

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 Second Methodist Church Parsonage  
other names/site number Leonard House (preferred) ~~CAR 116~~

### 2. Location

street & number Main Street  not for publication  
city, town Greensboro  vicinity N/A  
state Maryland code MD county Caroline code 011 zip code 21639

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property		Category of Property		Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> district	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
		<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> sites
				<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
				<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> objects
				<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_  
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.

Mark Edwards for J. Robert Little 7-27-88  
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**

CAR-116

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

domestic  
single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

work in progress

**7. Description**Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Mid-19th century  
Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
walls wood weatherboard  
roof asphalt  
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Leonard House is a small 1 1/2 story frame dwelling with an original L-plan, constructed c. 1832 presumably as the parsonage for the second Methodist church of Greensboro. The building faces west, toward Main Street and the site of the former church; it stands three bays wide, with a transomed entrance in the northernmost bay and two 9/6 windows to the right. There are two 6/6 gabled dormers on the west slope of the roof, above a boxed cornice. A large brick chimney rises from the ridge to left of center, expressing a highly unusual placement and interior plan. The building rests on a brick foundation and is sheathed with beaded siding. A one-story ell extends from the southern portion of the rear elevation, flush with the south gable end, comprising an original kitchen and a late-19th-century extension. The interior of the main house is laid out around the central chimney in a four-room plan, with a small entrance vestibule in the northwest corner opening into a long narrow room across the north side of the building and a larger parlor to the south. These rooms retain refined Greek Revival-influenced decorative detailing. An unusual rear passage runs across the east side of the parlor to the north room. The half-story contains two chambers, each with a small fireplace; the loft of the ell retains evidence of servants' quarters with segregated access.

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Located on the east side of North Main Street between the street and the Choptank River, The Leonard House is a small 1 1/2 story frame dwelling with an original L-plan. The front section is one room deep and three bays wide, set approximately parallel to the river and the street. The principal facade is oriented to the west, toward the road, with the door in the left (north) bay and two 9/6 windows to the right. There is a three-light transom above the door but no sidelights. There are two 6/6 pitched roof dormer windows on the front pitch of the roof. These appear to be original and retain original backband surrounds and a complex crown mold cornice that extends along the side eaves, returns on the front, and is carried up the gable eaves of the dormer. A large brick chimney, now covered with stucco, straddles the ridge of the roof to left of center, providing the most immediately visible evidence of an unusual interior floor plan.

The brick foundation runs continuous across the front facade and consists of a single course of headers above three to four rows of stretchers. The front facade is covered with a rare example of four-foot beaded siding. This siding is laid on with staggered joints, 3 1/2 " to 4 1/2 " exposed to the weather, and secured with machine nails. The four-foot lengths and staggered joints suggest riven clapboards, but these may instead be a rare example of four-foot sawn weatherboards, as found at Spread Eagle in Queen Anne's County and the Whaley House in Worcester County. The boards are dressed with a shallow 3/8" bead and are butted together at the ends rather than feathered. Until recently, the siding was concealed by textured tar paper. The box cornice on the front facade retains the original fascia and soffit boards and about 8 feet of the complex crown mold; there is no evidence of a bed mold. The cornice returns at the gable ends; a beaded corner board survives on the right corner but is fragmentary on the left corner. Early wood shingles are visible under the present asphalt shingle roof.

The north gable end is asymmetrical in form due to a small outshut at the rear with a slightly shallower pitch. Two 9/6 windows on the first story are the only openings. The foundation is not continuous on this side. Rather, the front foundation turns the corner to form one pier, there is a brick pier near the center, and an L-plan pier supports the rear corner post of the main house and the outshut. The early siding has been completely replaced on this gable with plain boards and wire nails, but the early beaded and tapered rakeboards were reused.

The rear facade of the main house is almost entirely concealed by the original rear ell, leaving only the outshut on the northeast end exposed. This outshut appears to be original based on all visible construction and decorative details and is certainly early, as its interior plaster is applied

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to riven lathing. Access to the roof construction should confirm this, but is not available at present. A single 6/6 window is centered on the rear wall of the outshut.

The south gable rests on a continuous brick foundation, with two 9/6 windows on the first story and a single 6/6 window centered in the upper gable. The early four-foot beaded siding boards and beaded tapered rakeboards survive on this facade, and the complex crown mold cornice from the front facade returns at the front corner.

The one-story rear ell extends from the south portion of the rear facade, set flush with the south gable. This wing was constructed in two parts, with at least one later modification. The earliest section of the wing is original to the main house and measures 21 feet long and 14 feet wide, consisting of a seven-foot wide through passage against the rear wall of the main house and a 14 by 14 foot kitchen to the rear. The south facade of the wing is relatively refined in finish, with four-foot beaded siding boards, a beaded fascia board on a plain box cornice, and a 9/6 window centered on the kitchen section. An odd feature of this facade is that the seven-foot passage section of the wing is set off with corner boards and sided with later, plain board siding secured with machine nails. At first glance, this appears to be evidence of an original open breezeway between the main house and the kitchen that was later filled in with a six-panel door and siding. While this section of wall was clearly rebuilt and plastered, probably when the wing was extended to the east, the evidence is clear that the passage was a finished room with plastered walls and ceiling. A pair of matching notches about the size of hinge recesses are located on the two corner boards demarcating the passage, but their purpose is not evident. A fancier door with sidelights might have been fitted with shutters, but this seems highly unlikely. Suffice it to say that a relatively modest change has occurred at this end of the rear passage.

The north facade of the original rear wing is less carefully finished. The original siding that survives on this facade is four-foot riven clapboard with staggered butt joints and machine made nails. Longer machine sawn siding with rough vertical saw marks was added to part of the original section when the wing was enlarged. Clear evidence of early red paint and later whitewash is visible embedded in the open grain of the riven clapboards only whitewash is evident on the later siding. Later in the 19th century, probably circa 1860s to 1880s, the kitchen wing was extended one additional room to the southwest. This addition was frame on a brick foundation, with a one room pantry outshut at the rear of the northeast facade.

The interior is laid out in a highly unusual center-chimney plan, with a small entrance vestibule in the northwest corner, opening into a long narrow room across the north side and a larger parlor to the south. The central chimney stack provides fireplaces for both the main rooms. The back passage

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extends across the rear of the parlor to the north room. A steep narrow stair off the north end of the passage ascends to two chambers in the half-story; this represents a reconfiguration of the original stair, which rose against the east partition wall of the parlor and turned. This plan is unique in Caroline County, and indeed no precise analogues are known elsewhere in Maryland.

The entrance comprises a six-panel door with flat panels, surmounted by a 3-light transom, and opens into a small room in the northwest corner which is lighted by a 9/6 window in its north wall. Six-panel doors open off this room to the east, leading to a long narrow room across the north side of the house, and to the south, into the parlor. The doors are framed with a beaded fascia and symmetrically molded architrave trim with bulls-eye corner blocks. The window has a similar architrave, and the molding continues past the sill to the beaded baseboard, creating a panel-like space which is plastered. This detail is consistent throughout the first floor of the main block.

The southwest parlor has decorative detailing identical to that of the entrance room. There is a large fireplace against the north wall; the mantel has been stolen, but a surviving photograph shows a fine federal-Greek Revival piece with slender turned columns supporting an exceptionally large frieze; the narrow side blocks were decorated with recessed panels having quarter-round "bites" at the corners. Both the west and the south walls of the parlor have two 9/6 windows; a door in the east wall communicates with the back passage.

Evidence for the original stair location includes a mortise for the newel post, a seam in the baseboard, and the ghost of the carriage in the plaster of the east partition wall, all indicating a winder stair in the northeast corner of the parlor.

The north room is heated by a fireplace in its south wall. The mantel is missing. A small cabinet is set into the space next to the flue to the right of the fireplace, and a large closet is located to the left. The north and east walls each have one window; the sash has been vandalized, but the size of the openings indicate that the north window was 9/6 while the east had 6/6 lights. The window architraves survive, showing trim consistent with the rest of the first-floor windows; the door architraves, however, are simpler than those found elsewhere, comprising a beaded fascia with a Greek ogee-and-astrigal backband. The closet to the left of the chimney has a six-panel door and retains three original shelves against the chimney breast; plaster evidence indicates one more shelf below the three survivors, and three shelves across the back of the closet. A section of the original stair carriage survives in the top of this closet, where the reoriented stair is tied into it; the remodeled stair intrudes into the closet from the east.

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At the east end of the south wall is a 6-panel door leading to the back passage. To the right of this door, a nailer is set in the plaster at chest height.

The ceiling is coved at the east end of the room, within the projecting outshut.

The unusual rear passage runs across the east side of the house. This area is finished with plaster, and has a beaded baseboard; interior door openings are framed with a wide half-round surround. A peg rail is set in the plaster on the west wall. Floorboards here are wider than in the other rooms, and irregular in width.

Doors open off the passage into the north room, the south parlor, and the kitchen ell; an exterior doorway is located at the north end.

In the mid to late 19th century, the stair was moved from its original location in the northeast corner of the parlor to a steep, narrow single run rising at the north end of the west wall of the rear passage. This reorientation retained the top two steps and landing of the original stair.

The half story contains two chambers opening off the stair landing with clipped beaded-batten doors. The south chamber has a dormer in the west wall and a window in the south gable end; a small door in the east knee-wall offers access to the loft of the rear ell. The north chamber has a small closet to the west of the chimney breast and is lighted by dormers in both the east and west slopes. Both rooms are plastered and trimmed with beaded architraves and baseboards; both are heated by small fireplaces (which are blocked and have lost their mantels).

A lower, 1 1/3 story kitchen wing extends to the east, opening off the rear passage, one step down. The early kitchen has a large fireplace (now blocked) against its east wall; a small cabinet is recessed in the north side of the chimney breast. A 6/6 window in the north wall retains its original trim, consisting of a beaded fascia with quirk ogee backband and a sill with a beaded lower edge. The door in the west wall is framed with a strip of Greek ogee-and-astragal backband, without fascia. A beaded batten door in the east wall, to the left of the chimney, has a simple beaded surround; this originally was an exterior door. Floorboards in the kitchen are extremely wide and rough, with numerous knots, and are secured with large-headed machine nails.

At the east end of the wing, a new kitchen and pantry were added in the third quarter of the 19th century. A batten door in the south side of the west wall (the exterior gable wall of the original wing) opens to a very steep

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ladder stair, which rises against the chimney stack to the loft. The west wall of the stair closet is finished with a mixture of plain and beaded riven weatherboards which retain traces of whitewash and appear to have been reused; the east wall is covered with whitewashed riven lath which continues beyond the junction of the west wall. This stair appears to have provided a segregated exterior entrance to the kitchen loft, dating from the original construction of the house; the evidence is confused somewhat, however, by the fact the door opening interrupts an up-brace, suggesting that it was cut in.

The loft over the original kitchen contained two rooms: an east, outer room which was finished in whitewash applied to the common rafters and shingle nailers, which was separated by a board partition from an inner (west) room which was entirely unfinished. Both rooms were unheated. The board partition has been removed, and it is unclear whether these two rooms communicated with each other; a semicircular score mark in the floorboards may indicate the location of a door in the board partition, but it is possible that the only access to the west room was through the small door in the knee-wall of the south chamber.

Also on the property is a small 1 1/2 story gable roofed heavy timber framed building located southeast of the house, overlooking the river; this building, believed by the owner to have been a 19th-century meathouse, was moved to the site in 1986 and renovated to serve as a guest house. Northeast of the house, a post-built shed was under construction as of March 1988. Neither of these elements contributes to the significance of the resource.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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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)  
architecture

Period of Significance

Significant Dates  
c. 1832

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
unknown

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

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Built about 1832, the Leonard House is significant for its architectural character. It embodies several distinctive design and construction characteristics of the second quarter of the nineteenth century that are rare or unique in Maryland. The center-chimney plan has no known analogies elsewhere in the state. This plan consists of a small entrance vestibule in the northwest corner which opens into a long narrow room across the north side and a large parlor to the south. A central stack provides fireplaces for the main rooms. A back passage extends along the rear of the parlor to the north room. The beaded four-foot wide siding boards on the west and south elevations of the house are extremely rare examples of a once common building material in the state. The riven clapboards on the north side of the wing which retain traces of early red paint are also an excellent example of a once common construction technique. The house also retains evidence suggestive of segregated access to servant's quarters in the loft of the ell. Information reflecting the social use of space in houses of this period in Maryland is not so commonly found as evidenced in the Leonard House.

See continuation sheet for  
HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA.

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## HISTORIC CONTEXT:

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition AD 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):  
Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning  
Religion

Resource Type:

Category: building

Historical Environment: village

Historic Function(s) and Uses(s): domestic/single  
dwelling/residence

Known Design Source: unknown

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## HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

The Leonard House is located diagonally across Main Street from the Methodist Church and is very likely the parsonage for the church. Its refined Greek Revival detailing and transitional construction technology (finished with plaster applied to hand-riven lath secured with machine-made nails) suggest that it was constructed at the same time as the church, or very shortly thereafter.

Peter Harrington, the original benefactor of the Society, owned the property on which the Leonard House stands at his death in 1813, at which time it passed to his son, Alexander. Presumably around 1832 (no record of this transaction survives), the parcel passed to the Greensboro Methodist Church, which, with its successor the Methodist Protestant Church, held title until 1873. The deed of August 5, 1873, conveying six acres including the parcel on which the house stands, refers to "all that house and lot . . . known as the parsonage property." The property passed through a succession of private hands until August 13, 1986, when it was acquired by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde J. Embert.

Methodism was established in Greensboro in 1775 with the founding of the Choptank Bridge Society of Methodists; the first Methodist church, a frame structure, was built in 1789 on 1/2 acre of land at the intersection of Main Street and the present Cedar Lane. This land was conveyed to the Society by Peter Harrington, founder of Greensboro, for the token consideration of 5 shillings.

By 1804, the denomination had grown sufficiently in the county to support the organization of the Choptank Circuit, embracing all of Caroline County, parts of Talbot and Queen Anne's, and extending to White's Chapel in Delaware. Greensboro was both the geographical and symbolic center of the Circuit; the parsonage was located in the town, and the Fourth Quarterly Meeting was invariably held there as well.

In 1832, a new church -- the first brick church in Caroline County -- was erected to replace the original frame building. This church occupied the same lot as the former structure, but was oriented to Main Street rather than facing the Goldsboro Road.

Within the state, the Leonard House is quite significant for its architectural character. Erected about 1832, the house has a unique floor plan with no known analogies in Maryland. This plan consists of a small entrance vestibule in the northwest corner which opens into a long narrow room across the north side and a large parlor to the south. A central chimney

See Continuation Sheet No. 8/3

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stack provides fireplaces for the main rooms. A back passage extends along the rear of the parlor to the north room.

The beaded four-foot wide siding boards on the west and south elevations of the house are also unique. They are examples of a once common building materials of the period. Although no specific survey of building materials has been made, a review of the state-wide inventory and discussions with SHPO staff and other authorities reveals a clear recognition of the rarity of the example with few other examples coming to mind particularly this large in size.

Hallman, E. C. **The Garden of Methodism.** (N.p.: Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, n.d.) pp. 135-138, 165-166, 287.

Horseley, Eleanor F. **Origins of Caroline County, Maryland from Land Plats.** Volume I. Denton, MD: author, 1974.

**Anniversary Sunday Commemorating Greensboro Methodism 1775-1964.** St. Paul's Methodist Church, Greensboro, Maryland, November 29, 1964. (pamphlet).

Land Records of Caroline County

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, ~~reference~~ Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland

See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Specify repository:  
Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 1.3 acres

UTM References

A 

1	8
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4	3	0	3	4	0
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4	1	3	4	3	0	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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B 

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone      Easting      Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries are depicted on the attached map, labeled National Register Boundaries.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel, approximately 1.3 acres, comprises the remnant of the property historically associated with the resource.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter Kurtze, Architectural Survey Administrator

organization Maryland Historical Trust date March 1988

street & number 21 State Circle telephone (301) 974-5000

city or town Annapolis state Maryland zip code 21401

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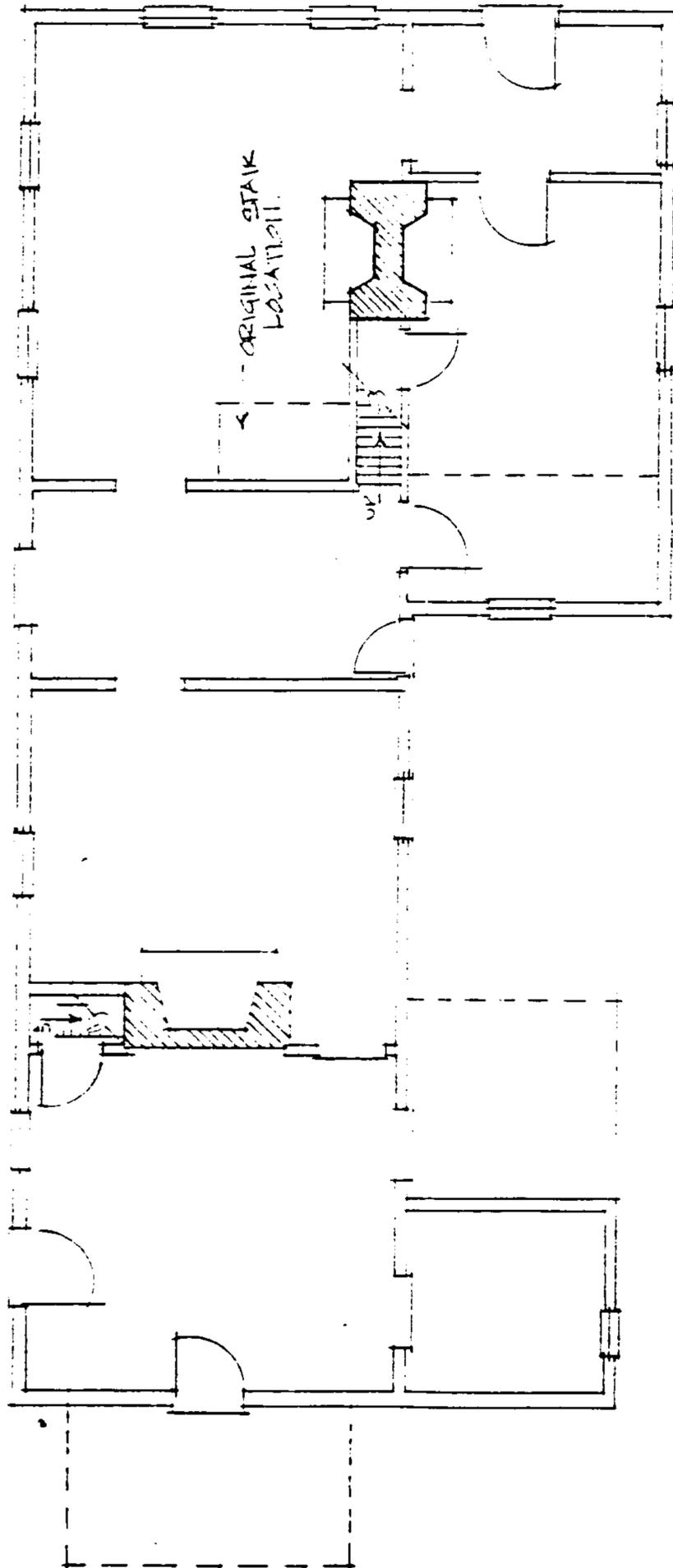
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1988



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE - 1/8" = 1'-0"

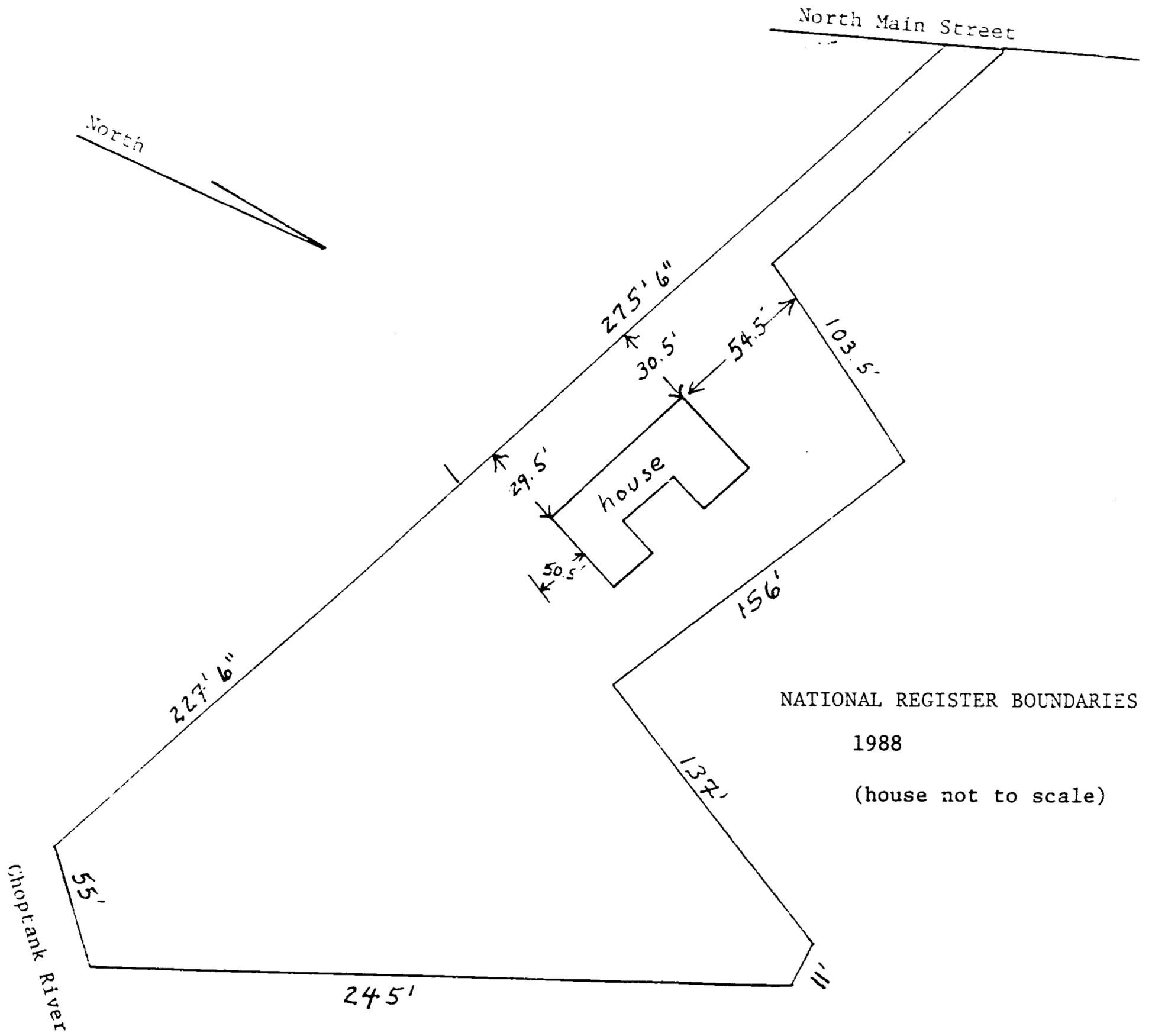
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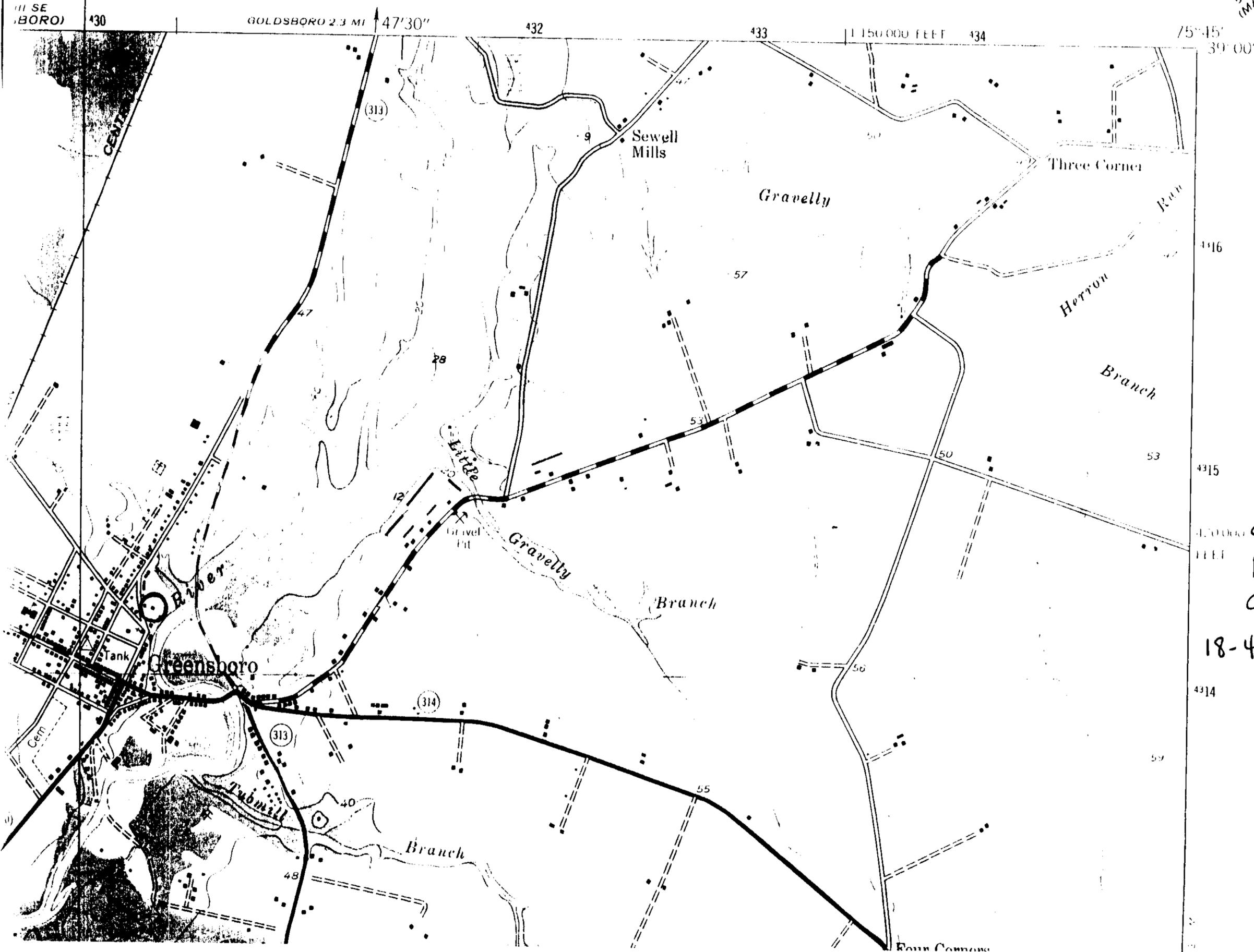
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DENTON QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND CAROLINE CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5862 II SW  
(MARYDEL)



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LEONARD HOUSE  
CAROLINE CO., MD.  
18-430340-4314300



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LEONARD HOUSE

CAROLINE COUNTY, MD



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P. KURTZE, 3/88



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LEONARD HOUSE

P. KURTZE, 3/88



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LEONARD HOUSE  
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CAR-116

LEONARD HOUSE

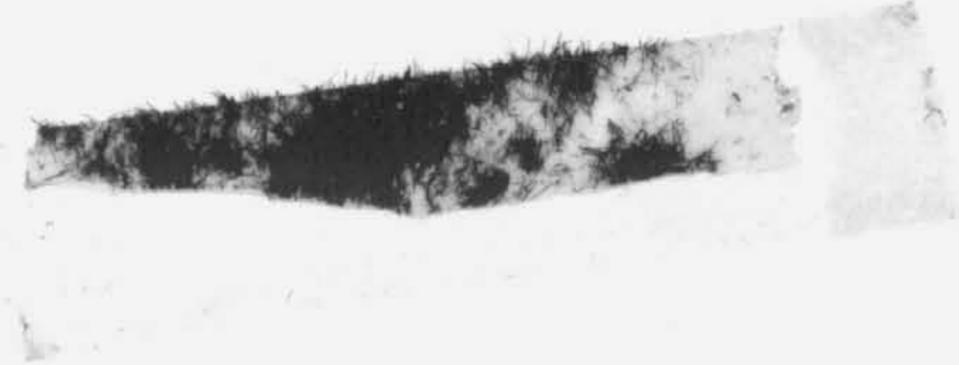
P. KURTZE, 2/88



LEONARD HOUSE

Greensboro

CAR - 116



M. Bourne

MICHAEL BOURNE