



**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

July 7, 2017

Patrick Brown
BayWa r.e. Solar Projects, LLC
17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1050
Irvine, CA 92614
patrick.brown@baywa-re.com

Re: Archaeological Survey and Architectural evaluation, Additional Areas at Chestnut Solar Farm, Enfield, CPCN SP-5436 Sub 0; 16-E-4600-0355; Halifax County, CH 15-0972

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of April 11, 2017. Our response has been delayed by your submittal of a combined archaeological and architectural resources report, which we no longer accept. However, as it appears that the report was well under way before our change in procedures, we are accepting it for review and comment, but note that such reports will not be accepted in the future.

We have reviewed the report and concur that the Nat Dunn House (HX0238) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture and that the proposed boundary appears appropriate. We also concur that the tenant houses (HX0239, HX1593, and HX1594) are not eligible for the reasons outlined in the report.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,



for Ramona M. Bartos

cc: Juergen Fehr, juergen.fehr@geenexsolar.com
Susan Bamann, Commonwealth Heritage Group, susanbamann@chg-inc.com

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY ADDENDUM
AND ARCHITECTURAL EVALUATION
PROPOSED CHESTNUT SOLAR FARM, ENFIELD,
HALIFAX COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
(CPCN SP-5436 Sub 0, 16-E-4600-0355, CH 15-0972)**

**PREPARED FOR:
BayWa r.e. SOLAR PROJECTS, LLC
17901 VON KARMAN AVENUE SUITE 1050
IRVINE, CA 92614**

**PREPARED BY:
COMMONWEALTH HERITAGE GROUP, INC.
(Formerly Coastal Carolina Research)
P.O. BOX 1198
201 WEST WILSON STREET
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27886**

**Susan E. Bamann, Ph.D., RPA
Principal Investigator
Jeroen van den Hurk, Ph.D.
Amy Krull, M.A., RPA
and
Dennis A. Poyner**

NCR-0744

MARCH 2017

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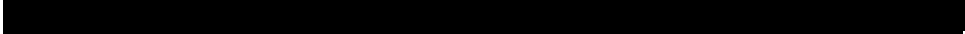
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5.0 RESULTS OF THE NAT DUNN HOUSE EVALUATION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Background research was conducted using records from the HPO to obtain files for the Nat Dunn House (HX0238) and/or cultural resource reports providing architectural context and comparable architectural analysis for the Enfield area. Additional research was conducted at the Halifax County Public Library (Halifax), the Halifax County Register of Deeds (Halifax), both online and on site, as well as at the Commonwealth library in Tarboro, North Carolina, and using online sources.

5.2 ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY RESULTS

Table 5.2-1 lists the four architectural resources that were examined as part of the evaluation of the ca. 1870 Nat Dunn House (HX0238), and Figure 5.2-1 shows their locations in relation to the proposed Chestnut Solar Farm boundary. Three of the resources (HX0239 and HX1593 and HX1594) are tenant houses that were part of the farm property of which the Nat Dunn House was the center. These were examined to determine if the Nat Dunn House property boundary should include the various components of the former working farm. They are recommended as not contributing to the Nat Dunn House property due to being in semi-ruinous or ruinous states and are also recommended as not individually eligible for the NRHP. The Nat Dunn House (HX0238) itself, has been evaluated in depth and is recommended as eligible for the NRHP based on the discussion appearing below.

Table 5.2-1: Architectural Resources Evaluated as Part of the Nat Dunn House Evaluation.

HPO SSN	Name, Address	Date	Recommended NRHP Eligibility
HX0238	Nat Dunn House, NC 481, Enfield	ca. 1870	Recommended Eligible
HX0239	Dunn Tenant House, NC 481, Enfield	ca. 1880	Not Eligible
HX1593	Dunn Tenant House II, NC 481, Enfield	ca. 1880	Not Eligible
HX1594	Dunn Tenant House III, NC 481, Enfield	ca. 1920	Not Eligible

5.3 DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION OF THE NAT DUNN HOUSE

HPO SITE SURVEY NUMBER: HX0238

RESOURCE NAME AND ADDRESS: Nat Dunn House, NC 481, Enfield

DATE(S): ca. 1870

STATUS: Placed on the North Carolina Study List (1988) (Taves 1986a), Reevaluated for Current Project (Recommended Eligible)

DESCRIPTION: The Nat Dunn House is located on the north side of NC 481, approximately 0.2 miles east of the intersection with Glenview Road (NC 481). The house sits approximately 0.17 miles back from the road at the end of an unpaved farm lane and is backs up to a wooded area, with cultivated fields to the south and a few agricultural outbuildings to the east (Figures 5.3-1 and 5.3-2).

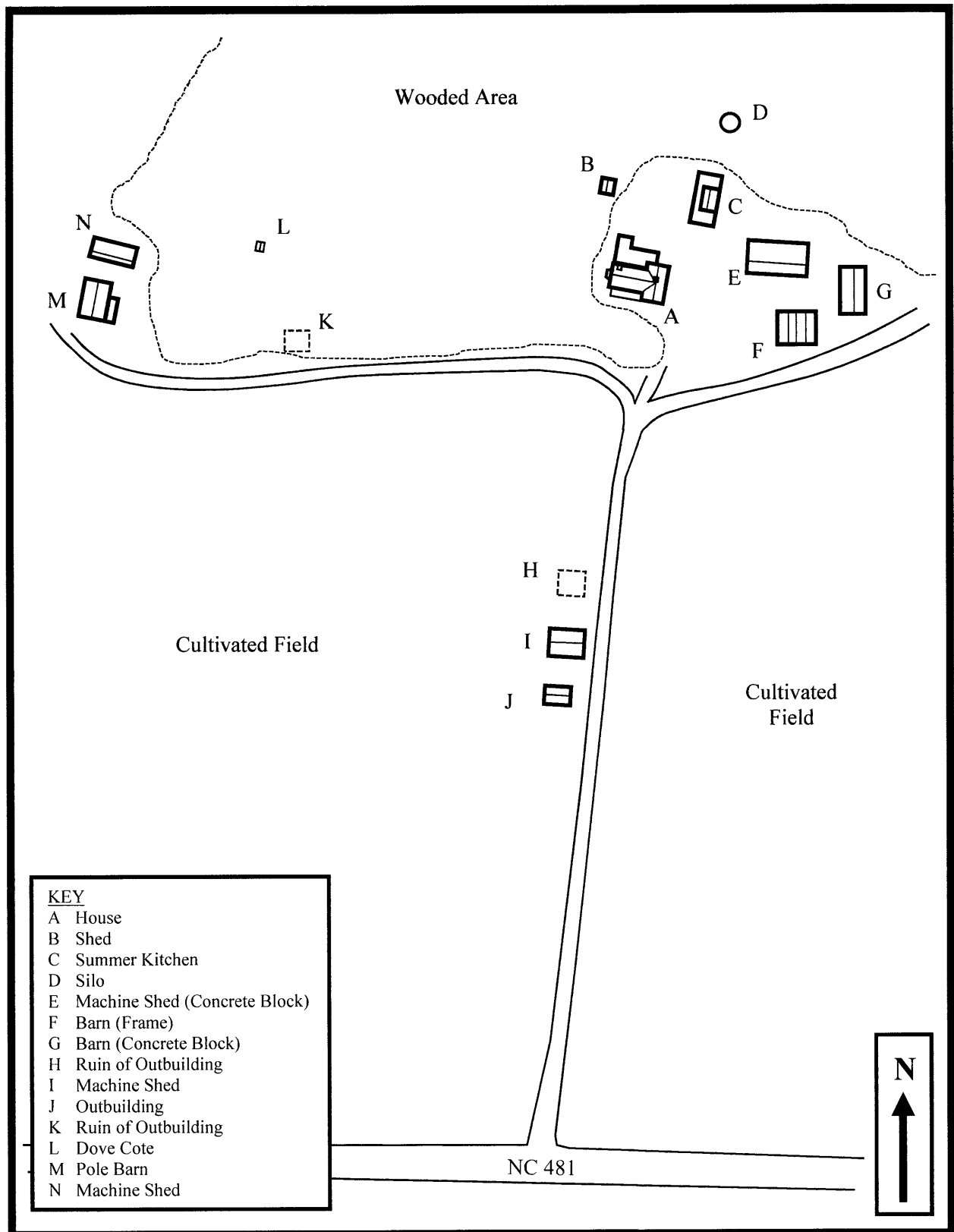


Figure 5.3-1: Sketch Map of the Nat Dunn House.

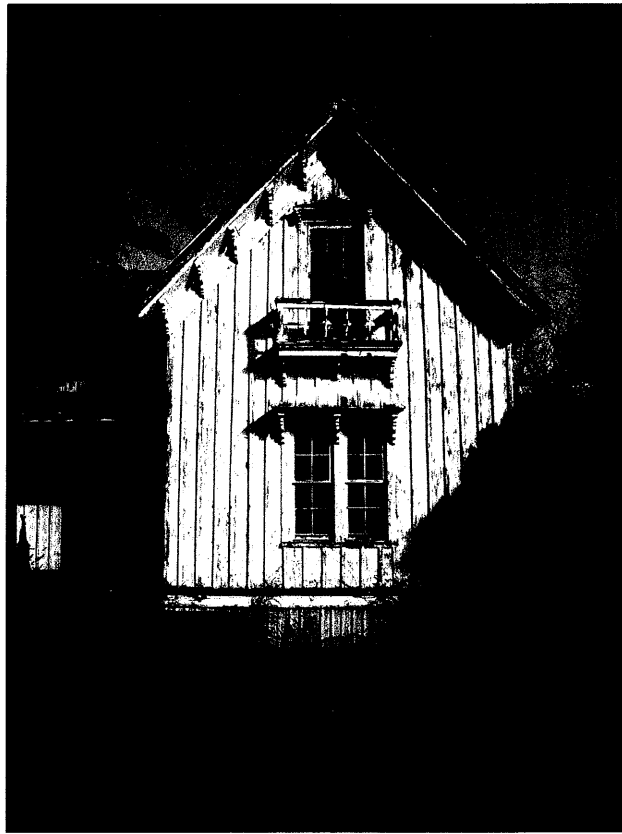


Figure 5.3-3: View of Nat Dunn House, View of Gable Section Looking North.



Figure 5.3-4: View of Nat Dunn House, Looking Southwest.



Figure 5.3-7: View of Nat Dunn House,
Detail of Window and Siding.



Figure 5.3-8: View of Nat Dunn House, Detail of Brackets on Roof Overhang.



Figure 5.3-9: Nat Dunn House, View of Shed (B) Looking Northwest.



Figure 5.3-10: Nat Dunn House, View of Summer Kitchen (C) Looking Northeast.



Figure 5.3-13: Nat Dunn House, View of Barn (F) Looking Southwest.



Figure 5.3-14: Nat Dunn House, View of Barn (G) Looking Northwest.



Figure 5.3-17: Nat Dunn House, View of Outbuilding (J) Looking Southwest.



Figure 5.3-18: Nat Dunn House, View of Ruins of Outbuilding (K) Looking Southwest.



Figure 5.3-21: Nat Dunn House, View of Machine Shed (N) Looking Northeast.



Figure 5.3-22: View of Dunn Tenant House, Looking Northeast.

EXTERIOR OF THE DUNN TENANT HOUSE

Built around 1880, the Dunn Tenant House is a one-story, side-gabled dwelling with a plain shed-roofed porch, originally supported by chamfered posts, which shelters the four bays (window-door-door-window) on the southwest (front) elevation. A one-story, gable-roofed wing extends off the northeast (rear) elevation of the dwelling giving the building an L-shaped footprint. A partially collapsed shed-roofed porch, with an enclosed pantry at the rear gable end, ran along the southeast (side) elevation of the rear wing. The building sits on parged brick piers and is clad in board-and-batten siding. Most of the doors and all of the windows have been removed. According to the 1986 survey form the front section had six-over-six windows and the rear wing four-over-four (Taves 1986b). There was evidence of both machine-cut nails and wire nails (Figures 5.3-24 through 5.3-27).

INTERIOR OF THE DUNN TENANT HOUSE

The front section of the dwelling has a two-room plan, with each room having an exterior door to the front porch. Both rooms were heated by a central chimney, have a plain shelf above the fireplace, and are clad in flush boards. The rear wing was also divided into two rooms, both clad in flush boards, and both rooms had an exterior door to the side porch, but only the back room had a chimney. The floor joists have been removed from both rooms in the rear wing, which has compromised its structural integrity (Figures 5.3-28 and 5.3-29).

Historic aerial photographs suggest that there was a small outbuilding associated with the house, of which only remnants of the foundation are still visible in the undergrowth.

HPO SITE SURVEY NUMBER: HX1593

RESOURCE NAME AND ADDRESS: Dunn Tenant House II, NC 481, Enfield

DATE(S): ca. 1880

STATUS: Newly Surveyed (Recommended Not Eligible)

DESCRIPTION: The Dunn Tenant House II is located on the north side of NC 481, approximately 0.2 miles east of the intersection with Glenview Road (NC 481). The house is located approximately 0.36 miles northeast of the Nat Dunn House (HX0238). The house sits in a copse of trees and is bordered by cultivated fields. It is abandoned and in a state of disrepair, and the farm lane that used to connect it to the Nat Dunn House no longer exists (Figures 5.3-30 and 5.3-31).

EXTERIOR OF THE DUNN TENANT HOUSE II

Built around 1880, the Dunn Tenant House II is a one-story, side-gabled dwelling with a plain shed-roofed porch, supported by plain posts, which shelters the four bays (window-door-door-window) on the northwest (front) elevation. A short one-story, gable-roofed wing extends off the southeast (rear) elevation of the dwelling, which originally gave the building an L-shaped footprint. A small engaged shed runs along the southwest (side) elevation, and a simple shed-roofed porch, supported by plain studs, shelters a door and window on the southeast (rear) gable end of the rear wing and has an enclosed pantry at the northeast end. A shed-roofed addition was constructed against the sidewall of the engaged shed and the rear wall of the main block giving the building a rectangular footprint. The building sits on parged brick piers and is



Figure 5.3-26: View of Dunn Tenant House, Rear Porch Looking Northwest.

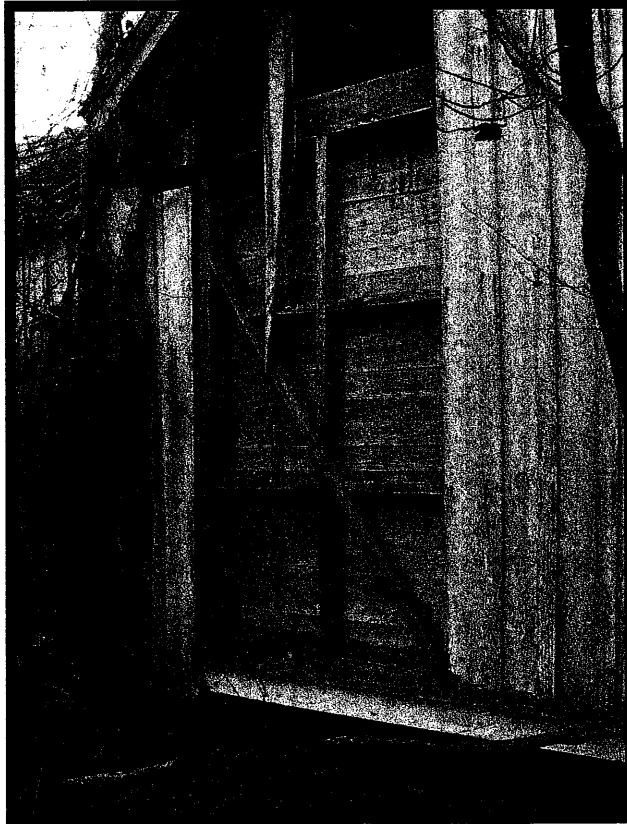


Figure 5.3-27: View of Dunn Tenant House, Detail of Northwest Gable End Looking East.

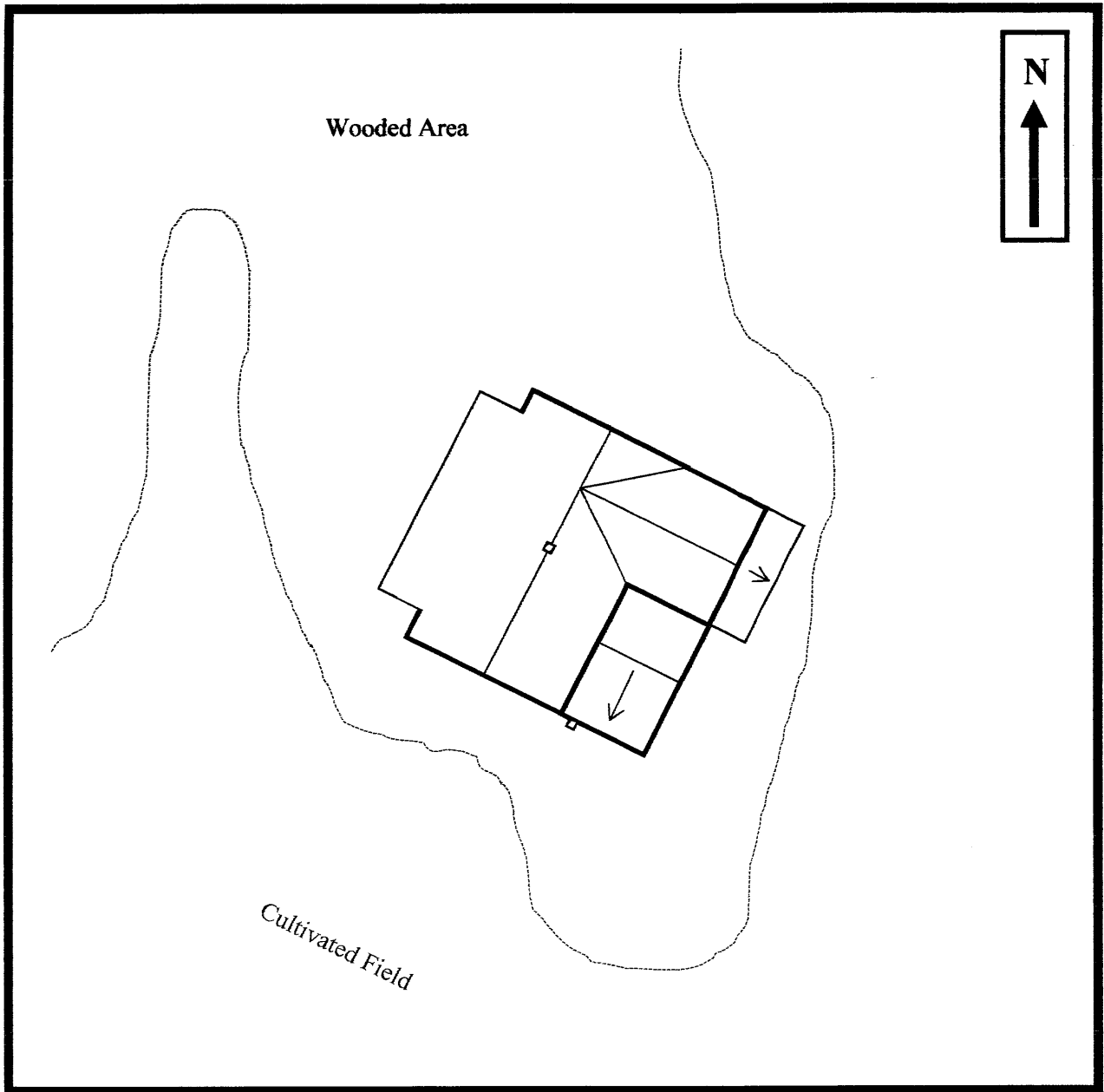


Figure 5.3-30: Sketch Map of the Dunn Tenant House II.



Figure 5.3-32: View of Dunn Tenant House II, Front Porch Looking Northeast.



Figure 5.3-33: View of Dunn Tenant House II, Looking Southwest.

HPO SITE SURVEY NUMBER: HX1594

RESOURCE NAME AND ADDRESS: Dunn Tenant House III, NC 481, Enfield

DATE(S): ca. 1920

STATUS: Newly Surveyed (Recommended Not Eligible)

DESCRIPTION: The Dunn Tenant House III is located on the north side of NC 481, approximately 0.2 miles east of the intersection with Glenview Road (NC 481). The house is located approximately 0.17 miles northwest of the Nat Dunn House (HX0238). The house sits in a wooded area and is bordered by cultivated fields. It is abandoned and in a state of disrepair, but the farm lane that connected it to the Nat Dunn House still survives (Figures 5.3-36 and 5.3-37).

EXTERIOR OF THE DUNN TENANT HOUSE III

Built around 1920, the Dunn Tenant House III is a one-story, side-gabled, concrete block Craftsman-style dwelling. An integral porch, supported by battered box columns on brick pedestals, shelters the three bays on the northwest (front) elevation of the dwelling. Two small concrete block shed additions flank the integral porch on the southwest (rear) elevation. The walls are constructed of unfinished concrete block and only the one-over-one window sashes survive. It is possible that the dividers in the top sashes typical of the Craftsman style, were removed at some point (Figures 5.3-38 through 5.3-39).

INTERIOR OF THE DUNN TENANT HOUSE III

The dwelling has a simple four-room plan with a central chimneystack, which allowed each of the rooms to be heated by a stove. The partition walls are constructed of concrete block and whitewashed and the doors are plain horizontal five-panel doors (Figure 5.3-40).

Historic aerial photographs suggest that there was a small outbuilding associated with the house, which was not located during the survey.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

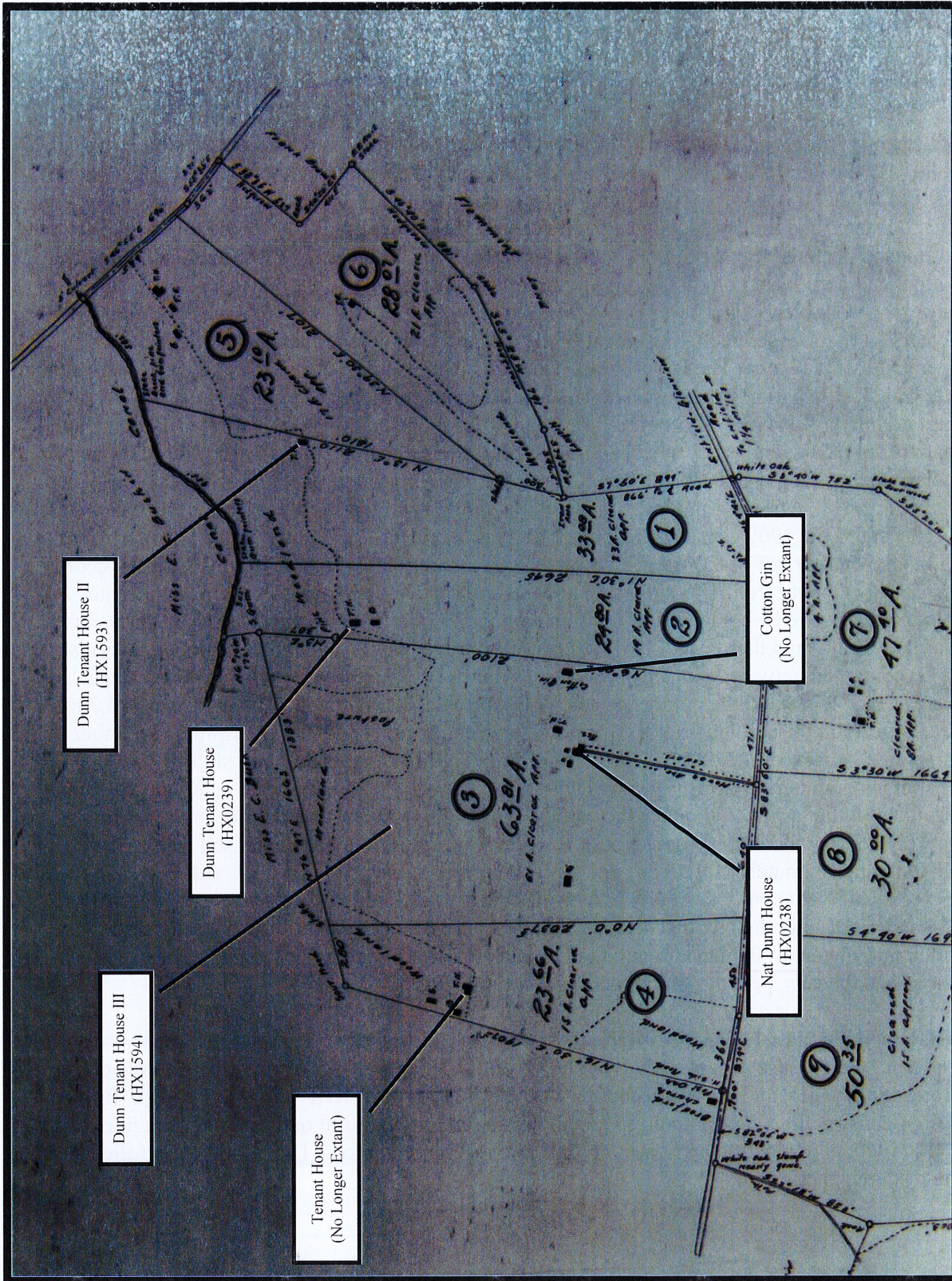
The land on which the Nat Dunn House sits is associated with the Nat Dunn (1823-1907). Little is known about Dunn. He was born in Cornish, Maine, and first shows up in North Carolina in the 1860 census, when he is living with Simon Parker, and his wife, in Halifax County (Ancestry.com 2017a). Nat Dunn purchased a 100-acre tract of land in Halifax County in 1868 (Halifax County Register of Deeds [HCRD] 1868: Deed Book [DB] 38:236). Between 1868 and 1895, Nat Dunn is involved in 26 recorded land transactions amounting to more than 2,300 acres near Enfield. According to the 1870 census Nat Dunn and his wife Ann Eliza Curtis (1824-1914) were living in Dalmatia Township; the name was later changed to Enfield Township (Ancestry.com 2017b). When Nat Dunn passed away in 1907, he died intestate and in debt (Ancestry.com 2017c). His estate consisted of four tracts of land containing approximately 152 acres. The land initially remains with his heirs (HCRD 1909: DB 221:320), and is surveyed as part of a much larger holding in 1919 (HCRD 1919: Plat Book 2:52) (Figure 5.3-41). The land is ultimately conveyed to the Virginia-Carolina Land Corporation (HCRD 1921: DB 325:99), who operated the land under the name "The Dunn Farms, Inc." (HCRD 1932: DB 423:428). The corporation was dissolved in 1936 and the land conveyed to Willie Herbert (HCRD 1936: DB 458:379). The land is currently owned by Willie Herbert's granddaughter.



Figure 5.3-37: View of Dunn Tenant House III, Looking South.



Figure 5.3-38: View of Dunn Tenant House III, Looking North.



Dunn Tenant House II
(HX1593)

Dunn Tenant House
(HX0239)

Dunn Tenant House III
(HX1594)

Tenant House
(No Longer Extant)

Cotton Gin
(No Longer Extant)

Nat Dunn House
(HX0238)

Figure 5.3-41: Detail of 1919 Plat of the S. Pierson Farm, Showing the Nathaniel Dunn House and Some of the Associated Structures (HCRD 1919: Plat Book 2:52).

INTEGRITY

The location and landscape of the Nat Dunn House remain largely unchanged although recent development has taken place during the second half of the twentieth century in the form of a line of single-family dwellings along the north side of NC 481 and the south side of the property, and a large school complex to the south of NC 481, across from the property. The house sits on 134-acre parcel, which was part of the 152.5-acre tract of land, which remained of the land accumulated by Nat Dunn at the time of his death in 1907. The design of the Nat Dunn House is example of an Italianate cottage, popularized by so-called pattern books after the Civil War, and it retains a high level of integrity of materials and workmanship. The design of two of the three surviving tenant houses (HX0239 and HX1593) mimic the board-and-batten style of the main house; however, they have been abandoned and are in various stages of decline. The third tenant house (HX1594) is an example of a Craftsman-style dwelling and falls outside the period of significance; the dwelling furthermore appears to have never been finished, leaving the concrete block exposed, is unoccupied, and deteriorating. Most of the associated outbuildings fall outside the period of significance and are also in various stages of decline. The summer kitchen (C) located behind the house probably predates the dwelling, but it has been modified and no longer retains enough integrity to convey its significance. The Nat Dunn House is no longer at the heart of a working farm, and despite the fact that the surviving outbuildings still provide an indication of the occupational setting and feeling of agricultural life, they fall outside the period of significance. Due to the lack of original outbuildings and the condition of the related tenant houses only the Nat Dunn House can convey its historic character and feeling. The property is associated with farming practices in the region during the second half of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century.

CRITERION A

The Nat Dunn House is not recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A (Event). To be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American prehistory or history or pattern of events or historic trends that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or a nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.

The Nat Dunn House was associated with the types of agricultural practices in Halifax County that are discussed above, for the period from the nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. Due to the loss of its tenant houses and original outbuildings and the house no longer being part of a working farm it can no longer convey the farming association and therefore is not recommended eligible under Criterion A.

CRITERION B

The Nat Dunn House is not recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B (Person). For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best



Figure 5.3-42: St. John's Episcopal Church (ED0014), Looking Northwest.



Figure 5.3-43: Speed Railroad Station (ED0788), Looking Southwest.

The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design and technology and is therefore not recommended eligible under Criterion D. However, archaeological studies would form the basis for any further recommendation under Criterion D. The current project did not include an archaeological survey immediately around the house and earlier kitchen due to the limits of the project area

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY

The NRHP boundary for the Nat Dunn House has been drawn according to the guidelines of National Register Bulletin 21, *Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties*. The boundary is drawn to include the dwelling, the shed (B), the summer kitchen (C), and part of the front yard and historic driveway leading up to the house to provide it with a natural setting. It does not include any of the more modern agricultural outbuildings that fall outside the period of significance (Figure 5.3-46). The boundary contains approximately 0.68 acres. The NRHP boundary is identified as a part of parcel 3888-00-47-2552 (Halifax County PIN).



Figure 5.3-46: Aerial Map of the Nat Dunn House (HX0238), Showing the NRHP Boundary.

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