

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

D. C. Umstead Store and House

Bahama vicinity, Durham County, DH2402, Listed 12/2/2014

Nomination by Heather Slane

Photographs by Heather Slane, July 2013 (store) and October 2014 (house)



D. C. Umstead Store – overall view



D. C. Umstead House – overall view

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name D. C. Umstead Store and House

other names/site number Flat River Post Office, Umstead-Roberts Farm

2. Location

Street & number 3500 Hall Road

N/A not for publication

city or town Bahama

vicinity

State North Carolina

code NC

county Durham

code 063

zip code 27503

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

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 the Keeper

Date of Action

D. C. Umstead Store and House
Name of Property

Durham County, North Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	5	buildings
0	0	sites
0	2	structures
0	0	objects
5	7	Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Commerce/Trade: department store

Government: post office

Agriculture: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: I-house

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood: weatherboard

Asbestos

roof Asphalt

other Brick

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- 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)

Commerce
 Communications

Period of Significance

c. 1880-1903

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, NC

D. C. Umstead Store and House
Name of Property

Durham County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 20 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>693360</u>	<u>4005980</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u>693560</u>	<u>4006000</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>693460</u>	<u>4006050</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>693580</u>	<u>4005860</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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 Heather Wagner Slane and Emily Wallrath
organization hmwPreservation date July 7, 2014
Street & number P. O. Box 355 telephone 336.207.1502
city or town Durham state NC zip code 27701

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 SHPO or FPO.)

Name William H. and Toni W. P. Stevens
Street & number 1704 Lakewood Avenue telephone _____
city or town Durham state NC zip code 27707

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 listing. 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

D. C. Umstead Store and House
Durham County, North Carolina

Section 7: Description

Materials:

Foundation: concrete

Walls: batten

Walls: flush wood sheathing

Walls: metal

Roof: metal

Narrative Description:

The D. C. Umstead Store and House are located at 3500 Hall Road, approximately two and a half miles northeast of Bahama, North Carolina, and approximately fifteen miles north of Durham in rural Durham County. The Flat River, for which the post office on the site was named, flows into Lake Michie approximately one-and-a-half miles southwest of the site. The D. C. Umstead Store, which included the Flat River Post Office from 1882-1903, dates to c. 1880. According to family tradition, the two-story I-house, residence of D. C. Umstead, postmaster and storekeeper, was constructed c. 1877. Included in this nomination are the store/post office, the house, and ten domestic and agricultural outbuildings, located on approximately twenty acres on the west end of the original 120-acre farm tract, which extended east along Hall Road.

The twenty-acre site is relatively flat, though the property does experience a slight rise as it extends east from Bahama Road. The majority of the property is open fields with trees bordering the property to the south and a group of trees extending along the north end of the parcel. The D. C. Umstead Store and several agricultural buildings, including an implement shed and corn crib, are located at the northwest corner of the property, near the intersection of Bahama and Hall roads. They are accessed by a gravel driveway off of Hall Road that is shaded by a line of trees. A fence attached to the south wall of the implement shed separates this part of the property from the house and other outbuildings. The house stands southeast of the store facing Bahama Road to its west. It is set back from the road on a slight rise and is accessed by a gravel drive at the intersection of Bahama and Hall roads. Domestic and agricultural outbuildings, including kitchen, pump house, packhouse, chicken coop, sheds, and garage, are arranged south and east of the house. A line of trees continuing from the north end of the parcel extends along the rear of these outbuildings.

The inventory list is organized by resource location, beginning with the D. C. Umstead Store and moving southeast to the house and accompanying outbuildings. Numbers assigned to the buildings in the inventory list correspond with the numbered buildings on the accompanying site map. All of the buildings are one-story except where noted.

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D. C. Umstead Store and House
Durham County, North Carolina

1. D. C. Umstead Store and Flat River Post Office – c. 1880, c. 1905 C – Building

At the northeast corner of the property, a gravel road extends south from Hall Road and a front-gabled frame store building stands on the east side of the gravel drive, very near the intersection of Hall Road. The one-story store has a stacked stone pier foundation, board-and-batten siding, and a 5V metal roof. A double-leaf batten door with beveled battens is centered on the façade and flanked by window openings with double-leaf batten shutters. The door and windows are sheltered by a deep, shed-roofed porch with 5V metal roofing and dressed timber supports that rest directly on the ground. A batten shutter in the front gable is visible above the shed roof.

A full-height wing at the rear and two full-depth, shed-roofed bays were likely constructed in the early twentieth-century. The rear wing has board-and-batten siding, an entrance centered on the rear elevation, and on the right (south) elevation is supported by dressed timbers. It is approximately ten feet wide and has a dirt floor, exposed framing, and the right exterior elevation is sheathed with a combination of vertical and horizontal sheathing. A shed-roofed wing on the left (north) elevation is approximately eleven feet wide and is fully enclosed and sheathed with vertical wood sheathing.

The interior, measuring approximately eighteen by twenty-four feet, features a wide-plank wood floor accessed by exterior wood steps at the entrance. It has vertical wood sheathing on the interior walls and a wood ceiling at the northwest corner near the entrance, where the Flat River Post Office was likely located, separated from the rest of the space by a partition wall. Handwritten in pencil on the wall in this area are the words “Mail...May 9th 10 11 12th 1882”, confirming its use as a post office as early as 1882. The remainder of the main structure has exposed joists at the ceiling. Openings were cut in the north wall when the building was converted to a feed barn and door openings on the south and east walls access an open shed bay and the rear addition respectively.

The rear wing, measuring approximately eighteen by fifteen feet, has a partially collapsed wood floor, board-and-batten on the east wall (the exterior wall of the original structure), exposed framing at the walls and ceiling, and an upper half-story that was used for storage initially, then as a hayloft. The interior of the shed-roofed wings feature dirt floors, exposed framing, and reclaimed wood partitions dividing the space. Each of the three rooms on the north side, used for mule feed stalls, have a wood trough along the south wall and window openings on the north wall with sliding batten shutters.

DeWitt C. Umstead’s term as postmaster, from 1882-1890, confirms the presence of the building and post office by 1882. The building also served as the post office during the tenure of R. K. Umstead, DeWitt C. Umstead’s son, from 1891-1896 and Nathaniel H. Parker, DeWitt Umstead’s brother-in-law, from 1890-1891 and 1896-1903, before being enlarged and converted to a feed barn.

2. Well – 19th century, c. 1957

NC – Structure

Just south of the D. C. Umstead Store and west of the corn crib and implement shed is a well. While the interior of the well shows a stone-lined cavity, above ground the well has been covered with concrete.

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D. C. Umstead Store and House
Durham County, North Carolina

3. Corn Crib – c. 1900

C – Building

Southeast of the store, stands a one-story, front-gabled corn crib with an open shed-roofed extension on the right (south) elevation. The building has a stacked stone pier foundation, horizontal sheathing with small gaps for air circulation, weatherboards in the gables, and a 5V metal roof. There is a batten door centered on the façade with a second batten door to the right bay and small door in the gable. The interior has a wood floor and exposed sawn wood studs.

4. Implement Shed – c. 1900

C – Building

Just southeast of the corn crib stands a one-story, front-gabled, frame implement shed. The building rests on a stone foundation with a massive hewn-log sill. It has a 5V metal roof, weatherboards on the side and rear elevations, and a full-width open bay on the façade with weatherboards in the gable above. The interior has a dirt floor and exposed sawn wood studs. An open shed-roofed extension on the right (south) elevation is supported by dressed timbers and has a 5V metal roof.

5. D. C. Umstead House – c. 1877, c. 1930, c. 1957

C – Building

The two-story, triple-A-roofed I-house is three bays wide and single-pile with a center-hall plan and a one-story, gabled ell at the right rear (southeast). The house retains a native fieldstone foundation on the left (north) elevation and rear (east) elevation with a replacement concrete-block foundation across the façade and on the right (south) elevation. The house features weatherboards, wood cornerboards, and has partial gable returns with flush wood sheathing on the soffits and fascia. There is a small square vent in the front gable and the roof is asphalt shingles. Windows are four-over-four, wood-sash, double-hung windows with a segmental-arched upper sash and peaked surrounds. The original weatherboards had been removed and reinstalled to be flush about 1930 when rolled asphalt was applied to the house. Asbestos siding was installed over the rolled asphalt about 1957. Recently, the asbestos siding has been removed, and the weatherboards have begun to be reinstalled with the appropriate overlap.

Centered on the façade, the double-leaf front door has arched, etched-glass panes above raised panels. It is surmounted by a two-light transom and has a double-leaf screened door. A replacement one-bay-wide, front-gabled porch with an arched ceiling supported by decorative metal posts on a concrete block stoop has recently been removed. That porch was constructed about 1957 and replaced an earlier porch on the structure. Physical evidence indicates a three-bay-wide, hip-roofed porch was originally present and that porch is planned for reconstruction.

The south elevation features a modern brick chimney with brick shoulders and a single window at the first-floor level to the east of the chimney. The north elevation has a stone chimney centered in the gable that has been covered with parging and has a brick stack. The east elevation is three bays wide, though partially obscured by a one-story, gabled rear ell. It has a single window on the north end, a centered door that accesses a porch in the rear ell, and two windows at the second-floor level.

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D. C. Umstead Store and House
Durham County, North Carolina

A one-story, gabled rear ell, dating from about 1957, extends from the southeast corner of the front, two-story section of the house. The ell is frame construction on a concrete-block foundation with asbestos sheathing, an asphalt-shingled roof, and a slender, exterior brick chimney in the rear gable. The rear ell has six-over-six wood-sash, double-hung windows, including paired windows on the south elevation. A shed-roofed porch along the north elevation of the rear ell has been enclosed to create a screened porch with vertical plywood sheathing on the lower half of the walls. The screened porch is accessed by concrete-block steps rising to a raised concrete slab. The east end of the porch has been fully enclosed with asbestos siding to create a pantry with a six-over-six window. A three-light-over-three-panel door connects the screened porch to the kitchen.

The front door opens to a center hall with a stair along the north wall and a door on the east wall that opens to the rear porch. There is a room on each side of the hall (a living room to the north and a dining room to the south) and two bedrooms flanking the hall at the second-floor level. The rear ell is accessed through a door on the east wall of the dining room. There are nine-foot ceilings on the first floor, all with applied acoustic tiles or sheetrock. The first-floor has drywall-covered walls throughout and a combination of hardwood, vinyl, and carpet floors. Original eight-inch baseboards with a small trim detail at the top remain throughout the first and second floors. Non-historic crown molding was likely added when the tile ceilings were installed. The house has four-panel interior wood doors throughout and six-inch door and window surrounds have applied molding at the outer edge.

The center hall has carpeting over the original hardwood flooring and a decorative staircase rises from the rear along the north wall of the hall. It is curved at the base and has a large, turned newel post, turned balusters, and a continuous curved handrail that extends around the second-floor landing. Risers, treads, balusters, and handrail are all unpainted wood, while the stringers and baseboards are painted. The living room features carpeting over original hardwood floors and a highly decorative wooden mantel with a denticulated cornice supporting the mantelshelf and bosses centered above the firebox, which has been enclosed with brick. The mantel also features projecting bosses and floral and leaf motifs both applied and incised. The dining room has a modern wood floor over the original hardwood flooring and a post-and-lintel mantel with a cornice supporting the mantelshelf, which projects at the center, and pilasters flanking the firebox, which has been enclosed with brick.

The second-floor level features eight-foot ceilings with hardwood floors, drywall walls, and textured plaster ceilings throughout. The hallway features a window at each end and the southeast corner of the hallway has been enclosed as a half bathroom with vinyl flooring. The north bedroom features a highly decorative wooden mantel with a denticulated cornice supporting the curved mantelshelf. Projecting panels above the firebox have been incised and there are projecting, faceted diamonds applied to the pilasters that flank the firebox. The firebox itself has been enclosed with brick and the fireplace has a brick hearth. The south bedroom has a simpler wood mantel with a narrow mantelshelf and pilasters flanking the firebox, which has been enclosed with brick and has a narrow brick hearth. A small batten

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D. C. Umstead Store and House
Durham County, North Carolina

door on the east elevation of this room opens to an unfinished storage area in the gable above the rear ell.

The one-story, gabled, rear ell features a short hallway off the dining room that leads to the kitchen. The hall has a bathroom on the north side and a closet on the south side. The rooms all have vinyl flooring, drywall walls, eight-foot sheetrocked ceilings, and 1950s baseboards and door and window trim. The bathroom has been partially gutted and has only a plywood subfloor, partial tile wainscot, a two-panel wood door, and a six-over-six wood-sash window that opens to the screened porch. The kitchen features a textured drywall ceiling and a wall of cabinets along the south wall. The pantry at the east end of the enclosed porch has built-in shelving and a six-over-six, wood-sash window on the north wall. The porch has a concrete floor, asbestos siding at the exterior of the house and rear ell, exposed wood framing along the north elevation with plywood on the lower half of the wall and screen above, and a tongue-and-groove ceiling.

6. Kitchen – c. 1877

C – Building

South of the house, and likely constructed concurrent with it, is a one-story, side-gabled, frame building that may have been constructed as a kitchen. The building has a stone pier foundation, weatherboards, and a 5V metal roof with boxed eaves and gable returns on the south gable only. The kitchen has a batten door on the east elevation and six-over-six, wood-sash windows on the south and west elevations. A slender, interior brick flue projects from the southeast corner of the roof, but does not exist below the ceiling. The interior of the kitchen has wide wood flooring and flush wood sheathing on the walls and ceiling. Only on the north wall are the weatherboards visible on the interior. A small enclosure at the northeast corner of the building served as a pantry and is accessed by a batten door with beveled battens.

7. Garage – c. 1930

NC – Building

Located just east of the house, this one-story, front-gabled, frame garage has a concrete-block foundation, corrugated metal sheathing, and a 5V metal roof with exposed rafter tails. The wide vehicular entrance on the west elevation has been partially enclosed with plywood. There is a later glass-block window on the north elevation and a ten-light awning window on the east elevation. The interior has exposed sawn wood studs and a dirt floor. The building likely dates to c. 1930, coinciding with the Roberts family acquisition of the property in 1928.

8. Shed I – c. 1930

NC – Building

Just east of the garage, near a tree line that extends around the rear yard of the house, stands a small, shed-roofed, frame shed. The shed has a concrete-block foundation, horizontal wood sheathing, and a 5V metal roof with exposed rafter tails. A replacement wood door on the west elevation accesses the small interior with wood floors and exposed framing. It is unclear what the small, windowless building was used for. The building likely dates to c. 1930, coinciding with the Roberts family acquisition of the property in 1928.

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D. C. Umstead Store and House
Durham County, North Carolina

9. Chicken Coop – c. 1930

NC – Building

South of the shed stands a one-story, shed-roofed, frame chicken coop. The coop has concrete-block piers, vertical flush-board sheathing, and a 5V metal roof with exposed rafter tails. There is a batten door on the west elevation and three window openings on the south elevation that open to a chicken run enclosed with wood framing and chicken wire. The interior of the chicken coop has a wood floor and exposed framing. The building likely dates to c. 1930, coinciding with the Roberts family acquisition of the property in 1928.

10. Pack House – c. 1930

NC – Building

South of the chicken coop is a one-story, front-gabled, frame pack house. The pack house has concrete block piers, German-profile weatherboards, and a 5V metal roof. There is a batten door on the west elevation and window openings with batten shutters on the north and south elevations. The interior features a wood floor and exposed framing with paper installed between the framing and the siding. Open shed-roofed bays on the north and south elevations have 5V metal roofs supported by dressed timbers. The north bay has corrugated metal sheathing along its north elevation and a later, open shed-roofed bay attached to the north elevation. The building likely dates to c. 1930, coinciding with the Roberts family acquisition of the property in 1928.

11. Pump House/Well – 1980s

NC – Structure

East of the pack house is a low, concrete-block rectangular structure with a corrugated metal cover. The low building shelters a well.

12. Shed II – c. 1930

NC – Building

West of the well, following a tree line on the south side of the rear yard of the house, stands a small frame shed. The one-story, shed-roofed, building has a concrete-block pier foundation, flush wood sheathing with some rolled asphalt siding on the east and south elevations, and a 5V metal roof with exposed rafters. There is a batten door on the east elevation and a window opening on the south elevation (though no window or framing remain). The interior has a wood floor and exposed framing. Carriage bolts on the north elevation indicate that the small building may have served as a farm stand that was attached to a carriage and taken to market.

Integrity Statement

The D. C. Umstead Store retains a high level of integrity with original wood floors, walls and ceilings as well as original shutters, doors and hardware, and a room divider separating the area used as the Flat River Post Office. The conversion of the store to a feed barn in the early twentieth century included the addition of the rear wing and the shed-roofed bays, but has left the central bay which held the general store and post office intact. The D. C. Umstead House and three of the domestic and agricultural resources surrounding it are associated with the storekeeper and postmaster during the period of significance, and the younger outbuildings from the 1930s – 1950s are appropriate for the farmstead. They do not significantly detract from the integrity of the rural setting.

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D. C. Umstead Store and House
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A General Statement Regarding Archaeological Potential

The structures are closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, privies, wells, and other structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the contributing structures. Information concerning land-use patterns, agricultural practices, social standing and social mobility, as well as structural details, is often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structures. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is likely that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

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D. C. Umstead Store and House
Durham County, North Carolina

Section 8: Statement of Significance

The D. C. Umstead Store and House, and the Flat River Post Office located in the store building, are historically significant under Criterion A. The D. C. Umstead Store and Flat River Post Office served an important role in the commerce and communication of the surrounding rural community. Located at the intersection of Hall and Bahama roads in Mangum Township, in the northern portion of Durham County, the D. C. Umstead Store was constructed around 1880, and in 1882 it began operation as a fourth class post office. Served by three postmasters, the post office was active until 1903, when the Flat River facility was discontinued. Rural stores and post offices were important hubs in the community for news, gossip, business and social interaction, and they were central and regular meeting places. The house, detached kitchen, and two outbuildings dating from the period of significance were also directly associated with the storekeeper and postmaster from ca. 1880 to at least 1900. The period of significance, c.1880 to 1903, begins with the construction of the store building around 1880 and ends with the closure of the Flat River Post Office in 1903. It is very likely that the store closed at the same time.

History of the D. C. Umstead Store and House:

Until its sale in 2012, the D. C. Umstead Store and House were continuously owned by one family: the descendants of John and David Umstat, German immigrants who came to North Carolina from Pennsylvania in the mid-1700s. In the 1790s, they were granted a number of properties on both sides of the Flat River, particularly along Dial Creek, including at least two mill sites and several hundred acres.¹ The 2012 Durham County Tax Record describes the property which comprises the D.C. Umstead Store and House as the “Estate of E. Marie Roberts, aka Umstead Land Grant.”

The land eventually became part of the 864-acre holdings of Squire D. Umstead (1812–1867), great-grandson of John Umstat and Dewitt C. Umstead’s father. According to the 1860 agricultural census, in addition to his 650-acre home place, on which he farmed wheat, tobacco and corn, Squire owned two 100-acre tracts, which may have been leased or farmed by family members.² His holdings were notably large for the time as only roughly two percent of antebellum farms in North Carolina were over 500 acres.³ Due in part to his land holdings Squire was a prominent member of the Flat River community.⁴ Adolphus Mangum recorded in his diary that Squire read the Declaration of Independence at a Fourth of July celebration in 1852 and he was chosen to oversee distribution of food aid to needy families during the Civil War.⁵

DeWitt C. Umstead (1837-1919) married his first wife Rebeccah Lunsford on November 19, 1857, and the young couple started their life together renting a portion of his father’s land. At twenty-two, in 1860, Umstead

¹“Orange County, Mangum Township, 1860” Agricultural and Manufacturing Census Records of Fifteen Southern States for the Years 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Library, 1960. 41.

² Ibid.

³ Johnson , Guion Griffis, *Ante-Bellum North Carolina: A Social History*, Electronic Edition, 54.

⁴ Anderson, Jean Bradley. *Durham County: A History of Durham County, North Carolina*. Durham: Duke UP, 1990. p. 119

⁵ Ibid.

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D. C. Umstead Store and House
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was listed on the U.S. Census as a farmer and head of household, with an infant daughter and personal estate of \$350.⁶ Umstead farmed forty acres of improved land and sixty acres of unimproved land with a farm value of \$500, the same quantity of land he farmed in 1870, indicating that it was likely the same parcel. His holdings presumably would have included a house and furnishings of some sort, possibly already there when they moved onto the property, although no physical evidence of an earlier house has been found. By 1860, Umstead also owned farm implements and livestock; the livestock was valued at \$240 and implements were worth \$11. Umstead harvested eighty-eight bushels of wheat in 1860.⁷

In 1862, Rebecca died at age twenty-one, leaving Umstead to care for his two-year-old daughter.⁸ During the Civil War, Umstead enlisted with the 13th Battalion, North Carolina Light Artillery in 1864.⁹ The official military entry lists D. W. Umstead, which is a mistake likely stemming from confusion with his first name, DeWitt (a search of census records indicates that there was not another D. W. Umstead).

Based on a \$15 federal tax on \$1500 of income in 1866, it appears Umstead ventured into the distilling business shortly after the war.¹⁰ As distilling required a sizable investment in equipment, presumably he operated this enterprise for a number of years, though no records, apart from the tax assessment, remain. Ironically, his father, Squire, was prominent in the temperance movement in Mangum Township.¹¹

In 1865, Umstead married Sophronia Parker, and by 1870 he is listed as a farmer with three children, real estate valued at \$300, personal property worth \$200, and a hired hand.¹² He likely inherited the farm from his father, Squire D. Umstead, upon his death in 1867, though no deed or estate papers have yet been located. An Estate Inventory from October 1867 indicates that his mother, Martha, distributed Squire's land.¹³ Although Umstead listed the same amount of improved land as in 1860, he harvested considerably more produce by 1870: 45 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of corn, 150 bushels of oats, and 1000 pounds of tobacco, in addition to beans,

⁶ Kennedy, J. C. G. "Orange County, Mangum Township." Population of the United States in 1860: Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census, under the Direction of the Secretary of the Interior. New York, NY: N. Ross Pub., 1990. 67.

⁷ "Orange County, Mangum Township, 1860." Agricultural and Manufacturing Census Records of Fifteen Southern States for the Years 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Library, 1960. 23.

⁸ Warner, Seth. "261 SQUIRE D. UMSTEAD CEMETERY Durham County North Carolina Cemeteries." *261 SQUIRE D. UMSTEAD CEMETERY Durham County North Carolina Cemeteries*. 27 Feb. 2014. Web. 25 Mar. 2014.

⁹ National Park Service. *U.S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.

¹⁰ "NC Division 1, Collection District 4." *Internal Revenue Assessment Lists for North Carolina, 1864-1866*. Washington: National Archives, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, 1973. 4.

¹¹ Anderson, Jean Bradley. *Durham County: A History of Durham County, North Carolina*. Durham: Duke UP, 1990. 82-84.

¹² "Orange County, Mangum Township." *Census of the Population, 1870*. Washington, D.C.: United States Census Office, 1870. 56.

¹³ *Squire D. Umstead Estate Inventory, October 18, 1867*. Deed Office. 427.

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potatoes and 300 pounds of butter. His farm's value was listed at \$200 with \$150 in livestock, \$30 in implements, and a farm income of \$500.¹⁴

In 1870, a local newspaper, *The Hillsborough Recorder*, describes an accident Umstead suffered in their *Local Announcements* section:

DeWitt C. Umstead, a very industrious and worthy citizen, had cut down a tree which lodged and to get it down, cut another one upon it which glanced off and struck him and broke both bones of one of his legs; Dr. Holt set the bones and he is doing well.¹⁵

This reference to Umstead as "a very industrious and worthy citizen" indicates he was held in high regard within the community.

His growing family (seven children living at home by 1880)¹⁶ necessitated a larger house and according to family tradition, around 1877 Umstead built a frame I-house overlooking the intersection of Hall and Bahama Roads, formerly the Hillsborough–Oxford Road. Dr. E. Marie Roberts, a previous owner of the home and granddaughter of Umstead, provided the 1877 construction date in a 1987 interview.¹⁷ The house was stylish, with four-panel doors, etched glass in the double-paned front doors, carved mantels and an impressive staircase, reflecting Umstead's prosperity.

An increase in the value of Umstead's property in 1880, from \$200 to \$1,200, and a twenty-acre increase in improved land,¹⁸ reflects his acquisition of a 141-acre tract on Dial Creek,¹⁹ probably part of his father's home place. This may have been more property acquired from Squire D. Umstead's estate and distributed by Squire's wife, Martha, as no deeds have been found.²⁰ The value of Umstead's house, as well as agricultural buildings, such as the tobacco complex to the east of this site, also contributed to an increase in the value of his farm from \$300 in 1870 to \$700 in 1880. Supported by log curing barns and a two-story frame ordering and stripping house, he produced 1800 pounds of tobacco, as well as 400 bushels of corn, twenty-four bushels of wheat and forty bushels of oats. His farm income increased to \$1,000, including 200 pounds of butter, twenty dozen eggs,

¹⁴ "Orange County, Mangum Township, 1870." *Agricultural and Manufacturing Census Records of Fifteen Southern States for the Years 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Library, 1960. 7.

¹⁵ "Local Announcements." *The Hillsborough Recorder* 16 Mar, 1870.

¹⁶ "Supervisor Dist. 2, Enumerator Dist. 194." *Census of the Population, 1880*. Washington, D.C.: United States Census Office, 1880. 18.

¹⁷ North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. *North Carolina Historic Structures Short Data Sheet - Dee Umstead House*. 15 Oct. 1987.

¹⁸ "Orange County, Mangum Township, 1880." *Agricultural and Manufacturing Census Records of Fifteen Southern States for the Years 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Library, 1960. 11.

¹⁹ "Mangum Township." *Tax Scroll, 1882-1902*. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Dept. of Archives and History, 1969. 2.

²⁰ Gohdes-Baden, Betsy. "Dee(DeWitt) Umstead House." *Durham County Historic Architecture Inventory, Lake Michie Quadrant*. Durham: 1997.

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twenty bushels of apples and thirty cords of wood. He bought \$50 worth of fertilizer and paid \$125 in wages to a black farm laborer.²¹

Umstead's yield of tobacco per acre was, however, considerably less than two younger brothers living nearby. Both John Wesley Umstead and Adolphus Umstead grew tobacco on their farms, but harvested much more per acre: 666 pounds compared to Umstead's 360 pounds per acre. John's farm, in particular, showed a much higher overall farm income, \$4,000 versus Umstead's \$1,000.²² It is unclear whether this relatively low yield was the cause or the effect of his shift to a commercial venture, but on September 1, 1882, Umstead was appointed postmaster of Flat River and he opened a general store around the same time, based on postal records and the common practice of housing rural post offices in general stores.²³ The first time the store is listed is in the North Carolina Tobacco Belt Directory of 1886, which was the first such directory published after his appointment.²⁴

In 1883, Durham County tax records show an increase in value of \$403 from the year before, in Umstead's farm, equipment, livestock and personal property, a likely reflection of the addition of the store to his holdings.²⁵ In both 1884 and 1885, Umstead listed "cash on hand" for the first time on his tax reports, another indicator that he was involved in commerce.²⁶ In 1885, he sold a 140-acre tract on Dial Creek. Despite the loss of real property, his overall net worth peaked that year at \$2,353.²⁷ By 1888, his tax records show assets including credit owed, a possible reflection of accounts carried for his customers and another increase in the value of his farm to \$900.²⁸ Umstead's tenure as postmaster ended in 1890,²⁹ but the store likely remained in operation for another decade, based on his son and brother-in-law's subsequent appointments as Flat River postmaster.³⁰

By 1900, most of Umstead's children, including four daughters and one son, had married or moved on. Census records indicate that he lived with his wife Sophronia, two unmarried children, Bessie and Wiley, a grandson,

²¹ "Orange County, Mangum Township, 1880." *Agricultural and Manufacturing Census Records of Fifteen Southern States for the Years 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Library, 1960. 11.

²² Ibid.

²³ Stroupe, Vernon S. *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina: Colonial to USPS*. Charlotte, NC: North Carolina Postal History Society, 1996. 3-16.

²⁴ Emerson, Charles, and Charles A. Horner. *Chas. Emerson's North Carolina Tobacco Belt Directory Embracing the Counties of Alamance, Durham, Forsyth, Granville, Guilford, Orange, Rockingham, Vance and Wake Giving the Location of All Business and Professional Men, a Complete List of All Land-owners, Number Of Acres Owned, and P.O. Address of Each, Post-office ... Directory of North Carolina ... City, County and State Governments ...* Greensboro, NC: Emerson, 1886. 188.

²⁵ "Mangum Township." *1883 Durham County Tax Scroll*. 51.

²⁶ "Mangum Township." *1884 Durham County Tax Scroll*. 19.; "Mangum Township." *1885 Durham County Tax Scroll*. 57.

²⁷ "Mangum Township." *1885 Durham County Tax Scroll*. 57.

²⁸ "Mangum Township." *1888 Durham County Tax Scroll*. 104.

²⁹ Stroupe, 1996. 3-16.

³⁰ National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-Sept. 30, 1971*; Roll #: 93; Archive Publication #: M841.

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and his brother-in-law Nathaniel H. Parker.³¹ Umstead listed musical instruments and jewelry as assets from 1897 to 1902, a reflection of his relative affluence.³² By 1910, Umstead was seventy-two and his household unchanged.³³

D. C. Umstead died in 1919, and his obituary describes him as a prominent and well-known member of the Bahama community.³⁴ He willed the "100 acre" farm and estate worth \$3,500, to his wife Sophronia, and then to their children Bessie and Wiley at Sophronia's death.³⁵ Census records indicate that in 1920, Sophronia was still living at home with Bessie and Wiley, now forty-five and thirty-nine respectively. At Sophronia's death in 1921, the brother and sister inherited the house and land and by 1925 they are recorded in the agricultural census as "non-farming owners" with twenty-seven acres cultivated by tenants.³⁶

In 1928, Bessie and Wiley sold the newly surveyed 121-acre farm to their sister May's husband, David B. Roberts, for \$100 "and other good and valuable considerations" and moved to Bahama.³⁷ By 1930, Roberts' son, DeWitt Baxter Roberts and his younger brother, Louis, were living together as renters on D. C. Umstead's farm.³⁸ It is likely that Baxter Roberts, as he was known, gave the house its first renovation. Rolled asphalt siding was introduced in the early 30s, and in an effort to modernize and preserve the house the original siding was removed, turned over, and nailed back up flat as an underlayment for this new product. Additionally, many of the outbuildings surrounding the house date from this period. Baxter and Louis continued farming the land together until 1937 when their father died and willed the "D.C. Umstead Farm" to Baxter the executor of his estate.³⁹ Baxter sold Louis forty-six acres from their father's estate in 1939, at which point Louis moved out as Baxter married.⁴⁰ By 1940 Baxter was head of household with his wife, Aretta, and he continued to farm his grandfather's land until his death in 1986.⁴¹

³¹ "Supervisor Dist. 194, Enumerator Dist. 34, Sheet 2." *12th Census of Population, 1900, North Carolina*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of the Census Micro-film Laboratory, 1978. N.

³² Tax Scrolls, 1897-1902 "Mangum Township." *1897 Durham County Tax Scroll*. 145. Print.; "Mangum Township." *1898 Durham County Tax Scroll*. Print.; "Mangum Township." *1899 Durham County Tax Scroll*. 147.; "Mangum Township." *1901 Durham County Tax Scroll*. 20. "Mangum Township." *1902 Durham County Tax Scroll*. 166. "Mangum Township." *1900 Durham County Tax Scroll*. 200.

³³ "Supervisor Dist. 200, Enumerator Dist. 40." *13th Census, 1910 Population : North Carolina*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau, 1982. 6A.

³⁴ "Obituary, DeWitt C. Umstead." *Durham Morning Herald* 15 May 1919.

³⁵ Umstead, D. C. *Last Will and Testament of D.C. Umstead.*, Book 3, page 99, Durham County Clerk of Court.

³⁶ United States of America. USDA. *Census of Agriculture: 1925*. Vol. 1. Ser. 6. *USDA Census of Agriculture Historical Archive*. Web. 25 Mar. 2014.

³⁷ "Deed Book 92," page 83. Durham County Tax Office.

³⁸ "Supervisor Dist. 2, Enumerator Dist. 32-27." *15th Census, Population, 1930*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002. 12A.

³⁹ Roberts, D. B. *Last Will and Testament of D.B. Roberts*. Book 6, page 56, File 86-E-742, Durham County Clerk of Court.

⁴⁰ "Deed Book 131," Durham County Tax Office. page 248.

⁴¹ "Supervisor Dist. 6, Enumerator Dist. 32-63." *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940. Population*. Washington: U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1942. 4A.

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The second renovation of the house occurred about 1957 when Baxter and Aretta modernized once again.⁴² They replaced the back porch with a new kitchen ell, added indoor plumbing and connected a pump to the open well at the back door. The asphalt siding had presumably begun to fail and the front porch may have become unstable so they re-sided once again with asbestos tiles and replaced the three-bay-wide porch with a small Colonial Revival style hood and concrete stoop. Physical evidence of the width and roofline of the earlier porch is apparent from the original weatherboard façade and remnants of the porch foundation.

On Baxter's death in 1986, Dr. E. Marie Roberts, his only living sibling, inherited her grandfather's farm.⁴³ She stabilized and renovated the house, in preparation for renters, by sheetrocking the interior, rebuilding a crumbling chimney, replacing parts of the fieldstone foundation with concrete block, installing asphalt shingles on the roof, and adding a half bath on the upstairs landing. Two decaying outbuildings behind the main house, the smokehouse and a small packhouse, were removed in the 1990s. A second set of renters continued a tradition of neglect of the property so that, by the death of Dr. Roberts in 2010, the farm was badly overgrown, the outbuildings severely deteriorated and stuffed with trash, and the house vandalized. Plans by the current owner are to restore the house to its original appearance include replicating the original front porch, restoring the original weatherboard and trim, rebuilding the original windows, and installing a metal roof.

D. C. Umstead Store and Flat River Post Office History and Commercial and Communication Context:

When Dewitt C. Umstead was appointed postmaster on September 1, 1882, there were four other post offices in rural Mangum Township -- Hunkadora, Lyndover, Luster and South Lowell.⁴⁴ The Flat River Post Office began as Dials Creek, which first opened March 22, 1851 with Oxford Moize as postmaster.⁴⁵ It was also called Buffalo Hill for a time and the name was changed to Flat River when Addison Mangum became postmaster on January 15, 1858. Mangum, Umstead's immediate neighbor to the south, built a two-room frame building in 1858 to house both the post office and his law office.⁴⁶ Mangum held the position for seven years, throughout the Civil War, and beginning in 1861, he operated it as a Confederate States of America (CSA) Post Office.⁴⁷ The CSA Post Office closed on April 30, 1865, but reopened as a United States Post Office a year later with a series of postmasters in place through 1882, when D.C. Umstead was appointed postmaster on September 1st of that year.⁴⁸

Post offices were especially important to rural communities at this time, given that rural free delivery was not

⁴² North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. *North Carolina Historic Structures Short Data Sheet - Dee Umstead House*. 15 Oct. 1987.

⁴³ Roberts, D. B. *Last Will and Testament of D.B. Roberts*. Book 6, page 56, File 86-E-742, Durham County Clerk of Court.

⁴⁴ Lemuel, Johnson. "Map of Durham County, N.C., 1887." *Historic Durham County and City Maps (North Carolina)*.

⁴⁵ Lewis, J. D. "North Carolina Post Offices 1785 to 1882 - Sorted by Date Started." *North Carolina Post Offices 1785 to 1882 - Sorted by Date Started*. 2007. Web. 25 Mar. 2014.

⁴⁶ Stroupe, 1996. 3-16.

⁴⁷ Stroupe, 1996. 3-16.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

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instituted until 1902.⁴⁹ Prior to rural free delivery, mail was delivered to the post office and people had to visit the building in order to collect it. The post office was integral to the very identity of those it served. In business directories of the day, individuals were listed not by their home or business address, but by their nearest post office. Additionally, post offices became hubs in the community for news, gossip, business and interaction. For rural communities, post offices served as central and regular meeting places.

Postmasters and postmistresses, employed through the Post Office Department, were the most visible federal employee of their day, and often the only tangible interaction the average citizen would have with the federal government. During Umstead's time, postmasters for post offices the size of Flat River were chosen "upon the advice of the local congressman or townspeople,"⁵⁰ meaning appointees were well respected members of the community in which they were appointed to serve. In addition to the post, postmasters' official duties included "answering communications promptly, not acting as lottery agents, posting weather bureau reports, and sending telegraphic reports of robbers."⁵¹

Umstead's direct financial benefit from his position was nominal – the annual income for a postmaster of his class was only about \$25 per year. What the position did bring was status and the opportunity for commerce. Locals would have frequented his store regularly to collect and post their mail, providing Umstead with a steady supply of customers for a general store business. With the only other store in Flat River, the Hampton Brothers Store, well to the north, Umstead's store in his own neighborhood served a need. It appears he ran this store in conjunction with the post office from at least 1882 to 1890, during his tenure as postmaster. His brother-in-law, Nathaniel H. Parker, served as postmaster for a short time in 1890 and 1891, and later from 1896 to 1903. He is listed as a "grocery salesman" in the 1900 census, indicating that the building continued to serve both purposes through at least 1903.

Presumably, the one-room, front-gable frame structure was in place by 1882 at the corner of Hall and Bahama Roads, and in use as a general store and post office. While no written records remain, physical evidence found in the store itself helps to establish its existence. Penciled names of customers, including those of prominent citizens of the area—Mangum, Ellis, Parrish, Lunsford, Waller, Roberts and Wilkins, to name a few—are still visible on the store wall, along with sums and lists of commodities sold. An inscription from May 1882, which predates his appointment to postmaster, remains visible. Original security hardware on the doors and window shutters, interior wall board finish, and remnants of shelving also remain to indicate its use as general store and post office, which would require such security measures. A separate, secure room to the left of the entry is in keeping with the postal regulations of the day, which required that "other business must be kept separate and distinct from that of the post-office."⁵²

⁴⁹ Shaw, Christopher W. *Preserving the People's Post Office*. Washington, DC: Essential, 2006. 14.

⁵⁰ "Postmaster Finder." *USPS*. Web. 25 Mar. 2014.

⁵¹ *The Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America*. Washington: Govt. Print. Off., 1887.

⁵² "Sec. 476. Other Business at Fourth-Class Post-Offices." *The Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America*. Washington: Govt. Print. Off., 1887.

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Four years after assuming the post, D. C. Umstead was listed in the 1886 Tobacco Belt Directory, along with seven other businesses in Flat River, as "Postmaster" and owner of a "General Store".⁵³ Rural post offices were often housed in general stores, as they were focal points for commerce and social activity. Both the "D.C. Umstead Store" and "Flat River P.O." are marked on the 1887 map of Durham County, at the intersection where the building still stands.⁵⁴ Branson's Directory of 1887, lists eighteen general stores in Durham County, including Umstead's. Of those eighteen, four stores (Flat River, Fish Dam, Luster and Red Mountain) are run by the local postmaster; eight postmasters are listed without connection to a general store. Flat River's set-up was not unique, but not the rule either.⁵⁵

Umstead served as postmaster until October 6, 1890, his eight-year term making his the longest tenure of any Flat River postmaster.⁵⁶ He continued to maintain livestock through 1890 as he had since the 1860s, including horses, mules, cows and hogs. It is possible he closed the store soon after, as his 1891 tax records show a sharp drop in equipment, but an increase in net worth and personal property, and his assets show a leveling off through the 1890s.⁵⁷ However, the building more likely remained in use as a store, post office, or both through the turn-of-the-century as no other location has been found for the Flat River Post Office after 1890.

After Umstead, his brother-in-law, Nathaniel H. Parker, briefly took over as postmaster from October of 1890 through April of 1891.⁵⁸ Parker previous served as postmaster in Red Mountain in Durham County from 1875 to 1886.⁵⁹ Rayner Kenneth Umstead, Umstead's son,⁶⁰ held the position of postmaster from 1891-1896. ⁶¹ Rayner, like his father, received a modest annual salary of about \$25, suggesting that he would have done other work.⁶² Following Rayner, Parker took over once again as postmaster, serving from 1896 until the post office was

⁵³ Emerson, Charles, and Charles A. Horner. *Chas. Emerson's North Carolina Tobacco Belt Directory Embracing the Counties of Alamance, Durham, Forsyth, Granville, Guilford, Orange, Rockingham, Vance and Wake Giving the Location of All Business and Professional Men, a Complete List of All Land-owners, Number Of Acres Owned, and P.O. Address of Each, Post-office ... Directory of North Carolina ... City, County and State Governments ...* Greensboro, NC: Emerson, 159-160, 202. 1886.; a hotel and saloon, two mills, a blacksmith, a cobbler, a lawyer, and another general store

⁵⁴ Lemuel, Johnson. "Map of Durham County, N.C., 1887."

⁵⁵ Branson, Levi. *Directory of the Business and Citizens of Durham City for 1887*. Raleigh, NC: Levi Branson, 1887. 202.

⁵⁶ Stroupe, 1996. 3-16.

⁵⁷ "Mangum Township." *1888 Durham County Tax Scroll*. 104.

⁵⁸ National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-Sept. 30, 1971*; Roll #: 93; Archive Publication #: M841.

⁵⁹ National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-Sept. 30, 1971*; Roll #: 93; Archive Publication #: M841.

⁶⁰ "Supervisor Dist. 2, Enumerator Dist. 194." *Census of the Population, 1880*. Washington, D.C.: United States Census Office, 1880. 18.

⁶¹ *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-Sept. 30, 1971*; Roll #: 93; Archive Publication #: M841.

⁶² *Official Register of the United States: Containing a List of Officers and Employees in the Civil, Military, and Naval Service on the First of July, 1891 ; Together with a List of Ships and Vessels Belonging to the United States*. Washington: G.P.O., 1892. 694.

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discontinued and services moved to Rougemont in November of 1903.⁶³ Rayner and Parker's familial relation to Umstead and Parker's status on the 1900 census as a member of Umstead's household with his profession as a "grocery salesman" suggests that the store and the Flat River Post Office remained on the property until at least 1903, when the post office closed.⁶⁴ The store may have remained open past 1903, but was likely closed and converted into a stable and feed barn, using hand-hewn timbers and doors by 1910 as neither Umstead, nor Parker are listed with commercial occupations in the 1910 census.

The Flat River Post Office closed at the same time the population shifted out of northern Durham County and the Post Office Department restructured, following the introduction of rural free delivery (1902).⁶⁵ The other four post offices in Mangum Township befell similar fates. Only one, Hunkadora (1881-1891), became Bahama, and continues to run as a post office. The three others, Lyndover (1882-1901), Luster (1880-1903) and South Lowell (1846-1906) all closed within five years of each other.⁶⁶

Fourteen county stores were recorded on the Durham County Historic Resources Survey, however the D. C. Umstead Store and Flat River Post Office is not among them, likely because the building resembled a general use farm building. Of the fourteen stores found on the survey, only one, Red Mountain, is of late-nineteenth century construction and that building was demolished by 2005.⁶⁷ Additionally, Mangum's law office/post office building was partially destroyed and dismantled in the early 2000s. The Durham County Historic Resources Survey reports that "the typical late 19th century rural store is a small, frame gable-front one-room building,"⁶⁸ which closely describes the D. C. Umstead Store. As the only remaining nineteenth-century rural store, and likely the only remaining rural post office in Durham County, the D. C. Umstead Store is a rare historic building associated with the postal service and rural commerce. It is significant as the last remaining piece of this aspect of rural life, which so informed communication, personal interaction and business at the end of the nineteenth century in Mangum Township.

⁶³ *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-Sept. 30, 1971*; Roll #: 93; Archive Publication #: M841.

⁶⁴ "Supervisor Dist. 194, Enumerator Dist. 34, Sheet 2." *12th Census of Population, 1900, North Carolina*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of the Census Micro-film Laboratory, 1978. N.

⁶⁵ Lewis, J. D. "North Carolina Post Offices 1785 to 1882 - Sorted by Date Started." *North Carolina Post Offices 1785 to 1882 - Sorted by Date Started*. 2007. Web. 25 Mar. 2014.

⁶⁶ Lewis, J. D. "North Carolina Post Offices 1785 to 1882 - Sorted by Date Started." *North Carolina Post Offices 1785 to 1882 - Sorted by Date Started*. 2007. Web. 25 Mar. 2014.

⁶⁷ Little, 1991. 55-56.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

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Farm Services Administration Aerial Photos.

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D. C. Umstead Store and House
Durham County, North Carolina

Section 10: Geographical Data

Additional UTM Coordinates:

5. 17 / 693360 / 4005830

Verbal Boundary Description:

The National Register boundary is shown by a black line on the accompanying aerial tax map at 1:200 scale.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the westernmost part of the 120-acre tract owned by D. C. Umstead at the turn of the twentieth century. The twenty-acre tract provides an appropriate rural context and setting for the rural store and post office, postmaster's house, and historic domestic and agricultural outbuildings.

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D. C. Umstead Store and House
Durham County, North Carolina

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Property Name: D. C. Umstead Store and House

County and State: Durham County, North Carolina

Photographer: Heather Wagner Slane

Date: July 1, 2013

Location of Negatives: State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina

1. D. C. Umstead Store - facing southeast
2. D. C. Umstead Store - facing southeast
3. D. C. Umstead Store - interior facing northwest
4. D. C. Umstead House - facing northeast
5. D. C. Umstead House - facing southeast
6. D. C. Umstead House - facing southwest
7. Kitchen and Pump House - facing south
8. Packhouse and Chicken Coop - facing north
9. Garage and Packhouse – facing southeast
10. Implement Shed, Corn Crib, Store - facing northwest

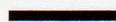



Bahama Roac

Hall Road

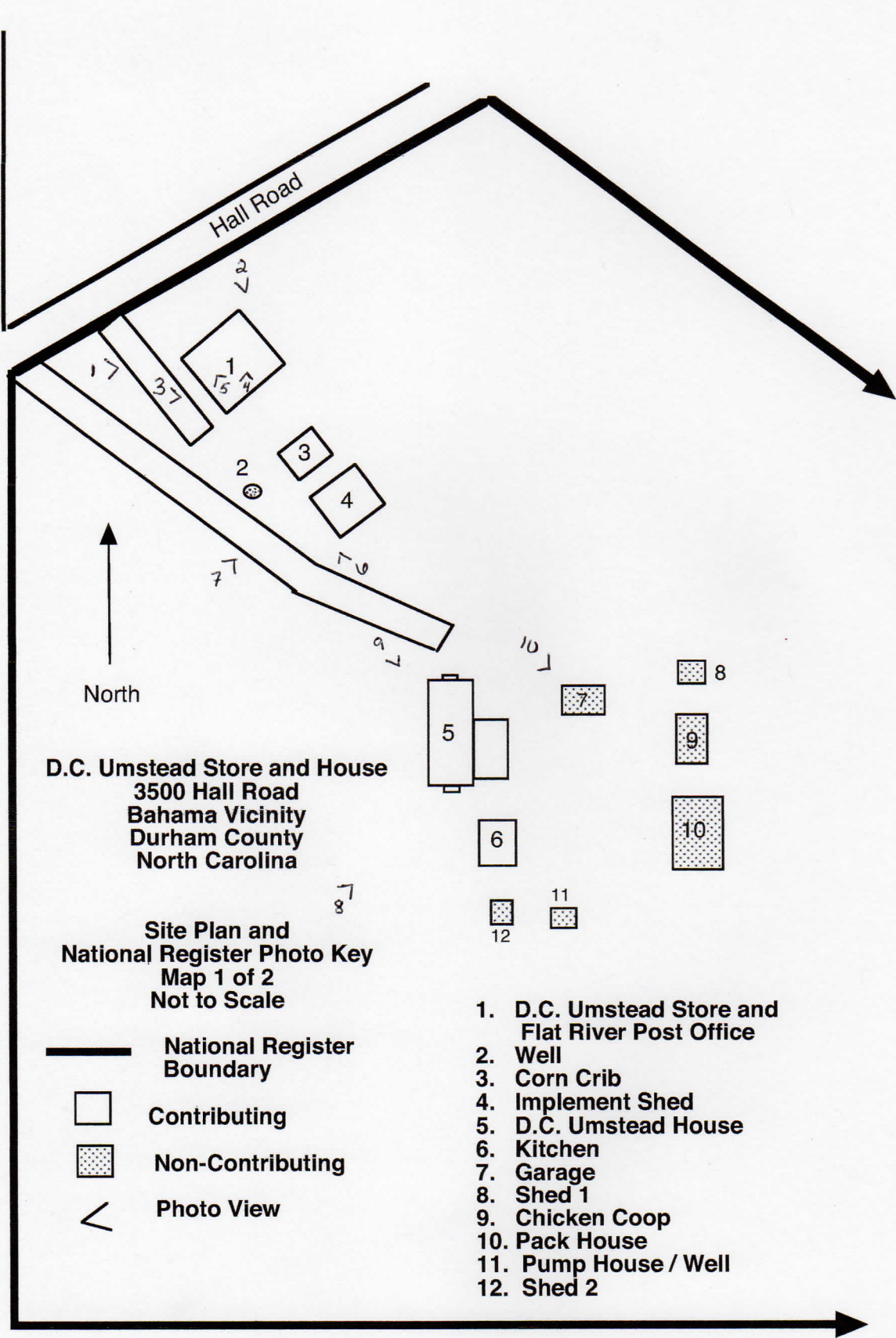


D.C. Umstead Store and House
3500 Hall Road
Bahama Vicinity
Durham County
North Carolina

Site Plan and
National Register Photo Key
Map 1 of 2
Not to Scale

-  National Register Boundary
-  Contributing
-  Non-Contributing
-  Photo View

1. D.C. Umstead Store and Flat River Post Office
2. Well
3. Corn Crib
4. Implement Shed
5. D.C. Umstead House
6. Kitchen
7. Garage
8. Shed 1
9. Chicken Coop
10. Pack House
11. Pump House / Well
12. Shed 2





D. C. Umstead Store and House
3500 Hall Road, Bahama vicinity
Durham County, NC

Tax Map with National Register Boundary

— National Register Boundary

Scale: 1" = 200'

