Single of New Hanover County, North Carolina, of the first part, to Dennis E. Hoover and wife Kate J. Hoover, of Sampson County, North Carolina, of the second part,

WITNESSETH: That said party of the first part, in consideration of One Hundred Dollars and other valuable considerations to him paid by said parties of the second part, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, has bargained and sold, and by these presents does grant, bargain, sell and convey unto said parties of the second part and their heirs and assigns, two certain tracts or parcels of land in Franklin Township, Sampson County, North Carolina, adjoining the lands of H. W. Johnson, U. S. Highway No. 421, and others, and bounded as follows, viz:

FIRST TRACT: Beginning at a new corner in center of N. C. State Highway No. 60 (now U. S. Highway No. 421) where the said highway crosses the old Highsmith-Taylor-Johnson line, thence along new lines and new courses as follows: Along center of Highway No. 60 southeastwardly 1060 feet to a point in the center of said Highway; thence S. 28° 45' W. (passing an iron stake set 30 feet from center of said highway) 112 1/2 feet to an iron stake; thence S. 15° E. 252.20 feet to center of Highsmith Creek (passing an iron stake set on North bank of Creek); thence up said Creek the following courses and distances: S. 86° 30' W. 368 feet, S. 72° 45' W. 524.5 feet; S. 18° W. 207.5 feet; S. 41° 30' W. 62.5 feet; S. 63° W. 500 feet; N. 85° W. 89.5 feet to a point in the old Highsmith and Fennell line where it crosses the Creek; thence old iron in Little Bow; thence N. 86° E. 620 feet on old line to an old corner iron; thence N. 4° 35' E. 1380 feet, more or less, along the old Highsmith and Taylor and Johnson line to an old corner iron; thence N. 4° 35' E. 1380 feet, more or less, along the old Highsmith and Taylor and Johnson line to center of road, the place of beginning, containing 113 acres, more or less, and being Lot No. 3 in the division of the L. R. Highsmith lands, and being the same lands described in a deed from L. R. Highsmith, widower, to Emmett D. Highsmith, dated 20 March, 1933, and recorded in the Registry of Sampson County in Book \_\_\_\_\_, page \_\_\_\_\_.

SECOND TRACT: Beginning at a point in center of N. C. State Highway No. 60 (now U. S. Highway No. 421), which is also the southeast corner of Eva H. Jenkins tract; thence N. 63° E. 41 feet, more or less, to a stump and stake in center of old abandoned Wilmington Road, a McDowell corner; thence along the McDowell line in center of said old Wilmington Road, the two following courses and distances: N. 55° 30' W. 213 feet and N. 64° 45' W. 1062 feet to an iron stake in the old road; thence along McDowell's line N. 48° 15' E. 413 feet to a stake in the mouth of a ditch in Taylor's line; thence along Taylor's line N. 63° 45' W. 749 feet to an iron stake (Black gum pointers); thence N. 73° W. 1040 feet to a stump and iron stake; thence S. 4° 35' W. 50 feet, more or less, to center of N. C. State Highway No. 60 (now U. S. Highway No. 421), which is also a corner of E. D. Highsmith's land; thence southeastwardly along the center of said Highway 2823 feet to the point of beginning, containing 12 acres, more or less, and being Lot No. 7 in the division of the L. R. Highsmith lands, and being the same lands described in a deed from T. L. Highsmith, et al. to Emmett D. Highsmith, dated 6 June, 1941, and recorded in the Registry of Sampson County in Book \_\_\_\_\_, page \_\_\_\_\_.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the aforesaid tracts or parcels of land and all privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in anywise thereunto appertaining, unto the said Dennis E. Hoover and wife, Kate J. Hoover, and their heirs and assigns, to their only use and behoof in fee simple absolute forever.

And the said party of the first part does for himself and his heirs, executors and administrators, covenants to and with the said parties of the second part, their executors, administrators, heirs and assigns, that he is seized of said premises in fee, and has a right to convey the same in fee simple; that the same



Witness my hand and notarial seal, this the 27th day of November, 1939.

Pereival O. Carter  
Notary Public,

L. S.

My commission expires: Feb, 1944.

NORTH CAROLINA,  
SAMPSON COUNTY.

I, Eleanor Graham, a Notary Public, of the above named State and County, do hereby certify that Mittie Matthews personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing deed for the purposes therein expressed.

Witness my hand and notarial seal, this the 9th day of November, 1939.

Eleanor Graham  
Notary Public,

(N. P. Seal)

My commission expires March, 1, 1941.

NORTH CAROLINA  
SAMPSON COUNTY.

The foregoing certificates of Annie Hudson, a Notary Public, Olive P. Hinman, a Notary Public, Pereival O. Carter, a Notary Public, Eleanor Graham, a Notary Public, and - - - - -, a - - - - -, in and for said State and Counties, are adjudged to be correct. Let the instrument with the certificates be registered.

Witness my hand and seal, this the 24 day of February, 19 40.

C. L. Wisher,  
Clerk of Superior Court.

Filed February 24, 1940 at 4:30 P. M.

Recorded March 2, 1940.

Bertrude West  
Register of Deeds.

DEED

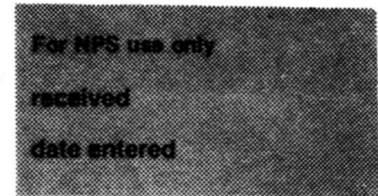
NORTH CAROLINA  
SAMPSON COUNTY

THIS DEED, made and executed this the 15th day of October, 1939, by and between, J. L. Britt, party of the first part, and Lizzie Seay Britt, his wife, party of the second part, both of the County and State aforesaid:

WITNESSETH:, That for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars and other good and valuable consideration in hand paid by the party of the second part to the party of the first part, and in further consideration of the love and affection of the party of the first part for the party of the second part, the said party of the first part has bargained and sold, and by these presents does hereby bargain, grant, sell and convey to the said party of the second part her heirs and assigns, all of a certain tract or parcel of land, located in Turkey Township, Sampson County, North Carolina, referred to and described as follows:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Sampson County Multiple Resource Area  
State Sampson County, NORTH CAROLINA

**Substantive Review** Conrad A. Schlager 3/17/86

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Clear Run

**Substantive Review**

Keeper

A Schlager 3/17/86

Attest

2. Dell School Campus

**Substantive Review**

Keeper

A Schlager 5/21/86

Attest

3. Bizzell, Asher W., House

**Substantive Review**

Keeper

A Schlager 5/21/86

Attest

4. Hollingsworth-Hines  
Farm

**Substantive Review**

Keeper

A Schlager 3/17/86

Attest

5. West Main-North Chesnut  
Streets Historic District

**Substantive Review**

Keeper

A Schlager 3/17/86

Attest

6. Wilson, John E., House

**Substantive Review**

Keeper

A Schlager 3/17/86

Attest

7. Caison, Dan E., Sr.

**Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper

Melvin Byrum 5/21/86

Attest

8. Oak Plain Presbyterian  
Church

**Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper

Melvin Byrum 5/21/86

Attest

9. Seavey, Dr. John B.  
House and Cemetery

**Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper

Melvin Byrum 5/21/86

Attest

10. Beatty-Corbett House

**Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper

James M. McPherson  
3/17/86

Attest

86001128

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Seavey, Dr. John B., House and Cemetery  
(Sampson County MRA)  
Sampson County  
NORTH CAROLINA

Working No. 2/4/86  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87  
Date Due: 6/7/86  
Action:  ACCEPT 5/21/86  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location \_\_\_\_\_

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property \_\_\_\_\_

5. Location of Legal Description \_\_\_\_\_

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

- |                                    |                                       |   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Condition                          | Check one                             | Check one                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |
|                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered    |   |
|                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> altered      |   |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

---

**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

---

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

---

Verbal boundary description and justification

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 79-12-3309

PHOTOGRAPHER THOMAS B. BUTCHER

PHOTO DATE 10/79

SUBJECT DR. JEREMIAH B. SEAVEY House

SAMPSON Co

Photo from 1979/80 survey of Sampson County. The site was revisited in 1985. Photograph accurately depicts the condition of this property.



NEGATIVE NUMBER N79-12-3313

PHOTOGRAPHER THOMAS R. BUTCHKO

PHOTO DATE 10/79

SUBJECT DR. JEREMIAH B. SEAVEY HOUSE

SAMPSON Co

Photo from 1979/80 survey of Sampson County. The site was revisited in 1985. Photograph accurately depicts the condition of this property.



NEGATIVE NUMBER N.79-12-3302

PHOTOGRAPHER THOMAS R. BUTCHKO

PHOTO DATE 10/79

SUBJECT DR. J. B. SEAVEY House

SAMPSON Co

Photo from 1979/80 survey of  
Sampson County. The site was  
revisited in 1985. Photograph  
accurately depicts the condi-  
tion of this property.



NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 85-5-1557

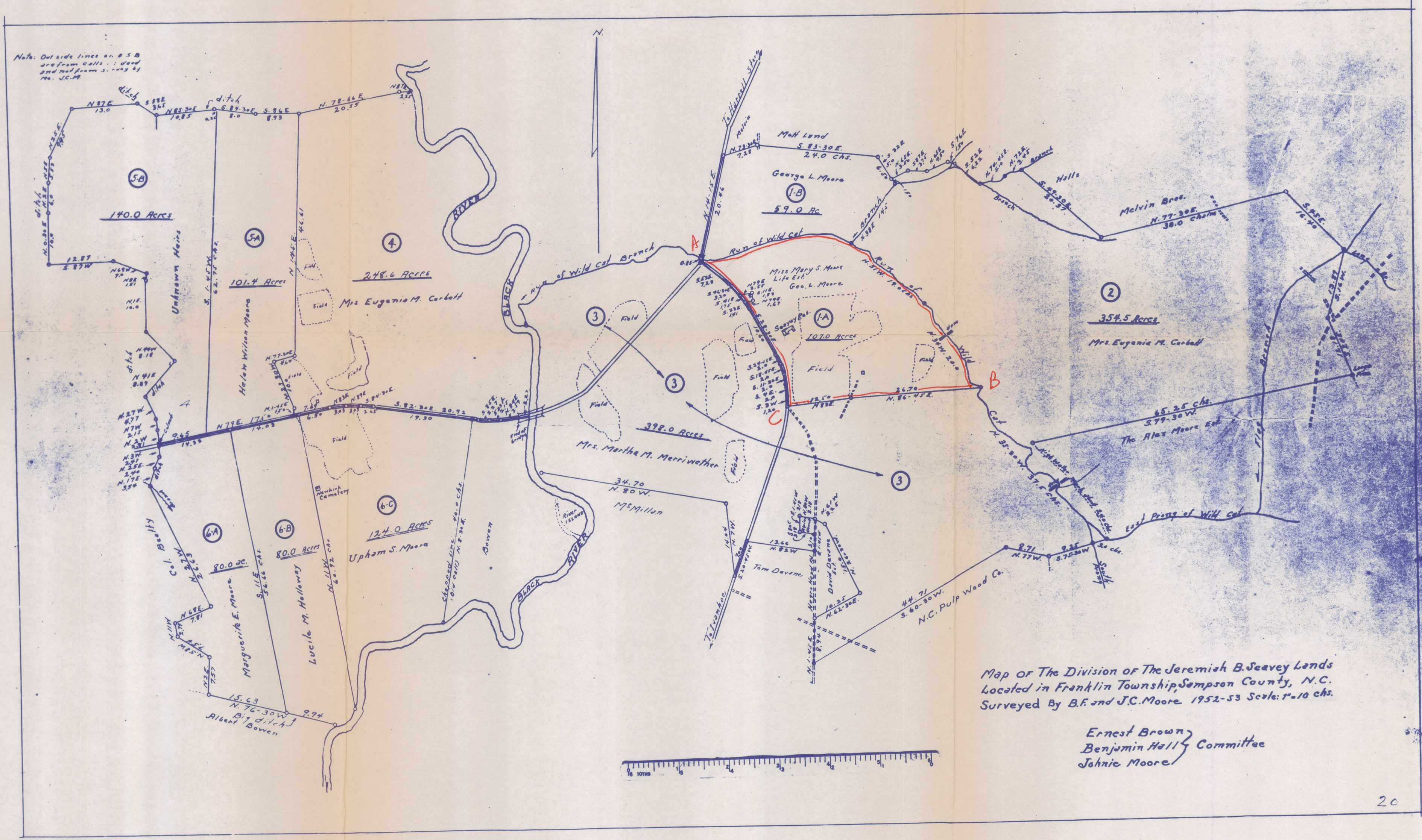
PHOTOGRAPHER VA. OSWALD

PHOTO DATE 5/85

SUBJECT J. B. Seavey House SE

SAMPSON Co

Note: Outside lines on 5-B are from calls: 1-5 and 2nd half from 3-1003 by Mr. J.C.M.



Map of The Division of The Jeremiah B. Seavey Lands Located in Franklin Township, Sampson County, N.C. Surveyed By B.F. and J.C. Moore, 1952-53 Scale: 1" = 10 chs.

Ernest Brown  
Benjamin Hall } Committee  
Johnie Moore

Jeremiah being the

1.

10:20

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000465