

The Loss of a Town

By Dennis Daniels

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If you go today to the place where the Deep and Haw rivers join to form the Cape Fear River, you will see a quiet area with dirt roads, fields, forests, and a few structures. The area was once the site of the town of Haywood. The town, established in 1796, was named for state treasurer John Haywood (1755–1827). An Edgecombe County native, Haywood served as state treasurer for forty years, from 1787 until 1827. It was hoped that the town would become a major inland port. Although that never happened, and the town eventually disappeared, people still remained to call Haywood home.

The area was proposed as the location for the permanent state capital and the home to the University of North Carolina. Thomas Person, a delegate from Granville County, nominated the “fork of the Haw and Deep Rivers” at the 1788 constitutional convention meeting in Hillsborough. However, the convention chose a site in Wake County that would become the city of Raleigh. In 1792 the committee charged with finding a home for the new state university was offered money to pick the junction of the two rivers as the place for the new school. But it chose “New Hope Chapel hill” (now Chapel Hill), instead.

In 1796 the General Assembly chartered the Deep and Haw River Navigation Company, later renamed the Cape Fear Navigation Company, to improve the upper Cape Fear River for boat travel, and to establish a town at the site where the Haw and Deep rivers joined. Originally, the new town was to be called Lyons, probably in honor of the French city of Lyon. The following year, the legislature changed the name to Haywoodsborough. In 1799 John Lindley surveyed the land and created a town plan with 294 lots. Wealthy men, including Governor Benjamin Williams and state treasurer John Haywood, purchased the first lots in February 1800. Many buyers hoped to make a fortune from reselling the lots once river traffic started going to and from Haywoodsborough. During 1800 the legislature shortened the town’s name to Haywood.

Over the next decades, Haywood’s fate was tied to navigational improvements to the upper Cape Fear River. Boats made it to Haywood. In May 1800 the *Haywood Packet* traveled from Wilmington to what was then Haywoodsborough. The trip began on May 10 and ended on May 21. During the voyage, it rained every day except one, making the trip a third longer than usual. Boats that made the trips to the town likely benefited from the navigational enhancements. However, successful trips also required the right water conditions. Despite the successes of some boats and the formation of a transportation company, the prospect of future navigation on the upper Cape Fear dimmed in 1834. In that year the Cape Fear Navigation Company declared its desire to give up its rights on the Cape Fear above Fayetteville to any company willing to improve the river.

In 1849 the General Assembly incorporated the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company to make possible the necessary navigational improvements. It was hoped that transporting coal from Chatham County would provide the necessary income to make the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company profitable. The new company built dams and locks. In May 1856 the *John H. Haughton* brought the first Chatham County coal downriver. In the end, the dream of an inland port at Haywood never came to full fruition due to insufficient income from shipping, and to the Civil War, which stopped any navigation work projects. Finally, railroads brought an end to inland shipping on the upper Cape Fear River.

During the antebellum era (the period in American history before the Civil War), Haywood experienced growth, with businessmen, craftsmen, and farmers calling it home. An academy and a Presbyterian church were built in the town. During the Civil War, Haywood was not the site of any battles, but in April 1865 Union soldiers occupied the town for one day.

During Reconstruction, life in Haywood changed dramatically. For a time white and black members of the Union League, a support group of the Republican Party, met at the academy. In the summer of 1870, blacks and whites even shared a polling place. African Americans established a school that was attended by Haywood native Simon Green Atkins (1863–1934), founder of Winston-Salem State University. However, the town, like the rest of Chatham County, suffered from problems caused by the Ku Klux Klan. Yet Haywood survived, and people established businesses such as hotels and general stores, but the town remained small.

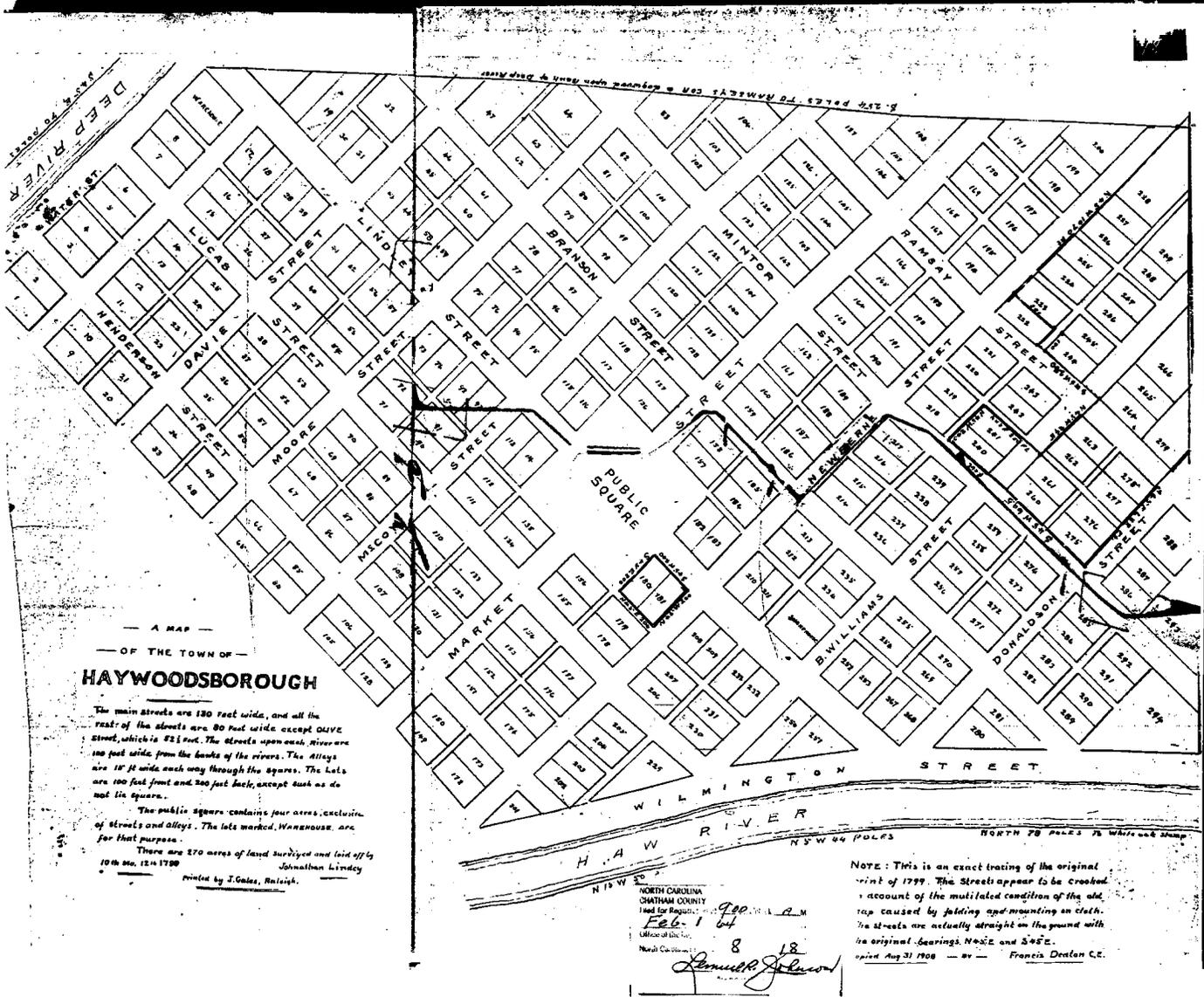
Haywood struggled in the late 1800s to remain a functioning town. Contributing to its decline was the decision not to bring the railroad directly to the town. The decision was made to build a station and switching yard north of Haywood, leading to the creation of the town of Moncure.

Over time, the businesses disappeared, but the number of people living in the town remained stable. The General Assembly rechartered the town in 1905, providing for a more modern government. In 1907 the town commissioners approved the construction of a telephone system. Unfortunately, the town government, like the businesses, disappeared. By the mid-1900s, Haywood no longer had an active local government.

Eventually, time took a toll on the pre-Civil War structures in the town. The Haywood Church is the only building that remains from those bygone days. Nature overtook many structures, creating woodlands, while farmers reclaimed the land for their crops. Yet people remained in the area, allowing the population of Haywood to remain stable over the years. In fact, it continued to grow but not dramatically.

Today, only a green highway sign will tell anyone that Haywood was once the name of a town that had grand dreams. It is now a quiet place with fields, forests, and houses, including new ones. But it has always been a place that people called home.

Plat from 1799.



Liberty Church
11274

78043
Warehouse

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and after its ratification
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...Railroad Company, thence with said right-of-way north
...one degrees east ninety-four feet to a stake, corner of the
...thence south eighteen degrees east six hundred and
...feet six inches; thence continuing south eighteen de-
...to the present corporation line in W. W. Batchelor's

Sec. 3. That the commissioners of said town shall have the **Liquor license.**
to levy and collect license taxes on all retail liquor dealers
manufacturers, an amount not exceeding the sum of one
thousand dollars per annum, payable at such times as the com-
missioners of said town shall direct, and that all taxes heretofore
and collected by said town shall be deemed to have been
and properly collected.

Sec. 4. The Commissioners of the Town of Spring Hope shall **Fire districts.**
the power to establish fire districts within said town and to
what classes of buildings shall be erected within said fire
and shall have the power to prohibit the erection of any
not in accordance with such ordinance or ordinances as
shall from time to time pass regulating the construction of
within said fire district.

Sec. 5. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this **Repealing clause.**
are hereby repealed.

Sec. 6. This act shall be in force and effect from and after its
publication.

In the General Assembly read three times, and ratified this
day of February, A. D. 1905.

CHAPTER 170.

ACT TO INCORPORATE THE TOWN OF HAYWOOD IN
CHATHAM COUNTY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That the town of Haywood in Chatham County in **Haywood**
North Carolina is hereby incorporated as a town, with all the **incorporated.**
powers, duties and liabilities given under chapter sixty-two,
Article two of the Code of North Carolina: *Provided*, there shall **Proviso: manufac-**
be no spirituous, vinous, malt or other fermented liquors manufac- **ture or sale of**
tured or sold within the said town of Haywood. **liquors forbidden.**

Sec. 2. That the following shall be the boundaries of said town: **Town boundaries.**
beginning at a sugar-maple tree on the bank of Deep River west
corner of Water Street, thence down Water Street to the intersec-
tion of Olive Street, thence along Olive Street in an northeasterly
direction to the banks of Haw River, thence up Wilmington Street
along the banks of the Haw River to the old B. I. Howze line,
thence due west with the same line to the northwest corner of

OF THE TOWN OF

do enact:
Private Laws of
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ame is further amended
to the following
and effect:
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he following des
of Oakdale Cemetery
branch of the

New Berne Street, thence south with the old R. A. Smith line to the beginning, the street above named being known as such in the old town of Haywood.

Temporary officers named.

SEC. 3. That until the next regular election, when their successors shall be elected, the following named persons shall be officers of the town of Haywood: W. C. Kimball, mayor; J. Thomas, T. W. Churchill, J. T. Brady, W. H. Bynum and Charles Crutchfield.

SEC. 4. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times, and ratified the 24th day of February, A. D. 1905.

CHAPTER 171.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Reduction of corporate limits repealed.

SECTION 1. That chapter two hundred and ninety-four of the Private Laws of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five be and the same is hereby repealed.

Old limits restored.

SEC. 2. That section two of chapter two hundred and forty-three of the Private Laws of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three be re-enacted as the said section stood before amended by said chapter two hundred and ninety-four of the Private Laws of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five.

SEC. 3. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times, and ratified this 24th day of February, A. D. 1905.

CHAPTER 172.

AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 254 OF THE PRIVATE LAWS OF 1903.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Name changed.

SECTION 1. That wherever in this chapter the words the Balsam and Black Rock Railway Company appear that the same shall be stricken out and the following words inserted in lieu thereof to-wit: "The Western Transportation Company."

Terminal changed.

SEC. 2. By striking out in section two of said act all of the words in line four after the word "within" to the word "through"

The five, and in North Carolina, ad said section two, by Haywood and inse the nine, insert a the line twelve, afte ds, flumes and tion." After the and auxiliary syst SEC. 3. After th insert "auxiliary l liberty-two, section In the General 24th day of Febr

AN ACT TO AMEND THE

The General Ass

SECTION 1. The heretofore a body Town of Teachey purchase, hold a deal and persons and for its prop and dispose of th advisable by the]

SEC. 2. The c to-wit: Beginnir pany's track, ei nearest the Mas east eight hund sixteen hundred sixteen hundred eight hundred y

SEC. 3. That a mayor and tl on the first Mo herein provided

SEC. 4. That held at the m entitled to vot town for munic State of North

spinal vertebrae of the human body and without the use of drugs.

Nonresident physicians. "11. The practice of medicine or surgery by any reputable physician or surgeon in a neighboring State coming into this State for consultation with a resident registered physician. This proviso shall not apply to physicians resident in a neighboring State and regularly practicing in this State.

Physicians practicing before 7 March, 1885. "12. Physicians who have a diploma from a regular medical college and were practicing medicine and surgery in this State prior to the seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five."

Repealing clause. SEC. 8. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 9. That this act shall be in force and effect from and after its ratification.

Ratified this the 17th day of February, A.D. 1921.

CHAPTER 48

AN ACT TO APPOINT TRUSTEES OF A PUBLIC SQUARE IN THE TOWN OF HAYWOOD, HAW RIVER TOWNSHIP, CHATHAM COUNTY.

Preamble: Land belonging to State. WHEREAS, there is in the town of Haywood, Haw River Township, Chatham County, a certain tract of land belonging to the State of North Carolina, and formerly used and designed as a public square; and

Preamble: Unauthorized occupation. WHEREAS, there have recently been certain unauthorized encroachments on this State land, and certain unauthorized occupation of same; and

Preamble: Interest of public. WHEREAS, it is desirable that certain public-spirited individuals be appointed to protect the interest of the public in the usage of this land, and to take any possible steps for the improvement of same: Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Trustees and guardians named. SECTION 1. That T. W. Churchill, E. E. Walden, J. F. Dickens, Clinton E. Bryan, G. D. Hinsley, J. C. Howe, and B. H. Benfield, all residents of Chatham County, North Carolina, are hereby appointed trustees and guardians of the public interest in that tract

Location of land. Dedication. of land situated in the town of Haywood, Haw River Township, Chatham County, North Carolina, which tract of land is owned by the State, and has been dedicated for public use as a public square.

Authority of trustees. SEC. 2. The aforesaid trustees are authorized and empowered to take all necessary steps to secure the interest of the people in said land, and to prevent unauthorized and improper encroachments thereon by any persons whatsoever.

SEC. 3. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Ratified this the 18th day of February, A.D. 1921.



CHATHAM COUNTY, NC

Property Map

Disclaimer:
The data provided on this map are prepared for the inventory of real property found within Chatham County, NC and are compiled from recorded plats, deeds, and other public records and data. This data is for informational purposes only and should not be substituted for a true title search, property appraisal, survey, or for zoning verification.



2010 Aerial

One Inch = 400 Feet

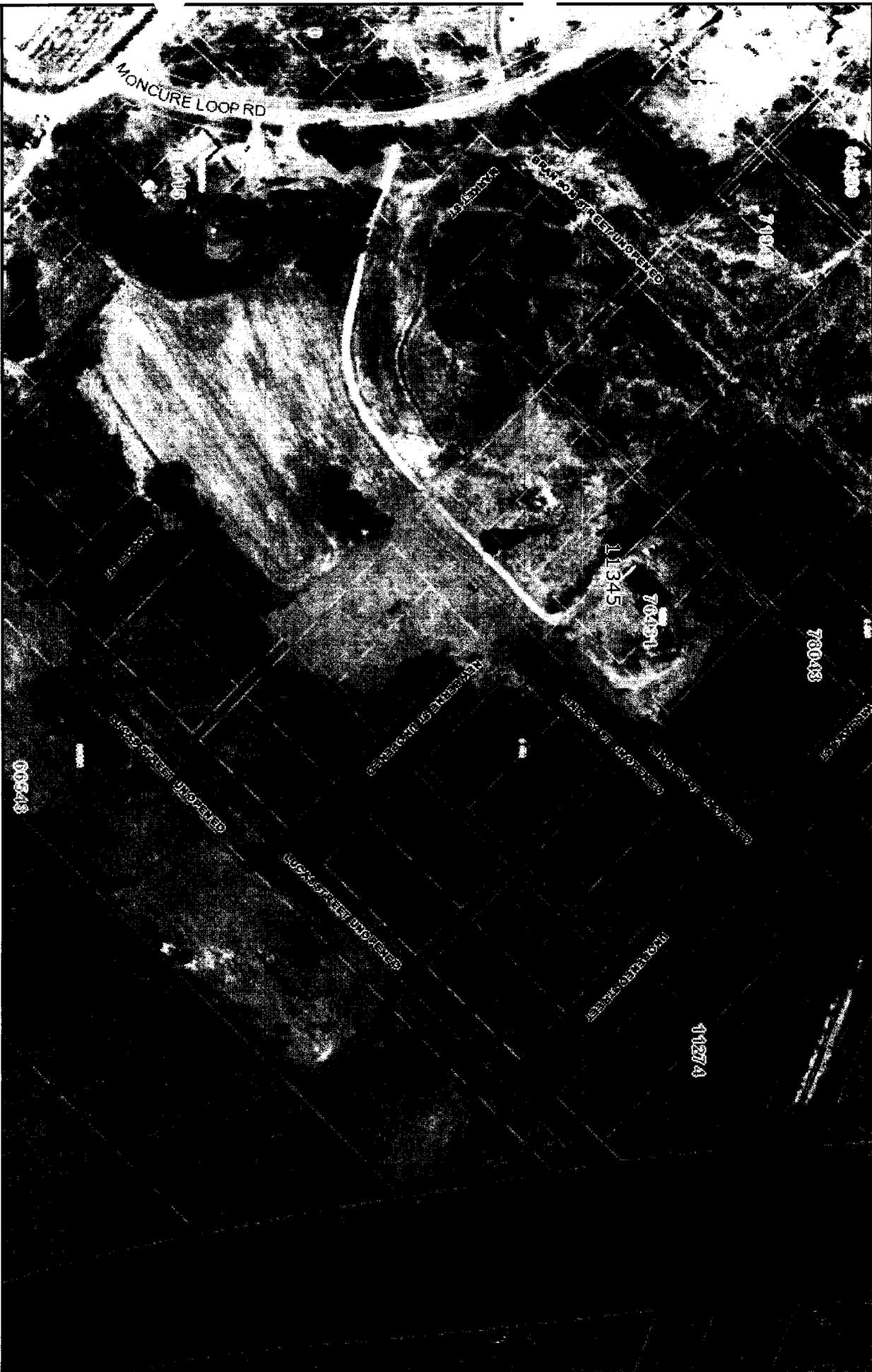




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2003 Plat

One Inch = 200 Feet

