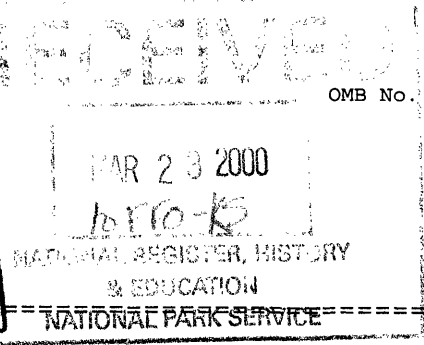
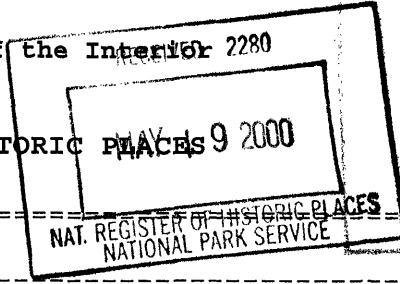


NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior 2280  
National Park Service



092

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Cape Lookout Village Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Cape Lookout from Lighthouse south to Coast Guard Station; bounded on east by ocean and on west by concrete road, and on northwest by line from concrete road across the Bight

N/A not for publication

city or town Harkers Island vicinity x

state North Carolina code NC county Carteret code 031 zip code 28531

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ X statewide \_\_\_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey J. Crow SHPD 3/6/00  
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William J. Stenerson May 9, 2000  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

National Park Service  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Ma J. M. Cox 6/30/00

\_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

=====  
5. Classification  
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>20</u>	<u>26</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<u>6</u>	<u>4</u> structures
	objects
<u>27</u>	<u>31</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 10

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic: Single Dwelling; Domestic: Secondary Structure; Commerce/Trade: Department Store; Defense: Coast Guard Facility; and Defense: Military Facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic: Single Dwelling; Domestic: Secondary Structure; Transportation: water-related; Defense: Coast Guard Facility

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)  
Queen Anne, Bungalow/Craftsman, Shingle Style, Other: Outer Banks house

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation wood  
roof asphalt shingle  
walls weatherboard, asbestos  
other brick, concrete

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Social history \_\_\_\_\_

Maritime history \_\_\_\_\_

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1857-ca. 1950

Significant Dates 1859, 1888, 1916-1917, 1942-1945

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Shull, W. J. B., contractor, Newport, North Carolina

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====  
9. Major Bibliographical References  
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

=====  
10. Geographical Data  
=====

Acreeage of Property approximately 810 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	359780	3832220	3 18	359680	3830620
2	18	360780	3832280	4 18	358250	3829230
5	18	358500	3830840			

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Ruth Little; amended by Claudia Brown, N. C. HPO  
organization Longleaf Historic Resources date August 19, 1998; February 2000  
street & number 2709 Bedford Avenue telephone (919) 836-8128  
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27607  
=====

=====  
12. Additional Documentation  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
=====

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 1  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

**Description**

Cape Lookout, one of the three promontories of the Outer Banks that parallel North Carolina's shoreline, is a hazardous spit of land that has been marked by a lighthouse since 1812. The cape is the southern tip of Core Banks, a slender strip of land along the Carteret County shoreline stretching from Cedar Island south to Harkers Island. The extreme southern edge of the cape, known as Cape Point, is a finger of sand constantly sculpted by ocean and sound currents. The island is part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore established in 1966 by the National Park Service, and is accessible only by boat. The triangular-shaped cape is located approximately four miles south of Harkers Island, an island linked to the mainland of Carteret County by a bridge. Between Core Banks and the mainland lies Core Sound. The east shore of the banks abuts the Atlantic Ocean. The Cape area, in constant flux from the harsh action of ocean currents, is a sand environment whose only native vegetation is low clumps of evergreen shrubbery and trees and marsh grasses.

The Cape Lookout Lighthouse is the northernmost historic property in the district; at the south end, the Cape Lookout Coast Guard Station and ten houses stand close together along a dirt road in the center of the cape, equidistant between the sound and ocean. In this location is a stand of pine trees planted in the 1960s, and clumps of native live oaks, myrtles, and cedars that tolerate the harsh weather conditions and salt spray. The remaining five houses edge the sound side, along the shore of the natural cove called Cape Lookout Bight. (A bight is a bend in a coast forming an open bay.) A wide margin of marshland borders the bight, with one long dock jutting into it at the southwest end. A network of dirt roads and the remnants of a World War II concrete road link the buildings. To the east, south, and west, an undeveloped landscape of vegetated sandy expanses reaches to the ocean beaches, separated from the vegetated areas by sand dune ridges. At the northwest corner of the bight, a rock breakwater projects out into Core Sound. (The landscape and circulation network are described in greater detail in the inventory list that follows this essay.) Historically, Shackleford Banks, now a separate island extending west toward the mainland from the Cape, was joined to Core Banks, and a second village, Diamond City, occupied the eastern section of Shackleford Banks, just west of the lighthouse.

Tiny Cape Lookout Village contains two government complexes previously listed in the National Register-- the Cape Lookout Lighthouse Station (lighthouse, keepers quarters, coal house, oil house, summer kitchen, and three cisterns), and the Cape Lookout Coast Guard Station (main station, galley, equipment building, cistern, and two fire equipment sheds)--comprising a total of six contributing buildings, four contributing structures (cisterns), and four noncontributing

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 2  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

buildings. In addition, fourteen contributing buildings, a long dock, and the circulation network, as well as the landscape in which these lie, compose the district, for a total of twenty-seven contributing resources (eighteen primary and nine secondary). Three main buildings (Moore House and Store (#2) and cottages #12 and 19) are either not yet fifty years old or have lost architectural integrity. The vast majority of the twenty-six noncontributing buildings are small outbuildings, principally garages and sheds, that are less than fifty years old. Four unobtrusive structures (a well pump, two frameworks supporting water tanks, and a dock about one hundred feet long) and a ruinous World War II military site are noncontributing as well.

In addition to the lighthouse and coast guard station, three other government structures stand in the village: the 1888 Life Saving Station (#10) and Boathouse (#14), and the 1907 Keeper's Quarters (#4). Seven of the contributing houses date from the village's traditional fishing and life-saving period, 1859 to the 1920s. All stand on their original sites except for the 1907 Keeper's Quarters and the two Life Saving Station buildings which were moved within the village and adaptively reused when the government sold them as surplus property.

Of thirty-some traditional houses there in 1920, four remain: two fisherman's cottages, the Luther Guthrie House (#15) and the Gaskill-Guthrie House (#17); and two jetty workers' houses (#5 and 6). Luther Guthrie built his small side-gable house about 1910 with one main room, two tiny bedrooms to the side, and a shallow engaged front porch. The Gaskill-Guthrie House, built about five years later, is very similar to the Guthrie House except that it has an engaged porch at the rear as well as the front. The jetty workers' houses, probably built for the Army Corps of Engineers about 1915, follow the same general side-gable form with a large center room, engaged front porch and small rear shed rooms, but are five bays wide, considerably larger than the fishing house. House # 5 has original board-and-batten siding visible beneath later plywood sheathing, and has bare interior stud walls. House #6 may have had this treatment originally. The engaged porch house type was traditional to coastal North Carolina since the eighteenth century, offering a smooth profile that protected the front openings from severe weather, both storms and harsh summer sun. All four houses are set on wooden pilings.

Since the 1920s when the fishing village became a summer resort, families have gradually adapted these houses as vacation cottages by enlarging the front porches and adding bedrooms. In most other respects, the forms and plans of these houses have suited vacationers perfectly, requiring few alterations.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 3  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

The two earliest vacation cottages, the 1920s Seifert-Davis House (Coca Cola House, #3) and the circa 1930 Baker-Holderness House (Casablanca, #7), are completely different in form and construction from the earlier traditional houses. The Seifert-Davis House is a square frame house covered by a low hip roof with a porch that originally encircled the building. Inside, the cross-hall plan creates four bedrooms, one in each corner, with all living, dining and cooking activities in the center space. The interior is open to the roof rafters, and the partition walls, with wood sheathing only on their communal sides, extend only to the top of the outer walls. This airy interior functioned to provide maximum ventilation, although with minimal privacy, to every room in the house. At two stories high, Casablanca looms as the largest house on the Cape, perched on pilings on the west edge of Lookout Bight near Wreck Point. One large living room with a huge brick fireplace and French doors opening onto the porch, which wraps around three sides, occupies the first floor of the main block. The kitchen and dining room occupy a one-story side wing. Bedrooms are in the second story, originally constructed with bare stud walls. The Craftsman style of the house, its size, and its minimal finish express its resort function.

Two traditional houses, the Bryant House (#16) and the Carrie Arendell Davis House (#18), were built along the main road in the 1920s to 1930s as permanent dwellings. These small engaged-porch houses with traces of their original board-and-batten siding closely resemble the modest houses built by Luther Guthrie (#15) and Clem Gaskill (#17). Two other modest frame houses built ca. 1950 reflect the Cape's continued popularity as a retreat. Gordon Willis built his frame gable-front house (#9) with restrained Craftsman detailing on the site of his birthplace, his parents' home during the summer fishing months of the 1910s. A short distance to the south, a small side-gabled frame fishing cottage (#13) may have been built by a Coast Guardsman as quarters for his family.

The ruins of several structures remaining from World War II harbor defenses of Beaufort Inlet are interspersed among the Cape's buildings and landscape. One of these military sites is within the district, on top of a sand dune along the main road through the concentration of dwellings. It contains remains of a stone machine gun nest (#11).

Finally, representing the past fifty years of resort activity on the Cape are the Les and Sally Moore House, Store, and rental cabins (#2) built from the 1950s to about 1970 and a 1950s fishing cottage (#12). The Moore House and Store and the fishing cottage have modern Ranch house proportions, but their exterior materials conform to the Cape vernacular and their low-slung proportions nestle them comfortably into the landscape. Although noncontributing, these are not intrusive.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 4  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

**Integrity Assessment**

The harsh environment of the Cape, necessitating continuous maintenance, and the changing functions of almost every building in the village have resulted in small alterations to nearly every primary building in the district. Yet the buildings retain their basic forms and their original sites, with the exception of the three government buildings—keeper's quarters, life saving station, and boathouse—relocated in 1958 after they became surplus property. The relocation of these three buildings was in keeping with a long and well-documented tradition of moving coastal structures as needs and shorelines change. The brick Keeper's Quarters was heavily restored by the Park Service, with replacement trim, sash, and porches. The interior was gutted and replaced in the mid-twentieth century. The 1907 Keeper's Quarters, although relocated, has survived in nearly intact original condition, both inside and out, due to careful preservation by the occupants. The Coast Guard Station was remodeled on the interior during its continued usage. It retains most original exterior fabric, and the aluminum siding that concealed the original weatherboards has recently been removed. The Life Saving Station and Boathouse are both relocated and altered for use as vacation cottages, with porches added to both, but each retains its original form and much exterior finish.

The private houses of Cape Lookout Village retain their integrity of location, design, setting, feeling and association. Most of the houses have replacement exterior sheathing, generally asbestos shingles applied over the original siding. Most houses retain at least some original wooden sash windows. Original porches have sometimes been enlarged and are generally partially enclosed and screened, but otherwise, additions are small and do not detract from the original form. These types of changes have long been typical, even during the period of significance. The only historic building that is noncontributing is the Setzer-Dawsey House (#19), a traditional small side-gable house that was expanded with a sizeable addition and large brick chimney and has therefore lost its integrity of design.

Since the buildings and structures of the World War II base were dismantled for salvage shortly after the war, only portions of them remain, primarily outside the district boundaries. However, visitors observing the remains of the stone machine gun nest atop a low dune near a cluster of district houses need only minimal interpretation to understand the original functions of this structure. As one of the few visible military features left on the Cape, which has been a strategic military base during conflicts since the eighteenth century, this evocative ruin retains integrity of location, setting and association, but additional study is necessary to determine its potential to

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 5

**Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

yield valuable information that would render it a resource contributing to the district's historic significance.

The village contains thirty-one noncontributing resources, but most of these are generator sheds and garages of small scale, traditional Cape materials, and in discrete locations and do not detract from the district's overall significance and integrity of setting. The few noncontributing primary buildings are of simple design and traditional materials in keeping with the district's historic character. At Cape Lookout Village, as well as at Portsmouth Village (a National Register Historic District at the north end of the Cape Lookout National Seashore), most of the private dwellings that comprised the village at its peak in the early twentieth century have been lost. Traditional Outer Banks settlements are such a rare property type that the remaining dwellings in both villages have great significance. Like Portsmouth Village, Cape Lookout Village retains its overall integrity, retaining elements from key stages of development throughout the defined period of significance.

**Inventory List**

Buildings are indicated as **(B)**; structures as **(ST)**; site as **(S)**. Resources are listed in geographical order from north to south. Historical information is drawn from National Register nominations, historical publications and published histories of the government life saving services, deeds and census data, and interviews with long-time residents and former property owners.

**C 1. (B) Cape Lookout Lighthouse.** 1857-1859. (National Register, 1972)

The 169-foot lighthouse is a conical brick shaft, laid in one-to-five common bond, and painted with a distinctive diaper pattern of alternating black and white lozenges. The shaft contains two doors and ten six-over-six sash windows, each with wooden sills and stone lintels. The original wooden stair to the cupola was replaced by a spiral iron stair in 1867. The light is a non-rotating first order classical one optic lens.

**C a. (B) Keepers Quarters.** 1873. Two-story, side-gable, five-bay dwelling of one-to-seven common bond brick, painted white. Each gable end contains an interior end chimney and no openings. Six-over-six replacement sash pierce the building. Reproduction one-story shed-roofed porches with chamfered posts extend along the flanks of the building. Metal downspouts connect to a series of three brick cisterns beside the south gable end. The interior contains an altered floor plan, a replacement stair, and replacement woodwork.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 6  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

NC b. (B) Coal House. late 19th century, rebuilt after 1972. Gabled frame shelter said to have served as the coal shed during occupancy of the keeper's quarters. The structure was completely rebuilt according to its original form by the National Park Service to serve as a shelter for visitors.

C c. (B) Oil House. 1890s. Small, flat-roofed concrete building, now deteriorated. Lamp oil for the light was stored here until about 1950.

NC d. (B) Summer Kitchen. 1906. One-room gabled frame building, with smaller gabled side wing, built as kitchen for 1906 Keeper's Quarters. All exterior fabric, including flush horizontal sheathed walls, six-panel doors, and 6/6 sash, were replaced during a rehabilitation by the National Park Service after 1972.

C e., f., & g. (ST) (ST) (ST) Three brick cisterns, two to the north of quarters, one to the south, apparently late 19<sup>th</sup> c. These rectangular structures have 1-to-5 common bond walls and a concrete lid. The gutters of the quarters drain into the cisterns. They are no longer used.

NC 2. (B) **Les and Sally Moore House and Store.** ca. 1951, ca. 1960. One-story frame building, five bays wide, set on pilings, with vertical board sheathing and a low-hipped roof. Les and Sally Moore lived in the south half and operated a store in the north half. About 1960 they added hipped wings to the rear, which created an enclosed courtyard deck. Somewhat later a low-gabled addition was added to the south end. The original building has replacement doors and sash windows. The addition's plywood sheathing and 2/2 horizontal sash windows appear original. A concrete boardwalk extends to two rear outbuildings. The complex is being refurbished to become the Cape Lookout Environmental Education Center.

NC a. (B) Storage Shed. ca. 1975. Small frame building set on piling, with plywood siding and a hipped roof with exposed rafters.

NC b. (B) Garage. ca. 1975. Volunteers built this for the National Park Service. It is set on pilings, covered with plywood sheathing, and has a side gable roof.

NC c. (B) Generator Shed. ca. 1960. The Moores built this for their electrical generator. It has a piling foundation, plywood siding, and a hip roof with exposed rafter tails.

NC d. (B) Rental Cabin. 1950s. One-room, side-gable frame building, set on pilings, with

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 7  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

vertical board siding and some plywood siding, 6/6 sash windows, and a rear shed porch, partially enclosed. The Moores probably rented this cabin to fishermen.

NC e. f. & g. (B) (B) (B) Set of three small rental cabins. ca. 1970. The cabins are set in a row north of the house. Each cabin features a piling foundation, frame construction with plywood siding, and a side-gable roof. The west and east facade has a center door with flanking windows. The Moores rented these cabins to fishermen.

NC h. (ST) Well. 1960s. Deep-water well dug in the 1960s for the Moores. The pump was originally powered by a windmill. The propeller has been removed, but the metal frame is still in place.

NC i. (ST) Dock. ca. 1951, ca. 1990. Creosoted pilings support a dock extending approximately 100 feet into the bight. The Moores built the dock, which has been reworked in recent years by the National Park Service.

**C 3. (B) Seifert-Davis House (Coca-Cola House).** 1920s. One-story frame house of approximately square form, 6 bays x 7 bays, covered by a low pyramidal roof. A shed porch wraps around the front and west side. It originally extended along the east side as well, but this section is now removed. Cast concrete piers support the building. Plywood siding covers the walls, and 6/6 sash, now being replaced by vinyl windows, illuminate the interior. The front door, with four raised panels, is apparently original. Plain square posts support the porch. A shed garage of recent construction is attached to the rear.

The interior features an unusual cross-hall plan, with a bedroom at each corner. The hall space, open to the roof rafters, serves as the public common space, containing the living, dining and kitchen activities. Likewise, the bedrooms have partition walls which support the roof rafters, but no ceilings. The partition walls are sheathed on the side toward the public areas, and the studs are exposed on the interior side. The interior thus consists of one large airy space separated by low partition walls, which allows maximum ventilation to all of the spaces.

The C. A. Seifert family of New Bern, owners of the local Coca-Cola distributorship, had the house built on a lot purchased from the Cape Lookout Development Company in 1927 (copy of deed in file). It has been known as the Coca-Cola House both because of this association and because, until recent years, it had been painted bright red since at least the 1950s. During World War II the house is said to have been the site of Saturday night square dances for soldiers

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 8  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

stationed at the Cape and local girls. In the 1950s the Seiferts sold it to Harry Davis, curator of the North Carolina Natural History Museum in Raleigh. Davis was a figure of major importance in the environmental conservation movement in the state, and the house served as base camp for some of his nature fieldwork as well as a retreat for organizations that he helped to found. The North Carolina Shell Club, of which he was a founder, had meetings at the house. While co-writing *The Birds of North Carolina*, Davis caught and banded falcons and conducted other bird studies at the Cape. Davis owned a large tract of open land on Core Banks, and is said to have been a catalyst in the decision by the state to purchase the land for a state park. Harry Davis deeded the house to his nephews, who now hold the lease from the Park Service.

C 4. (B) **Keepers Quarters** (Dr. Graham and Mary Barden House) 1907. The six-room, two-story house was built as a second lighthouse keeper's quarters for the Cape Lookout Light. W. J. B. Shull of Beaufort was the contractor. The total cost was \$4,479. The house originally sat immediately south of the brick Keepers Quarters. The keeper and his family continued to occupy the house until about 1930. During World War II it housed military troops. In 1958 it was sold by the United States Coast Guard as surplus property. Dr. and Mrs. Graham Barden purchased the house and moved it south to its present site, where it has served as a summer cottage for them since that time.

The house stands on a high concrete block foundation, in nearly intact condition. The main block, three bays wide and one bay deep, has a side-gable roof, with a rear, central two-story ell with a gable roof. All original exterior trim has been retained. The original clapboard walls, painted white, have been replaced by unpainted cedar clapboards. Wide cornerboards define the corners. The eaves have a wide overhang, with boxing, and a decoratively finished ridgeboard projects from the peak of each gable end. An oculus, probably originally a louvered ventilator, is centered in each gable end. Original windows of 4/4 and 6/6 sash pierce the walls. These have wide plain surrounds with drip caps. The front door has been replaced. The side door leading into the ell is an original four-panel door, the upper panels glazed, with a single-pane transom. The front porch and ell porch are original. Sturdy chamfered posts support a shed roof with exposed rafters, decoratively finished rafter tails, and a traditional railing. The ell porch does not have a railing. A single tall stuccoed chimney with corbelled cap projects from the center of the roof.

The original architectural drawings of the house, published in the 1908 *Annual Report of the Light-House Board* shows the original usage of the six rooms. A center hall with steep staircase extends between a bedroom and a sitting room. The only fireplace in the house opened in the sitting room. The hall terminates at the kitchen, and upstairs are three bedrooms. Interior finish is

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 9  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

intact, consisting of wooden floors, beadboarded walls and ceilings, and four raised panel doors. Wide surrounds with mitered nosings finish all openings. The stair has a closed string, a massive plain newel at the base and top, rounded handrail and turned balusters. Around the stairwell in the upstairs hall, a beadboard wall forms the stair enclosure.

NC a. (B) Generator Shed. ca. 1958. Small frame building of gabled form, with vertical sheathed walls and composition shingled roof.

C 5. (B) **Jetty Worker's House No. 1.** ca. 1915. One-story frame, side-gable house built on pilings, front and rear engaged porches. The five-bay-wide house has undergone periodic refurbishing. Original board-and-batten covers the exterior walls, but most of this is now concealed beneath plywood sheathing. Beneath the porches is original vertical flush sheathing. The original five-panel front and rear doors are in place, as are the original 2/2 sash, with some original two-pane casement windows on the rear. The floor plan features a central large room, flanked by two small bedrooms on each side. An original porch room opens from the rear engaged porch. The interior walls have exposed studs. A beadboard ceiling covers the interior. In more recent years, the porches have been screened. The most recent alteration is the replacement of an outbuilding that was positioned very close to the house almost as a rear ell, with a true rear ell of two rooms (bedroom and boathouse). The shed-roofed, plywood-sheathed wing, designed in consultation with the National Park Service, preserves the integrity of the original house in its compatible form, scale, materials, lower roofline, and linkage by a small enclosed "hyphen" at one end of the screened porch; the number of rooms in the wing and its square footage approximate those of the original construction on the site.

Sylvia and Brent Nash and the Hussy families of Tarboro are the current lessees. This is the first house built by a private construction firm to house workers who were constructing the rock jetty at the west end of the Cape. It was apparently the residence of Dominick Asdenti, from Baltimore, Maryland, who served as foreman of the jetty crew. He married Mary Rose, an 18-year-old Cape girl and had a family while in residence here. Asdenti built a store that has disappeared.

NC b. (ST) Water Tower. ca. 1980. Two-story framework of vertical posts and cross pieces supporting an elevated deck containing a water tank.

C 6. (B) **Jetty Worker's House No. 2.** ca. 1915. Nearly identical to Jetty Worker's House No. 1, this 1-story frame, five-bay-wide house stands on pilings, with an engaged front porch and rear

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 9a

---

Discussion with the National Park Service about the shed-roofed wing addition to Jetty Worker's House No. 1 consisted of a phone conversation with the lessee.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 10**

**Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

porch. The exterior walls have asbestos shakes, and horizontal flush sheathing covers the walls beneath the porches. Original five-panel doors, 2/2 sash, and rear casement windows are still in place. At the rear, a small porch room opens onto the rear porch. The floor plan, containing a large central room with four small bedrooms on the ends and the rear porch room, is identical to Jetty Worker House No. 1. To the rear, separated by the open porch, is a two-bedroom addition, made about 1940, with wide vertical sheathing and a shed roof. At some point the porch was extended around the south side to connect with the rear porch.

This was constructed by a private firm to house workers building the rock jetty out from the west side of the Cape. The current lessees are Wiley and June Long of Roanoke Rapids.

NC a. (B) Garage/Boathouse. post-1950. Small one-story frame, gable-front building with vertical siding and large batten doors occupying east half of front façade.

NC b. (ST) Water Tower. post-1950. Two-story framework of vertical posts and cross pieces supporting an elevated deck containing a water tank.

**C 7. (B) Baker-Holderness House (Casablanca).** ca. 1930. The largest private house standing at the Cape, Casablanca is a two-story frame, three-bay-wide house with a low-pitched hip roof, and a large one-story west wing. The house sits prominently on the southern shore of the inlet, its physical allure enhanced by its name evoking tropical intrigue. The house stands on pilings, has white painted weatherboards, and exposed rafter tails along the eaves. A large painted brick chimney stands at the east end. The front door and rear doors are double French doors, and windows have some original 6/6 sash and some replacement 1/1 sash. A one-story shed porch (apparently always screened) with plain square posts and exposed rafter tails wraps around the front, east and south sides. The house was built about 1930 as a summer cottage by one Mr. Baker. Around 1940 George Allen Holderness of Tarboro purchased a part-interest, along with several other Tarboro families, who shared use of the cottage for many years. The Holderness children currently hold a lease from the Park Service. A long pier extended out from the house until recent years. Cape fiddlers held many a square dance for residents and visitors in this house in the pre-Park era.

The first floor of the main block consists of one large living room, with a huge Craftsman-style brick fireplace at the east end, plaster walls, and a board-and-batten ceiling. The one-story wing contains a kitchen with a thick red brick exterior chimney. The upstairs bedroom story is said to have originally been left unfinished, with bare stud walls.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 11  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

C a. (B) Outbuilding. c. 1930. Front-gable building built on pilings, with weatherboard walls, six-pane casement windows, and exposed rafter tails. Its original use is unknown.

NC b. (B) Garage. c. 1980. One-car front gable frame garage, with plain weatherboard, a plywood door, and exposed rafter tails.

C 8. (ST) **Circulation Network.** 19<sup>th</sup> c. to present. A loosely knit system of unnamed dirt and concrete roads connect the lighthouse complex, clusters of houses, and former Coast Guard station (see map, figure 2). Most of the roadways are of packed dirt, varying from little more than wide sandy paths to well-graded roadbeds. Prior to World War II, everyone traveled primarily by foot, horse, or horse-drawn cart; even in the 1920s and 1930s, there was little need for improved roads as motorized vehicles were extremely rare on the Cape. In this natural landscape of shifting sands easily altered by severe weather, dirt lanes have come and gone over the years as needs have changed. On aerial photographs (see figure 3), abandoned roads in the natural landscape are no longer visible and few traces can be found on the ground (on map, Coast Guard patrol road "F<sub>1</sub>" and road "F<sub>2</sub>"), while certain historic roads that remain in use are barely discernable (which explains why certain historic roads south of the district do not appear on the 1951 USGS map).

The only paved road is the approximately twenty-foot-wide concrete road that extends from the former Coast Guard Station to the dock at the west hook of the Cape ("C" on map). It was constructed in connection with the temporary harbor defenses of Beaufort Inlet erected at the Cape in 1942 and deactivated in 1944. The narrow dirt lane from the Coast Guard Station through the largest concentration of dwellings and on to the Bight is known locally as the "main road" ("A" on map). Other historic roads in this vicinity are the "side road" and the "east road" ("E" and "G" on map, respectively), routes used by village residents for primary access to the east ocean beach. For the most part, north-south travel along the Core Banks has always been on the hard-packed sand at the ocean's edge, except at high tide when motorized vehicles use the "back road" ("B" on map), believed to be the oldest road on the cape. At the north end of the district, an original portion of the back road ("old B" on map) veers off to the lighthouse complex and the back road continues along a newer path to the north. In the marshy area near the junction of the east and back roads, the National Park Service installed a small bridge ca. 1980. Today, most travel within the district is by foot, bicycle, or small all-terrain three-wheeled vehicles. Four-wheel drive vehicles, mostly driven by visitors who have arrived via the ferry to the north, tend to use the back road and two dirt parking areas just to the west (circled "P" on map).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 12  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

C a. (ST) (former) Coast Guard Dock. ca. 1950. Creosoted pilings support a dock extending approximately 1,000 feet into the bight. Decking is heavy boards laid crosswise. An L-shaped extension marks the dock's far end. In recent years, replacement concrete pilings have been installed and a portion of the deck at the outer end of the dock have been covered or replaced with concrete as the wooden members have deteriorated. With the exception of materials for a portion of the structure, all other aspects of integrity remain intact. Remnants of the earlier 20<sup>th</sup>-century Coast Guard dock, which the current structure replaced, are evident immediately to the northwest.

C 9. (B) **Gordon Willis House.** ca. 1950. One-story frame front-gable house of modest Craftsman style, set on pilings, with German siding, sash windows concealed behind plywood shutters, and a roof with exposed rafter tails. A large shed-roofed screened front porch may be a later addition. The house is the first one along the "main road," the dirt lane leading to the Coast Guard Station. A small grove of evergreen trees--cedars and live oaks--shelters the house. Gordon Willis built this house on the site of his childhood home. He was born at the Cape in 1916 while his parents were living there during the summer fishing months. His widow, Mrs. Ella Willis, is the lessee of this house.

C 10. (B) **Life Saving Station.** 1888, moved 1958. This two-story building remained beside the former Coast Guard Station until it was sold in 1958 to Kelly Willis, former captain of the mail boat, who moved it to this site. As one of only two surviving examples of 1880s life saving station design in North Carolina (of six built in the state during this decade), it is an important landmark in the progression of life saving stations along the South Atlantic coast from the 1870s to the 1940s. (Felix Revello, Cape Lookout Coast Guard Station nomination, 1988, 8.4) Originally, most of the first floor would have served as the boatroom, with the remaining space a living area for crew. The second floor had rooms for the keeper and crew and for storage. The current lessee is Sammy Daniels from New Bern.

The two-story rectangular frame building, two bays wide and three bays deep, of Downingsque-Queen Anne style has a front-gable form with an ornate roofline created by a large cross-gable in the center of each of the flank elevations. Each gable has a decorative kingpost truss and a pair of 4/4 sash windows. On each side of the cross-gable, a small hip-roofed wall dormer, apparently an early addition, breaks through the roofline. A similar king post truss accents the front and rear gable ends. The building rests on a stone block foundation. The first story retains German siding, which may be original, beneath a porch elevation; elsewhere asbestos shakes cover the exposed

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 13  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

walls. Wood shakes, apparently added over original board and batten at a relatively early date, cover the second story. Tall 4/4 sash illuminate the building. At the south gable end, a one-story porch with turned posts may be original, as it would have sheltered the domestic section of the building. The front, north gable originally contained a large double-door for the life-saving boats and a lookout tower. The tower has been removed and the wall infilled with an early four-panel door with transom and an early window, sheltered by a one-story porch with plain posts and a shed-roofed balcony on the upper level. Although the building has lost some integrity, mainly through the alteration of its original facade and through the relocation, it retains integrity of materials, craftsmanship, feeling and association, and a setting close to and of similar vegetation to the original site. Most of the changes are typical of early conversions of lifesaving stations to residential use and probably occurred about the time of the construction of the replacement station in 1916-17 (see entry 20).

NC a. (B) Shed. 1950s. Small shed-roofed building.

NC 11. (S) **Machine Gun Nest Site.** 1942. A circular depression at the top of a tall sand dune, with a ring of granite rocks encircling the depression, are all that remains of a machine gun nest built here as part of the harbor defenses of Beaufort Inlet in 1942.

NC 12. (B) **Fishing Cottage No. 1.** 1950s. This low-pitched frame four-bay-wide fishing cottage set on pilings reflects the horizontality of the Ranch house style popularized in the 1950s, although its materials conform to the Cape vernacular. Sided with narrow vertical sheathing and some later plywood, its low side-gable roof has exposed rafter tails. The front screened porch may be original. The sash windows are covered with plywood shutters.

NC a. (B) Shed. 1950s. Small front-gable shed with weatherboard siding and a steeply-pitched roof.

C 13. (B) **Fishing Cottage No. 2.** ca. 1950. Small fishing cottage of one-story, side-gable, frame construction, set on pilings, with German siding, casement and sash windows covered by plywood shutters, and a roof with exposed rafter tails. The house has no porch, but has a rear engaged shed addition that serves partially as a garage. The house is set among small evergreen trees along the dirt road leading to the Coast Guard Station. It may have been built by a Coast Guardsman as quarters for his family.

C 14. (B) **Life Saving Station Boat House (David Yeomans House).** ca. 1887, moved 1958.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 14**

**Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

Small, 1-story frame rectangular building, three-bays-wide, with a deep hip roof with exposed rafter tails. The building stands on pilings. Walls are covered with wood shakes, window openings have plywood shutters, but several original 2/2 sash are visible. When the Coast Guard no longer needed the boathouse, David Yeomans, long-time Cape resident, bought and moved the building from its original site 500 feet north and remodeled it as a cottage. Yeomans added the front shed porch and later enclosed it.

NC a. (B) Generator Shed. ca. 1958. Small side-gabled building with four-panel front door, wooden wall shakes, and exposed rafter tails.

C 15.(B) **Luther Guthrie House.** ca. 1910. One-story side-gable frame house with engaged front porch, asbestos wall shakes, and replacement 1/1 sash windows. The house stands on pilings. The roof has exposed rafter tails. A brick flue of recent construction stands at the south gable end. The original house contained a combination living room/kitchen on the left side and two bedrooms just large enough for a bed on the right side. A kitchen and bedroom were added at the rear by the Ogilvies.

Luther S. Guthrie, who worked at the Life Saving Station, built this house for his daughter. In 1928 he sold it to H. J. and R. S. Ogilvie of Wilkes County, who added three rooms and used it as a cottage. They sold it to Mrs. Ogilvie's nephew, Paul Harvell, in 1954, who sold it to the current owners, now lessees, Headon and Gladys Willis of Marshallberg, in 1958. They replaced the narrow porch with a large screened porch.

NC a. (B) Garage. ca. 1970. Shed-roofed plywood garage.

C 16. (B) **Bryant House.** ca. 1928. One-story traditional side-gable frame house, set on pilings, with a front engaged porch. The walls are covered with asbestos siding applied over vertical sheathing. Windows include 4/4 sash and 2/2 sash, and the roof has exposed rafter tails. The front porch was extended forward to the front, and screened in. Inside, the house contains a combination living room-kitchen and two small bedrooms. Out-of-season the porch is sheltered with plywood shutters. According to tradition, the house was built in 1928 by a Coast Guardsman for his family. During World War II some Army servicemen were quartered here. Ralph Bryant, a North Carolina State University forestry professor, and his wife Evelyn used it as a vacation cottage in the 1950s. They sold it to Hilma and Cecil Phelps of Marshallberg in 1960. The Phelps used it as a cottage. Their daughter Carolyn and her husband Johnny Willis are now the leaseholders.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 15**  
**Cape Lookout Village Historic District**  
**Carteret County, North Carolina**

NC a. (B) Garage. c. 1980. Shed-roofed 1-car garage sheathed with plywood.

**C 17.(B) Gaskill-Guthrie House.** ca. 1915. One-story side-gable frame house, built on pilings, with an engaged porch at the front and rear. Walls are covered with asbestos siding that is apparently original. The roof has exposed rafter tails, and windows include original 2/2 sash as well as two-pane casements. The porches are both screened and secured out-of-season with plywood shutters.

The house was apparently built by Clem and Louise Gaskill, who moved to Harkers Island during the 1917 exodus. Clem Gaskill is listed in the 1920 Census as a Coast Guardsman at the new station. The Cape Lookout Development Company acquired the property and sold it to Odell Guthrie, another Coast Guardsman, in 1921. He sold it to Grayer and Barbara Willis in 1951. Their son Keith Willis and his wife Annette purchased the house in 1974. They were granted a 25-year lease in 1976 by the National Park Service. (Deeds, family papers of Keith Willis family, 1920 U.S. Census, Carteret County, Population Schedule, Straits Township)

NC a.(B) Shed. ca. 1970. Shed-roofed building covered with metal sheathing.

**C 18. (B) Carrie Arendell Davis House.** ca. 1930. Modest house of one-story frame side-gable construction, with engaged front porch. The house stands on pilings, has board-and-batten siding beneath the front porch and asbestos wall shakes on the rest of the wall surfaces, and 6/6 sash. The front porch was extended and screened. A small flat-roofed addition extends to the rear and south side. Carrie Arendell Davis is said to have built this house, as well as a dance hall and snack bar on the shore of the bight that hosted popular weekend parties during the 1930s. Mrs. Davis kept boarders in the house. She sold the house and dance hall/store to Gladys Harker, who operated it for about ten years. Clark and Mary Sue Davis from Harkers Island presently occupy the house.

NC a. (B) Shed. ca. 1960. Metal-sided storage building with a shed roof.

**NC 19. (B) Setzer-Dawsey House.** ca. 1940, various later additions. One-story, side-gable house set on pilings, with board-and-batten siding, sash windows covered with plywood shutters. The house has been expanded and remodeled, with a large brick chimney on the north gable end, an addition on the south end, and a wide engaged screened porch across the front (east side). The original core of this house is believed to have been built by a Coast Guardsman as quarters for

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 16  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

his family during World War II. It has been leased for many years by Dr. Dawsey of Shelby.

NC a. (B) Garage. ca. 1970. One-story, frame front-gable garage, covered with plywood siding.

NC b. (B) Shed. ca. 1970. Small square frame building with gabled roof, perhaps a generator shed. Plain weatherboard, exposed rafter tails. A low plywood storage extension was added recently.

**20. (former) U.S. Coast Guard Station (NR, 1989).** The Coast Guard Station was built to replace the Life Saving Station which had stood on the site since 1888. The station was built for a crew of nine, but housed some twenty-two in later years. The station, one of three of the same design built along the North Carolina coast, is the only one that has survived. The architect is unknown, but the contractor was W. J. B. Shull of Newport, N.C. The station was decommissioned in 1982 and currently functions as a field school for the North Carolina Maritime Museum of Beaufort.

C a. (B) Main Station. 1916-1917. Rectangular 2-story frame building containing office space and living quarters for the crew. The design, evocative of the Georgian Revival style, features a five-bay facade dominated by a steep gable-on-hip roof crowned by a cupola. Small windows in the gable ends illuminate the attic. Vinyl siding had recently been removed to reveal the original plain clapboard which has a bell-cast profile at the base. All windows contain replacement 1/1 sash. The overhanging roof has boxed eaves. A one-story, hipped front porch with concrete floor shelters a trio of entrances, each with a glazed and paneled door surmounted by a three-light transom. The building stands on a full poured concrete basement containing coal storage and boiler areas. A tall brick chimney is partially embedded in one side of the cupola. Another chimney occupied the other side, but has been removed. The cupola, with bellcast base of clapboard and eight sash windows, has a pyramidal roof with overhanging eaves. In the center rear elevation, a gabled bulkhead provides outside access to the basement.

The first floor contains the keeper's room, an office, the crew's room, the storm clothes room, a spare room, and a bathroom. An enclosed stair leads to the second floor, containing a center hall flanked by two bedrooms. Another stair leads to the attic and the cupola. Original interior finishes include plaster and some beadboard wainscot, although much of the finish is now concealed beneath masonite paneling.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 17**

**Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

C b. (B) Galley. 1917. 1-story, side-gabled frame building, set at right angles to the main station, with wide overhanging boxed eaves along the front and rear and flush gable eaves. It is covered with plain clapboard and pierced with 1/1 replacement sash windows. The original north end exterior gable end chimney has been removed. In 1982 a vinyl-sheathed shed porch, now partially enclosed, was added to the side toward the station, but recently most of it has been removed.

C c. (B) Equipment Building. 1940. Four-bay, side-gable garage of Colonial Revival design, with a concrete slab foundation, wood wall shakes, corner posts and boxed eaves. In each gable end is a round-arched window with a sunburst fanlight. Original 6/6 sash windows illuminate the building. Four gabled dormers on the front elevation and four on the rear contain round-arched sash windows. The interior consists of one large space with a small corner shop on the first floor, and three separate finished rooms in the attic. The building housed rescue equipment and other vehicles.

C d. (ST) (former) Cistern. Late 19<sup>th</sup> century? Tall rectangular poured concrete structure which was adapted as a flammable liquids storage shed, with the addition of two doors and two roof ventilators.

NC e & f. (B) (B) Fire Equipment Sheds. 1970s. Small front-gabled buildings, one constructed of board-and-batten, the other of chipboard, which house fire equipment.

C 21. (S) **Landscape.** In a natural environment characterized by powerful tidal forces and harsh, often swiftly changing climatic conditions, the landscape is inextricably tied to the built environment that it has shaped. Prevailing winds, protection from storms, water-based employment and recreation, and vistas across marsh and water have dictated the placement of buildings and structures, as well as their designs and materials. Unmarred by views of development, the Atlantic Ocean's sandy beaches on the east edge of the district, marked seasonally in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries by temporary fishing shacks, are backed by a line of sand dunes that give way to gently undulating expanses marked by low clumps of native grasses, evergreen shrubbery, and live oaks, myrtles, and cedars tolerant of salt spray and severe weather. In the southern end of the district, where a number of houses are concentrated, a stand of scrubby pine trees planted in the 1960s to protect the structures from wind and lend stability to the shifting sands, constitutes the only significant manipulation by man of the district's landscape. The wide marshy expanse ringing the natural cove known as Cape Lookout Bight fronts and sometimes virtually surrounds the houses oriented to the bight and the sound beyond.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 18  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

At high tide, the water of the bight comes right up to some of these houses. The marsh grasses reach into the bight at its southern end but yield to sandy beaches along the narrow strip of land leading to the lighthouse complex. Except for the pine trees introduced in the 1960s, the district's landscape remains remarkably unaltered from the historic period, playing a critical role in the area's integrity of setting, feeling, and association.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 19**  
**Cape Lookout Village Historic District**  
**Carteret County, North Carolina**

**Statement of Significance**

At the southern tip of Core Banks in Carteret County, the Cape Lookout Village Historic District contains twenty-one principal resources, anchored by the Cape Lookout Lighthouse at the north end and the former U. S. Coast Guard Station to the south. Sixteen of these resources--the lighthouse, life saving buildings and houses, as well as the circulation network and the historic landscape--contribute to the district's significance as a unique Outer Banks community that flourished as a fishing village and life-saving station from the 1870s to about 1920, and then endured as a resort for hardy vacationers until becoming part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore in 1966. The landmarks include the 1859 diamond-patterned Cape Lookout Lighthouse, the 1873 brick Keeper's Quarters, the 1907 frame Keeper's Quarters, the picturesque frame 1888 Life Saving Station and boathouse, and the 1917 Colonial Revival frame Coast Guard Station with lookout tower and its detached galley and large shingled garage. Six of the ten historic private dwellings, all small gabled houses with engaged porches, were built by fishermen or Coast Guard employees for their families from about 1910 to ca. 1950. Two other engaged porch houses were built about 1915 for Army Corps of Engineers workers. The last two are vacation cottages built in the 1920s to 1930s. Finally, the vital role of the Cape as the site of a defense base for Beaufort Inlet during World War II is illustrated in elements of the circulation network and the ruins of a machine gun nest. Altogether, these surviving material artifacts convey the significant continued historic use of Cape Lookout over time. Characterized by the inextricable connection of the natural landscape and the built environment, Cape Lookout Village Historic District has statewide significance in social history, maritime history, and architecture as one of the last surviving and relatively intact historic settlements on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Its nineteenth and early twentieth century government and private architecture conveys the changing role of the Banks as the home of hardy Banker fishing families, the site of government life-saving landmarks and programs, and as a remote vacation resort. The district's period of significance encompasses all phases of historic development represented by surviving built resources, beginning in 1857, when construction of the lighthouse commenced, and ending with the last of the Cape's significant private construction ca. 1950, when the State of North Carolina began acquiring land for a proposed state park.

**Historical Background**

Cape Lookout is shaped like a fishing hook, with the hook facing toward the mainland to create a sheltered harbor known as Lookout Bight. According to tradition, Enoch Ward and John Shackelford purchased the Cape in 1713, Ward taking the eastern section known as Core Banks,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 20  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

Shackleford taking the western section from what is now known as Barden Inlet to Beaufort Inlet. Neither man apparently attempted to settle the area.<sup>1</sup> The Cape Lookout Bight attracted shipping activities beginning in the mid-eighteenth century. The low, sparsely vegetated land of the Cape, however, apparently did not attract any permanent settlement until the later years of the century. The Cape was a prominent mariner's landmark throughout the history of American shipping, known equally for its danger and for its desirability. The ten-mile-long shoal that projected out from the Cape into the ocean has been an obstacle for ships since the beginning of shipping in the area. On the other hand, the bight offers a harbor of safe refuge from storms. From eighteenth-century pirates, British warships during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, federal blockade squadrons during the Civil War, to convoys of Europe-bound warships during the two world wars, Lookout Bight has been a place of refuge and rendezvous. In recognition of its strategic significance, the Americans built Fort Hancock here during the Revolutionary War; it was abandoned in 1780 and no traces of it have been identified.<sup>2</sup>

During the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, settlement on the Cape was apparently limited to temporary camps erected by fishermen to harvest the sea's seasonal offerings. By 1755 whale fisheries were in seasonal operation on the Cape. In the early 1800s such New England whaling families as the Chadwicks settled in the vicinity and conducted sporadic whaling. Whaling was just one of many ways local people made their living from the sea, and never as important a commercial activity along the Banks as it was in New England during the whaling era. At the Cape, whaling season was from February to April, when fishermen set up small camps along the shore. Local tradition relates that New England whaling ships used the Cape as a base of operations from January to April until the 1870s. Whaling activity apparently centered around Diamond City, a village on Shackleford Banks immediately adjacent to the Lighthouse, and ceased by 1900 when the last of the residents had left for the mainland. Shackleford Banks actually was an appendage of Core Banks until the late 1930s when dredging of Barden Inlet began, thus separating the Banks from the Cape (see Fig. 1.)<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>David Yeomans, interview with the author, Harker's Island, 26 April, 1998; F. Ross Holland, Jr., *A Survey History of Cape Lookout National Seashore* (National Park Service, 1968), 5.

<sup>2</sup>Holland, 9-10.

<sup>3</sup>Yeomans interview; Holland, 11-17, David Stick, *The Outer Banks of North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1958), 311-312. Diamond City, a community of fishermen and whalers that grew to as many as 500 people, thrived until August 1899 when a devastating hurricane flooded their homes, prompting them to move their houses to the mainland. Marcus B. and Sallie W. Simpson, "The Pursuit of Leviathan: A History of Whaling on the North Carolina Coast," *North Carolina Historical Review* LXV, 1, January 1988, 33-50.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 21**  
**Cape Lookout Village Historic District**  
**Carteret County, North Carolina**

Cape Lookout Lighthouse was authorized by Congress in 1804, but not until 1812 was the light actually completed. The 100-foot-tall light was described as a two-tower structure, "...the inside one is of brick--the outside one is a wooden framed building, boarded and shingled, and painted in red and white stripes horizontally."<sup>4</sup> The lighthouse had two major shortcomings: its height was not sufficient to permit visibility from outside the sand shoal which it was intended to assist boats in avoiding, and its light was not effective during the daytime.

From 1857-1859 a replacement lighthouse, a 156-foot brick tower fitted with a "first order Fresnel lens" was built. The treacherous Cape shoals were now marked by a lighthouse that became "the prototype of all the lighthouses to be erected subsequently on the Outer Banks."<sup>5</sup> In 1867 the original wooden stairway to the top of the new light was replaced with a cast-iron spiral staircase. The old wooden tower remained standing until at least 1868.<sup>6</sup>

In 1872-1873 a new keeper's dwelling was constructed at Cape Lookout. At this time the lighthouse was repainted in "black and white diagonal checkers" to make it more visible in the daytime.<sup>7</sup> In 1889 the tower, dwelling and porches, cistern, fences and outhouses were repaired, and three new storehouses built. In the early 1900s the Light-House Board (which operated the network of lighthouses in the United States) decided to construct a new Keeper's Quarters and to partition the old dwelling into a duplex to accommodate the assistant keepers and their families. In 1907 a six-room frame quarters was completed for \$4,479.<sup>8</sup>

In 1888 the Cape Lookout Life Saving Station (see entry #10), erected one and one-half miles southwest of the lighthouse, opened for service under the direction of William Howard Gaskill of Harkers Island. Stations were built at Portsmouth, on the adjacent island to the north, in 1894 and at the north end of Core Banks, at Drum Inlet (Core Banks Lifesaving Station), in 1896. Seven surfmen served at the Cape Lookout station. The lookout tower (no longer in existence), an essential feature of the station, was manned throughout the day. In 1915 the Life Saving

---

<sup>4</sup>Holland, 25-26.

<sup>5</sup>Holland, 28.

<sup>6</sup>O'Brien and Noble, "Soldiers of Surf and Storm," 1-13; Holland, 29-30

<sup>7</sup>O'Brien and Noble, 17.

<sup>8</sup>O'Brien and Noble, 22.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 22  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

Service was merged with the Light-House Service into the new Coast Guard, and the 1880s station was replaced with a new, larger frame building (see entry #20). The lifesaving stations on Core Banks and vicinity remained in service until the 1930s, when they were closed due to changes in technology. Ships were becoming equipped with better navigational instruments and no longer needed to hug the coastline, and improved technology provided the Coast Guard with modern, improved lifesaving equipment. Portsmouth Station closed in 1938, Core Banks and Cape Lookout in 1940. In 1950 the last officer-in-charge of the Cape Lookout Lighthouse left his post as the lighthouse converted to automation.<sup>9</sup>

It was not until the 1860s that Bankers fully realized that the seafood in the adjacent waters presented, as Outer Banks historian David Stick has put it, "a vast source of potential income, with the result that the three-quarters of a century or so between then and World War II might best be described as the great era of commercial fishing on the Banks."<sup>10</sup> In his respected work *The Outer Banks of North Carolina*, Stick goes on to explain that fishing activity on the Banks has been listed almost exclusively in the classification of shore and boat fisheries rather than the more common vessel fisheries (boats of five or more tons) elsewhere. Much of the fishing was conducted on the ocean beaches and in the marshes, shallow reefs, and channels in the sounds. Due to the lack of rapid transportation and refrigeration that prevented delivering fresh seafood to the consumer, for much of the historic period the focus was on fish that could be smoked or salted, or harvested for their oils. Salted mullet was the first extensive food fishery on the Outer Banks; other primary food fishes caught from the ocean beaches were gray trout, bluefish, spot, speckled trout, and king whiting.<sup>11</sup>

Lookout Bight has long been recognized as a natural fish trap. The wide variety and quantity of fish here may have been a determinant for the establishment of the United States Bureau of Fisheries marine biological laboratory in Beaufort in 1899. Carteret County was the center of commercial mullet fishing in the United States in the later 1800s. During the season from May to November, fishermen set up camps in small shanties on the Banks. Although some of the camp huts erected on the beach lasted several years, they were meant to be temporary, constructed of a framework of heavy poles embedded in the sand and sheathed in sticks and twigs fastened with

---

<sup>9</sup>Holland, 36; O'Brien and Noble, 2, 55, 60, 63-64, 113-114, 119-120.

<sup>10</sup> Stick, 213.

<sup>11</sup> Stick, 213-220.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 23**  
**Cape Lookout Village Historic District**  
**Carteret County, North Carolina**

beargrass, giving the overall appearance of a hollow haystack. When a lookout posted on a tall sand dune or in an improvised lookout tower spotted a school, the crew would launch their boat and drop their nets, which were connected to the shore by a rope. Back at the temporary camp, hands would clean and salt the catch. By 1880 a greater quantity of salted mullet came from Carteret County than from all other Atlantic coast locations combined, but by the early 1900s the fish's commercial importance declined.<sup>12</sup>

A permanent fishing village developed during the second half of the nineteenth century on the Cape, a smaller settlement than Diamond City, the largest of the Core Banks communities, located just on the other side of the lighthouse. Fishermen from Harkers Island, Marshallberg, and other mainland communities of Carteret County built houses for their families to occupy seasonally, and gradually the village at Cape Lookout became a year-round community. A post office, school, and stores were constructed. The 1880 census was the first to record a community on the Cape. The enumerator started the census at the lighthouse, where W. F. Hatsel was keeper, and Thomas J. Kenan of Florida and Frank P. Chaffee of New York were U.S. Signal Core observers. The assistant keeper was Josephus Willis, who had a large family, apparently housed in a private dwelling nearby. The villagers around the lighthouse, some of whom lived at the Cape and some at Diamond City, lived in family clans: four families of Willises, five families of Guthries, two families of Roses, three families of Hancocks, a group of Lewises, a group of Moores, a group of Nelsons, Gaskills, Fulfords and Styrons. Nearly every male household head was either a fisherman or a sailor. The women were all housekeepers, the school-age children all "at school." The oldest fisherman, James Hancock, was seventy-four years old, and boys took up the fishing life as young as thirteen years old. A family group of fishermen was known as a "crew," named for the location of its fishing territory. By 1887 there were approximately fifty fishing families living in houses all over the sound side of the Cape.<sup>13</sup>

The story of Eugene Yeomans, a Cape fisherman, illustrates the nomadic, multi-faceted existence of the Banker men and the mobility of their houses. Yeomans, born in Swansboro, N.C. in 1853, moved to Harkers Island in 1870, married, and built a house. In 1875 the Yeomans moved the house to Diamond City, where in 1880 Eugene appears in the census as a young sailor with three children. In 1898 Yeomans obtained a deed for "forage of fishing" at Wreck Point on Cape

---

<sup>12</sup>Holland, 19-21; Stick, 213-217.

<sup>13</sup>United States Census, Population Schedule, Carteret County, 1880; Yeomans interview.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 24  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

Lookout, the barb at the end of the hook.<sup>14</sup> His crew, known as the “Wreck Point Crew,” which included his five sons Walter, Dan, Luther, Fernie and Kendall Yeomans, lived in a fish camp at the Cape during fishing season. State deeds giving individuals exclusive fishing rights to particular parcels of sound waters were common during this era. Fishing crews also had gentleman’s agreements among themselves that separated one crew’s territory from another’s. After the Hurricane of 1899 devastated Diamond City, the Yeomans family moved the house back to Harkers Island. Men from the fishing families of the area often found jobs working for the Life Saving Service, since their fishing experience and familiarity with the area were valuable assets for lifesaving crews. Two of Eugene Yeomans’ sons, Walter and Dan, worked for the service, living in the crew quarters all week long. They returned home to Harkers Island on the weekends. Eugene Yeomans died in 1934.<sup>15</sup>

Few Outer Banks residents actually had deeds to the land where their houses stood. In Diamond City, with a population of some 500 people at its height in the 1880s, only a few people held title to their property. In such a fragile natural environment, where wind and water constantly altered the terrain, houses were moved about like mobile homes and set up wherever the fishing families found productive fishing. As with Native Americans, the land was used communally. The Bankers moved houses on twenty-four-foot whale boats, with pointed prows at each end, used for harpooning whales.<sup>16</sup> A house was rolled aboard two of these boats, lashed together, and floated between the islands of the Banks and the mainland. Salvaging building materials was a traditional practice of the Bankers, who were adept at recovering materials from shipwrecks and from abandoned buildings. For instance, lumber from the *Olive T. Thurlow*, which wrecked near the Lighthouse in 1902, was salvaged for building. Cows, sheep, and pigs roamed free throughout the Cape; thus, the private gardens were protected by fences.

Around 1900, when commercial mullet fishing flourished and activity at the Cape reached its height, the community was more populous than was Harkers Island. Lighthouse keeper Wilson Gillikin apparently had no assistants, but five of the surfmen employed at the Cape Life Saving Station were living in scattered private dwellings with their families in 1900--Robert Pigott, William L. Davis, Walter Yeomans, Daniel Yeomans, and Matthew P. Guthrie. The Cape Lookout School operated from at least 1900, with teacher Charles S. Davis living on the Cape in

---

<sup>14</sup>Carteret County Deed Book UU 103.

<sup>15</sup>Yeomans interview; Ada C. Willis, entry on Eugene Yeomans family, *The Heritage of Carteret County*, I, 469-470.

<sup>16</sup>Stick, 193; Whale boats were constructed by Devine Guthrie at Diamond City in the late 1800s.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 25**

**Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

that year. As in 1880, the men of the Cape were almost uniformly engaged in fishing. The large families allowed fishing crews to be made up of fathers and their sons. The following crews fished at the Cape in the late 1800s and early 1900s: the Cape Hills Crew made up of John S. Rose and sons John W., George A., Thomas, Joey, and Dannie; the Cape Shore Crew consisting of Tilmon Rose and sons Iredell, Howard, Charles, and Leslie; another Cape Shore Crew that included George Rose and sons Telford, Edd, Dallas, and Cletus; the Wreck Point Crew made up of Eugene Yeomans and sons Walter, Dan, Luther, Fernie, and Kendall; the Hook of Cape Crew: Alfonso Guthrie and sons Allen, Billie, Louie, and Alfonso's brother Henry Guthrie and sons Johnnie, David, and Odell; and a second Hook of Cape Crew that included Sam E. Willis and sons Kelly, Sammie, Luther, and Eddie.<sup>17</sup> Almost without exception the enumerator for each census recorded that the Cape families owned their houses.<sup>18</sup>

By 1910 the population had declined somewhat from its peak in 1900. The short-lived Cape post office opened about 1910 and closed in 1911.<sup>19</sup> Keeper Charles W. Clifton lived with his family in the new frame Keeper's Quarters, and his two assistants, William Rollinson and Victor Watson, lived in the brick quarters, now a duplex, with their families. The able-bodied Cape men not working at the lighthouse or the Life Saving Station were described as surf fishermen. The number of fishermen per household had declined during the decade, with no more than one son still living at home fishing with his father. Apparently the young men had established their own households. Fisherman Tilman Rose had been living on the Cape for more than thirty years.<sup>20</sup>

About 1919 there was a general exodus from the Cape. The one-room school, which had twenty-five children in attendance in the mid-1910s under teacher Mrs. Pearl Whittey of Harkers Island, closed at the end of the 1919 school year. Some thirty to forty houses were moved from the Cape to Harkers Island, and the Harkers Island School was built at this time. The houses left at the Cape became fishing shacks, with only families associated with the Life Saving Station and the lighthouse remaining in full-time residence at the Cape.<sup>21</sup> Yet the 1920 census still records sixteen families living at the Cape, including sixty-four year old Tilman Rose, who with his son

---

<sup>17</sup>Yeomans interview.

<sup>18</sup>United States Censuses, Population Schedules, Carteret County: 1880, 1900, 1910.

<sup>19</sup>Stick, 310.

<sup>20</sup>United States Censuses, Population Schedules, Carteret County, 1880, 1900, 1910.

<sup>21</sup>Yeomans interview.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 26  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

Howard was still fishing. The enumerator's occupational notation that the Cape men were "fishing food fish" may distinguish their catches of edible fish from the menhaden fisheries industry, fertilizer processing, that had become big business in Carteret County in the early 1900s. Five men employed at the Life Saving Station, now under the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard, lived with their families on the Cape. These are Charlie Russell, John E. Lewis, Clem M. Gaskill, James C. Lewis, and Odell Guthrie. Eva Willis was the Lighthouse Keeper, while Pearl Willis served as schoolteacher. The fishermen's families were still in residence with them at the Cape. Dominick Asdenti, an Italian stonemason, was living at the Cape with his North Carolina-born wife and two young children. In the 1920s Bull Hunter, Dominick Asdenti, and Cary Davis operated stores at the Cape. The mailboat came at 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. During this decade, as traditional sailboats gave way to motor boats, the Cape became more easily accessible to vacationers.<sup>22</sup>

Dominick Asdenti had come to village in the 1910s as the foreman of the crew building the breakwater near Wreck Point, at the northwest tip of the Cape. Planning for this engineering feat dates to the 1890s, when the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers began looking for a suitable site on the treacherous North Carolina coast for establishing a "harbor of refuge," where "coastwise and deep-draft vessels" could find shelter from storms. After conducting surveys of potential sites in the late 1890s, narrowing the choice to Cape Hatteras or Cape Lookout, and canvassing more than 225 potential users of the harbor as well as scores of other interested parties such as maritime exchanges and insurance companies, Cape Lookout was selected as the preferred site, despite the fact that the harbor of Lookout Bight would be smaller than a Cape Hatteras harbor. In a report transmitted to Congress by Secretary of War H. L. Stimson on 7 February 1912, U. S. Army Chief of Engineers W. H. Bixby recommended construction of a breakwater to create a harbor of refuge at Cape Lookout at an estimated cost of \$3,526,600, with a target completion date in 1916. Attachments to the report indicate that cost was an important factor in the selection: due to sea floor contours, shifting sands, prevailing winds, and greater exposure to seas, in order to achieve the desired effect at Cape Hatteras, the breakwater would have to be nearly three times as large as one at Cape Lookout and would cost more than twice as much. It was projected that the Cape Lookout structure would require 1.6 million tons of stone to build a structure with a total length of 6,250 feet.<sup>23</sup>

---

<sup>22</sup>Yeomans interview; Stick, 310-311; United States Census, Population Schedule, Carteret County, 1920.

<sup>23</sup> Document no. 528, vol. 26 of the second session of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Congress, House of Representatives, February 1912, 1-11.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 27**

**Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

Construction of the breakwater commenced in 1914. The large granite boulders were delivered by barge to Shackleford Banks near the lighthouse and then carried in rail cars along a track laid across the sand to the project site. Progress reports to Congress were sketchy in comparison to the detailed proposal of 1912, perhaps due to security concerns generated by World War I. A 1916 report to Congress states that the project was forty-four percent completed with 4,800 feet of breakwater showing at low tide, and in June 1918 the Army Corps of Engineers reported to Congress that the breakwater contract had been completed.<sup>24</sup> According to historian David Stick, work stopped when the United States entered World War II and the project was discontinued because use of the harbor was below expectations. Until construction of a jetty at Ft. Macon in 1960, the Cape Lookout breakwater was the only sizable structure of its type on the North Carolina coast.<sup>25</sup>

The Bight's role as a harbor of refuge eventually was marginalized with shifting sand that enlarged the harbor but reduced water depth, a process that accelerated following creation of Barden Inlet in the late 1930s. Today, the breakwater constitutes the most prominent feature of the enlarged, western end of the Cape created in the twentieth century, clearly evident in the line of massive granite boulders exposed at low tide and the ridge of low dunes running to the southeast that today mark the structure's entire length.

Around 1915 the Cape Lookout Development Company, headquartered in Beaufort, tried to develop the Cape as a summer resort. They envisioned a hotel, clubhouse, and summer cottages.<sup>26</sup> The subdivision plat for the Cape Lookout Development Company shows a permanent railroad extending across from Beaufort on the mainland to Shackleford Banks and on to the Cape, a major public works project that was never built.<sup>27</sup> The development company apparently took possession of the land between the lighthouse and the Coast Guard Station under the State Torrens system, a legal method for taking title to land not specifically deeded to any particular owners. In the wake of the general exodus of the Bankers from the Cape, the developers seized an opportunity to fill the vacuum. They laid out hundreds of lots along grid-

---

<sup>24</sup> Congressional Record, second session of the 64<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1916; and Congressional Record, second session of the 65<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1918.

<sup>25</sup> Telephone interview with Thomas Jarrett, Wilmington, N.C., office of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 23 February 2000; Stick, 311.

<sup>26</sup> Cape Lookout Development company letterhead stationery in possession of Dr. Graham Barden, New Bern.

<sup>27</sup> Yeomans interview, Stick, 310-311.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 28**  
**Cape Lookout Village Historic District**  
**Carteret County, North Carolina**

patterned streets that existed only on paper and sold off the lots for \$100 apiece. Coast Guardsman Odell Guthrie purchased a lot in 1921 that apparently had the house of Clem Gaskill, another Coast Guardsman, standing on it. This house still stands (#17: Gaskill-Guthrie House). The Seifert family of New Bern purchased a lot from the company in 1927 and built the "Coca-Cola House" (#3). Since the railroad scheme did not materialize, the isolation of the Cape prevented the success of the resort, and the company apparently went out of business during the Great Depression.<sup>28</sup>

Possibly the Cape Lookout Development Company, established while the breakwater was under construction, had been motivated by the potential collateral commercial value of the Bight's new role as a harbor of refuge. A 1910 report to Congress on the planned breakwater stated that 500 vessels of eight to fourteen feet in draft were annually using the Bight as a harbor, and that half of them carried lumber and the other half guano, coal, and cement. With improvement to accommodate deep-draft vessels and extension of a rail line from Beaufort to Cape Lookout, the harbor could grow commercially as a freight transfer depot.<sup>29</sup> In 1912, an Army Corps of Engineers district engineer predicted that any commercial use would be very small, limited to furnishing provisions and coal for sailing vessels taking refuge. Because of the greater length of the land routes to Cape Lookout, a port there could not compete with Norfolk, Wilmington, Charleston, or Savannah.<sup>30</sup> Ultimately, any commercial development at the Cape, of port or resort, depended upon the rail connection to Beaufort that was never built.

The 1916 merger of the Life Saving Service and the Light-House Service into the United States Coast Guard resulted in the construction of a Coast Guard Station at the Cape in 1917, located beside the Life Saving Station. For the next twenty-five years, the Coast Guard and lighthouse personnel coexisted with fishermen and vacationers on the Cape.

The early years of World War II brought intensive military activity. After German U-boat attacks sank many ships in the vicinity of Cape Lookout during 1942, torpedoing tankers within a few

---

<sup>28</sup>Carteret County deeds, including the Seifert deed in Book 34, 334, verify the existence of the Cape Lookout Development Company. The subdivision map, surveyed by J. G. Hassell, is preserved in the subdivision plats in the register of deeds office.

<sup>29</sup> Congressional Record, document no. 373, vol. 18 of the second session of the 61st Congress, House of Representatives, February 1910, 4.

<sup>30</sup> Congressional Record, document no. 528, vol. 26 of the second session of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Congress, House of Representatives, February 1912, 9-10.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 29  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

miles of the beach, the Cape was developed as a temporary defensive base. Beaufort Inlet off Cape Lookout was made into a protected anchorage for commercial ships as they made their way along the coast. As the only deep-water haven between Charleston and Cape Hatteras, the Cape was an extremely important night-time anchorage for these vessels. Supported by the defensive capability of Ft. Macon across the inlet, ships docked inside a submarine net strung across the mouth of the inlet to spend the night in protected waters, safe from the night-time raids of German U-boats. The Coast Artillery Corps established the anchorage in April 1942, and by September had built a concrete road, set up two large five-inch Navy guns, a radar station, a battery commander's post, a machine gun nest, and frame barracks for a unit of between 100 to 200 men. The official base name was "Temporary Harbor Defenses of Beaufort Inlet," but was known simply as "The Rock" by the men stationed there. The base was deactivated in October 1944. The barracks were sold and dismantled after the war, along with much of the other fabric. Portions of these structures remain in place as a testament to the Cape's significant defensive role in World War II (see entry #21).<sup>31</sup>

For the rest of the decade, life at the Cape resumed its slow pace of the 1920s and 1930s as an isolated haven for seasonal fishermen and hardy vacationers, most of them connected to the place by deep family roots. Ocean and sound fronts remains the focus of most activity, with access to the water, still mostly by foot, provided by a loose network of dirt lanes and the concrete Coast Guard road. A few residents and visitors used motorized vehicles, but most people walked, rode horses, or traveled in horse-drawn carts.

From the 1950s to 1970s the Cape was the subject of much real estate activity as the State of North Carolina began to buy out the interests of various property owners in order to protect the area as a state park. During this period a land speculator from piedmont North Carolina named Charlie Reeves managed to acquire a large parcel of the Cape, apparently through the purchase of the tauranization rights on the land of the Cape Lookout Development Company which had never been sold. He subsequently sold his holdings to the State. The Federal government was at this time developing a series of National Seashores along the Outer Banks. The National Park Service purchased some of the Cape Lookout Village land for a National Seashore from the State and some directly from property owners. For each of the owners of the fourteen houses at the Cape, the Park Service bought their buildings during the 1970s, then gave them twenty-five-year leases for the use of the properties.<sup>32</sup>

---

<sup>31</sup>Paul Branch, Ft. Macon State Park historian, interview with the author, August 17, 1998.

<sup>32</sup> Interview with Dr. Graham Barden, February 22, 1999. The Cape Lookout property owners who had valid deeds

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 30  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

In 1966 the Cape's unique environment was accorded special status by becoming part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore, a fifty-four-mile stretch of Outer Banks from Portsmouth Island to Cape Lookout. Since then the National Park Service has been operating the park as a primitive recreational facility, attempting to maintain a balance between people's enjoyment of the habitat with the delicate ecological balance of the barrier islands. The National Park Service owns all of the property in the district except for the Cape Lookout Lighthouse, which is owned, operated, and maintained by the U. S. Coast Guard.

The Park Service is currently formulating plans for the future use of the houses following expiration of the leases between 2001 and 2005. The lease holders, many of whom owned the houses for many years prior to development of the national park, have a strong attachment to their houses and to the history and ecology of the Cape. They organized as the Cape Lookout Village Historic Preservation Committee and retained a consultant to prepare this nomination to the National Register. Their primary goal in seeking listing is to ensure that the history of the fishing families who lived at the Cape will be preserved along with the Cape's heritage as a life-saving settlement.

Recently, two other building complexes at the Cape have been adapted by non-profit organizations for use as interpretative sites to teach visitors the natural history of the area. The Coast Guard Station, decommissioned in 1982, is now a field school for the North Carolina Maritime Museum, headquartered in Beaufort. Student groups live and study in the station. The house, store, and rental cabins built by Les and Sally Moore in the 1950s and 1960s (entry #2) are currently being refurbished by a private group under lease arrangements with the Park Service to serve as the Cape Lookout Environmental Education Center.

It is fortunate that the Cape Lookout National Seashore retains two of its historic settlements, Portsmouth at the north end and Cape Lookout Village at the south end. Associated with a culture that has completely disappeared, these rare surviving Outer Banks settlements are invaluable as the only remaining cultural landscapes of the Bankers. Portsmouth is listed as a historic district on the National Register. Cape Lookout Village also deserves listing. In both villages, most of the buildings present during their heyday at the turn-of-the-century are gone, making those that remain even more significant. Despite its popularity as a recreation destination

---

to their property were paid for it by the Park Service. Those who did not have valid deeds gave quit claim deeds to the Park Service. All property owners received leases for the use of their property.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 31**  
**Cape Lookout Village Historic District**  
**Carteret County, North Carolina**

for much of the twentieth century, the district is remarkable for its lack of oceanfront development, thanks to private property owners' wisdom prior to the 1950s and government intervention since then. Both the built environment and the natural landscape setting that accommodates villagers' activities continue to convey the district's historic character.

**Social History, Maritime History, and Architecture Context**

Cape Lookout Village owes its existence to the lighthouse that has stood there since 1812. Without its presence as a beacon, doubtless families would never have settled this barren stretch of sand. The Cape Lookout Lighthouse was the first of the great lighthouses erected along the North Carolina coast by the U. S. government during their replacement of the earlier, smaller lighthouses in the mid-nineteenth century. The 1859 lighthouse rose 169 feet into the sky to mark the treacherous Cape shoal. To accommodate the lighthouse keeper and one or two assistant keepers and their families, the government built a variety of keeper's quarters at lighthouses along the state's coast from the early 1800s to the early 1900s. These tended to be functional buildings of vernacular design. As many of these have been lost, Cape Lookout is fortunate to have two surviving quarters. The earliest known surviving quarter in the state is the 1823 two-story brick quarter at the Ocracoke Light, although it was enlarged to a duplex in the later nineteenth century. The principal quarters at Cape Hatteras Light is a gable-and-wing Victorian brick quarters built in 1870. A double keepers' quarters, a two-story, eight bay brick building, was constructed before 1893 at Cape Hatteras. At the Bodie Island Lighthouse, the 1872 two-story brick quarters closely resembles the brick quarters at Cape Lookout, and, like it, now serves as a visitor's center. A pair of picturesquely-styled, frame quarters were built at Currituck Beach Lighthouse in 1875: the double quarters is two-story and the single quarters, one and one-half story. The corbeled chimneys, kingpost gable decorations and ornate porches set these quarters apart from the plain vernacular quarters which were standard. At Cape Lookout, the 1872 brick single keeper's quarters served the group of keepers, probably unsatisfactorily, until 1907, when it was converted to a duplex to house two assistant keepers and families, and a frame single quarters (#4) for the head keeper was built in the same year. This 1907 quarters is one of the last keeper's quarters built in North Carolina.

During the 1870s and 1880s a series of small picturesque life saving stations were built along the Outer Banks. Around 1900 they were followed by a second generation of shingled, often towered stations. The largest number of surviving life saving stations are in Dare County, at Little Kinnakeet (1874 and 1904), Cape Hatteras (1879), Kill Devil Hills (1879 and 1910), Oregon Inlet (1897), Caffey's Inlet (1897), Kitty Hawk (1911), Chicamacomico (1911), and Bodie Island

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 32**

**Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

(1878). One station that originally stood in Dare County, the Kill Devil Hills Station (1870s) has been moved to Corolla in Currituck County. In Currituck County two stations built there still stand: the Currituck Beach (formerly Jones Hill) Station (ca. 1900), moved a short distance from its original site, and the Wash Woods Station (1910). Stations also survive at Cape Lookout (1888), at Portsmouth Village (1895), and at Oak Island (1891). At Ocracoke Island, only the 1904 station boathouse survives.<sup>33</sup> Although some of these stations are restored, most are being adaptively used for residential and other purposes and have been modified accordingly.

The first generation of stations were small, gabled front buildings with Stick Style gables decorated with king posts and fancy bargeboards, intricate patterns of siding, and wall dormers. Such a station is Little Kinnakeet, which was converted to a boathouse when a replacement station was built in 1904. The 1879 stations at Cape Hatteras and Kill Devil Hills resemble the Cape Lookout station, with front gables decorated with king posts and hipped wall dormers.

The 1888 Cape Lookout station is apparently the last of the first generation stations, and its wood shake walls look ahead to the second generation Shingle Style stations of the 1890s and early 1900s. Built in 1895, the Portsmouth Village station is fully Shingle Style, a crisply-geometric one and one-half story building with shingled walls, a lookout tower, a dormer window, and a wraparound porch. The Currituck Beach station is of the same ilk. The second generation stations presented variations on the Shingle Style. By the second decade of the century, the stations at Kill Devil Hills, Kitty Hawk, and Wash Woods were still of Shingle Style but more Colonial Revival in details.

In 1915 when the Life Saving Service became the Coast Guard, new stations continued the architectural evolution from Shingle Style into Colonial Revival style. At Cape Lookout, the new Coast Guard Station built to replace the old Life Saving Station in 1917 has a two-story, colonial form with a gable on hip roof and a hip-roofed porch, with a lookout tower attached to the roofline with a curved weatherboarded base echoing the swelling shapes of the Shingle Style, as does the curved kick of the weatherboards at the base of the walls. The Creed's Hill Coast Guard Station in Dare County, built in 1918, has a quite similar form, with a gable-on-hip roof, but lacks the tower.

In addition to the government lifesaving architecture built at Cape Lookout, a small group of

---

<sup>33</sup>Bishir and Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*; State Historic Preservation Office, file on North Carolina life saving stations..

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 33**  
**Cape Lookout Village Historic District**  
**Carteret County, North Carolina**

private dwellings reflect the cultural and commercial history of the Banks, the occupations of fishermen, and government workers on the island. These simple frame houses, all one-story, represent the Banker house, a small side-gable unit, patched together of salvaged materials, portable, and apparently unique to coastal North Carolina. This house type is best represented at the village of Ocracoke (NR-1990) and at Portsmouth Village, at the northern tip of the Cape Lookout National Seashore and now maintained by the Park Service as a museum village that interprets the theme of man and his relation to the sea. Some of the Portsmouth houses are leased to private residents. While the government lighthouses and auxiliary buildings and the life saving stations were often designed by architects and built by commercial contractors, Banker houses were built by the families themselves, often of salvaged materials, in traditional forms that had survived the harsh environment for generations.

Sometimes the houses were built to be seasonal, and always, portable. When a particular building site became uninhabitable because of erosion, a shift in the fishing economy, or a change in life circumstances, fishermen routinely rolled their houses to another site nearby or onto boats and floated them to another island or to the mainland. Most of the houses in the village of Diamond City, located on Shackleford Banks in sight of the Cape Lookout light, were moved to the mainland after the Hurricane of 1899, and now no buildings remain there. Elderly citizens can still point out a number of the story-and-a-jump houses in the "Promise Land," a section of Morehead City to which Bankers relocated their houses and settled permanently after the hurricane.

Of course, no trace remains of the tiny, insubstantial shanties of driftwood, salvaged materials, and thatch that fishermen erected on the ocean beaches for shelter while fishing for mullet and other catches. At the end of each season, these were dismantled or left to be destroyed by wind and waves.

When fishermen left Portsmouth Village and Cape Lookout Village, many of them took their houses with them. The oldest private dwelling currently at the Cape is the Luther Guthrie House built about 1910. This small side-gabled house with engaged porch is apparently typical of the earlier houses that have disappeared. David Yeomans, youngest son of Cape fisherman Eugene Yeomans, a life-long resident of Harkers Island and Cape Lookout Village, recalls that the houses moved off the Cape about 1919 were of identical form to the Luther Guthrie House.<sup>34</sup> Thus the few dwellings left at these villages are rare survivors, a legacy from the lost era of

---

<sup>34</sup> Yeomans interview.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 34  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

fishing villages on the Outer Banks. Only Ocracoke Village is still inhabited year-round. There, some one-hundred houses, most of them the story-and-a-jump type, nestle into the protective hedges of live oak, yaupon and bay in the center of Ocracoke Island, although much of the traditional atmosphere has been lost due to intensive tourist development. Despite the loss of many early buildings at Portsmouth and Cape Lookout, all three settlements continue to evoke the Bankers' cultural landscape.

At Cape Lookout, the Banker house has the additional feature of an engaged porch. The traditional Cape Lookout house, represented by the Luther Guthrie House of circa 1910 (#15), Gaskill-Guthrie House of circa 1915 (#17), Bryant House of ca. 1928 (#16), and the Carrie Arendell Davis House of ca. 1930 (#18), has an engaged front porch that relates more to the small early dwellings of the nearby port of Beaufort than to the housing stock of Portsmouth Village or Ocracoke Village. At Portsmouth, the houses have a variety of forms, with only the Marian Gray Babb House, a Craftsman house built in the 1920s to 1930s, having an engaged porch. Only two Ocracoke houses have engaged porches, one of these being the antebellum Kugler Cottage. The Cape Lookout house may have resulted from the confluence of the local engaged porch vernacular with the Craftsman style, which often featured a porch recessed beneath the main roof. Such a form suited the oppressive heat and fierce storms at the Cape.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 9 Page 35**  
**Cape Lookout Village Historic District**  
**Carteret County, North Carolina**

**Bibliography**

*Annual Report of the Light-House Board to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor*, 1908.

Barden, Dr. Graham and Mary, interviews with the author, Cape Lookout, April 25-26, 1998.

Bishir, Catherine and Southern, Michael. *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997.

Branch, Paul, Ft. Macon State Park historian, interview with the author, August 17, 1998.

Carteret County Deeds.

Congressional Record for 61<sup>st</sup> Congress, 62<sup>nd</sup> Congress, 64<sup>th</sup> Congress, and 65<sup>th</sup> Congress.

O'Brien, T. Michael and Dennis L. Noble. "Soldiers of Surf and Storm: The Light and Lifesavers of Cape Lookout, North Carolina," manuscript, no date. Copy at Outer Banks History Center, Manteo, in collection of Dr. Barden

Holland, F. Ross Jr. , monograph on Cape Lookout National Seashore written in 1968 .

United States Censuses, Population Schedules, Carteret County, Straits township, 1880, 1900, 1910; Harkers Island township, 1920.

Mobley, Joe A. *Ship Ashore! The U.S. Lifesavers of Coastal North Carolina*. Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1994.

Revello, Felix, Cape Lookout Coast Guard Station National Register nomination, 1988.

Simpson, Marcus B., Jr. and Sallie W. Simpson. "The Pursuit of Leviathan: A History of Whaling on the North Carolina Coast," *North Carolina Historical Review*, LXV, 1 (January 1988), 1-51.

Stick, David. *The Outer Banks of North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1958.

Willis, Ada C. Entry on Eugene Yeomans family, *The Heritage of Carteret County*, 1, 469-470.

Willis, Keith family papers, Marshallberg, North Carolina.

Yeomans, David, Lifelong Cape resident, interview by the author, Harkers Island, 26 April 1998.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 10 Page 36  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the district are shown by the heavy black line on the accompanying map, an enlargement of the Cape Lookout USGS quadrangle map, at a scale of 1" = 500'. The eastern boundary along the ocean shoreline is drawn at the low tide line, which naturally is subject to slight shifts from day to day and over time.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the Cape Lookout Village Historic District are drawn to encompass all of the historic properties as well as an appropriate setting. This setting includes the ocean beach and the most historic portion of Lookout Bight, both of which are sites of the vast majority of village residents' day-to-day activities throughout the period of significance. Both the Bight, which provides access to the village, and the seashore possess real as well as representational value as the site of water-based activities, ranging from subsistence and occupational to recreational in nature. Beyond the boundaries, to the south and particularly the east, the only built resources remaining are ruins of the World War II military base and the landscape setting has changed as shifting sands have built up around the breakwater.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section Photos Page 37  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Photographer: M. Ruth Little

Date: April 1998

Location of negatives: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh

Please note: As of February 2000, all photographs continue to present current, accurate views of the district.

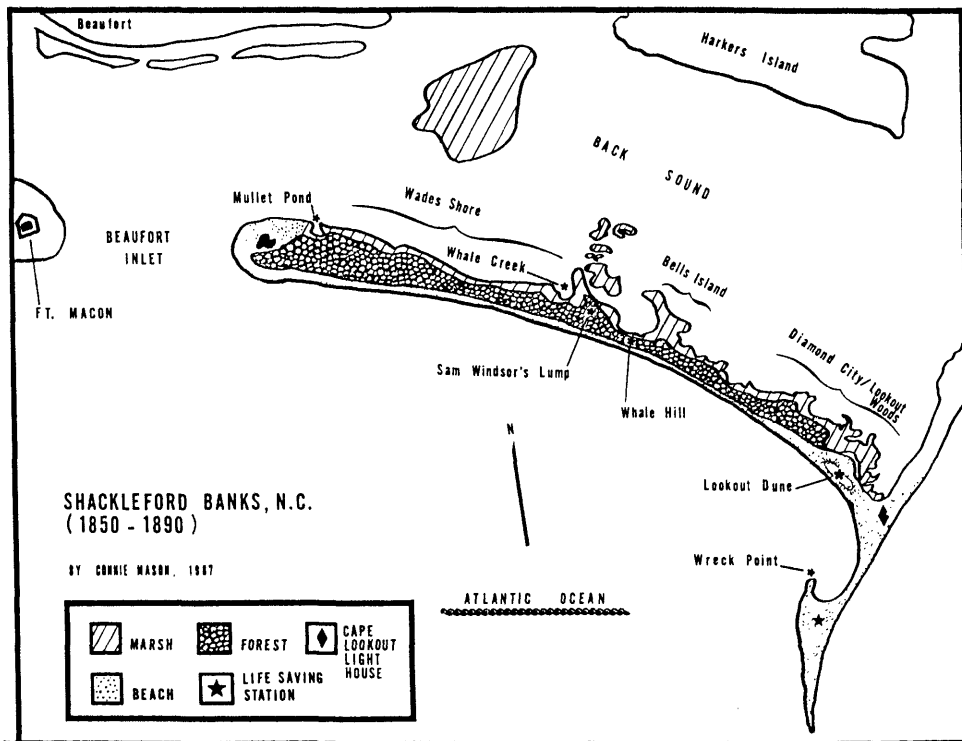
- A. Aerial view of village, looking north from Coast Guard Station lookout tower
- B. Cape Lookout Lighthouse complex (entry #1), looking south
- C. 1907 Keeper's Quarters (entry #4), Jetty Workers' Houses No. 1 and 2 (entries #5 & #6), looking southwest
- D. View of Casablanca (entry #7), looking west
- E. Concrete road (entry #8), looking north
- F. Former Life Saving Station (entry #10), looking northwest
- G. Fishing Cottages No. 1 and No. 2 (entries #12 & #13), looking southwest
- H. Former Life Saving Station boathouse (entry #14), looking northwest
- I. Gaskill-Guthrie House (entry #17), looking northwest
- J. Former Coast Guard Station (entry #20), looking east
- K. Former Coast Guard Dock (entry #8a), looking northeast
- L. Gordon Willis House (entry #9), looking northwest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section Figure 1 Page 38  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

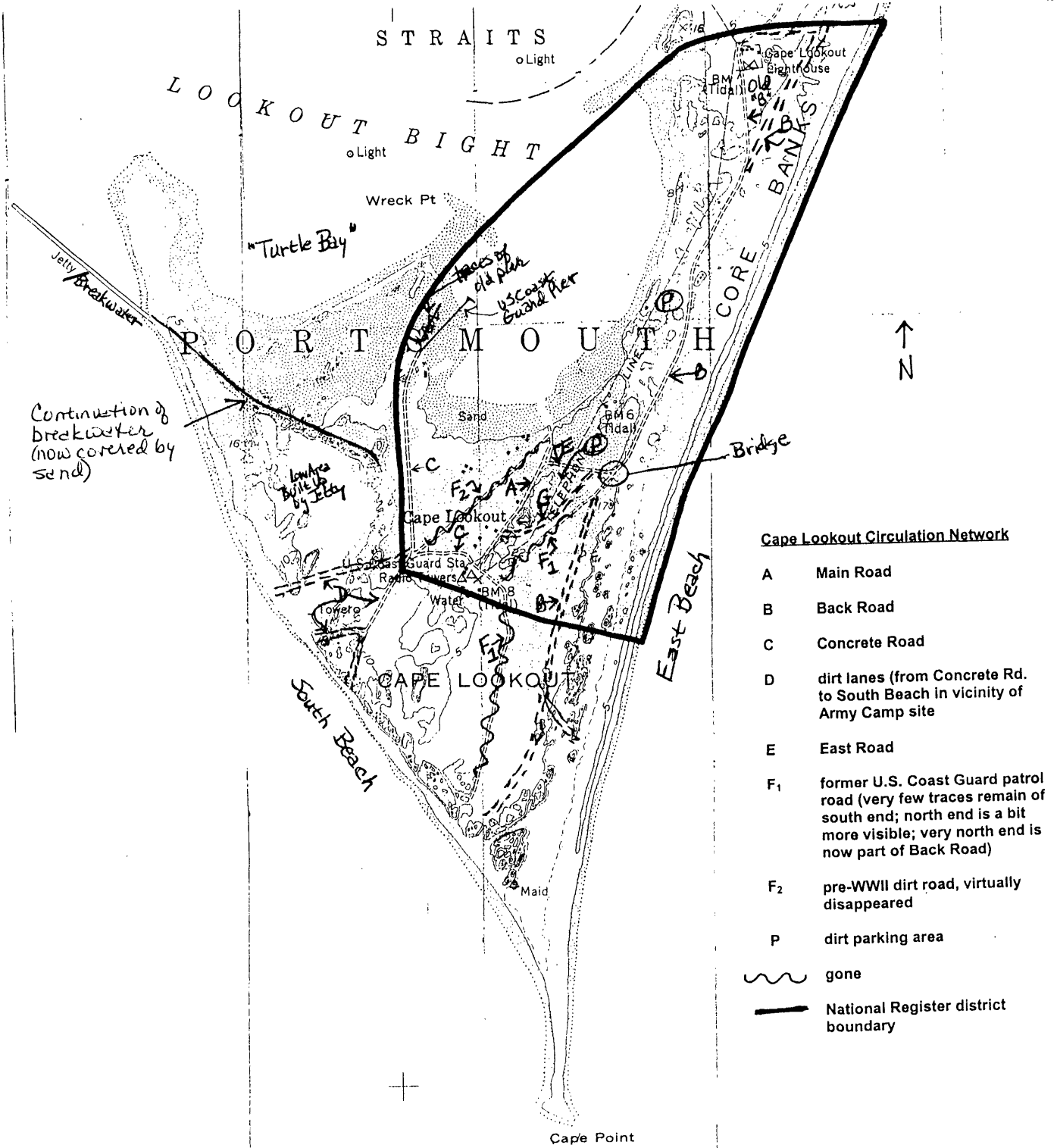
The following map shows the former physical linkage between Shackleford Banks and Core Banks. The map was drawn by Connie Mason, National Park Service, and is taken from Marcus B. and Sallie W. Simpson, "The Pursuit of Leviathan: A History of Whaling on the North Carolina Coast," *North Carolina Historical Review* LXV, 1, January 1988, 33.



United States Department of the Interior  
 National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section Figure 2 Page 39  
 Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
 Carteret County, North Carolina**



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section Figure 3 Page 40  
Cape Lookout Village Historic District  
Carteret County, North Carolina**

Taken early in 1996 and looking to the east, the aerial photograph below shows all of the Cape Lookout Village Historic District and almost all of Cape Lookout.

