

Rearview of Seven Oaks, showing full three stories

SEVEN OAKS

Seven Oaks, owned by Mr. and Mrs. H.G. Thompson, was built about 1854 by Peter Guerrant. Guerrant was one of the first justices of Floyd, was on the commission which laid out county boundaries, and was sheriff. He also owned a mill and store and a vast plantation. He never married, but provided in his will for a number of his children born out of wedlock, as well as freeing his slaves.

The brick walls of Seven Oaks, 17 inches thick, are laid in American bond, with every fifth row of headers only. The house has six fireplaces with tall curved mantels. Thick door facings are each made from a single broad piece of white pine, with the space for the door opening carved out, rather than having the molding cut and pieced together.

A small windowless first floor room, now a bathroom, is believed to have been a temporary jail while Guerrant was sheriff of the county. The adjoining room, now the Thompsons' parlor, once served as the area post office.

SEVEN OAKS

The house was built in 1854 by a Peter Guerrant, who also owned several hundred acres of land, a store, and mill in the vicinity. The house originally had an additional wing at the rear, consisting of four (4) rooms; 2 up and 2 down, also a double porch. This part of the house was frame and extended back to the high bank at the rear of the house. The porches faced south and the well was out in front of the porches. There were entrances from the porches to the first and second floors of the main house. The roof line on this section is evident on the brick wall at the present time.

There was an entrance to the second floor from the upper porch, consisting of double doors. This opening has been closed with brick and a window. also evident.

There was an ice house built into the bank at the west rear of the house.

The stairway on the front porches, and the closet underneath the stairway are mostly original. The bannisters around the stairwell on the upper porch are original and are the same type used on the whole porch originally.

The small room on the first floor has no window but an opening with wooden bars. It was called the "dark room" and also the "jail". It was used (or threatened to be used) to control unruly slaves and children. It was also reported to have been used as an overnight jail for prisoners being taken to the county jail at Floyd, when Mr. Guerrant was sheriff.

The floors on the second and third floors are 6" white pine boards, but some on the second floor are badly worn. This is especially true in the second story hallway. When the back wing was there, most of the daily traffic was from the upper back porch to this hall.

The bricks used in the construction of the house were made on the property by slaves. The probable site of the brickmaking was just below the present driveway and the first oak tree. A lot of shale and earth has been removed from the natural contour of the land, and lots of brick and scraps are evident at this spot.

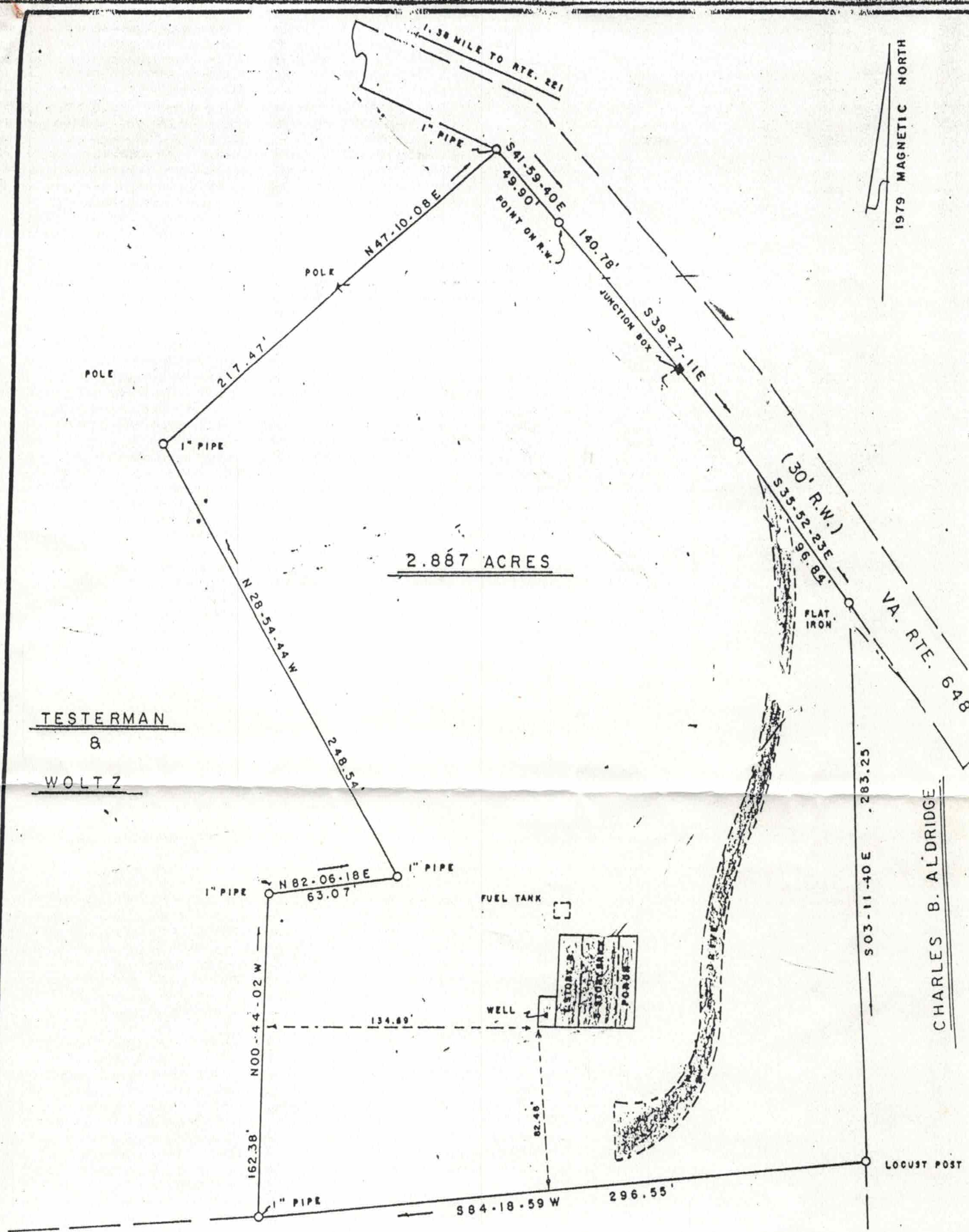
- The Grounds -

In 1970, there were only the seven large oaks, the two evergreens (at the front) and a couple of old apple trees left of the original plantings. The old oak at the east corner of the house blew down in a storm and one in the back yard was killed by lightning. The old roadway came up the hill, along the fence, by the old grainary and down a lane over to the main road. The main road at that time came down the hill above Mr. Ray Smith's barn.

- Local history -

Mr. Guerrant was a very prominent man in his time; he was a county commissioner and also the first sheriff of Floyd County when it was formed in 1830. He is buried over on the hill above Mr. Smith's barn. The tombstone has been broken off, but is lying on the ground. He died in 1859, only five years after he built the house.

1979 MAGNETIC NORTH

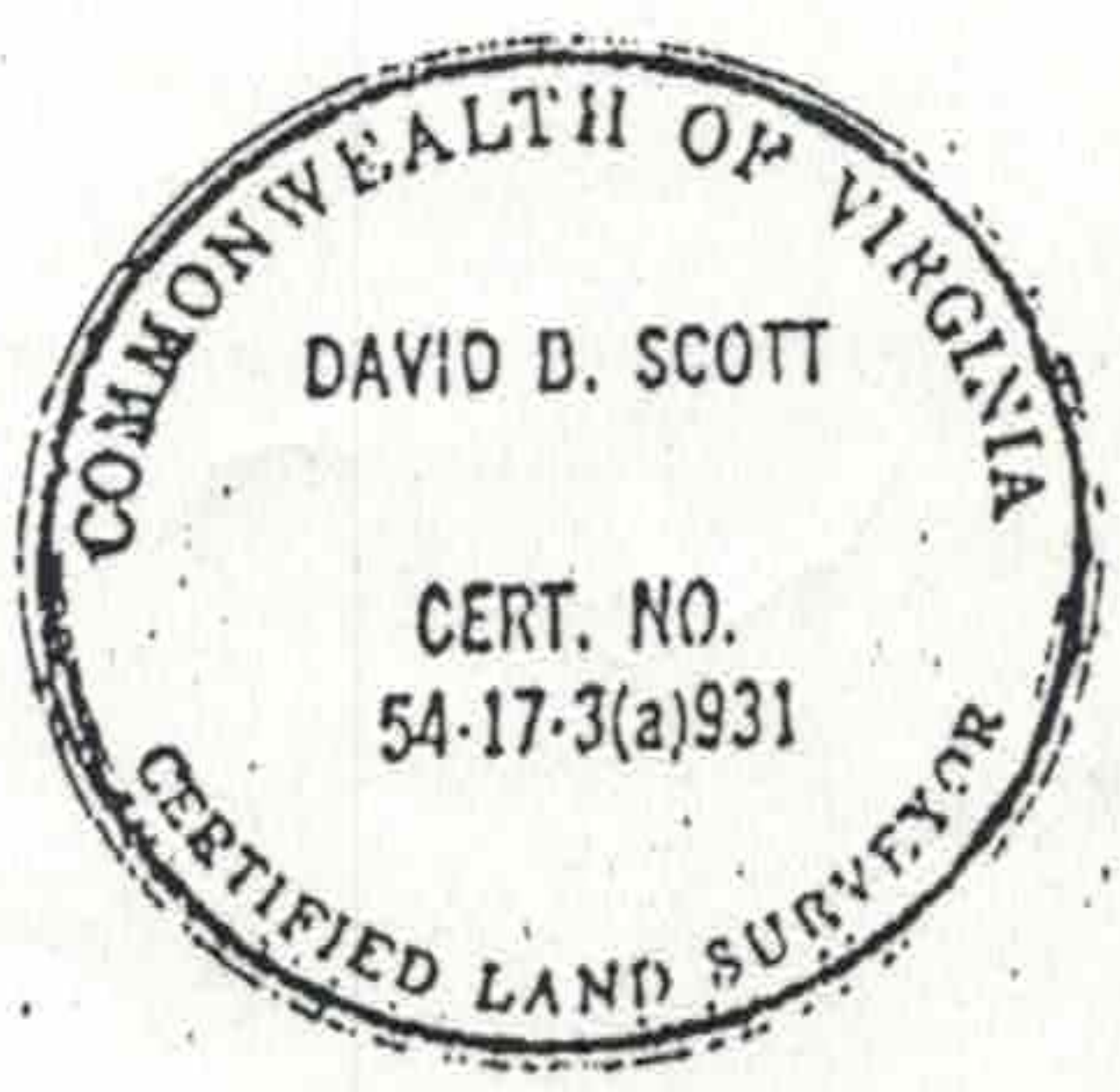


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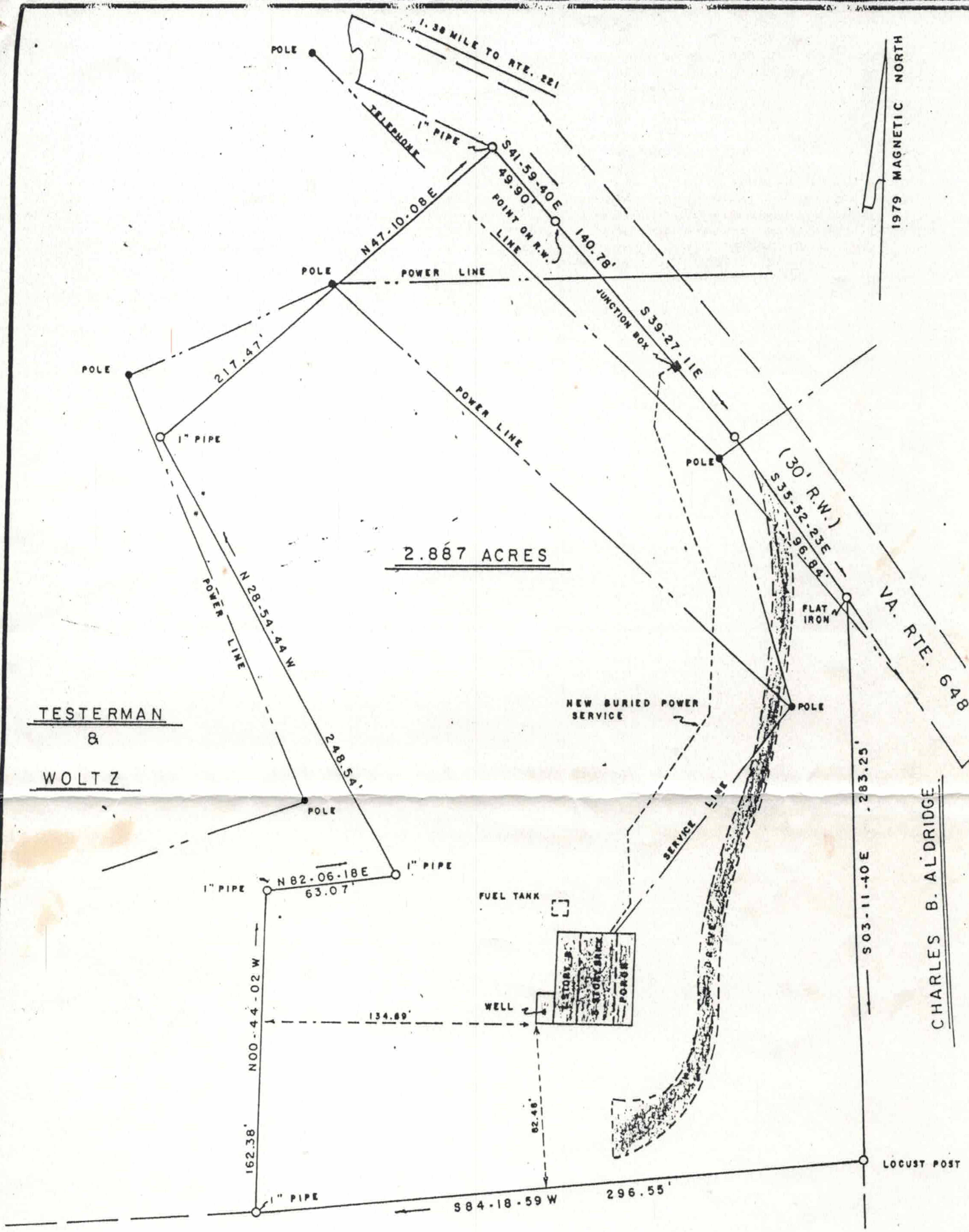
CHARLES B. ALDRIDGE

VIRGINIA: In the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Floyd County, Oct 31, 19 80, at 4:25 P. M. This Map received in office, and, admitted to record.
Toster: Maryann L. Varma

I HEREBY CERTIFY THIS MAP IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF
David B. Scott



WILLIAM M. ROSOLOWSKY
DIANE H. ROSOLOWSKY
LOCUST GROVE MAG. DISTRICT
FLOYD COUNTY, VIRGINIA
SCALE: 1" = 50', 10-29-80
DAVID B. SCOTT C.L.S.
HILLSVILLE, VIRGINIA
JOB NO. 4304



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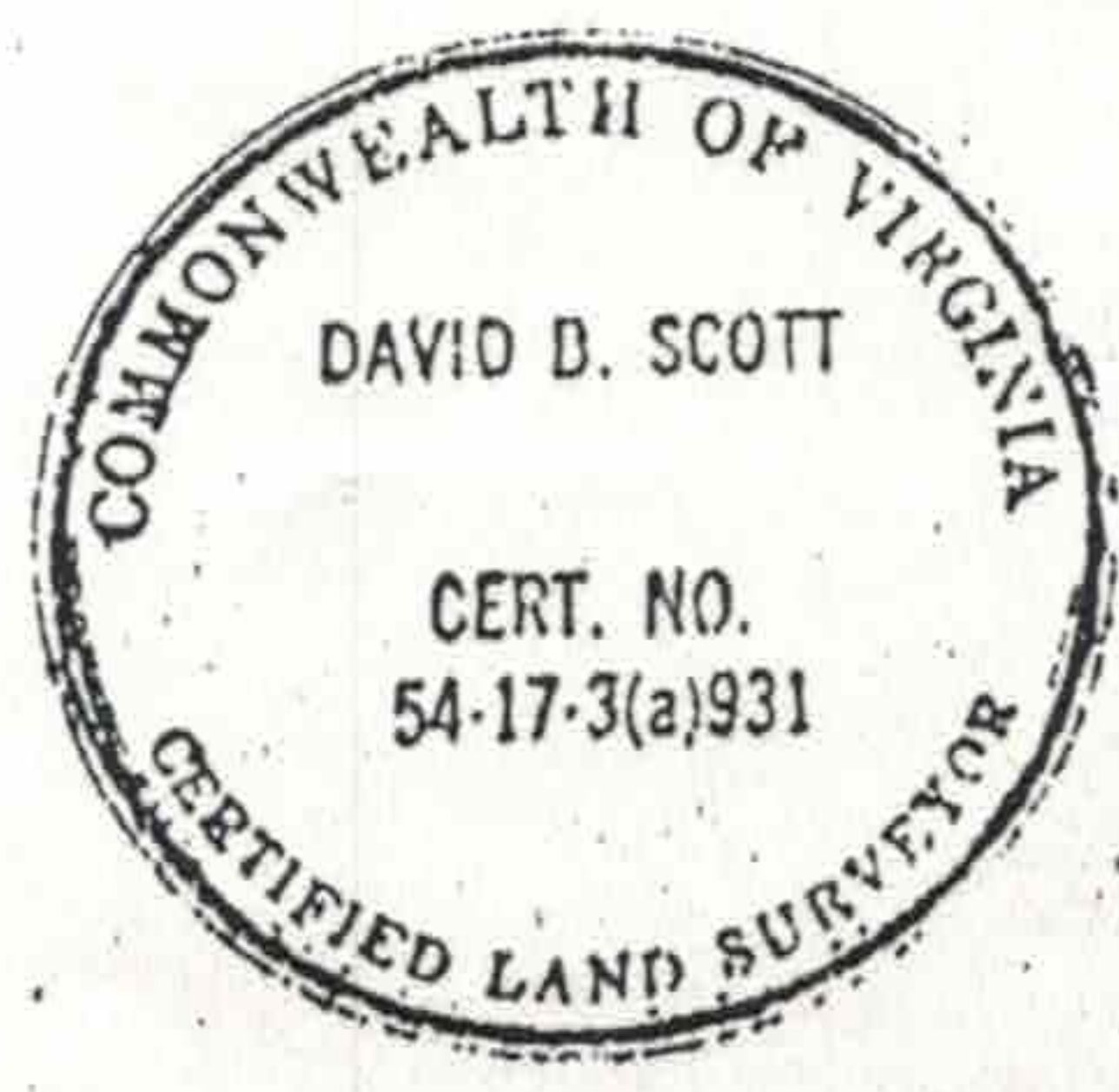
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To: Margaret L. Harma

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