



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Peter B. Sandbeck, Administrator

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Linda A. Carlisle, Secretary
Jeffrey J. Crow, Deputy Secretary

Office of Archives and History
Division of Historical Resources
David Brook, Director

March 19, 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: Mary Pope Furr
Historic Architecture Group, HEU, PDEA
NC Department of Transportation

From: Peter Sandbeck *ASB for Peter Sandbeck*

Re: Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, US 13 (Ahoskie Bypass) from NC 42 in Bertie County to US 158 in Hertford County, R-2205, Hertford and Bertie Counties, CH92-0440

Thank you for your letter of February 20, 2009, transmitting the above referenced report for the subject undertaking. We have reviewed the report and offer the following comments.

General Comments:

The report defines the Area of Potential Effects (APE) as that area shown in Figures 1 and 2. This area appears to be appropriate for the APE as one of the purposes of the undertaking is to facilitate economic development. Thus, the entire area should be surveyed to determine if there are historic properties that may be affected by the road and the economic development that is part of the purpose for the bypass. However, an examination of Figure 3 Sheets 1 and 2 shows that the only properties identified as a result of the survey were either within the several alternate corridors or immediately adjacent to them. There seems to be a disconnect between the stated methodology and the results, unless there were no buildings older than 50 years in any of the other areas shown in Figures 1 and 2. Is this correct?

While the photographs in the report are very good, there are not enough photographs of the evaluated properties to do them justice or help us to fully understand the buildings. Each property, studied and evaluated, should have enough photographs to get a sense of the entire building as well as its relationship to any surrounding buildings or landscape features. A photograph of each elevation of a studied building and relational views of several buildings are needed. Please ensure that there are enough photographs of each property in all future reports.

Please work with us to ensure that our new digital survey site forms, along with the use of assigned Survey Site Numbers, are part of your future reports.

Property Evaluations:

HF-3 HF-0623
The Newsome-Hall House remains eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

HF5

We do not concur with the proposed increase in the boundary of the **William Mitchell House**. The standard has been that the most acreage for a Criterion C property is 25 to 30 acres. To expand this property's boundaries to 47.27 acres would require a Criterion A case for agricultural significance, which the report says is not appropriate.

We do concur that the following properties are not eligible for listing in the Register:

VIP Motel and Club Complex (#33 and 34); HF732 + HF731 = HF975

Properties #67, 68, and 89 that are near, but not associated with the William Mitchell House;

~~William and Elizabeth Jernigan House (#83), and HF53~~

The properties shown in Appendix B, barring additional information to the contrary.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

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. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

bc: Scott Power
Claudia Brown
DOT
County



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.
SECRETARY

February 20, 2009

Mr. Peter Sandbeck
Deputy, State Historic Preservation Office
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4617

CH 92-0440

ZCS

Dear Mr. Sandbeck:

Due 3/13/09

RE: R-2205, Bertie-Hertford Counties, US 13 (Ahoskie Bypass) from NC 42 in Bertie County to US 158 in Hertford County. WBS Project # 34382, Federal Aid # STPNHF-13(8), NC-HPO ER Tracking No. CH 92-0440

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project. Please find attached 2 copies of the Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, which meets the guidelines for survey procedures for NCDOT and the National Park Service. This report evaluates five proposed alternatives in terms of historic resources within the project area.

Please review the attached survey report and provide us with your comments. If you have any questions concerning the accompanying information, please contact me at 431-1616.

Sincerely,

Mary Pope Furr
Historic Architecture Group

Attachment

cc (w/ attachment): John F. Sullivan III, Federal Highway Administration
Kim Gillespie, P. E., PDEA

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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT UNIT
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LOCATION:
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT &
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH -
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE CENTER
4701-116 ATLANTIC AVENUE
RALEIGH NC, 27604

Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report

Proposed Ahoskie Bypass
Hertford and Bertie Counties, North Carolina

TIP No. R-2205
WBS No. 34382
Federal Aid No. STPNHF-13(8)



Sarah Woodard David and Penne Sandbeck (ed.)
Historic Architecture Group
North Carolina Department of Transportation

February 2009

Penne Sandbeck (ed.)
Principal Investigator
Historic Architecture Group
North Carolina Department of Transportation

2.13.2009
date

Mary Pope
Supervisor
Historic Architecture Group
North Carolina Department of Transportation

2.13.2009
date

Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to create a bypass around Ahoskie from US Highway 13 south of Winton in the north to US Highway 13 at Powellsville in the south. Five alternatives are under consideration: Alternatives 12 and 19 follow NC Highway 11 to the west of Ahoskie before following new location corridors for their southern halves. Alternatives 1, 2, and 2a utilize mostly new location to bypass Ahoskie to the east. Proposed cross sections for all alternatives are two twelve-foot lanes in each direction separated by a forty-six-foot median. Proposed right-of-way for all alternatives is 300 feet. This project has state funding (WBS Project No. 34382) and federal funding (Federal Aid No. STPNHF-13(8)).

The purpose of the project is to improve traffic flow and levels of service on US 13 in the project study area, improve regional travel along the US 13 Intrastate corridor, and improve infrastructure to help facilitate economic development.

In 1992, NCDOT completed a report documenting the historic resources within this project's Area of Potential Effect (APE). That report was revised in 1994 and finalized in 1995. NCDOT completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) in 1996 followed by a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in 1997. Prior to right-of-way acquisition, NCDOT decided to restart the project study and complete the project through the merger process. Because additional alternatives had been developed and the original architectural survey report was over a decade old, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC-HPO) recommended that NCDOT undertake a new historic architectural survey. In February 2008, NCDOT engineers requested environmental input, which resulted in this report.

On February 19 and 20, 2008, NCDOT historians surveyed the entire APE in a vehicle and on foot. Every property in the APE greater than fifty years of age was photographed and documented. On March 10, 2008, historians submitted the survey results to NC HPO. At that meeting, NC-HPO representative Renee Gledhill-Earley requested a survey report to study and evaluate seven properties: the William Mitchell House (listed in the National Register, #66 on Figure 3) and three other resources that may be related to it (#67, #68, and #89 on Figure 3), cottages along SR 1415 just northeast of Ahoskie (#33 and #34 on Figure 3), and an I-house to the south of Ahoskie (#83 on Figure 3).

This report recommends that the William Mitchell House remain⁵ eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, the Newsome-Hall House was determined eligible in 1995 and it remains eligible for listing. This report also recommends that the following properties are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places: the Properties Potentially Associated with the William Mitchell House, the VIP Motel and Club Complex, and the Jernigan House.

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Figure 10

William and Elizabeth Jernigan House,
Site Plan

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Project Description

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to create a bypass around Ahoskie from US Highway 13 south of Winton in the north to US Highway 13 at Powellsville in the south. Five alternatives are under consideration: Alternatives 12 and 19 follow NC Highway 11 to the west of Ahoskie before following new location corridors for their southern halves. Alternatives 1, 2, and 2a utilize mostly new location to bypass Ahoskie to the east. Proposed cross sections for all alternatives are two twelve-foot lanes in each direction separated by a forty-six-foot median. Proposed right-of-way for all alternatives is 300 feet. This project has state funding (WBS Project No. 34382) and federal funding (Federal Aid No. STPNHF-13(8)).

Purpose of Survey and Report

The purpose of the project is to improve traffic flow and levels of service on US 13 in the project study area, improve regional travel along the US 13 Intrastate corridor, and improve infrastructure to help facilitate economic development.

NCDOT conducted a survey and compiled this report in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE) as part of the environmental studies performed by NCDOT and documented by an Environmental Assessment (EA). This report is prepared as a technical appendix to the EA and as part of the documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Section 106 of the NHPA requires that if a federally funded, licensed, or permitted project has an effect on a property listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given an opportunity to comment. This report is on file at NCDOT and is available for review by the public.

Methodology

NCDOT conducted the survey and prepared this report in accordance with the provisions of FHWA Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents); the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 800; 36 CFR Part 60; and Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines for Historic Architectural Resources by NCDOT. This survey and report meet NCDOT and the National Park Service guidelines.

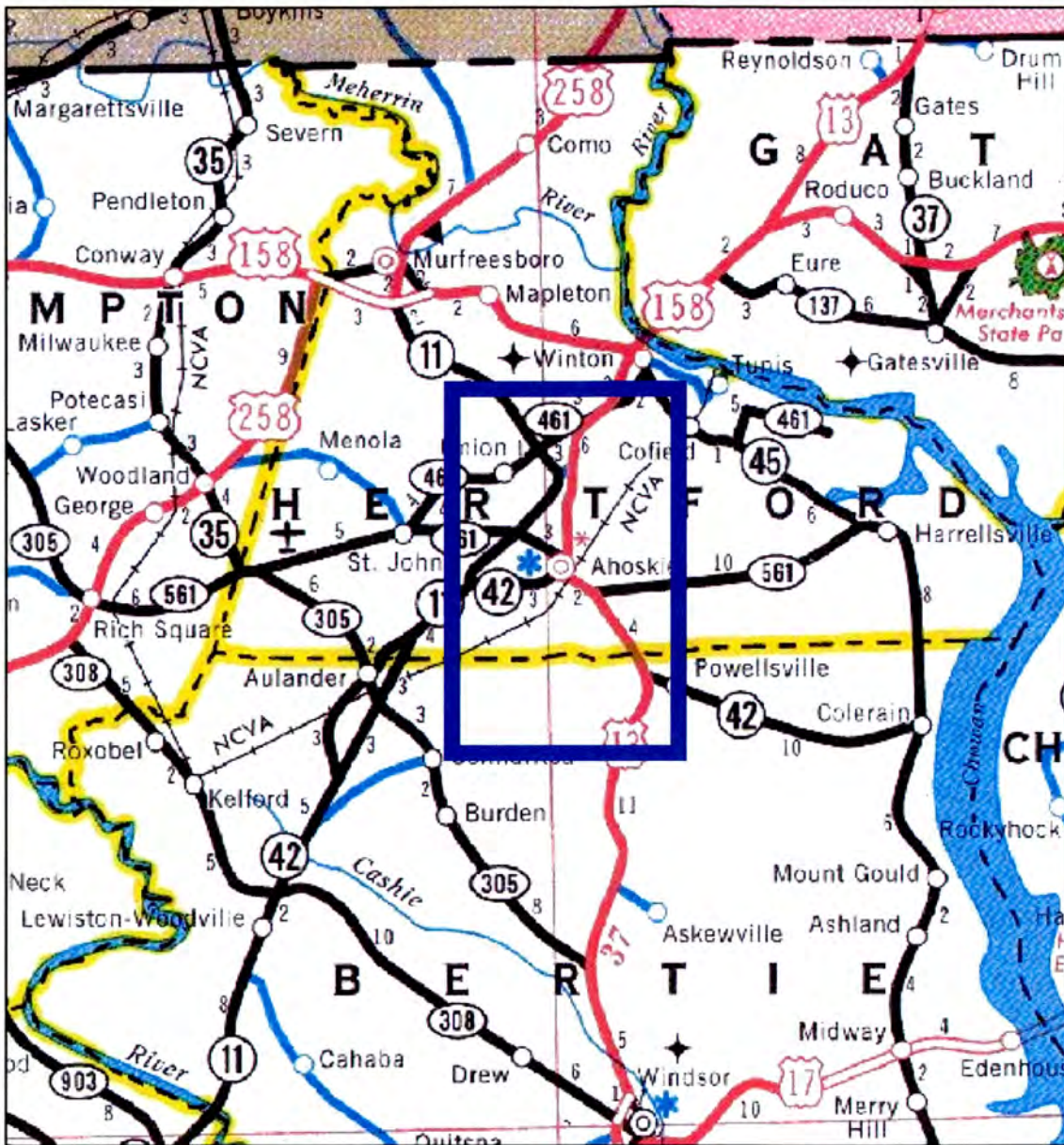
NCDOT conducted a Final Identification and Evaluation survey with the following goals: 1) to determine the APE, defined as the geographic area or areas within which a project may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist; 2) to identify all significant resources within the APE; and 3) to evaluate these resources according to the National Register of Historic Places criteria. The APE boundary is shown in Figures 1 and 2.

In 1992, NCDOT completed a report documenting the historic resources within this project's APE. That report was revised in 1994 and finalized in 1995. NCDOT completed an EA in 1996 followed by a FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) in 1997. Prior to right-of-way acquisition, NCDOT decided to restart the project study and complete the project through the merger process. Because additional alternatives had been developed and the original architectural survey report was over a decade old, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC-HPO) recommended that NCDOT undertake a new historic architectural survey. In February 2008, NCDOT engineers requested environmental input, which resulted in this report.

On February 19 and 20, 2008, NCDOT historians surveyed the entire APE in a vehicle and on foot. Every property in the APE greater than fifty years of age was photographed and documented. On March 10, 2008, historians submitted the survey results to NC-HPO. At that meeting, NC-HPO representative Renee Gledhill-Earley requested a survey report to study and evaluate seven properties: the William Mitchell House (listed in the National Register, #66 on Figure 3) and three other resources that may be related to it (#s 67, 68, and 89 on Figure 3), the VIP Motel and Club Complex along SR 1415 just northeast of Ahoskie (#33 and #34 on Figure 3), and the William and Elizabeth Jernigan House to the south of Ahoskie (#83 on Figure 3).

This report recommends that the William Mitchell House remain eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, the Newsome-Hall House was determined eligible in 1995, and it remains eligible for listing. This report also recommends that the following properties are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places: the Properties Potentially Associated with the William Mitchell House, the VIP Complex, and the Jernigan House.

Background research was conducted at the following archival repositories: the State Library of North Carolina and the North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina; the Hertford County Register of Deeds, Winton, North Carolina; and the North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Individuals who contributed guidance and helpful information include Patsy Jernigan Joyner, Herbert Gordon, Jr., Phyllis Pillmon, and Voidy Pillmon.

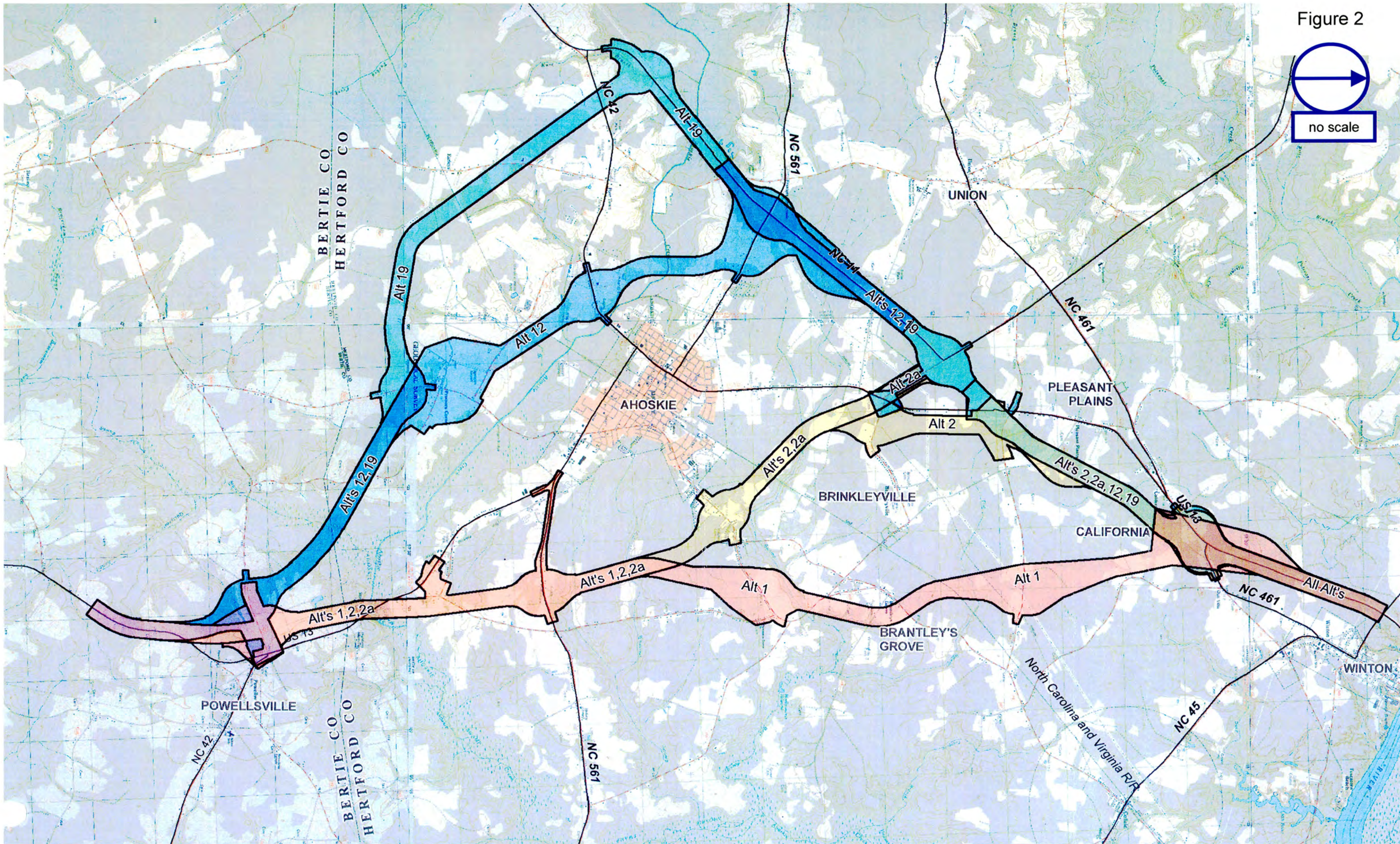


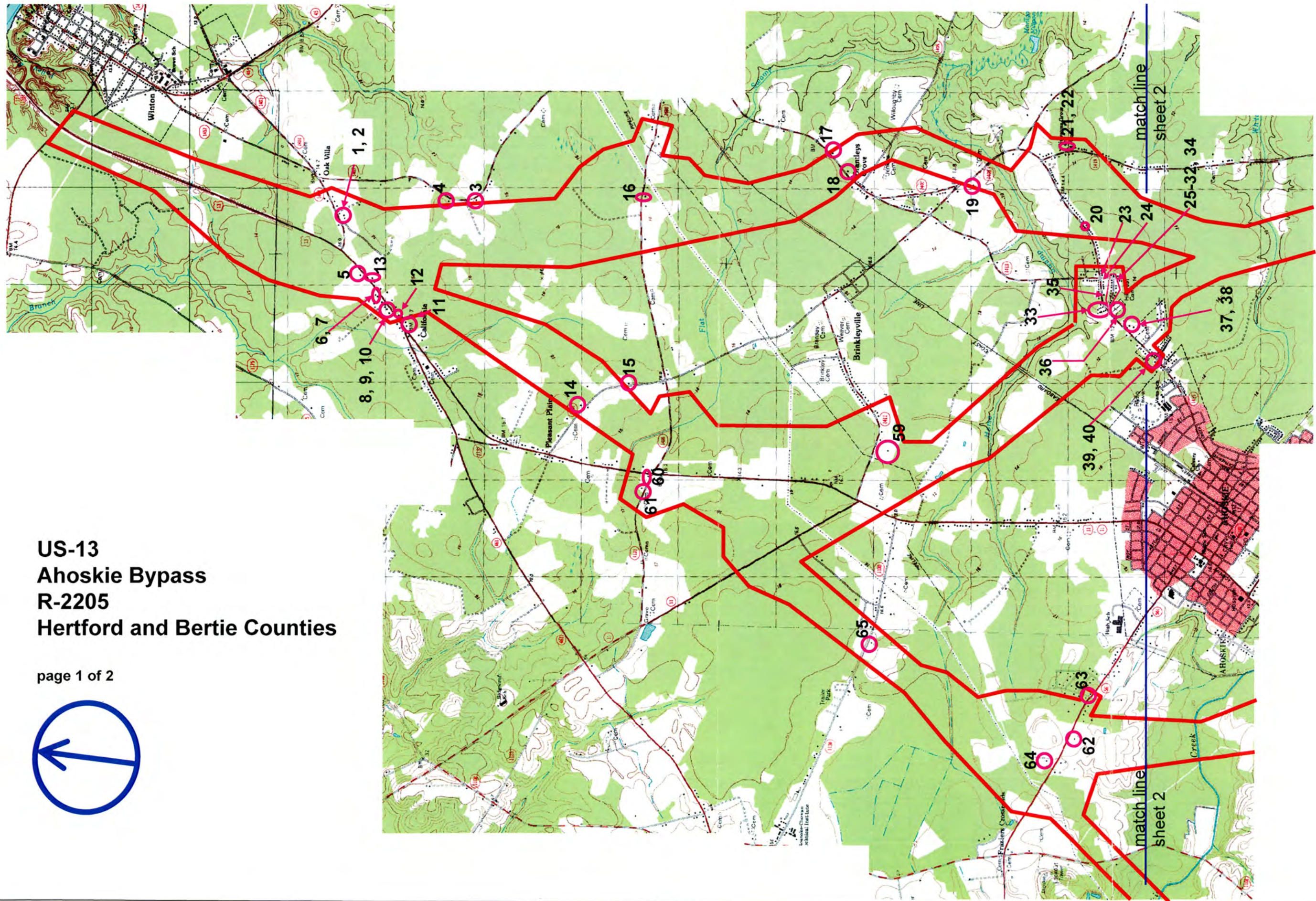
R-2205 Vicinity Map
Figure 1



R-2205, Ahoskie Bypass
Hertford and Bertie Counties
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Historic Architecture Group

Figure 2

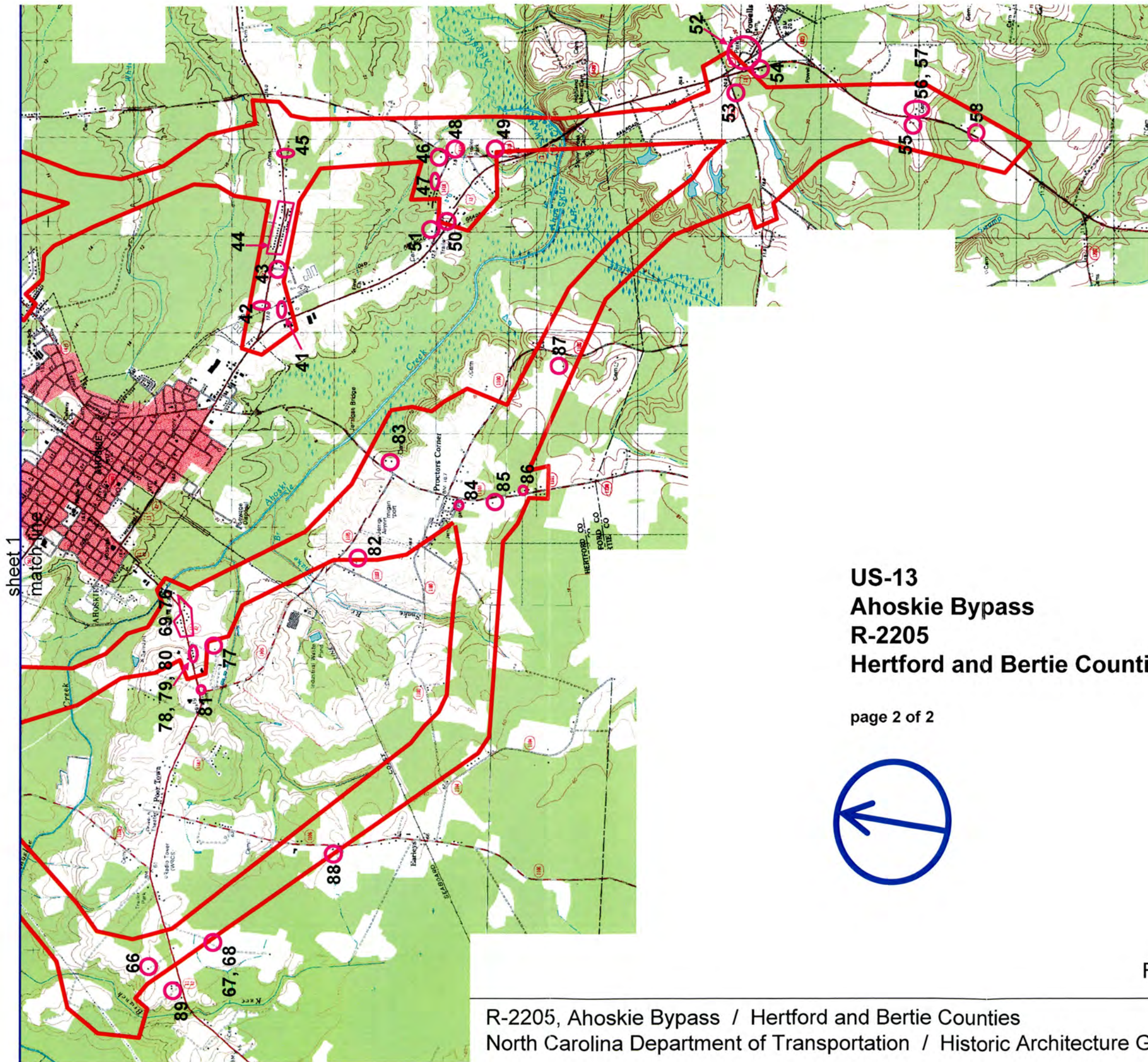




**US-13
Ahoskie Bypass
R-2205
Hertford and Bertie Counties**

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**US-13
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Figure 3, sheet 2



Summary of Survey Findings

Properties Determined Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (DOE)
Newsome-Hall House (HF 623, DOE 1994, property # 60 on Figure 3)

Properties Listed in the National Register of Historic Places
William Mitchell House (HR 5, NR 1972, property # 66 on Figure 3)

Properties Listed on the North Carolina State Study List
None

Locally Designated Properties
None

Properties Evaluated and Recommended Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
None

Properties Evaluated and Recommended Not Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
VIP Motel and Club Complex (properties #33 and #34 on Figure 3)
Properties Potentially Associated with the William Mitchell House (properties #67, #68, and #89 on Figure 3)
William and Elizabeth Jernigan House (property #83 on Figure 3)

Location and Description

R-2205's project area, located in central and southern Hertford County and northern Bertie County, is about 14.1 miles in length. The area is rural and the terrain is flat. Timberland, wetlands, small creeks and cultivated fields comprise the APEs, which are drawn to follow four corridors. The APEs split (two to the west and two to the east) to skirt the town of Ahoskie. Although the APEs have seen some development, they remain rural, populated by small farms, tenant houses, larger turn-of-the-twentieth-century I-houses, churches, and crossroad stores. Local traffic is minimal, but transfer trucks use NC 11, NC 42, and US 13 to travel between US 64 to the south and US 158 to the north.

Historic Context

For a general discussion of the history and historic architecture within this project's APE, please see the 1995 Historic Architectural Resources Report prepared by Laura A. W. Phillips for R-2205, attached to this report as Appendix C. Specific historic and architectural contexts are provided for each of the evaluated properties within this report.

Properties Determined Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (DOE)

Property Evaluation: Newsome-Hall House (NC-HPO Survey Site Number HF 623; DOE 1994)

Property # 60 on the APE Map, Figure 3

This farm was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1995 during an earlier environmental review of R-2205. No changes to the property or to the site have occurred since that time. Thus, the following description is mostly taken from the 1995 Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, TIP No. R-2205, written by architectural historian Laura Phillips.

Location

The Newsome-Hall House is sited on the west side of US Highway 13 at its intersection with SR 1131 (Saluda Hall Road), in Hertford County's Pleasant Plains community.

Description and Historic Context

The Newsome-Hall House is a two-story, T-plan frame house dramatically enhanced by Queen Anne-style elements. Although the rear of the house reflects a typical farmhouse form of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries—three bays wide with side gables, a gable-end brick chimney, and a one-story rear ell—the overall appearance of the house is transformed by the center front projecting wing with its wrap-around porch. This feature ties the house to the often flamboyant architectural expressions of the turn of the twentieth century. The front wing continues the boxed eaves with cornice returns and the two-over-two sash windows of the rest of the house. A two-story bay window with a polygonal roof projects from the front gable end. The most unusual feature of the house is the symmetrical one-story porch. Supported by Tuscan columns, it wraps around the entire front wing, with a central pedimented entrance bay and a gazebo-like pavilion at each corner, each with a polygonal roof topped by a finial. The interior, although not available for inspection is said to be little changed, with original mantels and stair. Alterations to the house include aluminum siding, which has obscured some architectural details, such as window and door surrounds, although part of the decorative front-gable shingles are visible. There is also the addition of a one-story wing on the north side, and rear ell porch's enclosure.

Several outbuildings accompany the Newsome-Hall House on its corner tract of approximately 2.8 acres. North of the rear ell stands the frame smokehouse with its batten doors and flanking sheds. Directly west of the smokehouse is a brick structure, plastered on the inside, where sweet potatoes and other foods which needed to be stored in a cool place were kept. West of the house stand two frame structures—a deteriorated storage shed and an equipment shed with a large opening on the east side. Directly southwest of the rear ell is the two-bay frame garage. West of the garage and facing SR 1131 is the one-story frame store building. It has a central weatherboarded section with gable end facing the road and with a double-leaf door flanked by windows. Attached to either side is a board-and-batten shed. The store originally stood on the corner next to the house but was later moved to its present site. Landscape features include a fish pond northeast of

the house, a circular driveway on the south side of the house, woods north of the house beyond the yard, and woods and a field behind (west of) the house and outbuildings. Farther west along the south side of SR 1131, but not on the house tract, is the Newsome family cemetery.

Although the house is commonly associated with the eponymous (Mrs.) Saluda Hall, who lived there for most of her life (she died in 1972, after which time SR 1131 took her name), it was originally the home of Mrs. Hall's father and mother, William David ("W. D.") and Alice Newsome. The house derives its primary significance from its association with W. D. Newsome (1822-1916). He was a free black with multiple talents exercised during the entire second half of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century. Immediately after the Civil War, Newsome was an educator. In 1865 he taught private school and Sunday school in Murfreesboro. When a school was built in 1866 at Pleasant Plains, Newsome was the first teacher. In 1868 he taught in the Winton district as a county-paid teacher. W. D. Newsome's most striking roll was as a public office holder during Reconstruction years. From 1868 to 1870 he served as a county commissioner in Hertford County. Then from 1870 to 1872, he was a state legislator in the House of Representatives. After 1872 Newsome continued his other roles as farmer and businessman. He operated a country store next to his house and owned commercial property in Ahoskie, including the brick building at 119 North Railroad Street (in the National Register historic district), which was built in 1905.

Newsome was one of several free blacks in the community known as Pleasant Plains after the Civil War. Approximately ten miles in length, extending from present-day Ahoskie (founded 1893) to Winton on the Chowan River, Meherrin Indian Americans, free African-American artisans and small farmers, and white farmers comprised Pleasant Plains' multi-ethnic rural settlement, with "free persons of color" in the majority. Hertford County's antebellum free African-American population was the third largest in the state, the other two counties being Craven County, where free blacks lived in relatively urban surroundings, working as artisans and tradesmen; and Pasquotank County, which, like Hertford's neighboring Northampton County, had early Quaker settlements of which African Americans were, to some degree, a part.¹ Smaller comparable multi-ethnic communities in the Albemarle, such as Bertie County's Pell Mell Pocosin (also known as Askewville, near the Hertford County border), were more hardscrabble, lacking the stability of the Pleasant Plains area.²

¹ Thomas Butchko, *On the Shores of the Pasquotank* (Elizabeth City, NC: Museum of the Albemarle, 1989), p. 14; Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, *North Carolina: The History of a Southern State* (University of North Carolina Press, 1954), p. 127; Laura Phillips, R-2205 1995 report, pp. 25-26; David Cecelski, "Marvin Tupper Jones: Pleasant Plains" (interview), *The News & Observer* (Raleigh, NC), July 8, 2007, p. 6D. Phillips says that Pleasant Plains extends twelve miles, Cecelski says nine, but otherwise both offer complementary historical background.

² K. Paul Johnson, *Pell Mellers: Race and Memory In A Carolina Pocosin* (Palm Coast, FL: Backintyme, 2008), pp. 13-15, 19-21.

National Register Evaluation

The Newsome-Hall House is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (event) for Black Ethnic Heritage. *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 History or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. 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 Newsome-Hall House retains integrity of location, as it stands on its original site. It is further complemented by its integrity of setting, as period outbuildings—a potato house, smokehouse, garage, and storage buildings—remain in their original locations behind the house, as well as the house's orientation to US Highway 13, the main thoroughfare of the Pleasant Plains community and part of an older road linking the area to Windsor (south) and Suffolk (north), Virginia, an important regional hub. Although integrity of materials was compromised with the twentieth-century addition of aluminum siding, the form of the house was not compromised, nor was the singular porch with its small gazebo bays, and there is indication that the distinctive sawtooth gable shingles, seen at the exposed section, may still be extant under the replacement covering. Integrity of workmanship, similarly compromised by the replacement siding, is nonetheless still visible from the house's form and decoration, particularly the porches. These convey well into the integrity of feeling, placing Newsome-Hall's Queen Anne style decoration as exemplary of mass-produced embellishments increasingly available to the rural middle class during the nineteenth century's final quarter, and the status of this dwelling in Pleasant Plains. Integrity of association—this was the home of a prominent African-American legislator, educator, and farmer, W. D. Newsome, and the house's appearance nearly all took place during his lifetime and home tenure—is equally strong as integrity of feeling.

The Newsome-Hall House has an equally strong association with the African American ethnic heritage of Hertford County, being one of the principal dwellings of the Pleasant Plains community, a post-Civil War settlement with roots in the multi-ethnic, eighteenth-century village of Archertown, established on nearby Wiccacon Creek; according to locals, Archertown's inhabitants—free persons of color, Meherrin Indians, and whites—formed the future Pleasant Plains settlement.³ Newsome's choice of Queen Anne style decoration, whether by default or conscious choice, resounded in other neighboring African American communities, one example being the Daniel Sharp House in nearby Harrellsville. Sharp, a freed slave, decorated his Quebec Road dwelling in the 1880s with a gabled porch embellished by fanciful shingles, a more vernacular version of Newsome's house.⁴ Conjecturally, the Queen Anne style's form and decoration could be seen as a step away from more traditional house forms and an indication of new socio-economic status for African Americans in the period between emancipation and Jim Crow.

³ Cecelski, "Marvin Tupper Jones," *The News & Observer*, July 8, 2007.

⁴ Penne Smith, National Register Nomination for Harrellsville Historic District (Hertford County, NC), 1996 (Unpublished Manuscript: Survey and Planning File Archives, NC-HPO, Raleigh, NC), Section 7, p. 26.

The Newsome-Hall House is **eligible** for the National Register 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 represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.* The Newsome-Hall House is eligible under Criterion B because of its specific association with William David (W. D.) Newsome. As a free black who participated in Reconstruction politics in North Carolina and as a prominent farmer, businessman, and educator in the black community, Newsome occupied a significant place in the black ethnic heritage of Hertford County. His last home, the only one known to survive, reflects through its location, size and flamboyant styling Newsome's prominent position in the community.

The Newsome-Hall House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.* Despite the home's florid exterior decoration, the house's design does not meet the threshold of possessing high artistic value, representing the work of a master or embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that Criterion C demands.

The Newsome-Hall House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (potential to yield information). *For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contributing to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.* The Newsome-Hall House is unlikely to yield previously unknown information important to our understanding of history.

Boundary Description and Justification

The Newsome-Hall House was determined eligible for the National Register in 1995 during an environmental review of R-2205. The house and the boundary as described in 1995 remain eligible for the National Register. The boundary follows the parcel lot line for the 2.8-acre parcel identified by Hertford County PIN 5994-48-0977 and highlighted on the following tax map.

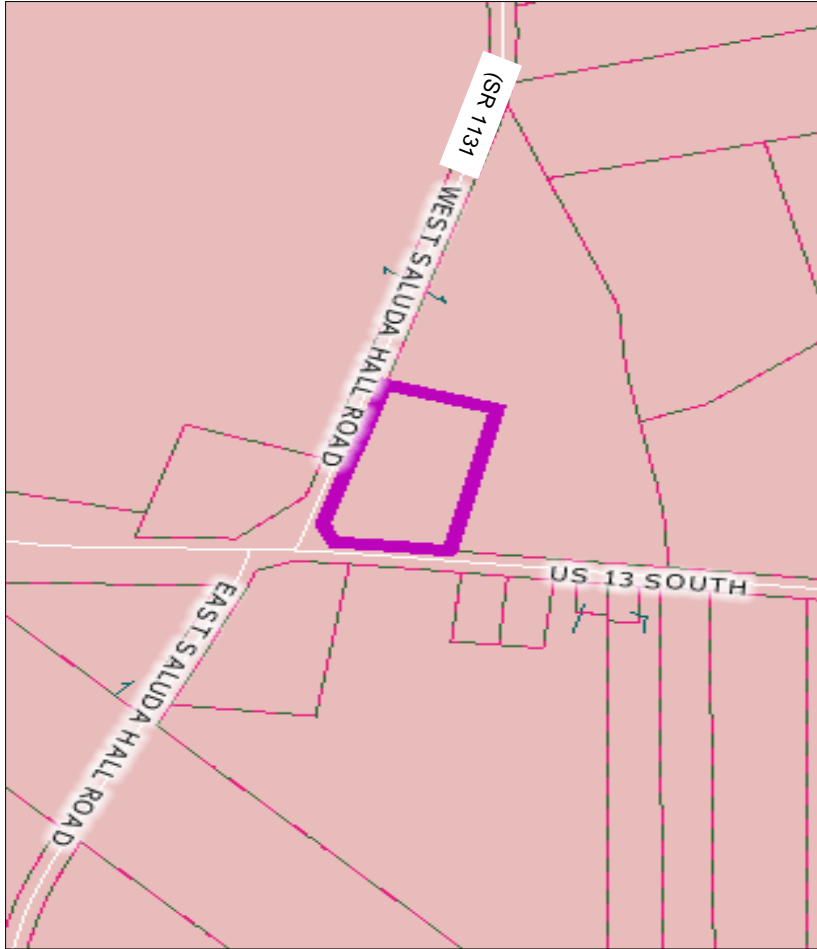
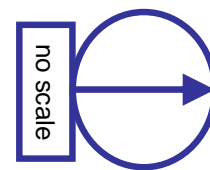
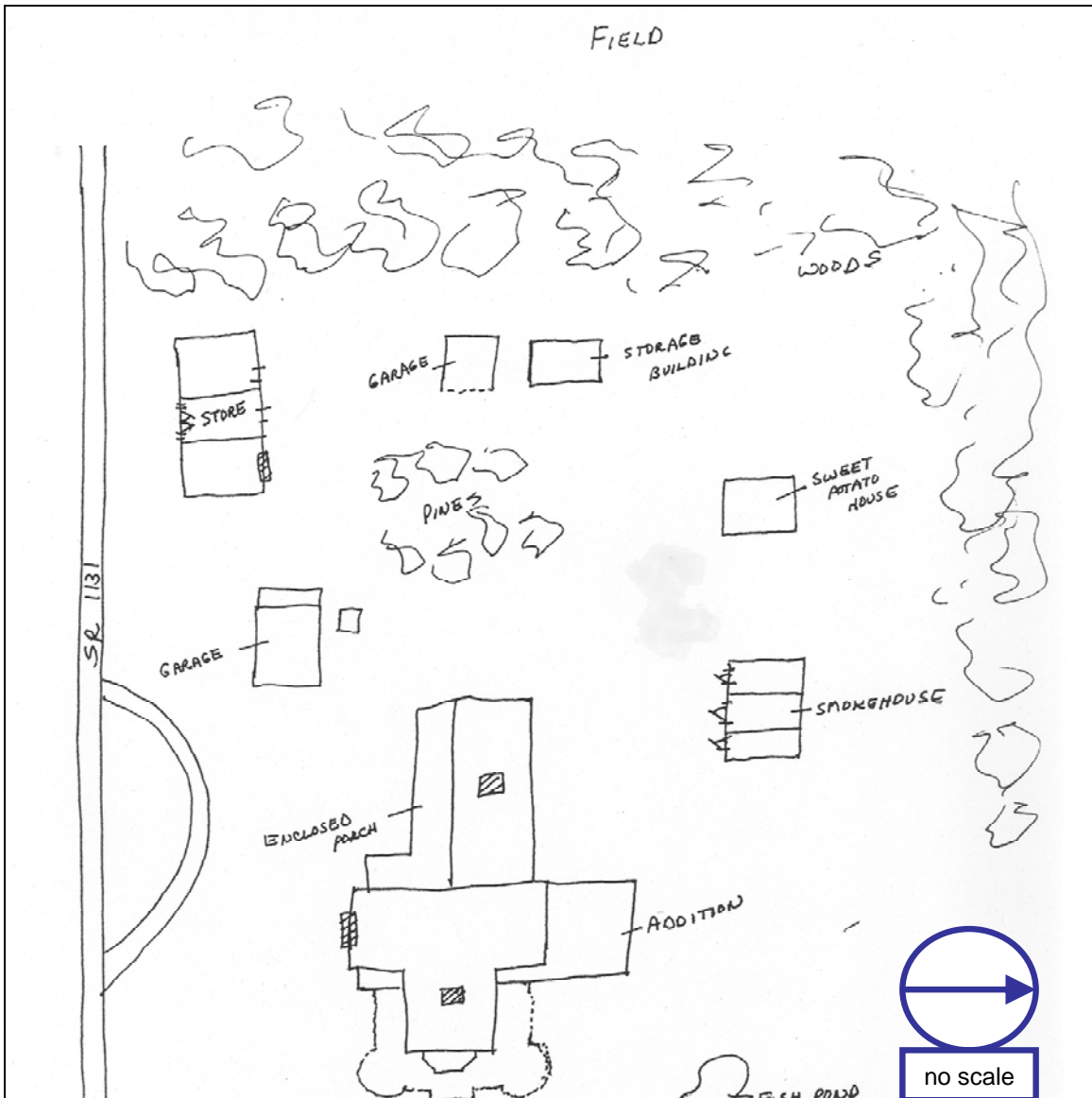


Figure 4: Newsome-Hall House National Register Eligible Boundary
Hertford County Tax Parcel, PIN 5994-48-0977



R-2205, Ahoskie Bypass
Hertford and Bertie Counties
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Historic Architecture Group



**Figure 5:
Newsome-Hall House Site Plan**

Drawn by Laura A. W. Phillips, R-2205
Architectural Resources Report, 1995

R-2205, Ahoskie Bypass
Hertford and Bertie Counties
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Historic Architecture Group





Above: Newsome-Hall House (DE). Sarah David, NCDOT, 2008

Properties Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

Property Evaluation: William Mitchell House (NC-HPO Survey Files Number HF 5; NR)

Property # 66 on the APE Map, Figure 3

The William Mitchell House was listed in the National Register in 1972. No changes to the property or to the site have occurred since that time. Thus, the following abridged description, historic context, and evaluation were extracted from that nomination, which the Survey and Planning Unit of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History wrote.

Location

544 NC Highway 42 (north side of NC Highway 42, 0.3 mile east of NC Highway 11)

Property Description

The William Mitchell House is a Federal farmhouse set amid a grove of large trees in the flat coastal plain farmland of Hertford County. Near the house, which is approached by a long, straight dirt road flanked by cultivated fields (uncultivated as of 2008), are a number of well-preserved early frame outbuildings, including an office, schoolhouse, carriage house, and smokehouse. The dwelling is a two-story, L-shaped structure of frame covered with plain weatherboards. The house, which rests on brick piers recently infilled with concrete blocks, is covered by a shallow gable roof of standing-seam metal. At each end of the front section and at the rear of the ell is a single-shoulder brick chimney with stepped weatherings and a molded cap. That on the west is of one-to-five common bond; the other two have no regular bonding pattern.

The main front (south) section of the house is five bays wide and two deep; the ell extends three bays to the rear, covering the two east bays of the main block's rear elevation. There are a number of one-story additions. Attached to the east side of the front section is a small, one-story, two-bay wing covered by a gable roof. To the rear of this, adjoining the ell is another, earlier gable-roof wing with a rear shed porch. It was originally a separate kitchen building. The two wings are joined by a flat-roof enclosed porch. Occupying the northwest corner between the main front section and the ell are two one-story shed additions; they extend across the rear elevation of the front section and cover all but the rear bay of the ell.

The exterior finish of the two-story house is simple and handsome, having traditional Federal proportions but using some Greek Revival elements. The windows, which contain nine-over-nine sash at the first level and nine-over-six at the second, have symmetrically molded frames with plain cornerblocks and sills. The eaves are finished with a box cornice. The central front entrance is sheltered by a pedimented porch. Four paneled pillars, square in section, with molded caps, support a plain entablature. Similar pilasters occur on the façade at the ends of the porch. A heavy molded cornice frames the flush-sheathed tympanum. The porch is enclosed by a balustrade of thin square balusters between plain rounded rails, and the ceiling has long flat panels. The entrance consists of

a wide single door beneath a transom. This opening is framed by a symmetrically molded architrave with plain cornerblocks at the upper corners of door and transom; the lintel above the door is fluted. The door has seven raised panels: the arrangement is like that of a normal six-panel door, except that a narrow horizontal panel separates the two lower pairs of panels.

The small frame office and schoolhouse are identical, and both retain their step-shoulder chimneys and mantels similar to those in the main building. The smokehouse and carriage house are simple frame structures.

Historic and Architectural Context

The Mitchell House was built by William W. Mitchell, probably around the time of his marriage to Martha C. Williford in 1832. Family tradition has it that Mitchell selected the timber and supervised the building, but left the finishing of the house to a slave. The first Mrs. Mitchell died soon after their marriage, and Mitchell subsequently married twice.

That his offspring included four daughters partly serves to explain his interest in establishing a good school in the area. A devout Baptist and a believer in education, Mitchell was one of a small group of men who met in 1848 and agreed to found Chowan Female Institute. He was serving as the second chairman of its board of trustees when the board decided in 1863 to take over the operation of the school from William Hooper. Hooper, son of one of North Carolina's signers of the Declaration of Independence, was a distinguished educator and scholar, but his anti-secessionist views were apparently unacceptable to the board during this time of war. In 1868 Mitchell sustained the school during a financial crisis when he acted as chairman of a group of stockholders who purchased it. The school has since become Chowan College, a respected regional institution.

When William Mitchell died in 1897 the home tract of 1,117 acres was divided among four of his children with Bettie Mitchell Vann, his youngest daughter, being allotted 200 acres and the dwelling house. The Mitchell House has remained in the family and is now owned by Edith Winborne Gordon, Mitchell's great-granddaughter. Mrs. Gordon and her husband, Dudley Gordon, have carefully restored the house, which is now in excellent condition.

In an update to the 1972 National Register nomination, please note that the current owner is Dudley Gordon, Edith Winborne Gordon's widower.

National Register Evaluation

The William Mitchell House retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting and feeling. Although it retains elements of its association, most of its association with agricultural history has been lost because the land immediately around the house is no longer farmed.

The William Mitchell House is **not eligible** for the National Register 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 History or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. 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.* Although the William Mitchell House retains historic outbuildings, the land around it is mostly grassy fields and timberland. Thus, the house has lost its physical association with agricultural history.

The William Mitchell House is **not eligible** for the National Register 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 represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.* While William Mitchell was an active booster of Chowan College, his significance does not meet the threshold that Criterion B requires.

The William Mitchell House is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.* The William Mitchell House is a well-preserved example of the Federal-Greek Revival dwellings built for the area's successful farmers in the first half of the nineteenth century. It also may be an example of the work of Drew Hollomon, a free black carpenter who probably built the near-by James Newsome House.

The William Mitchell House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (potential to yield information). *For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contributing to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.* The William Mitchell House is not likely to yield previously unknown information about our history or prehistory.

Boundary Description and Justification

The William Mitchell House boundary originally included twenty acres. However, a larger boundary that includes more of the open land around the house is warranted. While the house is not eligible for its association with agriculture and the land around the house is no longer cultivated, the open fields are important to the building's historic setting. Therefore, the proposed revised boundary is marked on the following map. The boundary

includes 47.27 acres of the 159.17-acre parcel (Hertford County PIN 5972-77-3428) on which the house stands. The southeast boundary (along NC Highway 42) and the southwest boundary both follow a portion of the parcel lot line.

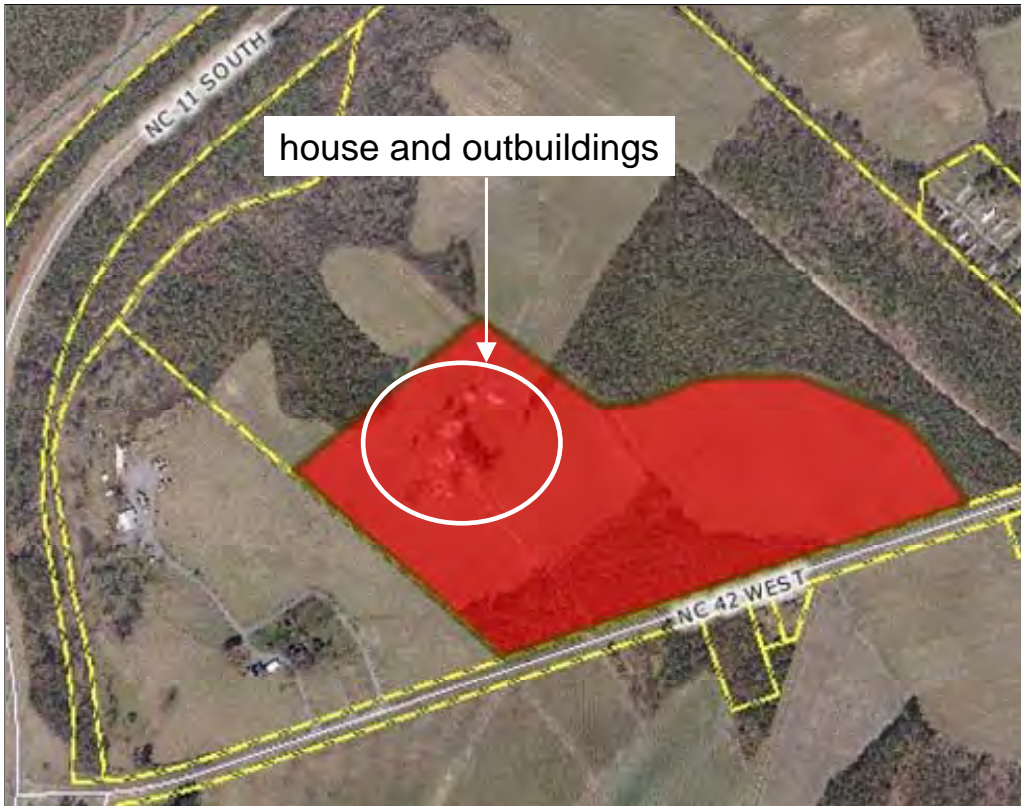
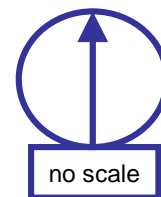


Figure 6:
William Mitchell House Proposed Revised Boundary
portion of Hertford County Tax Parcel, PIN 5972-77-3428

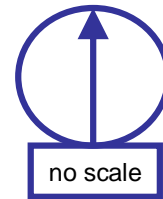


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Figure 7: William Mitchell House Site Plan
 portion of Hertford County Tax Parcel, PIN 5972-77-3428

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| A main house | E barn |
| B school | F garage |
| C office | G modern outbuildings |
| D smokehouse | |



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Above: William Mitchell House (NR). Sarah David, NCDOT, 2008.

Properties Evaluated and Recommended Not Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

Property Evaluation: VIP Motel and Club Complex

Properties #33 and #34 on the APE Map, Figure 3

Location

Northwest and southeast sides of Catherine Creek Road (SR 1415) at its intersection with VIP Road

Property Description

The VIP Motel and Club Complex consists of the former VIP Motel, the former VIP Club, and a group of ten one-story cottages. The cottages and the motel are situated on the northwest side of Catherine Creek Road; the club stands across the road to the southeast.

The former VIP Club is a one-story, frame building sheathed by running bond ribbon brick veneer with header brick coursing that details window sills and upper gables. Its form consists of two parallel, gable-front wings connected by a flat-roof section. The building follows the Minimal Traditional style of employing traditional forms, such as gabled roofs, with minimal embellishments; decoration, if any, is limited to applied features such as the uniform aluminum awnings over single and paired window openings and the recessed center entrance's Formstone sheathing. This entrance, pierced by two horizontal-light windows flanking a single paneled door, is sheltered by a shed roof porch linking the gabled bays. Decorative ironwork posts nominally support the porch. Paired windows and a narrow rake molding finish the gable-front wings' facades. Side elevations feature single horizontal-light windows.

Across the street, the VIP Motel is a one-story, brick and stucco building. Like the VIP Club, the motel has two parallel gable-front wings between which a side-gable hyphen runs. Both gable-front facades feature gabled stoops with decorative iron posts sheltering a single-leaf door. Two single leaf doors flanked by windows are located in the hyphen's façade. The hyphen is covered in brick veneer while stucco covers the gable-front wings. Some six-over-six sash windows remain, but most windows are boarded over.

Situated immediately southwest of the VIP Motel are the VIP Cottages, a group of ten identical concrete-block side-gable dwellings comparable to roadside tourist cabins of the day. All cottages, apparently built upon a concrete slab, feature an asymmetrical, three-bay façade with a single-leaf door in the middle bay, which is sheltered by a gabled bracket; below each door is a raised concrete stoop. Some doors have six lights above two vertical panels; others feature traditional four-panel configurations. Most windows contain six-over-six, double-hung sash, although some are boarded up. A short gabled ell extends off the back of each building. Exposed rafter tails extend beyond the asphalt-shingle roofs and weatherboards pierced by small louvered vents finish the gable ends. A brick chimney flue rises through the roof of each building.

Historic and Architectural Context

The VIP Motel and Club Complex comprises the VIP Motel, the VIP Club, and a group of 1950s concrete block cottages. Because this entity has been under the ownership of Sam Pillmon and his heirs since 1968, it is called the VIP Complex based on the name given to the motel and club by Mr. Pillmon himself. The buildings, however, predate Mr. Pillmon's ownership.

The oldest building is the VIP Club. The land on which the club stands was part of a larger early twentieth-century farm known as the R. H. Jernigan-Morton Tract. Jernigan, an Ahoskie merchant, was the son of Thomas R. Jernigan, who was, first, the American Consul to Japan from 1885 to 1889, and then the American Consul to China, 1895-1899; the younger Jernigan, born in Japan, spent most of his life in rural Hertford County.⁵ The tract, initially platted as Catherine Creek Subdivision, was later called Catherine Heights, which was marketed for sale at auction in 1947 as "Ahoskie's Exclusive Colored Development"; an African American cemetery adjacent to the subdivision plat suggests that African Americans were already living in the area. In published advertisements, auction realtors promoted the subdivision as ideal "for the colored people to buy one or more desirable building sites where they will not have to pay town taxes," adding that lots would be large enough to accommodate raising chickens and/or a vegetable garden.⁶

Grady Lee Chamblee acquired one of the VIP Club's future lots in 1947 and the other one in 1952. Chamblee then built the Chesterfield Club on these two sites, operating it as a club until the 1960s. After the Chesterfield Club property passed through two more owners, it went into foreclosure, and local Ahoskie merchant Sam Pillmon bought the property at auction in 1968. Mr. Pillmon extensively remodeled the building, adding brick and Formstone, and opened it as the VIP Club. The Pillmons ran it as a music and supper club from the end of the 1960s until well into the 1980s. The VIP Club's twenty-plus-year-tenure attests to the tenacity of Jim Crow in this northeastern North Carolina community well past the Civil Rights programs (HeadStart, VISTA, Community Action) that came to Hertford County in the 1960s; it remained a place for African Americans to freely socialize. After 1989, other operators leased the VIP Club from the Pillmons for the last decade of its existence, but the club closed in the 1990s. Today, the Pillmons still own the property.⁷

⁵ U. S. Bureau of Census, 1920 Population Schedule for Ahoskie Township, Hertford County; Benjamin B. Winborne, *The Colonial and State Political History of Hertford County, North Carolina* (Murfreesboro, NC: Private Printing, 1906), pp. 242-243.

⁶ Advertisement, *Hertford County Herald* (Ahoskie, NC), March 13, 1947. Two lots were to be offered free, one for the "Most Popular Preacher" and the other for "The Most Popular Teacher" in the area.

⁷ R.H. and Jessie G. Jernigan to Grady Lee Chamblee, November 6, 1947, Hertford County Deed Book 160, page 119; Henry and Ella Thomas to Grady Lee Chamblee, October 29, 1952, Hertford County Deed Book 194, page 42; T.E. Ward, highest bidder at auction, transferred to Sam Pillmon, October 11, 1968, Hertford County Deed Book 328, page 31; Phyllis Pillmon, interview with author, April 10, 2008; and *Hertford County Herald*, March 13, 1947.

The VIP Motel was also acquired by Sam Pillmon in 1968, but it too has a longer history. Originally, the building was Miss Hoggard's Rest Home, and the Hoggard family developed five of the ten cottages to the west of the motel. Like the club, the rest home and cottages were probably built in the early 1950s. By the late 1960s, the rest home had been converted into a motel. The motel hosted its last guests in 2000 or 2001.⁸

The complex's five other cottages stand on property that J. Carlton and Sallie Cherry bought in 1958 from Lela B. Patterson. Mr. Cherry is believed to have constructed the five cottages, thus the buildings were likely built around 1958. Ten years later, the Cherrys sold the cottages to Sam Pillmon.⁹

Today, a few of the ten cottages remain occupied. Historically, African American families rented them.¹⁰

Sam Pillmon (1918-1996) was a prominent, African American businessman in Ahoskie. Of an entrepreneurial bent, he operated Sam's Record Shop for over forty years as well as a drug store, dance hall, boarding house, and vending business from the 1950s until his death in 1996.¹¹ In addition to the VIP Club and Motel complex, Mr. Pillmon owned three commercial buildings on Main Street in Ahoskie, and in 1967, he purchased Chowan Beach on the Chowan River at Winton. The beach had operated as an African American resort since 1926, and the Pillmon family ran it until the early 1990s.¹²

Sam Pillmon acquired the land on which the VIP Complex stands through two transactions in 1968. The first, in October, gave him ownership of lots one and two in block A of the Catherine Heights Subdivision.¹³ This is where the VIP Club is located. The second, in December, yielded lot one of block B in Catherine Heights plus adjacent land to the west.¹⁴ The motel and cottages occupy these parcels.

National Register Evaluation

The VIP Motel and Club Complex retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling despite the effects of disuse. It is not clear if integrity of setting has been kept, given that there is no landscaping at either the cottages or the motel; the VIP Club's grounds appear to have been always used as a parking lot.

⁸ J. Carlton and Sally P. Cherry to Sam Pillmon, December 23, 1968, Hertford County Deed Book 337, page 79; and Pillmon interview.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Pillmon interview.

¹¹ Nancy Van Dolsen, National Register Nomination for East End Historic District (2008), Section 7 p. 3, and Section 8, p. 19.

¹² Ahoskie City Directories; Pillmon interview; and E. Frank Stephenson, *Chowan Beach: Remembering an African American Resort* (Charleston, SC: History Press, 2006), 95.

¹³ Thomas L. Cherry, trustee, and T.E. Ward to Sam Pillmon, October 24, 1968, Hertford County Deed Book 335, page 737.

¹⁴ J. Carlton and Sally P. Cherry to Sam Pillmon, December 23, 1968, Hertford County Deed Book 337, page 79.

The VIP Motel and Club Complex is **not eligible** for the National Register 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 History or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. 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.* Although the VIP Complex is associated with Ahoskie's African American history, it is similar to many motels, restaurants, and rental cottages scattered along roads in eastern North Carolina, particularly along US 301 in nearby Halifax and Northampton counties. 1950s-1960s motel complexes exclusively catering to African Americans are harder to find nowadays, but at least one very intact example, Cherry's Motel and Store on NC Highway 58 between Snow Hill and Stantonsburg, North Carolina, is known. Furthermore, many other businesses in Ahoskie also demonstrate an association with African American history and African American commerce. These include buildings in downtown Ahoskie and the Holloman Avenue Historic District, which was determined eligible in 1995, furthermore underscored by the 2008 addition of Ahoskie's East End Historic District to the National Register, where Sam Pillmon's Catherines Creek Road businesses and the African-American Atlantic District Fairgrounds (circa 1920-1955) are located.

The VIP Motel and Club Complex is **not eligible** for the National Register 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 represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.* Sam Pillmon and the family members who helped operate his various businesses were certainly prominent members of Ahoskie's African American community. However, Pillmon did not build the VIP Complex, and other buildings associated with his life, including his home, Chowan Beach buildings, and other downtown buildings he owned or that housed his businesses still stand.

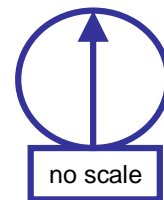
The VIP Motel and Club Complex is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.* The VIP Complex's buildings do not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; nor do they represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value. Additionally, they are not part of a historic district or a historic district unto themselves.

The VIP Motel and Club Complex is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (potential to yield information). *For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contributing to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.* The VIP Complex is not known to, or likely to, contribute information about human history or prehistory.

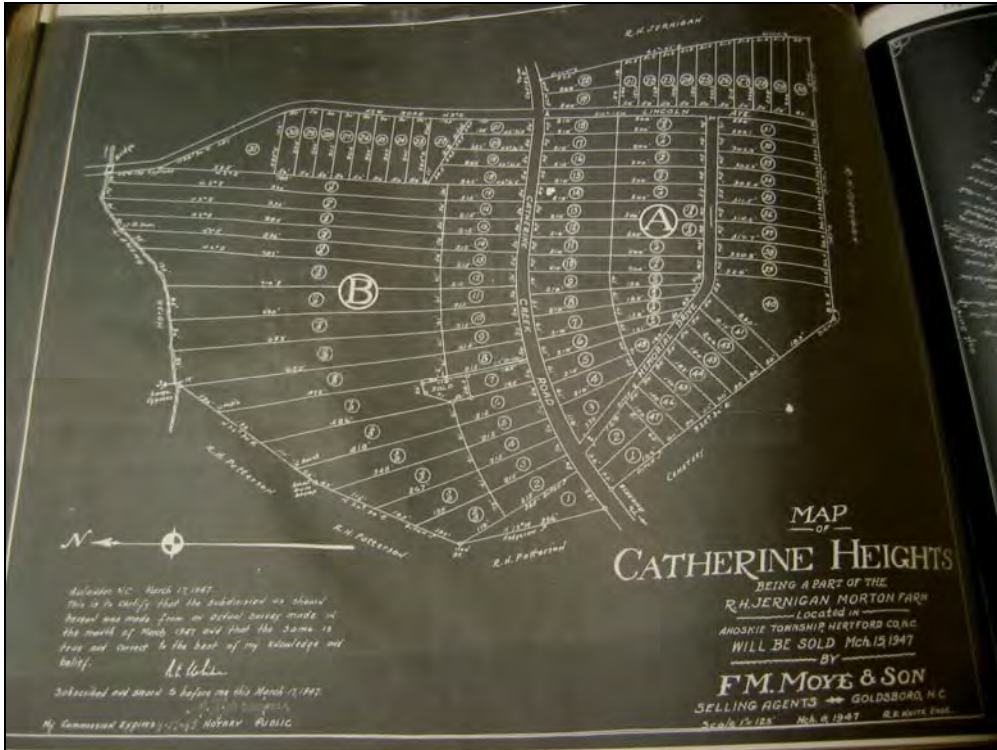


Figure 8: VIP Complex Site Plan

- A Cottages
- B VIP Motel
- C VIP Club



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Above: Plat of Catherine Heights. Hertford County Register of Deeds, Ahoskie, NC

Below: VIP Club, northwest elevation (NCDOT, 2008)





Above: VIP Club, northeast corner (2008)

Below: VIP Cottages, south elevations (2008)





Above: VIP Cottages, facing northwest

Below: VIP Motel, south elevation





Above: VIP Motel, southwest corner

Properties Evaluated and Recommended Not Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

Property Evaluation: Properties Potentially Associated with the William Mitchell House

Properties 67, 68, and 89ab on the APE Map, Figure 3

Location

Properties 67 and 68: south side of NC Highway 42, .2 mile east of NC Highway 11
Property 89: 610 NC Highway 42 (north side of NC 42, .2 mile east of NC Highway 11)

Property Description: Greek Revival Cottage (#67)

Property #67 is a one-story, hip-roof Greek Revival style cottage in ruinous condition. The three-bay, symmetrical façade features a single-left front door that is missing or not visible, flanked by windows that probably had a six-over-six sash configuration. Remnants of a collapsed porch roof are located on the ground in front of the house. A single-shoulder brick chimney on the east (side) elevation is overgrown while the west chimney is collapsed. Windows flank both chimney locations. The house retains weatherboards and narrow cornerboards that terminate at caps with narrow molding. A flat cornice and boxed eave runs around the house. A rear ell extends to the south, but it is overgrown and partially collapsed. A standing-seam metal roof shelters the building and the house appears to rest on brick piers.

Property Description: Tenant House (#68)

Property #68 is a frame tenant house standing in the field to the south of the Greek Revival cottage. The one-story, side-gable dwelling features two front doors, flush gable ends, weatherboard siding, and a partially collapsed front porch. The only remaining sash indicate that the windows contained four-over-four sash windows. Brick chimneys rise on the south gable end and from the interior of the house's north half. A shed-roof addition is located on the rear (east) elevation. Standing-seam metal roofing covers the house.

Property Description: I-house and Cottage (#89ab)

Property #89 consists of two houses. The older of the two is a two-story I-house with a gable situated on the front roof slope. Although the house retains two-over-two sash windows and molded gable returns, a number of changes were made to the building, probably in the 1920s or 1930s when the property's second house was likely constructed. Brick veneer covers the exterior, which was probably originally weatherboarded. The full-width porch is a Craftsman-style design with paired battered posts on brick piers. A second-floor balcony with single battered posts and a weatherboard balustrade is centered on the porch roof. Modern asphalt shingles cover the roof, and it appears that the house's original chimneys have been removed.

To the northeast of the I-house is a one-story, brick cottage with a steeply pitched side-gable roof. This house also features a steeply-pitched gable centered on the front roof

slope. A shed roof porch with later metal posts shelters the entrance. Small four-over-four sash windows flank the front door while larger paired four-over-four sash windows occupy the façade's outer bays. A small four-over-four attic window punctuates the front-facing gable. A chimney rises through the roof's northeast end.

Historic Context

By the time of his death in 1897, William Mitchell had amassed 1,117 acres. Mitchell had been a prominent farmer and booster of the school that became Chowan College. His home, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, stands on the north side of NC Highway 42 and was likely built at the time of his 1832 marriage.¹

Very little is known about the Greek Revival cottage (#67) and the tenant house (#68) across the road from the Mitchell House. The cottage was probably built in the 1850s or 1860s while the tenant house appears to date from the late 1800s when sharecropping and tenant farming became common. Neither deed research nor William Mitchell's great-great-grandson indicated that the building has or had a historical relationship to the William Mitchell House.²

Two houses stand next door (to the west) of the Mitchell House: a circa 1910, two-story I-house and a smaller 1940s cottage. The I-house (#89a) was most likely built by Robert A. and Pauline V. Holloman on land that Pauline inherited from her sister, Edith W. Gordon in 1910.³ Pauline and Edith were William Mitchell's granddaughters. The Hollomans built the later cottage (#89b) immediately east of the I-house for Robert's brother, known as Red. Red Holloman did not occupy the house long before moving to Kitty Hawk.⁴ By the 1950s, a caretaker occupied the cottage. The I-house appears to have been updated, possibly in the 1920s, with the addition of a Craftsman-style porch and balcony, and in the 1930s or 1940s with the addition of brick veneer to match that found on the cottage.

Architectural Context

For an in-depth discussion of Hertford County's architectural history, please see Laura Phillips' 1995 Historic Architecture Report for this project (Appendix C).

All of these properties are typical examples of common forms and styles found in northeastern North Carolina. The earliest is the one-story, hip-roof Greek Revival cottage. Such dwellings are found across the state and are basically one-story versions of the two-story, hip-roof I-house popular among middling, slave-holding farmers. Probably the most elaborate example is Verona, the mid-1860s home of Matt Ransom in

¹ North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Survey and Planning Unit Staff, "William Mitchell House," Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, 1972, section 8, page 1.

² Herb Gordon. Interview with the author, April 14, 2008.

³ 1910-1911 Division of William Mitchell Lands, Hertford County Deed Book 46, page 27.

⁴ Gordon interview.

Northampton County. Intact examples usually incorporate a full-width porch, a three-bay façade, and exterior chimneys. Most often, these cottages display Greek Revival or Italianate elements, or a combination of the two.

The tenant house probably dates to the late 1800s. Thousands of tenant houses stood across the state, reflecting the boom in tenant farming and sharecropping that occurred in the post-Civil War years. Many of these houses were built with two front doors, presumably to house two families or two generations of one family who worked an owner's land in exchange for keeping part of the crop or in some cases, in exchange for cash. It is very likely that the owners of the Greek Revival cottage built this house after the war for their tenants or sharecroppers.

The dwelling house in Property #89a is an example of a common form seen throughout the state, composed of a two-story, side-gable block with a center hall and one room per floor on either side of the hall. In the nineteenth century, this form, now commonly known as the I-house, overtook the hall-parlor plan, becoming a much-favored house plan for rural North Carolina dwellings. The I-house's heyday came in the late 1800s and early 1900s, when more farmers functioned within a cash-based economy and the industrial boom made more mass-produced sawnwork decorations readily available and accessible. As it happened, the I-house's broad façade was ripe for application of shingles, brackets, fanciful porches, and other wooden ornaments; many builders and owners took full advantage of the blank canvas.⁵

The brick-veneered cottage in Property #89b exhibits a muted application of English Cottage style elements. A subset of the more elaborate and sophisticated Tudor Revival style (itself a component of the Picturesque style), English Cottage design was popular during the 1920s and 1930s when various revival styles flourished. Typically, a house of this design and scale is more commonly seen along suburban or urban streets. It appears to have been built for a Holloman family member, presumably a Holloman son or daughter.

National Register Evaluation Greek Revival Cottage (#67)

The Greek Revival cottage retains integrity of location. It retains some of its setting, given that it stands in a cultivated field, but its immediate setting, consisting of a yard and presumably outbuildings, has been lost. It has also lost other major components of its integrity. Due to severe neglect, it has lost integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Because of a lack of outbuildings, it has also lost its association with historic farming and agriculture.

⁵ Fred Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," in *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 55 no. 4 (Dec. 1965): pp. 549-77; Michael T. Southern, "The I-House as a Carrier of Style," in *Carolina Dwelling*, ed. Doug Swaim (Raleigh, NC: NCSU School of Design, 1978), pp. 72-83

Tenant House (#68)

The Tenant House retains integrity of location and overall design. Neglect and deterioration have chipped away at the house's integrity of materials, workmanship, and feeling. While much of the house's materials remain intact, many windows are missing and other materials are decaying. Despite its location within a field, logging and a lack of outbuildings have had a negative impact on the property's integrity of association and setting.

I-house and Cottage (#89ab)

The I-house and cottage retain integrity of location, workmanship, feeling, setting, and association. The cottage also retains integrity of design and materials. The I-house retains integrity of overall design, but the addition of brick veneer has erased part of the building's integrity of design and materials.

Overall Evaluation of Properties #67, #68, and #89ab

The Properties Potentially Associated with the William Mitchell House are **not eligible** for the National Register 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 History or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. 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.* While the I-house and cottage (#89ab) do retain integrity of association, the other buildings have lost that integrity. In terms of being part of a potential boundary increase for the William Mitchell House, only property #89ab was associated historically with the Mitchell farm. Therefore, the properties to the south (#67 and #68) are not eligible for listing as part of an expanded Mitchell House boundary. Property #89ab retains its integrity of association and setting through modern farm buildings, and the houses were constructed after Mitchell's death. The Mitchell House provides a clear example of a particular architectural design and clearly meets the National Register criteria. Inclusion of Property #89ab in the Mitchell House boundary does not enhance the history of the Mitchell House nor is it appropriate given the alterations to the I-house. Furthermore, none of these properties (#67, #68, #89ab) retains enough integrity to be historically significant enough to qualify for individual listing in the National Register.

The Properties Potentially Associated with the William Mitchell House are **not eligible** for the National Register 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 represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not*

eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group. Because deed research does not indicate that the Mitchell family owned or was associated with the properties to the south of NC Highway 42 (#67, #68), these two buildings are not eligible for their association with William Mitchell. They are also not known to have associations with other historically important person or persons. While William Mitchell's house is eligible under Criterion B for its association with Mitchell, Property #89 was constructed after Mitchell's death. Additionally, Property #89ab was constructed by a descendant of William Mitchell, but Mitchell's descendants do not meet the threshold set by Criterion B.

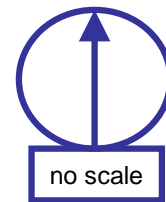
The Properties Potentially Associated with the William Mitchell House are **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.* The three properties being evaluated for inclusion in a potential expansion of the William Mitchell House National Register boundary are not eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. Properties #67 and 68 have deteriorated to the point that they no longer retain architectural integrity. The I-house (Property #89a) has undergone significant, albeit historic, alterations that do not make it a good example of any time period or style. The cottage (Property #89b) does not possess high artistic value or embody distinctive characteristics. Furthermore, Property #89ab is not eligible for listing as part of the William Mitchell House and therefore, they do not represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

The Properties Potentially Associated with the William Mitchell House are **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (potential to yield information). *For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contributing to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.* None of the Properties Potentially Associated with the William Mitchell House are known to or likely to yield important historic or prehistoric information.



Figure 9: Site Plan, Properties Potentially Associated with the William Mitchell House

- A William Mitchell House
- B Property #66, Greek Revival Cottage
- C Property # 67, Tenant House*
- D Property # 89ab, I-house and Cottage



*approximate location; house shrouded by trees at the time of this photograph



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above: Property #67, Greek Revival Cottage
below: Property #68, Tenant House





above: Property #89a, I-house
below: Property #89b, Cottage



Properties Evaluated and Recommended Not Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

Property Evaluation: William and Elizabeth Jernigan House
Property 83 on the APE Map, Figure 3

Location

East side of SR 1101 (Lee Jernigan Road) at its intersection with SR 1105 (Johnny Mitchell Road)

Property Description

The William and Elizabeth Jernigan House is a two-story I-house with a gable-front, double-tier portico projecting from the center bay. The three-bay house features four-over-one window sash that probably replaced two-over-two or six-over-six sash. The front entrance, sheltered by the portico, comprises a double-leaf door with heavily molded raised panels, sidelights above vertical raised and heavily molded panels, and a broad six-light rectangular transom surrounded by robust molding. The portico features deep gable returns, a sawnwork balustrade around the upper level, and slightly tapered full-height columns clad in vinyl siding. The door connecting the upper level of the portico to the house is a mid-twentieth century replacement with four horizontal panels. Cornerboards, located only on the front two corners, are created from long, thin molded panels situated above and below a raised lozenge applied to the cornerboard at a height just slightly above the top of the first floor windows. Above the upper panel, the cornerboard terminates at four (two on each elevation) slim sawnwork brackets. A wide, flat cornice runs along the façade, but based on a similar house nearby, the cornice probably featured sawnwork brackets originally.

A one-story ell extends to the east from the main block's rear elevation. Built in the 1920s to replace the original Jernigan dwelling, the ell has been heavily altered. Today, the exterior features a deck and small bathroom addition on the north side, an enclosed porch that runs along the main block's rear elevation and down the ell's south elevation, and a carport on the south elevation. A brick chimney flue rises from the ell's roof ridge.

Inside, the main block of the Jernigan House follows a traditional I-house plan with a central hall flanked by one room on each side of the hall on each floor. Each room features a fireplace centered on the gable end wall. On the first floor, windows flank the fireplaces; on the second floor, one window stands beside each fireplace. All four rooms in the I-house section have windows on the front elevation. The windows beside the fireplaces have narrow molded panels below their sills while the windows on the front elevation do not. Each mantelpiece is unique. Those on the first floor are no more elaborate than those on the second. All four are robustly vernacular interpretations of Queen Anne, Italianate, and Greek Revival designs, with top-heavy lintel compositions, tall plinths from which molded pilasters rise, and mantel shelves that overrun the adjacent window moldings.

The main block of the house displays a variety of doors. The double-leaf front door features two panels in each leaf with very heavy molding on the exterior and simple hand-planed raised panels on the interior. The double-leaf door connecting the back of the hall to the rear porch is similar, but here the molded panels are on the door's interior side. Doors connecting the two downstairs rooms to the hall feature five horizontal panels and probably date to the 1920s or 1930s. On the second floor, doors feature two long Greek Revival panels.

The stair in the main block rises along the hall's south wall and features a low balustrade with flat balusters. The rectangular, tapered newel post at the foot of the stair springs from the tread of the last step, accentuated by chamfering. Above a band of applied molding, the post continues up to diamond-shaped chamfers in the post's corners, commencing up to wide band of molding. Above this molding, the newel cap consists of a beveled block. The newel post at the top of the stairs is similar but less elaborate.

The rear ell has been heavily altered. It retains some original Craftsman-style windows and its beaded board ceiling, but the plan has been opened to create two rooms from the original three. Original mantelpieces in the rear ell do not survive.

Walls throughout the house are plaster with modern "popcorn" plaster on the upstairs ceiling. First floor ceilings feature original beaded board sheathing. Carpet has been laid throughout the dwelling.

Additions to the Jernigan House include a bathroom added at the rear of the upstairs hall, above the rear ell, possibly at the same time the rear ell was added in the 1920s; a small bathroom addition to the ell's north elevation, and the enclosure of part of the back porch in the 1960s to create another bathroom. The remainder of the back porch has also been enclosed and a carport has been added to the south elevation of the rear ell, beyond the porch.

The house rests on a brick pier foundation with brick infill, and asphalt shingles cover the roof.

Behind the Jernigan House are a modern outbuilding, a modern equipment shed, and a brick pump house dating from the 1920s. Farther to the east, behind the house is the family cemetery. William Jernigan's burial in 1907 is the most recent. All of the markers, except one, are standing tablets dating from the mid- and late-nineteenth century. The one exception is a square column capped with an urn memorializing Lemuel Jernigan Perry who died in 1880 at the age of seven.

Historic Context

In 1886, William Hunter and Pamela Elizabeth Newsome Jernigan added the two-story, main block of this dwelling to an earlier house.⁷ The earlier house may have been

⁷ Patsy Jernigan Joyner, telephone interview with the author, April 3, 2008.

constructed around 1800 by Miles Hunter Jernigan (1786-1843) who was probably William's grandfather. Photographs indicate that this earlier building was a one-story, hall-parlor dwelling. The house is named for William and Elizabeth (rather than Miles) because this earlier section has been removed.

The 1800 census documents Miles Jernigan in Wayne County, North Carolina, but by the time of his death in 1813, he lived in Hertford County. His son, Miles Hunter Jernigan, was born around 1786 and married Celia Roberts in 1805. Miles and Celia had at least two children, Nancy and Lemuel. Lemuel, who was born about 1808, married Mary Harrell and they had at least three children: J.H., T.R., and Mary.⁸

In 1871, T.R. and M.H. Jernigan sold to William Hunter Jernigan their interest in the Miles H. Jernigan land, which had been left to them via Miles' will. Although names are not spelled out, T.R. is Lemuel's son and Miles' grandson. No M.H. or a younger Miles Jernigan is found in the census records, but M.H. may be another son of Lemuel and grandson of Miles. The 1871 deed states that the property is where the late Miles H. Jernigan lived, indicating that there was a house already on the property; furthermore, the Confederate Engineer Bureau Map indicates a dwelling at this location in 1864. Presumably, this is the early dwelling that composed the original rear ell of the existing Jernigan House.⁹

William Hunter Jernigan's relationship to Miles Hunter Jernigan is conjectural. William is not Lemuel's son, but he is probably Miles' grandson by an undocumented son given his middle name of Hunter and his known occupation of the house during his childhood. This means William purchased his grandfather's house from his cousin T.R. and from M.H. who was most likely also William's cousin.

According to the current owner, William grew up in the earlier section of the house. His parents died at a young age and two unmarried aunts (Sarah and Betsy) raised him. The census record bares this out. William appears in the 1860 census as an eleven year old living in a household headed by J.W. Jernigan. Because William is eleven and J.W. is twenty-five, it seems unlikely that J.W. is William's father. They may be siblings, and it appears that the unmarried aunts also lived in the household. While the 1860 census does not document the familial relationships between members of households, later census records do. Thus, the 1860 census shows that J.W.'s household includes Sarah who is William's unmarried aunt, Elizabeth who is thirty-five and probably the unmarried aunt known to the current owner as Betsy, twelve-year-old Joseph who is William's brother, and two eleven-year-olds: William and his sister Florence.¹⁰

⁸ Jernigan Genealogy website, accessed on April 3, 2008 via www.southern_style.com/Jernigan%20Genealogy.htm.

⁹ T.R. and M.H. Jernigan to W.H. Jernigan, March 11, 1871, Hertford County Deed Book B, page 96, and "Maps from Confederate Engineer Bureau, Richmond, VA," North Carolina State Archives, MC 101-A.

¹⁰ Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Hertford County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, published by HeritageQuest Online accessed April 3, 2008 via <http://www.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/index>.

By 1870, William was twenty years old. He lived in a household that his aunt Sallie Jernigan (presumably Sarah in the 1860 census) heads. His sister Florence (twenty-one years old) and his brother Joseph (twenty-two years old) also lived in the household. The family's real estate was valued at \$700 and their personal property was valued at \$100. Joseph was a farmer and William was a farm laborer.¹¹

Ten years later, William heads the household as a twenty-nine-year-old farmer. His aunt Sarah is keeping house and his sister Florence, who had apparently married a Baker, also lives in the house with her four-month-old son. Four servants reside with the Jernigans: M.J. Willowby, an eighteen-year-old white female who is a servant but attends school; William Newsome, a ten-year-old African American servant and laborer; George Holloman, who is a twenty-seven-year-old white servant and laborer; and twenty-three-year-old Thomas Holloman who is also a white servant and laborer.¹²

In 1883, William married Pamela Elizabeth Newsome, and in 1886 the couple built the two-story front portion of the dwelling. According to an undated mid-twentieth century newspaper article in the possession of the current owner, Graham Holloman built the house for the Jernigans. Holloman was a prominent African American carpenter working in and around Ahoskie during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. It is unknown if he was related to Drew Holloman, the free African American builder of the William Mitchell House.¹³

William died in 1907 at the age of fifty-seven. By 1910, his widow, known as Lizzie, was forty-seven years old and lived with her children: Lee, Annie, Mimmie, Mary, and Rufus. In 1914, her son, Lee, purchased the house and thirty acres of land, and the 1920 census shows Lee and his wife Effa living on the farm with their two-month-old son, Lee Stanwood, Jr. Lizzie, Lee Sr.'s mother, did not continue living in the house with Lee and Effa; she died in 1950.¹⁴

Lee Sr. and Effa made their home in the house until their deaths. During their ownership, Lee and Effa removed the earlier ell, built a new rear ell (still extant), and likely installed the existing four-over-one Craftsman-style window sash in place of original two-over-

¹¹ Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Hertford County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, published by HeritageQuest Online accessed April 3, 2008 via <http://www.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/index>.

¹² Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Hertford County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, published by HeritageQuest Online accessed April 3, 2008 via <http://www.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/index>.

¹³ Joyner interview; Laura A. W. Phillips, "Historic Architectural Resources, R-2205, Final Report," for NCDOT, 1995, 56.

¹⁴ Joyner interview; Jernigan Genealogy website; C.H. Jernigan to L.S. Jernigan, February 26, 1914, Hertford County Deed Book 50, page 420; Thirteenth and Fourteenth Censuses of the United States, 1910 and 1920: Hertford County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, published by HeritageQuest Online accessed April 3, 2008 via <http://www.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/index>.

two or six-over-six sash. The family used the older building as a tenant house into the late 1900s; later, a cousin moved the house to his property for restoration.

Lee Jr. spent some of his adult life in the house, but he and his family eventually built their own house. He did, however, continue farming the family's land and in 1952 he built Jernigan Airport where he operated a crop dusting service until the late 1970s. According to the current owner, who is Lee Jr.'s daughter, Jernigan Airport's most famous moment came when Governor Hodges landed there for a visit to Ahoskie. The governor's local driver, however, had gone to the wrong airport, forcing the governor to hitchhike to town.¹⁵

By 1977, Lee Jr. was acting as trustee for his mother's estate and as such, he sold the house to his daughter, Patsy Jernigan Joyner, who is the current owner. Today, Mrs. Joyner lives in the house, but she and her family lease their land to other farmers.¹⁶

Architectural Context

William and Elizabeth Jernigan built the main block of this dwelling in 1886, at a time when many owners and builders across North Carolina employed an I-house form enriched with increasingly accessible sawnwork and other decorative millwork.

After the Civil War, newspapers, local businessmen, and progressive farmers touted New South ideals that championed railroads, industry, and education as paths to recovery. As a result, the state's rail network thickened and farmers dropped subsistence agriculture in favor of a cash crop system that supplied mills and factories with raw materials such as cotton and tobacco. Towns and cities along rail lines, like Ahoskie, were established or expanded and quickly boomed.

Cash-based farming created a number of problems including an increased dependence on share cropping and a vulnerability to market fluctuations, but many small-scale farmers enjoyed liquid assets for the first time and they expanded or replaced earlier, one or two-room dwellings with two-story houses often called I-houses today. During this ebullient period, the form, which North Carolinians had been building for a century or more, became a ubiquitous fixture in the state's landscape representing the yeomen farmer's entrance into a cash economy.¹⁷

The I-house is a two-story, four-room house with one room situated on each side of a central hallway on both levels. Owners and builders almost always oriented the house so that the wide elevation served as the façade. This made the grandest and boldest statement possible and gave the owner the most surface area onto which he could apply as much up-to-date ornamentation (now more cheaply available thanks to the railroads) as he desired or could afford.

¹⁵ Joyner interview.

¹⁶ Joyner interview, and L.S. Jernigan Jr. to Patsy Jernigan Joyner, December 6, 1977, Hertford County Deed Book 387, p. 407.

¹⁷ Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), p. 42.

In Hertford County, builders followed this pattern, adding exuberant millwork to the traditional I-house form. In the crossroads of Union, northwest of Ahoskie, several I-houses display effusive brackets, sawnwork, bargeboards, and cornerboards that are identical to or very similar to those found on the Jernigan House. Geographically closer to the Jernigan House is the circa 1885 Thomas Eley House (DOE 1995), which displays paneled cornerboards with lozenges identical to those at the Jernigan House. The Eley House also features at least one mantelpiece similar to those seen at the Jernigan House. Both the Eley and Jernigan Houses are probably the work of local African-American carpenter Graham Holloman. Like the more intact examples in Union, the Eley House retains a bracketed cornice, original window sash, and original weatherboard siding. Historian Catherine Bishir suggests that carpenters may have derived these locally distinctive treatments from *Bicknell's Village Builder* and that local builders may have been protégés of Warrenton builder Jacob Holt or inspired by Holt or his students.¹⁸

National Register Evaluation

The William and Elizabeth Jernigan House retains integrity of location, workmanship, association, and feeling. While the general area around the house remains rural, the close proximity of a ranch house and the lack of historic outbuildings detract from the building's integrity of setting. Vinyl siding also detracts from the dwelling's integrity of materials and design. The owner carefully left the house's notable cornerboards and door surround uncovered, but the remainder of the house is completely sheathed. All other trim, including the cornice, soffit, and gable returns, window moldings, and porch columns are covered with synthetic siding. Additionally, a carport and enclosed back porch attached to the rear ell have had a negative impact on the building's architectural integrity. Inside, while the dwelling retains notable vernacular wood work, the addition of carpet, later doors, and some new plaster detract significantly from the house's architectural integrity.

William and Elizabeth Jernigan House is **not eligible** for the National Register 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 History or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. 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.* While the Jernigan House is still owned by a family that owns the most of the surrounding farmland and that land is still actively farmed, the house retains only one historic pump house and no historic agricultural outbuildings. A ranch house has been built very close to the house, and modern farming practices have introduced larger equipment buildings to the surrounding landscape. Despite nearby tilled fields, the Jernigan House does not retain sufficient integrity of

¹⁸ Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996), p. 271, and Laura A.W. Phillips, "Historic Architectural Resources Report, R-2205," North Carolina Department of Transportation, 1995, p. 38.

setting to be considered a part of a National Register eligible working farm, and therefore, it does not have a significant association with the history of agriculture.

William and Elizabeth Jernigan House is **not eligible** for the National Register 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 represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.* No person of historical significance is known to be associated with the Jernigan House.

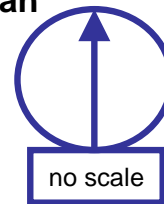
William and Elizabeth Jernigan House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction..* While the Jernigan House does display notable cornerboards and its original entrance composition, vinyl siding has compromised its architectural integrity. In addition to covering historic details, brackets were likely removed from the wide cornice during the application of vinyl. Concrete has replaced the original porch flooring. A carport and enclosed back porch on the rear ell have also altered the building's integrity. There are other, more intact, examples of this house type and decoration, thought to be the work of nineteenth-century carpenter Graham Holloman, in the county, particularly in Union. Additionally, the William and Elizabeth Jernigan House does retain an associated family cemetery, but the cemetery is not architecturally or artistically significant.

William and Elizabeth Jernigan House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (potential to yield information). *For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contributing to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.* Under the scope given for this evaluation and report, which specifically addresses aboveground resources, no additional information specific to Criterion D was discovered during fieldwork or research.



Figure 10: William and Elizabeth Jernigan House Site Plan

- A William and Elizabeth Jernigan House
- B ranch house
- C Jernigan Family Cemetery
- D pump house
- E. modern equipment shed



R-2205, Ahoskie Bypass
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Above: Jernigan House, west elevation

Below: Jernigan House, northwest corner





Above: Jernigan House, east elevation and back yard

Below: Jernigan House, front door detail





Above and below: Jernigan House, cornerboard detail





Above: Jernigan House, first floor, north room mantel

Below: Jernigan House, first floor, south room mantel





Above: Jernigan House, second floor, south room mantel

Below: Jernigan House, newel post





Above: Jernigan House, Jernigan Family Cemetery, facing south

Below: Jernigan House, Lemuel Jernigan marker





Above: Thomas Eley House, Powellsville
Below: Thomas Eley House, cornerboard detail



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Joyner, Patsy Jernigan. Ahoskie, NC. Telephone interview with the author. April 3, 2008.

Pillmon, Phyllis. Ahoskie, NC. Interview with the author. April 10, 2008.

Appendix A
Concurrence Form for Properties Not Eligible for the
National Register of Historic Places

Federal Aid # STPNHE-13(8)

HP# R-2205

County: Hertford/Bertie

**CONCURRENCE FORM FOR PROPERTIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR
THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Project Description: Multi-lane bypass of Ahoskie on new location

On March 10, 2008 representatives of the

- North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)
 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO)
 Other

Reviewed the subject project at

- Scoping meeting
 Historic architectural resources photograph review session/consultation
 Other

All parties present agreed

- There are no properties over fifty years old within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are no properties less than fifty years old which are considered to meet Criteria Consideration G within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are properties over fifty years old within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE), but based on the historical information available and the photographs of each property, the properties identified as 1-2, 23 are considered not eligible for the National Register and no further evaluation of them is necessary. 32, 35-43, 45-65, 69-82, 84-88
- There are no National Register-listed or Study Listed properties within the project's area of potential effects.
- All properties greater than 50 years of age located in the APE have been considered at this consultation, and based upon the above concurrence, all compliance for historic architecture with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and GS 121-12(a) has been completed for this project.
- There are no historic properties affected by this project. (Attach any notes or documents as needed)

Signed:

Sub Warden David
Representative, NCDOT

03/10/2008
Date

FHWA, for the Division Administrator, or other Federal Agency

Date

Representative, HPO

Date

Renee Hedrick-Early
State Historic Preservation Officer

3.10.08
Date

If a survey report is prepared, a final copy of this form and the attached list will be included

additional info on properties 22 + 44
propy #40 is DOE

additional research/report on properties
33-34; 66-68; 83 + 89

Appendix B
Properties Recommended Not Eligible for the National
Register and Not Worthy of Further of Evaluation

TIP Survey Site Number Data: R-2205
 Ahoskie Bypass (Sarah David; Penne Sandbeck, report editor)
 Feb. 2009

NCDOT Site Number	NC-HPO Site Number	911 Address	PIN	Name (if known) And Resource Type
1	HF 699 ✓	311 NC 461	6905-29-5091	House
2	HF 700 ✓	309 NC 461	6905-29-5463	House
3	HF 701 ✓	Blue Foot Road	6905-23-9938	House
4	HF 702 ✓	Blue Foot Road	6905-36-0108	House
5	HF 703 ✓	NC 461/US 13	5995-98-9241	house
6	HF 704 ✓	NC 461/US 13	5995-98-5159	House
7	HF 705 ✓	NC 461/US 13	5995-97-5951	House
8	HF 706 ✓	NC 461/US 13	5995-97-3723	building
9	HF 707 ✓	554 NC 461/US 13	5995-87-9464	house

TIP Survey Site Number Data: R-2205
 Ahoskie Bypass (Sarah David; Penne Sandbeck, report editor)
 Feb. 2009

NCDOT Site Number	NC-HPO Site Number	911 Address	PIN	Name (if known) And Resource Type
10	HF 708 ✓	550 NC 461/US 13	5995-87-8332	house
11	HF 709 ✓	NC 461/US 13	5995-97-1051	house
12	HF 710 ✓	547 NC 461/US 13	5995-97-3308	house
13	HF 711 ✓	NC 461/US 13	6905-07-6346	house
14	HF 712 ✓	SR 1409 (Hall Siding Road)	5995-71-0300	house
15	HF 713 ✓	SR 1409 (Hall Siding Road)	5994-79-5721	house
16	HF 714 ✓	Saluda Hall Road (SR)	6904-39-2248	house
17	HF 715 ✓	Ahoskie-Cofield Road (SR)	6904-53-6214	house
18	HF 716 ✓	624 Ahoskie-Cofield Road (SR)	6904-42-8519	house

TIP Survey Site Number Data: R-2205
 Ahoskie Bypass (Sarah David; Penne Sandbeck, report editor)
 Feb. 2009

NCDOT Site Number	NC-HPO Site Number	911 Address	PIN	Name (if known) And Resource Type
19	HF 717 ✓	SR 1409 (Hall Siding Road)	6903-48-5214	house
20	HF 718 ✓	227 Ahoskie-Cofield Road	6903-24-6395	house
21	HF 719 ✓	504 Newsome Grove Road (SR)	6903-55-8270	house
22	HF 720 HF 125	504 Newsome Grove Road	6903-55-9181	Newsome Grove Baptist Church
23	HF 721 ✓	207 Ahoskie-Cofield Road (SR)	6903-13-6704	house
24	HF 722 ✓	Ahoskie-Cofield Road (SR)	6903-13-3783	house
25	HF 723 ✓	111 VIP Road	6903-13-3503	house
26	HF 724 ✓	113 VIP Road	6903-13-2553	house
27	HF 725 ✓	118 VIP Road	6903-13-3235	house

TIP Survey Site Number Data: R-2205
 Ahoskie Bypass (Sarah David; Penne Sandbeck, report editor)
 Feb. 2009

NCDOT Site Number	NC-HPO Site Number	911 Address	PIN	Name (if known) And Resource Type
28	HF 726 ✓	111 VIP Road	6903-13-1503	house
29	HF 727 ✓	VIP Road	6903-03-8364	house
30	HF 728 ✓	114 VIP Road	6903-03-6488	house
31	HF 729 ✓	112 VIP Road	6903-03-6541	house
32	HF 730 ✓	110 VIP Road	6903-03-6514	house
33	HF 731 ✓	Ahoskie-Cofield Road		VIP Club
34	HF 732 ✓	Ahoskie-Cofield Road		VIP Motel
35	HF 733 ✓	148 Ahoskie-Cofield Road	6903-13-1751	house
36	HF 734 ✓	Ahoskie-Cofield Road	6903-12-0702	Hillcrest Cemetery

HF 975

HF 720
 VIP Cottages

TIP Survey Site Number Data: R-2205
 Ahoskie Bypass (Sarah David; Penne Sandbeck, report editor)
 Feb. 2009

NCDOT Site Number	NC-HPO Site Number	911 Address	PIN	Name (if known) And Resource Type
37	HF 735 ✓	118 Ahoskie-Cofield Road	6903-02-0924	House
38	HF 736 ✓	112 Ahoskie-Cofield road	5993-92-8709	house
39	HF 737 ✓	Williams Street	5993-71-8244	house
40	HF 738 ✓	Williams Street	5993-71-8244	house
41	HF 739 ✓	US 13/NC 42	5992-93-3042	Ahoskie Fertilizer Company
42	HF 740 ✓	NC 561	5992-94-4777	House/farm
43	HF 741 ✓	148 NC 561	6902-03-7600	House/farm
44	HF 742 ✓	206-223 NC 561; 153 NC 561 (several houses do not have addresses)	6902-13-3496, 6460, 4483, 8307, 5462, 6411, 8374, 8674, 8605, 7617, 9643, 4722, 3743 (store?), 2794, 2706; 6902-23- 0313, 2596, ; 6902-24-1269	1940s-50s development (Chandrea, I don't know why Sarah did it this way unless she thought it might be a potential African-American rural district, in which case...it never made it to evaluation)
45	HF 743 ✓	250 NC 561	6902-32-8285	House/farm

8

TIP Survey Site Number Data: R-2205
 Ahoskie Bypass (Sarah David; Penne Sandbeck, report editor)
 Feb. 2009

NCDOT Site Number	NC-HPO Site Number	911 Address	PIN	Name (if known) And Resource Type
46	HF 744 ✓	Arrow Road	6902-57-9609	house
47	HF 745 HF 930	145 Arrow Road	6901-38-8329	house
48	HF 746 ✓	Newsome Grove Road	6901-56-9943	house
49	HF 747 ✓	Newsome Grove Road	No PIN	house
50	HF 748 ✓	2334 US 13	6901-27-3893	house
51	HF 749 ✓	2327 US 13	6901-28-4118	Stoney Creek Diner
52	BR 935 ✓	307 W. Main St. Powellsville, NC (Bertie Co.); Railroad Street	6900-87-5856, 2786, 1899; 6900- 88-0157, 1072, 5123, 6132, 1141	Powellsville Baptist Church; houses (Chandrea, I think Sarah was looking at this as a potential Powellsville HD)
53	BR 936 ✓	131 Center Grove Road	6900-68-2068	house
54	BR 937 ✓	3319 US 13	6900-77-7890	house

TIP Survey Site Number Data: R-2205
 Ahoskie Bypass (Sarah David; Penne Sandbeck, report editor)
 Feb. 2009

NCDOT Site Number	NC-HPO Site Number	911 Address	PIN	Name (if known) And Resource Type
55	BR 938 BR 70	3111 US 13	6900-62-3621	house
56	BR 939	3118 US 13	6900-72-7641	house
57	BR 940	3118 US 13	6900-62-6485	house
58	BR 941	3028 US 13	6900-70-2503	house
59	HF 750	140 Brinkleyville Road	5994-51-3167	house
60	HF 623 <i>eliminated</i> HF 521 and HF 751 <i>not same</i>	US 13 at Saluda Hall Road (SR 1131)	5994-48-0977	Newsome-Hall House (DOE, 1994)
61	HF 751	Hall Road	5994-27-7837	house
62	HF 752	221 NC 561/W. 1 st Street	5983-54-9113	house
63	HF 753	148 NC 561/W. 1 st Street	5983-73-3825	house

TIP Survey Site Number Data: R-2205
 Ahoskie Bypass (Sarah David; Penne Sandbeck, report editor)
 Feb. 2009

NCDOT Site Number	NC-HPO Site Number	911 Address	PIN	Name (if known) And Resource Type
64	HF 754 ✓	NC 561	5983-65-3314	house
65	HF 755 ✓	104 Modlin Hatchery Road	5984-80-2182	
66	HF 5 ✓	544 NC 42 Ahoskie	5972-77-3428	William Mitchell House (NR, 1972)
67	HF 756 ✓	NC 42		house
68	HF 757 ✓	NC 42		house
69	HF 758 ✓	115 NC 42	5982-95-7335	house
70	HF 759 ✓	117 NC 42	5982-95-7335	house
71	HF 760 ✓	118 NC 42	5982-86-8446	house
72	HF 761 ✓	119 NC 42	5982-86-7079	house

TIP Survey Site Number Data: R-2205
 Ahoskie Bypass (Sarah David; Penne Sandbeck, report editor)
 Feb. 2009

NCDOT Site Number	NC-HPO Site Number	911 Address	PIN	Name (if known) And Resource Type
73	HF 762 ✓	NC 42	5982-86-6024	house
74	HF 763 ✓	124 NC 42	5982-86-6310	house
75	HF 764 ✓	NC 42	5982-86-5209	house
76	HF 765 ✓	132 NC 42	5982-86-2280	house
77	HF 766 ✓ HF 42	Off NC 42 (no posted address)	5982-75-6088	house
78	HF 767 ✓	147 NC 42	5982-75-5890	house
79	HF 768 ✓	145 NC 42	5982-75-6862	house
80	HF 769 ✓	143 NC 42	5982-75-7834	house
81	HF 770 ✓	NC 42 at Johnny Mitchell Road	5982-77-3007	house

TIP Survey Site Number Data: R-2205
 Ahoskie Bypass (Sarah David; Penne Sandbeck, report editor)
 Feb. 2009

NCDOT Site Number	NC-HPO Site Number	911 Address	PIN	Name (if known) And Resource Type
82	HF 771 HF56	Johnny Mitchell Road (no posted address)	5992-10-3414	House/farm (ruinous)
83	HF 772 HF53	E side SR 1101 (Lee Jernigan Road) at SR 1105 (Johnny Mitchell Road) jct.		William and Elizabeth Jernigan House
84	HF 773 ✓	Lee Jernigan Road	5991-37-0495	house
85	HF 774 ✓	Lee Jernigan Road	5991-25-6921	house
86	HF 775 ✓	437 Lee Jernigan Road	5991-35-6529	house
87	HF 776 ✓	326 Willford Road	5991-74-8283	house
88	HF 777 ✓	Early Station Road	5972-91-8552	house
89	HF 778 ✓ HF905 + HF906	NC 42		House 1 House 2



Property 1
311 NC 461
PIN: 6905-29-5091



Property 2
309 NC 461
PIN: 6905-29-5463



Property 3
Blue Foot Road
PIN: 6905-23-9938



Property 4
Blue Foot Road
PIN: 6905-36-0108



Property 5
NC 461/US 13
PIN: 5995-98-9241



Property 6
NC 461/US 13
PIN: 5995-98-5159



Property 7
NC 461/US 13
PIN: 5995-97-5951



Property 8
NC 461/US 13
PIN: 5995-97-3723



Property 9
554 NC 461/US 13
PIN: 5995-87-9464



Property 10
550 NC 461/US 13
PIN: 5995-87-8332



Property 11
NC 461/US 13
PIN: 5995-97-1051



Property 12
547 NC 461/US 13
PIN: 5995-97-3308



Property 13
NC 461/US 13
PIN: 6905-07-6346



Property 14
SR 1409/Hal Siding Road
PIN: 5995-71-0300



Property 15
SR 1409/Hal Siding Road
PIN: 5994-79-5721



Property 16
Saluda Hall Road
PIN: 6904-39-2248



Property 17
Ahoskie-Cofield Road
PIN: 6904-53-6214



Property 18
624 Ahoskie-Cofield Road
PIN: 6904-42-8519



Property 19
SR 1409/Hal Siding Road
PIN: 6903-48-5214



Property 20
227 Ahoskie-Cofield Road
PIN: 6903-24-6395



Property 21
504 Newsome Grove Rd.
PIN: 6903-55-8270



Property 22, Newsome Grove Baptist Church
504 Newsome Grove Road
PIN: 6903-55-9181



Property 23
202 Ahoskie-Cofield Road
PIN: 6903-13-6704



Property 24
Ahoskie-Cofield Road
PIN: 6903-13-3783



Properties 25, 26
111 and 113 VP Road
PIN: 6903-13-3503
PIN: 6903-13-2553



Property 27
118 VP Road
PIN: 6903-13-3235



Property 28
111H VP Road
PIN: 6903-13-1503



Property 29
VIP Road
PIN: 6903-03-8364



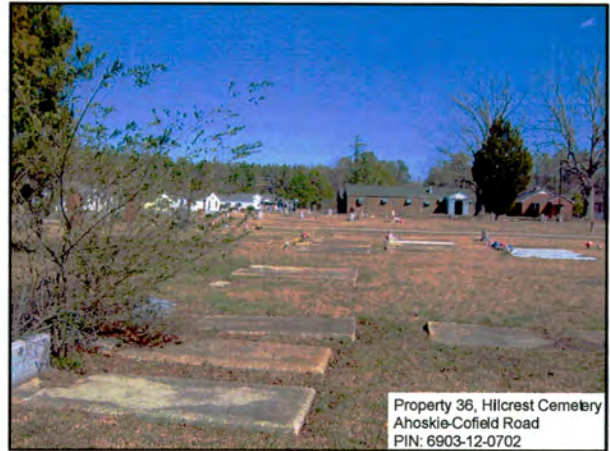
Properties 30, 31, 32
114, 112, 110VIP Road
PIN: 6903-03-6488
PIN: 6903-03-6541
PIN: 6903-03-6514



Property 35
148 Ahoskie-Cofield Road
PIN: 6903-13-1751



Property 36, Hillcrest Cemetery
Ahoskie-Cofield Road
PIN: 6903-12-0702



Property 36, Hillcrest Cemetery
Ahoskie-Cofield Road
PIN: 6903-12-0702



Property 37
118 Ahoskie-Cofield Road
PIN: 6903-02-0924



Property 38
112 Ahoskie-Cofield Road
PIN: 5993-92-8709



Properties 39, 40
Williams Street
PIN: 5993-71-8244



Property 41, Ahoskie Fertilizer Company
US 13/NC 42
PIN: 5992-93-2042



Property 41, AhoSke Fertilizer Company
US 13/NC 42
PIN: 5992-93-2042



Property 42
NC 561
PIN: 5992-94-4777



Property 42
NC 561
PIN: 5992-94-4777



Property 43
148 NC 561
PIN: 6902-03-7600



Property 43
148 NC 561
PIN: 6902-03-7600



Property 44
206 NC 561
PIN: 6902-13-3496



Property 44
212, 214 NC 561
PINs, from right to left:
6902-13-6460
6902-13-6460



Property 44
208 NC 561
PIN: 6902-13-4483



Property 44
216 NC 561
PIN: 6902-13-8307



Property 44
NC 561
PINs, from nearest to farthest:
6902-13-5462
6902-13-6411



Property 44
NC 561
PINs, right to left:
6902-13-8374
6902-23-0313



Property 44
223 NC 561
PIN: 6902-23-2596



Property 44
Right: 213 NC 561, PIN: 6902-13-8674
Left: NC 561, PIN: 6902-13-8605



Property 44
217 NC 561
PIN: 6902-24-1269



Property 44
211 NC 561
PIN: 6902-13-7617



Property 44
215 NC 561
PIN: 6902-13-9643



Property 44
NC 561
PIN: 6902-13-4722





Property 46
Arrow Road
PIN: 6901-57-9609



Property 47
145 Arrow Road
PIN: 6901-38-8329



Property 46
Arrow Road
PIN: 6901-57-9609



Property 46
Arrow Road
PIN: 6901-57-9609



Property 48
Newsome Grove Road
PIN: 6901-56-9943



Property 51, Stoney Creek Diner
2327 US 13
PIN: 6901-28-4118



Property 49
Newsome Grove Road



Property 52, Powellsville Baptist Church
307 W. Main Street
PIN 6900875856



Property 50
2334 US 13
PIN: 6901-27-3893



Property 52
209 Railroad Street
PIN 6900872786





Property 54
3319 US 13
PIN 690077890



Property 57
3118 US 13
PIN 6900626485



Property 55
3111 US 13
PIN 6900623621



Property 58
3028 US 13
PIN 6900702503



Property 56
3118 US 13
PIN 6900727641



Property 59
140 Brinkleyville Road
PIN: 5994-51-3167





Property 70
117 NC 42
PIN: 5982-95-7335



Property 73
NC 42
PIN: 5982-86-6024



Property 71
118 NC 42
PIN: 5982-86-8446



Property 74
124 NC 42
PIN: 5982-86-6310



Property 72
119 NC 42
PIN: 5982-86-7079



Property 75
NC 42
PIN: 5982-86-5209





Property 82
Johnny Mitchel Road
PIN: 5992-10-3414



Property 84
Lee Jernigan Road
PIN: 5991-37-0495



Property 82
Johnny Mitchel Road
PIN: 5992-10-3414



Property 85
Lee Jernigan Road
PIN: 5991-25-6921



Property 82
Johnny Mitchel Road
PIN: 5992-10-3414



Property 86
437 Lee Jernigan Road
PIN: 5991-35-6259



Property 87
326 Willford Road
PIN: 5991-74-8283



Property 88
Early Station Road
PIN: 5972-91-8552

Appendix C

Excerpt

"US-13 Ahoskie Bypass Final Report:
Historical and Architectural Background"
(Laura A. W. Phillips, NCDOT, 1995)

F I N A L R E P O R T
HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

US 13 - AHOSKIE BYPASS
Bertie and Hertford Counties, North Carolina
TIP No. R-2205

Laura A. W. Phillips
Architectural Historian

February 20, 1995

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BAKK Engineers to Laura A. W. Phillips, August 3, 1992	155

V. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL BACKGROUND

NOTE: The majority of the project area is located in the south central section of Hertford County. Only the southern tip extends approximately one mile into Bertie County to the outskirts of the Powellville community. Therefore, the historical background discussed herein will reference primarily Hertford County history, recognizing that the portion of the project area within Bertie County is not of dissimilar background. The availability of documentary resources for the study of the project area was hindered by the fact that the Hertford County Courthouse burned on two occasions in the nineteenth century. In 1830 all county records were destroyed by a fire started by an arsonist. In 1862 Union soldiers destroyed the courthouse and all its records. Only the will books subsequent to 1830 and a few other record books, which happened to be at the Clerk's house in Murfreesboro, survived.¹

Historical Development of Project Area:

Hertford County was established in 1760 by an act passed in 1759. It was created out of parts of Chowan, Bertie, and Northampton counties and is bounded on the north by the Virginia state line, on the east by the Chowan River, on the south by Bertie County, and on the west by Northampton County. A part of North Carolina's upper coastal plain, the county is drained by the Chowan, Meherrin, Nottoway, and Wiccacon rivers.² Early development was along the rivers, where the prominent towns of Winton (the county seat) and Murfreesboro were established in the eighteenth century. While wealthy towns and plantations developed in the county along the higher elevations and river banks, this does not appear to have been the case in the project area. Located inland from the primary waterways, much of the project area is swampy, fed by smaller creeks. Confederate maps from the 1860s show that at that time settlement in the area was still relatively sparse.³ In the late nineteenth century this changed with the development of the town of Ahoskie along the newly arrived railroad. While Ahoskie, located along the western edge of the project area, soon became the center of commerce in Hertford County, the area around it has remained primarily farm and forest land.

¹Benjamin B. Winborne, The Colonial and State History of Hertford County, North Carolina (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1976 [originally published in 1906]), p. 5.

²The Ahoskie Era of Hertford County (Ahoskie, N.C.: Parker Brothers, Inc., 1939), pp. 19-20.

³Maps of Hertford and Parts of Surrounding Counties, April 1863, Confederate Engineer Bureau, Richmond.

The development of the project area revolves around three primary themes of historic significance: agriculture, the development of Ahoskie, and the prominent role played by blacks.

Agriculture

Agriculture has always been the center of the Hertford County economy. Early settlers who occupied the better-drained lands along the river banks cultivated corn, wheat, flaxseed, rice, and indigo and raised hogs and cattle. These products provided both a cash income and practically everything needed on the farm. With the assistance of slave labor, plantations developed.⁴

With the close of the Civil War came an abrupt change to this labor situation. At that time the tenant system and cash crop farming became prevalent. The production of corn dropped drastically, and cotton became the principal crop until around 1900. By that time, peanuts, which had been introduced around 1880, consumed more acres than did cotton. Tobacco also became a major crop, but prior to 1907 it was shipped by rail to Rocky Mount and Wilson for lack of a local market. This changed in 1907, when the first tobacco warehouse was built at Ahoskie. Ahoskie later became the tobacco center of the Roanoke-Chowan area.⁵

Around the turn of the twentieth century, scientific farming methods began to be applied to agriculture in Hertford County. When the Farm Demonstration system was developed and the Extension Service was established in 1907, Hertford County was among the first counties in North Carolina to employ a part-time county agent (who also happened to serve part time as superintendent of schools).⁶

During the first third of the twentieth century, certain changes took place in the practice of agriculture in Hertford County, including the project area, and some of these changes can be attributed to the application of scientific farming methods. While there was an overall reduction in the number of farms and in the acreage cultivated, there was a marked increase in the efficiency in crop production. The three cash crops remained the same, although there was a shift in acreage between cotton and tobacco and a slight increase in peanuts. Cotton production increased by 7.9 percent on 38.3 percent less land. Tobacco and peanut acreage increased, but there was also a 55.1 percent increase in the tobacco yield and a 69.7 percent increase for peanuts. Corn, as well, was reduced in acreage, while production increased 66.8 percent. In 1909 corn and the three cash crops

⁴Ahoskie Era, p. 81.

⁵Ahoskie Era, p. 81.

⁶Ahoskie Era, pp. 81-82.

occupied 72 percent of the crop land. In 1935 they occupied 84 percent of land in cultivation. During this period, both cattle and hogs decreased in number, while their value increased. Poultry, horses, and mules increased in number.⁷

The first third of the twentieth century demonstrated other changes in farming in the county. Farms decreased both in number and in acreage. The average farm was reduced from 81.5 acres to 58 acres. In 1909, 49.1 percent of farms were operated by whites. Twenty-five years later this number had decreased to 47.6 percent. During the same period, farms operated by blacks or other people of color increased from 50.1 percent to 52.4 percent. However, farms operated by whites were larger than those operated by blacks. There was only a small increase in the number of farms operated by tenants. Another trend of the period was the disposition of thousands of acres to timber companies, reflecting the increasing importance of the lumber industry as the town of Ahoskie developed.⁸

The great majority of the properties recorded in the project area are associated with the agricultural heritage of the county from the second quarter of the nineteenth century through the early twentieth century. In particular, the Albert Hall Farm is strongly representative of the area's early twentieth-century farms.

Since the 1930s, farming has continued to play an important role in Hertford County and in the project area in particular. Today, undeveloped forest and farmland account for over 93 percent of all land in the county.⁹

Development of Ahoskie

A major force in the project area since the late nineteenth century has been the development of the town of Ahoskie. From a small crossroads community centered on an early nineteenth-century church (Ahoskie Baptist), the town grew to be the largest community in Hertford County and a regional commercial and employment center. Ahoskie's history contrasts significantly with that of neighboring Murfreesboro and Winton. They were both incorporated in the eighteenth century and developed as port communities along navigable waterways. With the late nineteenth century, however, came a period of extensive railroad construction, and in North Carolina's coastal plain, a period of reorientation from water transportation to rail transportation. Ahoskie was not incorporated until 1893--more than a century after Murfreesboro and Winton--and it developed around the

⁷Ahoskie Era, pp. 86, 90-92.

⁸Ahoskie Era, pp. 84, 86.

⁹"Town of Ahoskie Land Use Plan," 1987, p. 2.

railroad which still passes through the center of town.¹⁰

The lumber industry was important both in Ahoskie's early years and later development. Logging and milling and the naval stores industry had been important since the Colonial period in this area of North Carolina, but with the late nineteenth century came steam-powered mills and a market for sawn lumber which spurred the development of larger mills. Rail lines were laid through the forests of southeastern Hertford County and in Bertie County to carry logs to mills located on navigable waterways. In 1885 a logging rail line was completed from Hertford County through what was to become Ahoskie and on to Bertie County. In 1887 this logging line became the Chowan and Southern Railroad. Two years later it was purchased by the Norfolk and Carolina Railroad, and in 1900 the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad absorbed it.¹¹

In 1888 the first large-scale sawmill in Ahoskie was built. The following year a post office was established, and soon thereafter the first migration of outsiders--mostly from the nearby farms--arrived. By 1893 the community had grown to the point that a bill to incorporate Ahoskie was enacted, and the first major development of the town followed. By 1900 Ahoskie recorded a population of 302, but by 1910 the town had tripled in size to 924. In these early years, the town boasted sawmills, cotton gins, an ice plant, a laundry, horse and mule stables, and an increasing number of retail stores. In 1907 the first tobacco warehouse in Ahoskie was established. By the end of the first decade of the twentieth century Ahoskie had become the largest town in Hertford County and the marketing and railroad center of a large surrounding territory.¹²

The 1920s were the period of greatest construction in the town's history. A growing population, public improvements, maturing institutions and social organizations, and commercial expansion combined with the period's general prosperity and optimism, resulting in the construction of much of the physical environment of present-day Ahoskie.¹³

¹⁰"Town of Ahoskie Land Use Plan," p. 1; Philip Letsinger and Stanley L. Little, "Ahoskie Downtown Historic District," National Register nomination, Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1985, p. 8.2.

¹¹Letsinger and Little, "Ahoskie Downtown Historic District," p. 8.2.

¹²Letsinger and Little, "Ahoskie Downtown Historic District," pp. 8.2-4.

¹³Letsinger and Little, "Ahoskie Downtown Historic District," p. 8.5.

The Depression stopped the growth of Ahoskie for several years, but by the mid-1930s economic conditions showed signs of improving. The late 1930s, in fact, became the greatest period of home-building in the town's history. Along with the home-building came a marked expansion of retail, wholesale, and service establishments.¹⁴

The years during World War II were prosperous ones for Ahoskie because of the expanded markets for agricultural and other products. The end of the war resulted in another building boom in the late 1940s and early 1950s. In the 1970s and 1980s, as Ahoskie adjusted to ever-increasing automobile traffic, many retail and service businesses shifted from their locations downtown to East Memorial Drive (US 13).¹⁵

The growth of Ahoskie has had a significant effect on the surrounding rural areas, including the project study area, since the late nineteenth century. It became a center for manufacturing, marketing, transportation, education, and a variety of services, and as such became a magnet for people in the surrounding countryside. If they did not actually move to Ahoskie (and many of them did), the town became the focal point of many of their activities. Properties and districts of significance in the project area associated with the development of Ahoskie include the former Ahoskie School, the West Side Historic District, the Holloman Avenue Historic District, the Graham Holloman House, and the Thomas Eley House.

Role of Blacks in History of Area

Blacks have always played a significant role in Hertford County's history, and this holds true for the project area. From the turn of the nineteenth century until the Civil War, Hertford County had one of the largest populations of free persons of color--blacks and racial mixes of blacks, whites, and Indians--in North Carolina. In 1790 there were 216 free blacks in Hertford County. By 1830 the number had increased to over 900, more than any other county in the state except for Craven and Pasquotank counties. During the next thirty years Hertford County's free black population remained relatively constant. In 1840 and 1850 free blacks amounted to approximately 11 percent of the county's total population. (In 1840 there were 3,384 whites, 802 free blacks, and 3,298 slaves in Hertford, and in 1850 there were 3,553 whites, 873 free blacks, and 3,716 slaves.) That 11 percent was nearly four times the percentage of free blacks statewide. In 1860 there were 1,112 free blacks in Hertford County--one of only four counties in the state containing as many as 1,000 free

¹⁴Letsinger and Little, "Ahoskie Downtown Historic District," pp. 8.6-7.

¹⁵Letsinger and Little, "Ahoskie Downtown Historic District," p. 8.7.

blacks.¹⁶

During the pre-Civil War years, many of Hertford's free blacks settled in sections of the county which remain today heavily populated by their descendants. One section of particular interest is the nine miles between Ahoskie and Winton, most of which lies in the project area. The focal point of this section is Pleasant Plains. There, in 1851 the Pleasant Plains Baptist Church, also known as the "Free Colored Baptist Church," was organized. It still thrives in a brick building erected in 1951. It was also at Pleasant Plains that one of the first schools for blacks in Hertford County was built immediately after the Civil War. Around 1920 a handsome Rosenwald-funded school for black children was erected at Pleasant Plains, and that building survives.¹⁷

The free blacks in the south central area of Hertford County prior to the Civil War and blacks who were freed by the Civil War were active in a variety of occupations. Most, like their white neighbors, were farm and forest workers. Over time, many owned their own farms. Blacks played a significant role in other occupations, as well--particularly in the buildings trades. In 1860 there were six carpenters, one plasterer, nine painters, and five brick masons listed among Hertford County's free black population. There were also blacksmiths, shoemakers, seamstresses, and other occupations represented. After the Civil War, Hertford also had black elected officials. One such man was William David Newsome, who served on the Hertford County Commission from 1868 to 1870 and in the state House of Representatives from 1870 to 1872. His last house survives in the project area.¹⁸

¹⁶"Free Negroes Important Element in Ante Bellum Hertford Life," The Herald (Ahoskie), 1959, Milestone Year Edition; Sixth Census, or Enumeration of the Inhabitants of the United States as Corrected at the Department of State, in 1840 (Washington: Blair and Rives, 1841), pp. 220, 224; Statistical View of the United States: A Compendium of the Seventh Census (Washington: Beverly Tucker, Senate Printer, 1854), pp. 86, 284; Bill Sharpe, A New Geography of North Carolina, Vol. 2 (Raleigh: Sharpe Publishing Co., 1958), p. 866.

¹⁷"Pleasant Plains Pioneer Church for Free Negroes; Begun in 1851," The Herald (Ahoskie), 1959, Milestone Year Edition; "Historical Sketch of Pleasant Plains Baptist Church," Souvenir Program: Pleasant Plains Baptist Church, 1951; Ahoskie Era, p. 253; Thomas B. Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools and Black Education in North Carolina," The North Carolina Historical Review, 65 (October 1988), p. 435.

¹⁸"Free Negroes;" Ahoskie Era, p. 243; Winborne, Colonial and State History, pp. 323, 332.

When Ahoskie began to grow from a railroad siding to a large community in the late nineteenth century, many black families lived in the area near the log-loading stop. They were in the community from the beginning, and many made substantial contributions to its development. William Hawley Jenkins, Billy Greene, Duncan Thomas, and Graham Holloman were all carpenters who helped build many of the early buildings in Ahoskie. Graham Holloman, in particular, was a well known local builder. In 1883 he purchased a plot of land described as the first plot bought in Ahoskie. It included the entire block between Church and Main, Maple and Catherine streets. Here he built his own house, a pretentious Queen Anne style dwelling with multiple gables and a corner turret. When the area in which it was located became the town's main white residential section, Holloman moved to an unusual bungalow which he built ca. 1920. It remains on Catherine Creek Road in the area which became the primary black section of town where he also constructed many of the early residences. Other blacks, such as politician and entrepreneur W. D. Newsome, owned stores and other businesses in downtown Ahoskie.¹⁹

Blacks were also very much a part of the development of education in Ahoskie. Shortly after the Civil War, the county gave one acre of land in the crossroads community for the erection of a one-room school for black children. This building was used for around thirty-five years, until the county assumed full responsibility for the operation of the Ahoskie Colored School and built a new structure. By the end of the century a two-story structure was built. In 1920 the building was moved to the present site of the Robert L. Vann School, and for several years it served as the County Training School. In 1933 the state assumed responsibility for the operation of schools, and the following year a brick structure with twelve classrooms, an auditorium, and a principal's office was erected. In 1937-38 it was joined by a second brick building which was used as the high school. Yet another brick building was added in 1953. The school continued as a black school until the advent of integration, and is still in use as the Robert L. Vann School.²⁰

Adjacent to the school in Ahoskie, another black institution of significance was developed. In 1919 the Atlantic District Fair Association was organized, and the following year a twenty-four-acre tract was purchased. The annual fair was created "to

¹⁹"W. H. Jenkins Was Pioneer Ahoskian" and "Ahoskie, Hertford's Brash Infant, Started With a Church," The Herald, (Ahoskie), 1959, Milestone Year Edition; Ahoskie Era, pp. 520-521; Letsinger and Little, "Ahoskie Downtown Historic District," p. 7.11.

²⁰Ahoskie Era, pp. 279, 287-291.

promote the Agricultural, Industrial, Educational, and Moral development of the people," and it continues to be an important event in the life of the black community.²¹

More than half of the properties recorded in the project area which are considered eligible for the National Register are associated with local black history. These sites include the Albert Hall Farm, the Holloman Avenue Historic District, the Graham Holloman House, the Newsome-Hall House, and the Pleasant Plains School.

Architectural Development of Project Area:

Northeastern North Carolina was the earliest area of the state to be settled, and through at least the first half of the nineteenth century it was the home of much wealth. This was true of the older settled areas in Hertford and Bertie counties. In towns such as Murfreesboro and on individual plantations, wealth was frequently expressed through high style architecture. Houses, churches, and other buildings were finely designed and constructed in the latest architectural styles--Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, and other romantic revival styles.

The project area, however, does not appear to have followed this pattern. It was not among the oldest settled areas in Hertford and Bertie counties, and its later development was generally coupled with a more modest standard of living. This, too, was reflected in the architecture of the area, where vernacular expressions were the rule. When style was in evidence in these vernacular buildings, its character was diluted from the high style and tended to be found on interior detailing rather than on exterior form.

Among the earliest known buildings in the project area were small frame houses from the early nineteenth century exhibiting the traditional hall-and-parlor plan and simple Federal-style detailing in the molding of woodwork. Houses either had a plain side-gable roof with gable-end chimneys or were of the ubiquitous coastal cottage form of eastern North Carolina with its gable roof of double pitch and front engaged porch balanced by rear shed rooms. Typical of traditional house types, these forms lasted for years, at least into the early twentieth century. Surviving houses in the project area which demonstrate these types are the older house on the Newsome Family Farm and the Anthony Godwin House.

Elsewhere in the county there were well-articulated Greek Revival houses during the mid-nineteenth century, but those in the project area appear to have been more conservative--a typical characteristic of the vernacular. The Lawrence Askew House is an

²¹Clarence Shaw Newsome, "History of the Atlantic District Fair Association," Fair program, 1991.

example. While it possesses handsome Greek Revival mantels, cornerblock molded door and window surrounds, two-panel doors, simple wainscoting, and other details reflective of the style, its overall form remains a typical I-house (two-story, center hall, single room deep, front porch, rear shed rooms) which could easily have been found during other periods of the nineteenth century. The house was, during its better days, stately and well-built and detailed, but not at all adventurous or extravagant in expression.

Later in the nineteenth century other current architectural styles were referenced in the project area, but again with vernacular reserve. The Thomas Eley House is a good example of the vernacular Italianate houses built in North Carolina during the 1880s, though it is the only one surviving in the project area. Its I-house form with one-story rear ell remains traditional, but stylistic flashes are seen in the bracketed gable eaves, the paneled corner pilasters, the molded window surrounds, and the late Classical interior mantels with heavy molding and sawwork trim.

The late nineteenth-early twentieth century Queen Anne style with its irregular plan and massing and rich variety in surface texture and detail was generally a more urban than rural form, and some simple examples appeared in Ahoskie's newly-built houses of prosperity. Elsewhere in the project area, the Newsome-Hall House provides a surprising rural example. Its center front projecting bay with bay window and wrap-around porch with corner gazebo-like pavilions depart from the more traditional farmhouse form still reflected in the rear half of the house. Such rural exuberance suggests that the owner was someone not only of means but also of a desire to keep up with the times. And so W. D. Newsome appears to have been, for he was not only a farmer, but also a store owner both in Ahoskie and in the country, a former teacher, and a Reconstruction politician. The William B. Weaver House also reflects a simple Queen Anne-style influence with its right front projecting bay which breaks away from the traditional rectangle, its decorative wood-shingled gable, and its wrap-around porch with turned posts.

Nevertheless, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the prevalent vernacular farmhouse form in the project area was simple and traditional and of frame construction. Houses were both one and two stories, and the I-house form was typical. Side gable or "triple-A" gable roofs were the rule, as were gable-end brick chimneys and one-story front porches. One-story rear ells were typical as well, and these were either attached or detached and joined by a breezeway to the front of the house. Among the many examples in the project area of this traditional form are the James Lawrence Earley House, the Albert Hall House, the William G. Livermon House, the Edgar Askew House, the Dawson Doughtie House, the newer Newsome Family House, the William Elisha Sessoms House, the Simmons House, the Blount

Willoughby House, and the Jason E. Willoughby House.

As the twentieth century progressed, other house forms and styles took hold in the project area as elsewhere. Although the early years of the new century saw a continuance of the transitional Queen Anne-Colonial Revival houses in Ahoskie, the Craftsman style and bungalow form soon took their place. The 1910s and 1920s were prosperous years in Ahoskie, and with the resulting building boom came hundreds of bungalows and larger houses in the Craftsman style. They ranged from the very simple to the sophisticated and worldly, but asymmetry of form, informality, large porches with tapered posts, and an emphasis on "natural" materials were typical. These houses were not confined to Ahoskie, however, for their presence spread across the countryside and particularly along major roads like US 13. Two recorded examples in the project area are the Graham Holloman House and the John Whidby Newsome House.

After World War II, new surges in building brought the ubiquitous brick ranch house. Wherever new houses were being built, one-story, spread-out, generally brick-veneer ranches could be found. Hundreds were built (and are still being built) in the project area, both in and out of town.

Of course, many buildings were erected in the project area which were not houses, although houses formed the bulk of the building stock. Among other building types are commercial buildings, schools, churches, and farm outbuildings. These were not unlike others built in eastern North Carolina during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Early stores in Ahoskie were frame, but after several fires, brick became the rule. They tended to be standard commercial structures of one or two stories with relatively simple brickwork detailing around doors and windows and at the cornice. In the rural area surrounding Ahoskie, stores were generally one-story frame structures, often with a gabled or false front with porch and side and/or rear sheds.

The earliest schools were small log structures, but these were replaced with frame buildings when possible. In turn, the frame buildings of the larger schools, at least in Ahoskie, were replaced with brick structures. Both the early schools in Ahoskie and those in the surrounding countryside were one, two, or three-room frame buildings. Depending on the size, some had both front and side gables, or a combination of gabled and hipped roofs, and all had multiple large windows along several of the walls. One typical example is Brantley's Grove School which was later converted to a dwelling, while Pleasant Plains School is a particularly handsome and well-preserved example. In Ahoskie, the Robert L. Vann School, originally a school for blacks, is representative of substantial, though relatively plain one-story brick school construction of the 1930s and 1950s. Across town,

the former Ahoskie School, originally for white children, remains a monument both to some of the finer, architect-designed school complexes built in the 1920s in North Carolina and to the prosperous 1920s period in Ahoskie. Composed of several interconnected two-story buildings, it features a classical symmetry of design and brickwork with contrasting stone trim.

Churches followed much the same pattern as schools. That is, the earliest churches were simple log or frame structures. These were later replaced by larger frame churches, which were, themselves, often later brick-veneered or replaced with a brick building. The early churches in the area exhibited few stylistic enhancements, while those built subsequent to the mid-nineteenth century tended to reflect either Classic or Gothic influences. Two good examples are Brantley's Grove Baptist and Pleasant Plains Baptist. In 1877 Brantley's Grove Church was organized and a frame church was erected. In 1926 it was replaced with a handsome brick church with wood-shingled gables. That building remains in use, but in recent years it has been remodeled with new windows, the addition of a steeple, and the addition of a brick veneered wing across the rear. Pleasant Plains Church was organized in 1851, and a frame church was built. In 1905 it was remodeled, presumably with the addition of a vestibule and belfry. In 1950 a new and much larger brick church with Gothic-influenced towers, pointed-arched windows, stained glass rose window, and buttresses was erected across the road from the old church. Many congregations followed this pattern of building a series of larger and more up-to-date churches, so that few remain in the project area which are over fifty years old.

Veracular outbuildings in the rural portion of the project area are traditional in form, plain in design, used for as long as possible, and then rebuilt for continued use or allowed to deteriorate. Generally these buildings are not significant individually, but they are important when viewed as part of a group of support buildings associated with a farm. These simple utilitarian structures are mostly of frame construction but occasionally of log or brick construction. They range from very small to large, exhibit either gabled or shed roofs, and frequently have one or more sheds attached to the core of the building. Outbuildings on area farms--and most farms retain only some of these buildings--include barns (feed barns, stables, tobacco barns), a smokehouse, a wash house or laundry, a well house or shed, equipment sheds, a corn crib, a granary, a tobacco pack house, a cotton house, a potato house, a dairy, a workshop, multiple sheds, occasionally an office, and the ubiquitous privy. The outbuildings on a particular farm reflect in a tangible way the agricultural activities which are/were pursued on that farm.