

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Hampton-Ellis Farm

Bahama vicinity, Durham County, DH3310, Listed 12/22/2011

Nomination by Heather M. Wagner

Photographs by Heather M. Wagner, March 2010



Façade view



Farm outbuildings – general 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 any 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 Hampton-Ellis Farm

other names/site number William Beanis Hampton Farm, Jonah Ellis Farm

2. Location

street & number 3305 Pat Tilley Road not for publication N/A

city or town Bahama vicinity X

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 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 statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<u> </u> entered in the National Register <u> </u> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<u> </u> determined eligible for the National Register <u> </u> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<u> </u> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> other (explain): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Hampton - Ellis Farm
Name of Property

Durham County, North Carolina
County and State

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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>	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)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling
Domestic Secondary Structure
Agriculture Processing
Agriculture Agricultural Outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling
Domestic Secondary Structure
Agriculture Agricultural Outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Triple-A House

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
roof ASPHALT
walls WOOD: weatherboard

other: _____

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.

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: _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1900 – c. 1922

Significant Dates

1922

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Hampton - Ellis Farm
Name of Property

Durham County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx 11.5 acres

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

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 / 694635 / 4004750
2 17 / 695000 / 4004840

Zone Easting Northing
3 17 / 695020 / 4004690
4 17 / 694640 / 4004680
X 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 M. Wagner

organization hmwPreservation date August 15, 2011

street & number 209 W. Trinity Ave. telephone 336.207.1502

city or town Durham state NC zip code 27701

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 Tonya & Windy Jacobs

street & number 2309 Monthaven Drive telephone _____

city or town Durham state NC zip code 27712

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 number 7 Page 1

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

SECTION 7 – DESCRIPTION

The Hampton-Ellis Farm is located at 3305 Pat Tilley Road near Bahama, North Carolina, approximately seventeen miles north of downtown Durham, in rural Durham County. The house was built around 1900, then expanded and the majority of extant outbuildings erected around 1922, when the farm was purchased by Jonah Ellis. The one-story, triple-A-roofed frame house is typical of turn-of-the-century farmhouses, but its high level of architectural integrity and the collection of fourteen historic outbuildings make it unusual in Durham County.

The house stands on a slight rise on the west side of Pat Tilley Road (SR 1621), a dead-end road that extends south from Ellis Chapel Road. The house is accessed by a gravel drive that approaches the house from the southeast. Immediately behind the house, to the west, is a collection of four small outbuildings, domestic structures that relate directly to the operation of the home. Northwest of the house is a second collection of outbuildings that includes a feed house, tenant dwelling, smokehouse, and wood shed. Further west, oriented around an open yard, is a collection of tobacco-related outbuildings that includes tobacco barns, a pack house, and an ordering/stripping house; concrete pad in the center of this yard is the foundation of a mid-century, pre-fabricated barn that has been removed. The west half of the land, surrounding the tobacco-related outbuildings, is generally wooded with a clearing between the buildings. Land around the house and extending east to Pat Tilley Road is clear, with trees remaining only in the immediate vicinity of the house. All of the buildings within the nominated boundary are contributing, except for the garage, which was erected around 1940. The inventory list is organized by location of building, moving from east to west, and the number assigned to each building in the inventory is noted on the site map. All of the buildings are one-story except where noted.

1. Hampton-Ellis House – c. 1900, c. 1922, c. 1948

C – Building

The c. 1900 triple-A-roofed house is currently four bays wide and single-pile with a gabled rear kitchen ell. Originally a three-bay-wide, center-hall plan house, a third room was added to the left (south) end shortly after Jonah Ellis purchased the property in 1922. The house has a brick pier foundation with a concrete-block curtain wall and retains a 5V metal roof and painted wood weatherboards throughout, including in the decorative front gable. A corbelled brick chimney rises between the main block and the rear kitchen ell and a second, smaller brick chimney is located on the south slope of the roof near the west end of the kitchen ell. The house has simple wood cornerboards and boxed eaves with wood soffits, fascia, bedmold, and flared rakeboards in the gable ends. Two-over-two, double-hung, wood sash windows are trimmed with simple wood casings and have wood windowsills and dripcaps. The gabled kitchen ell is flanked by screened porches, both added around 1922, and has paired two-over-two, horizontal-pane, wood sash windows on the rear gable end and on the enclosed (bathroom) portion of the shed-roofed porch.

The one-story, hip-roofed front porch extends nearly the full width of the façade and is supported by turned wood posts with decorative sawn brackets. The porch has a replacement wood floor, but retains an original flush-wood ceiling with small crown molding. The porch is supported by a later, concrete-block foundation and has concrete steps in line with the main entrance. There are two entrances to the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

house from the porch: the main one-light-over-three-panel wood door which opens to the central hall of the house and a second one-light-over-three-panel door, which opens to the room on the left (south) end of the façade.

Two screened porches at the rear of the house have 5V metal roofing, screening on the upper half of the wall, and wood weatherboards below with plywood below the screening on the interior of the porches. Both porches have tongue-and-groove flooring and exposed wood weatherboards on the interior where they abut the house. The north porch has a hipped roof and flush wood ceiling; it is accessed via doors from both the rear of the center hall and the north wall of the kitchen, each a two-light-over-three-panel door. The rear (west) end of the north porch is fully enclosed with wood weatherboards and serves as a pantry for the kitchen with a square, two-light casement window on the north elevation. The shed-roofed south porch opens to the kitchen via a one-light-over-three-panel wood door. It has a beaded-board ceiling, exposed rafter tails, and a fully enclosed bay on the east end with a two-over-two, horizontal-pane, wood sash window, which serves as the main bathroom for the house. Both porches have two-light-over-metal-panel aluminum screened doors and exterior concrete steps.

The plan of the Hampton-Ellis house is typical of small, frame farmhouses that dominated the rural landscape from the 1860s through the 1920s. The one-story house is arranged around a center hall from which the two main rooms open: a bedroom on the right and a family room on the left. A door at the rear of the hallway opens directly to the north porch. From the living room, a door on the west side, north of the fireplace, accesses the rear kitchen ell. A window centered on the south side of the living room was converted to a door when the second bedroom was added to the south end of the house in the 1920s. It was closed around 1948 when a door at the southwest corner of the living room was installed to access a small hallway along the west side of that room; the hallway currently accesses the home's only bathroom, also added around 1948, and the second bedroom. There are no closets in either bedroom. Two back-to-back fireplaces are located in the living room and kitchen. Both fireboxes have been bricked in and large wood-burning stoves installed, utilizing the existing chimneys. The two fireplaces have concrete hearths and retain original mantels with sawn shelf brackets. A second chimney remains in the southwest corner of the kitchen.

The home is plainly finished with wide-plank wood flooring and painted, flush wood sheathing on the walls and ceilings of the center hall and original bedroom and living room. The center hall has been carpeted. There are low-profile painted wood baseboards throughout and quarter-round molding at the wall and ceiling intersections in the main rooms. There is wood flooring in the kitchen, plaster walls, and a dropped tile ceiling with simple, low-profile crown molding. The small pantry off the kitchen has vinyl tile on the floor, plaster walls, and a dropped tile ceiling. The c. 1948 hallway off the living room and the second bedroom both have wood flooring and wood paneling on the walls. The bathroom has plaster walls with tile around the tub, vinyl flooring, and beaded-board ceiling. The house has simple, three-part door surrounds with molded lintels and plinths and matching window trim; door and window trim in the south bedroom and hallway is single-piece trim. The house retains original five- and six-horizontal-panel painted interior doors throughout, with hollow core wood doors leading to the side hallway, bathroom, and second bedroom.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

2. Wood Shed – c. 1922

C – Building

On the south end of the series of domestic outbuildings just west of the house is a shed-roofed wood shed. The shed has dressed-log supports, flush-board sheathing on the exterior, and a 5V metal roof. It has a dirt floor and no foundation beyond the dressed logs that extend into the ground. It is open on the left (south) end.

3. Cannery – c. 1922

C – Building

Directly north of the wood shed, the cannery is a front-gabled, frame building on a stone foundation. It has plain wood weatherboards with flat cornerboards and the top row of weatherboards is notched to allow for the structure of the 5V metal roof. A small entrance in the front, gable end has a wood frame and batten door. Directly above the door, on the front of the building, is a stove-pipe opening; an exterior stove would have supplied heat, through this pipe so that canned goods did not freeze during the winter months. A small batten door in the front gable accesses a low attic space for extra storage. The interior features a built-up dirt floor, flush-wood ceiling, and flush-wood sheathing on the walls that creates an insulated wall cavity. Originally, shelves (now removed) were installed along each side of the building with only a narrow walkway down the center of the building.

4. Smokehouse – c. 1922

C – Building

North of the cannery is a front-gabled, frame smokehouse with a foundation of several large stones, serving as piers. It has plain wood weatherboards with flat cornerboards and a 5V metal roof. A batten door in the front gable end has a flat surround and a stone step. The interior of the structure features a wood floor and exposed roof and wall framing. A small bench has been installed on the interior to the right of the entrance.

5. Garage – c. 1940

NC – Building

At the north end of the collection of domestic outbuildings is a two-bay, front-gabled frame garage. The garage has a concrete-block foundation, plain wood weatherboards with cornerboards, and a 5V metal roof. It has two vehicular openings on the east side, facing the house and road, separated by a boxed post that supports the span.

6. Feed House – c. 1900, c. 1922

C – Building

The large, front-gabled feed house has a stone foundation, plain wood weatherboards, and a 5V metal roof. The center bay is one-and-a-half stories tall with a raised wood floor and round, dressed timbers supporting the upper floor. The interior has exposed framing with no sheathing and batten doors on the front (south) at the first and upper level access the two spaces. The left (west) bay is an open vehicular bay with flush sheathing on the interior wall (where it abuts the center bay) and an enclosed storage space at the rear. It has a dirt floor and dressed logs supporting the ceiling. There are two batten

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

doors on the left (west) elevation. The right (east) bay is accessed by a batten door on the front (south) elevation with a small window-like opening to the immediate left (west) of the door. It has a dirt floor and is divided into multiple rooms, each with flush wood sheathing on the interior. There are two batten doors on the right (east) elevation. The feed house was erected by Hampton around the turn of the twentieth century. Ellis added a one-story, shed-roofed addition across the rear of the building around 1922; that part of the building has German-profile siding, which stands in contrast to the plain wood weatherboards on the rest of the building.

7. Tenant House – c. 1900, c. 1922

C – Building

The one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled frame tenant house stands just southwest of the feed house and west of the main house. It is two bays wide and single-pile with a full-width, one-story, shed-roofed block across the rear that nearly doubles the footprint of the house. The tenant house has a stone pier foundation, wood weatherboards, a 5V metal roof, and an interior corbelled brick chimney. The front porch has been removed, but there is evidence of where the roof tied into the structure and a concrete-pad porch floor remains. The building retains an eight-over-eight wood sash window in the right (east) room that has been boarded and has two-over-two wood sash windows on the north elevation of the one-story rear addition. There is a two-light-over-three-panel door that opens to the left (west) room, a batten door that opens to the right (east) room, and a one-light-over-three-panel door on the east end of the shed-roofed rear addition.

The interior of the house features wide-plank flooring and beaded-board ceilings and walls. There is a narrow enclosed staircase at the front left (southwest) corner of the right (east) room; it has wood stairs behind a batten door and leads to an unfinished upper-floor space. There is no interior sheathing at the upper floor. A chimney rises between the two main rooms with a fireplace in each room. The right (east) fireplace has been filled with brick and both fireplaces have concrete covering the surrounds. Mantels are flush-wood boards attached to the wall with a plain wood shelf supported by a bracket on each end. A batten door to the rear (north) of the fireplaces connects the two main rooms. A doorway from the rear (north) of each of the first-floor rooms accesses a room in the one-story rear wing. The rear wing has wood flooring, exposed siding on the south side of the rooms, where it abuts the main block, and beaded-board on the other wall surfaces and ceilings. The main one-and-a-half-story block of the building was erected by Hampton, likely around the turn of the twentieth century; Ellis added the one-story wing at the rear of the building around 1922.

8. Tenant Smokehouse – c. 1922

C – Building

Behind the tenant house stands a front-gabled, frame smokehouse that serves the tenant house. The smokehouse has a stone pier foundation, unpainted plain wood weatherboards, and a 5V metal roof. A batten door accesses the building from the south end and the interior has a raised wood floor and exposed wall and roof framing on the interior.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

9. Tenant Wood Shed – c. 1922

C – Building

A shed-roofed wood shed stands behind (north) the tenant smokehouse. It has dressed timber supports that extend into the ground in lieu of a foundation. The exterior has flush-wood sheathing, flat cornerboards, and a 5V metal roof. The building has two bays: an open area on the north end and an enclosed bay on the south end. The north bay has a dirt floor accessed by openings without trim or doors on the east and west elevations. The south bay is an enclosed storage space with raised wood floor and a batten door protecting a small opening on the east elevation. The interior wall that divides the two bays is of frame construction with flush-wood sheathing.

10. Pack House – c. 1922

C - Building

West of the tenant house is a large, front-gabled, frame pack house. It stands on a stuccoed stone pier foundation, is sheathed in unpainted wood weatherboards with flat cornerboards, and has a 5V metal roof. There is a batten door centered on the front elevation and a four-light window in the gable above the door. The interior of the building has a raised wood floor and exposed wall and roof framing.

11. Ordering/Stripping House – c. 1900, c. 1922

C – Building

Immediately to the west of the pack house is a large, three-bay-wide ordering/stripping house. The central, front-gabled core is of diamond-notched log construction on a stone foundation. It has vertical flush-wood sheathing covering the right (east) half of the log structure, unpainted wood weatherboards in the gable, and exposed log construction on the left (west) half. The lower level of the central bay extends below grade and was used as the “ordering house.” It has a dirt floor, exposed log construction, and a series of logs running the depth of the building for hanging tobacco. Above the ordering house the “stripping house” was used for sorting the tobacco. It has a tongue-and-groove wood floor supported by undressed timbers, and exposed log construction and roof framing. There are batten doors, arranged one above the other on the front elevation, that access the two spaces. There is also a batten door at the rear of the “ordering house” and three three-light windows in the rear gable of the “stripping house.”

A one-story, shed-roofed, frame bay on the left (west) side was used for supply storage. It has a stone foundation, wood weatherboards with flat cornerboards in the front gable and on the side and rear elevations, and a 5V metal roof that continues the slope of the front-gabled roof of the log block. This bay has a dirt floor and the log construction of the main bay and the wood framing is visible on the interior. There is an open vehicular bay at the front (south).

A one-story, shed-roofed, frame bay on the right (east) side was used to store fertilizer. It is supported by dressed log piers, partially covered with 5V metal sheathing, and has vertical flush-board sheathing on the front and horizontal flush-board sheathing on the side and rear elevations. The interior has a raised wood floor and exposed, dressed-timber roof supports. Paneling has been applied to the main log structure, where it meets this bay to form a solid wall surface. It is accessed by a wood stair and batten door on the front (south) elevation.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 6

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

The center bay of the ordering/stripping house was erected by Hampton around the turn of the twentieth century. The supply storage and fertilizer storage bays were added by Ellis when he purchased the farm in 1922.

12. Tobacco Barn I – c. 1900

C – Building

South of the ordering/stripping house are three, turn-of-the-century, side-gabled tobacco barns. The east barn is of hand-hewn, V-notch log construction with a stone foundation. It has a 5V metal roof with extant flues at each corner and a batten door on the east elevation. It has wood weatherboards in the gables and board-and-batten on the south elevation. Vertical flush-wood sheathing on the east and west elevations has been covered with vertical metal sheathing. On the north elevation there is a shed-roofed open bay with dressed log supports and vertical flush-wood sheathing covering the log exterior above this roof. The interior of the barn features a dirt floor, exposed log construction and roof framing, and dressed logs, three across and four high, that run the depth of the barn and were used to hang tobacco. Rusted remnants of the heating/flue systems remain in the barn. The barn was erected by Hampton and was extant when Ellis purchased the farm in 1922.

13. Tobacco Barn II – c. 1900

C – Building

South of the ordering/stripping house are three, turn-of-the-century, side-gabled tobacco barns. The center barn is of hand-hewn, V-notch log construction with a stone foundation. It has a 5V metal roof with extant flues at each corner and a batten door on the east elevation. It has wood weatherboards in the gables and vertical flush-wood sheathing on the east and west elevations has been covered with vertical metal sheathing. There is evidence of a former, shed-roofed bay on the north with vertical flush-wood sheathing on the upper half of this elevation and exposed log construction below. The interior of the barn features a dirt floor, exposed log construction and roof framing, and dressed logs, three across and four high, that run the depth of the barn and were used to hang tobacco. Rusted remnants of the heating/flue systems remain in the barn.

14. Tobacco Barn III – c. 1900

C – Building

South of the ordering/stripping house are three, turn-of-the-century, side-gabled tobacco barns. The west barn is of hand-hewn, V-notch log construction with a stone foundation. It has a 5V metal roof with extant flues at each corner and a batten door on the east elevation. It has wood weatherboards in the gables and on the lower one-fourth of the east and west elevations with vertical flush-wood sheathing above. The interior of the barn features a dirt floor, exposed log construction and roof framing, and dressed logs, three across and four high, that run the depth of the barn and were used to hang tobacco. Rusted remnants of the heating/flue systems remain in the barn.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

15. Tobacco Barn IV – c. 1922

C – Building

West of the ordering/stripping house and northwest of the other tobacco barns is a later tobacco barn. It has diamond-notched, dressed (not hewn) log construction with wood weatherboards in the gables and vertical metal sheathing covering the other elevations. There is a batten door on the east elevation and a shed-roofed open bay with dressed log supports on the south elevation with exposed log construction under the shed roof. The interior of the barn features a dirt floor, exposed log construction and roof framing, and dressed logs, three across and three high, that run the depth of the barn and were used to hang tobacco. Rusted remnants of the heating/flue systems remain in the barn.

The Hampton-Ellis house and its collection of domestic and tobacco-related outbuildings have experienced minor alterations since their construction in the early twentieth century, including the addition of a second bedroom to the house in the 1920s and the addition of a shed-roofed bay to the rear of the packhouse. However, these changes have not significantly diminished the overall integrity of the structures or site.

The property is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, privies, and other structural remains that may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the existing structures and surrounding property. Information concerning land use patterns, social standing and mobility, tenant farming, 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 property. 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 project.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

SECTION 8 – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hampton-Ellis Farm is locally significant and meets National Register Criterion C for architecture. The house, a one-story triple-A-roofed house with a gabled rear ell erected c. 1900 and enlarged with a gabled extension of the main block c. 1922, retains a high level of architectural integrity and is accompanied by one of the largest collections of extant outbuildings in Durham County. The farm is typical of early twentieth-century, independently-owned tobacco farms in Piedmont North Carolina with its fourteen frame and log outbuildings relating to both the management of the home and supporting the farm's tobacco production. The period of significance extends from William Beanis Hampton's construction of the home and earliest outbuildings c. 1900 to c. 1922, when Jonah Ellis purchased the farm and constructed the rest of the extant outbuildings. Though the acreage has decreased, the buildings stand on nearly fifteen acres and surrounding acreage remains undeveloped, providing the necessary rural context for the buildings.

Bahama and Rural Durham County

The Hampton-Ellis Farm is located approximately three miles east of Bahama and just north of Lake Michie. Bahama is a rural crossroads and is located, approximately thirteen miles north of downtown Durham, in rural north Durham County, North Carolina. Initially settled around 1750, the area was selected by farmers for its temperate climate with a long, frost-free season and its fertile soil along the banks of the Flat River. In addition to farming, the area was known for a series of mills along the Flat River and for the Mount Bethel United Methodist Church which, established in the 1780s, is often credited for the continued community development.

Most early settlers of Bahama (originally called Balltown), as with most of Durham County, were farmers. The terrain was desirable with ample rivers and streams, and the immense forest was filled with huge timber, deep soil, many species of game animals, and edible fruits and nuts. Hardwoods and conifers originally covered Durham County and a mixture of hardwoods and pines still shade about 67% of the county. The rich soil offered a variety of agricultural possibilities, but throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, tobacco reigned in this part of the state; Bahama, with its proximity to the tobacco-processing factories in nearby Durham, flourished.

Equally important to the development of the area were the gristmills that lined the Flat River. The Hampton-Ellis Farm is located on a portion of an eighteenth-century mill site originally owned by James Walker. Sally Walker purchased the mill and surrounding acreage from her father's estate after his death in 1856. In 1893, Sally Walker sold one hundred acres of land on the Flat River to W. B. Hampton; this land would eventually become the Hampton-Ellis Farm.¹ Unfortunately, no evidence remains of the early mill because of the damming of the Flat River in the 1920s, and the subsequent flooding of the site, to create Lake Michie.

The railroad was integral to the growth and development of Bahama. The Durham and Lynchburg Railroad, which was established around 1890, branched off from the main North Carolina Railroad line through Durham County just east of Durham's core. It established rural depots at Willardsville, Balltown, and Rougemont. The Durham and Lynchburg Railroad eventually became the

¹ Durham County Register of Deeds, pb. 13 pg. 429.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

Durham and Northern Railroad, later the Norfolk and Western Railroad. With the addition of a rail line, Balltown became the center of local commerce. The name was eventually changed to Bahama to represent three prominent families in the community: Ball, Hall, and Mangum.

Despite the pull of the town of Durham, the rural population of the county continued to expand in the late nineteenth century and Bahama grew as well. The Hunkadora Post Office was established there around 1880 and by the beginning of the twentieth century, the A. W. Tilley and Turner & Hill stores, a public school with three teachers, and the Tilley Brothers' Roller Mill were all present in the small town. In 1926, the City of Durham built a dam on the Flat River to improve the city's water supply, creating a reservoir called Lake Michie. In addition to maintaining drinking water, the concrete and earthwork dam supplied hydroelectric power to Durham until 1960. Lake Michie is located just west of the Hampton-Ellis Farm and remains the primary reservoir for the City of Durham.

Bahama, like much of Durham County, experienced economic decline as a result of the collapsing tobacco market after the 1960s. The Bahama train depot was demolished in the 1960s and the Norfolk and Western Railroad line north of Durham was abandoned in the 1980s. Northeast Durham County remains largely rural with medium-sized farms "evoking the tobacco economy and architecture of the early twentieth-century."² Bahama remains a rural community surrounded by farmland and woodlands with a series of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century buildings in the small town and scattered farms dotting the landscape.

The Hampton and Ellis Families

In 1893, William Beanis Hampton, a lifelong resident of Mangum Township, purchased the 100-acre tract of land that is now the Hampton-Ellis Farm. Born in 1848, Hampton was a prominent merchant in the area and was listed as a dry goods clerk in the 1900 census. In 1899, he married Minnie Oakley and likely built the house outside Bahama at that time. By 1910, census records list W. B. Hampton as a farmer living on the property with his wife, five children (Wilburn, William B. Jr., Arthur, Zachariah, and Patsy Catherine), and two farmhands, indicating that the tenant house was already extant by 1910. Hampton continued to farm through the 1910s, erecting the feed house, the ordering/stripping house, and one tobacco barn on the property.³ By 1920, Hampton, then in his seventies, was listed as a grocer in census records. He sold the property to Jonah Buren Ellis in 1922 and passed away in July of 1926.

Jonah Buren Ellis was also a lifelong resident of Durham County, born in 1898 to Van Buren and Sarah Ellis. In 1915, he married Rosa Spencer from Halifax, Virginia, and by 1920 Ellis was listed in census records as a farmer, living on Mangum Road in Mangum Township with his wife and two young children. On November 11, 1922, Ellis purchased the 100-acre farm from W. B. Hampton,⁴ a transaction that included the three-room farmhouse, tenant house, feed house, and tobacco barn. (Ellis acquired and farmed additional land over the years, but it was not contiguous to this parcel.) Soon after the purchase Ellis added an additional room to the left side of the house, as well as two screened porches, one on either

² Bisher, Catherine W. and Michael T. Southern. A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina. Chapel Hill, N.C.: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003, pg. 214.

³ Jacobs, Hilda Ellis (daughter of Jonah Ellis). Personal Interview with author. March 2010.

⁴ Durham County Register of Deeds, pb. 73 pg. 66.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 10

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

side of the rear kitchen ell. As his crops increased, he also enlarged the feed house, adding a shed-roofed addition across the rear, enlarged the stripping/ordering house with a shed-roof bay on each side elevation, and erected the pack house and three tobacco barns, each constructed with timber from the site. The Ellis family farmed tobacco, corn, wheat, barley, hay, and oats; grew apple, plum, and peach trees; had large vegetable gardens; and raised hogs and chickens on the property.⁵

Jonah and Rosa Ellis had seven children (Josephine, Katherine, George, Grover, Margaret, Jonah Jr. (J. B.), and Hilda) and fifteen grandchildren. Ellis worked the farm until his death in 1953, at which point portions of the land were divided off and deeded to his heirs. His son George, who remained in the house with his mother Rosa and sister Margaret, continued to farm eighty-six acres of the original one-hundred-acre parcel until 1988. Rosa Ellis died in 1991 and Margaret passed away the following year. In 1992, the City of Durham purchased nearly forty-three of the remaining eighty-six-acre parcel to expand Lake Michie. Concerned about the potential flooding of Lake Michie, the city purchased the adjacent land to the north and west of the farm buildings, in case it became necessary to move the dam. The resulting forty-five-acre tract was then divided in 1993 and the roughly seven-acre tracts distributed to Ellis family members.

The two parcels containing the historic house and fourteen outbuildings were deeded to George Ellis and his sister Hilda Ellis Jacobs. George remained in the house until his death in 2008, but it has been vacant since. Hilda's daughters, Tonya and Windy Jacobs have inherited these two parcels and re-joined them, creating the fourteen-and-a-half-acre tract that remains today. The other four tracts are still owned by members of the Ellis family and are, as of yet, undeveloped. The Jacobs sisters plan to renovate and expand the house into their own residence while maintaining the outbuildings in place. Except for the gravel path from Pat Tilley Road to the house, original circulation around the farmstead and any historic crop patterns have been obscured and overgrown with grass.

Architectural Context: Early-twentieth-century, Triple-A-roofed Houses in Durham County

The one-story, triple-A-roofed, center-hall-plan house is typical of the small, frame houses that dominated the rural and urban landscape from the 1860s through the 1920s. Generally with a rear wing resulting in L- or T-shaped plans, the side-gabled house was simple in form and detail. While pattern books circulated and high-style homes were certainly built in some parts of the state, "a staunchly rectangular and symmetrical dwelling, one or two stories tall, with a porch and a rear ell or shed containing a kitchen, remained the classic choice."⁶ To this basic house form, an owner could add as little or as much decorative detailing as he wanted. One of the most popular additions to this rectangular form was the installation of a decorative front gable to the façade. It is this gable that gives the home its "triple-A" or "tri-gabled" name. Bishir notes that "the peaked front gable entered the popular idiom by the 1870s and proved a hardy favorite throughout the rest of the century, appearing in large and small, plain and fancy houses."⁷ Additionally, the homes often utilized factory-produced lumber and millwork, delivered by railroad to rural outposts, to build their porches or to add decoration to their front gables.

⁵ Jacobs, Hilda Ellis.

⁶ Bishir, Catherine W., pg. 343.

⁷ Bishir, Catherine W., pg. 292.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 11

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

This house type was erected widely in Durham County, in both rural and urban areas. The one-story, center-hall plan was popular with both rural farm owners and urban factory owners in Durham County. Easily adaptable, the form could be enlarged at the rear or on one end (as was the case with the compatibly-designed one-bay side-gabled addition to the Hampton-Ellis House). The homes could also be embellished with varying levels of architectural detail, from turned porch posts and brackets to decorative shingles and bargeboards in the gables. While similarly styled homes exist throughout the area in both rural and urban settings, the Hampton-Ellis Farm's intact complex of buildings is one of the largest in Durham County.

The 1911 Marcus C. Ball House (8711 Quail Roost Road) in nearby Bahama is nearly identical in form and detail, though without the additional bedroom on the left elevation; it has wood weatherboards and cornerboards, full gable returns, wood siding in the front gable, two-over-two wood sash windows, and plain square posts supporting the hip-roofed porch. The Ball House stands at an angle to the road, indicating that it may have been part of a farm that pre-dated the road; it does not retain any outbuildings. The one-story, triple-A-roofed house at 2306 Ellis Chapel Road retains an original pressed-metal roof and plain porch posts, but has been covered with vinyl siding; it has several domestic outbuildings, but no tobacco-related structures.

Architectural Context: Brightleaf Tobacco Outbuildings in Durham County

Brightleaf tobacco dominated the Piedmont landscape and economy from the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. By the turn of the twentieth century, North Carolina had surpassed Virginia as the most dominant tobacco market with forty-five market towns to Virginia's ten in 1908.⁸ By 1922, when hundreds of families were moving to town to work in the cotton mills and tobacco factories, farmers still made up half of the population of Durham County. North Durham County was dotted with small tobacco farms supplying brightleaf tobacco to markets in Durham, Henderson, and Oxford and the remaining tobacco barns and other agricultural structures are evidence of that boom period in Durham County. The process of curing tobacco dictated the design of the tobacco barn, pack house, ordering house and stripping house.

The four tobacco barns at the Hampton-Ellis Farm are typical of early twentieth-century, flue-cured, log tobacco barns. The tobacco was harvested by cutting down the entire stalk, or harvesting individual leaves that were then "handed" (bundled) and "looped" (tied), then attaching the stalk or bundled leaves to a stick. These sticks holding twenty to thirty stalks of tobacco each were then hung on tier poles high inside the log tobacco barns, a process called 'housing.' Because tobacco is extremely heavy (tobacco leaves were eighty percent water at the beginning of the curing process) the tiers had to be sturdily built and were often supported by sills or posts secured to the stone foundations. Each of the four tobacco barns at the Hampton-Ellis Farm retain the stone foundations and tier poles running laterally through the barn, usually four rows high.

Log construction was generally preferred because logs were available on-site, were better insulators than frame construction, and were able to withstand the heavy weight of tobacco as it cured. Wood or metal sheathing covered the logs to provide additional insulation, a "plank-over" technique that

⁸ Yeargin, Billy. North Carolina Tobacco: A History. Charleston, S.C.: The History Press, 2008, pg. 33.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 12

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

was common when barns were converted from wood-curing to oil- or gas-fueled flue-curing. While metal, because of its conductive qualities, was less efficient, it was often added to the exterior of tobacco barns, likely because it required less maintenance than wood sheathing.

When each barn was full, the curing process began. Curing brightleaf tobacco demanded knowledge, skill, patience, and constant work; it needed to be done slowly to avoid discoloration, drying, and cracking, but drying too slowly resulted in the appearance of red or brown spots on the leaf.⁹ Until the 1870s, farmers used wood or charcoal fires to dry the tobacco by steadily increasing the heat, which removed food and moisture, producing a yellow-colored leaf. However, by the early twentieth century, oil and gas furnaces replaced open fires. This method reduced the amount of fuel consumed, reduced the risk of fire, and more accurately regulated the temperature in the barn.¹⁰ Tobacco barns at the Hampton-Ellis Farm each have four interior burners, one in each corner of the barn, with flues that extended from each burner along the wall and up through the roof. The heavy log construction and the wood or metal sheathing on the exterior of each barn helped to insulate the barns, making temperatures more accurate and the curing process more efficient.

After the tobacco was cured, the sticks were moved to the “ordering house” where moisture was returned to the leaves, making them pliable and “put them back in order.” The ordering house, sometimes called an ordering pit, was generally partially below grade with a dirt floor and tiers from which the sticks of tobacco could be hung, similar those in the tobacco barns. Hanging the tobacco in these cool, slightly damp spaces allowed the leaves to absorb just enough moisture to make them pliant so that they could be handled without cracking and breaking. The ordering house at the Hampton-Ellis Farm is of log construction and set slightly below grade with a stripping house above and later shed-roofed bays on each side that served as equipment and fertilizer storage areas.

After being ordered, the stalks were moved to the “stripping house” where the tobacco leaves were removed from the stalks or untied from the bundles and graded, or sorted by size, color, and quality. The Hampton-Ellis Farm utilized a space in a log barn, directly above the ordering house, as the stripping house. The stripping house was a partially finished space with wood floor and openings in the gable ends for cross-ventilation. It likely had tables or benches for sorting the leaves. Earlier farms generally stripped and sorted the leaves outdoors under shed roofs attached to the tobacco barns or ordering pits.

When the leaves were sorted, they were stacked in hoops (to keep the piles neat) on top of a tobacco spread. When the leaves were perfectly stacked in a pile about three feet high, the hoop was removed and the spread was gathered up by the corners and tied on top of the pile.¹¹ The pile was then moved to the packhouse where they were stored until taken to market. The simple, front-gabled structure is the most finished of the outbuildings relating to tobacco production with a raised wood floor and an entrance at each gable end. It is of frame construction with wood weatherboards and a metal roof. In order to protect the tobacco before market, the building needed to minimize the amount of moisture and insects that could harm the leaves.

⁹ Swaim, Doug: Editor. Carolina Dwelling. The Student Publication of the School of Design: Volume 26. Raleigh, N.C.: North Carolina State University, 1978, 124.

¹⁰ Bishir, Catherine W. North Carolina Architecture. Chapel Hill, NC: The Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, 1990, pg. 359.

¹¹ Jacobs, Hilda Ellis.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 13

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

Tenant dwellings and their necessary domestic outbuildings were common on the mid-sized tobacco farms of north Durham County. Tenant farming was popular in Durham and the surrounding counties and the 1910 census recorded two farmhands living on the property with W. B. Hampton. The Hampton-Ellis Farm retains a tenant house on the property where these farmhands lived. Located nearer the tobacco barns than the main house, the tenant house was constructed as a simple, one-and-a-half-story, two-room structure, with a narrow, corner-stair leading to an unfinished two-room space above. In the early 1920s, two additional rooms were erected at the rear of the house as well as an accompanying smokehouse and wood shed. By mid-century, the farm was no longer employing tenant farmers and the tenant house stood empty, sometimes used as a playhouse by Jonah Ellis's grandchildren.

The arrangement of buildings is typical of North Carolina farmsteads with the frame house separated slightly from the farm buildings with domestic outbuildings, including a smokehouse, wood shed, and cannery, close by. The tobacco barns are arranged in rows, facing each other across a grassy lawn. It was important that tobacco-curing barns be located close enough for convenience, but far enough apart that a fire would not spread from barn to barn.¹² Additionally, as the tobacco was moved from the barns, to the ordering/stripping houses, to the packhouse, having the buildings in close proximity to one another made the farm more efficient. The open lawn between the barns was necessary to accommodate tractors with loads of tobacco stalks from the fields.

The Hampton-Ellis Farm, with its well-maintained collection of log and frame outbuildings, reflects the history of tobacco farming at this location since 1900. The loss of so many contemporary mid-sized farmsteads in Durham County makes this property even more significant. Other historic tobacco farmsteads exist in Durham County, but few with the extensive collection of outbuildings and support structures of the Hampton-Ellis Farm.

The late nineteenth-century Martin Van Buren Ellis Farm (behind 2517 Ellis Chapel Road), near Bahama and just down the road from the Hampton-Ellis Farm, was where Jonah Ellis was born and raised. It has a two-story, triple-A-roofed house with finishes similar to those of the Hampton-Ellis House; behind the house are a log kitchen (later used as a tenant house), several log and frame tobacco barns, a log strip house, a frame packhouse and smokehouse, and two log corn cribs. The farm complex is similar in scale to the Hampton-Ellis Farm and has nearly as many outbuildings; however, there is newer development along the road and to the east and the house and kitchen are not well maintained.

Several other farms in the area retain multiple tobacco barns adapted for new uses and several groups of tobacco barns remain without primary dwellings. The c. 1900 Sam Hall Farm (4310 Hall Road) near Lake Michie has a two-story, triple-A-roofed house with smokehouse, well enclosure, and garage; across the street are four log tobacco barns, converted for use as hay storage. Several tobacco barns remain at 3210 Bahama Road, near the intersection with Piney Grove Road; modern barns have been erected behind the tobacco barns, but no dwelling remains.

The turn-of-the-century, one-story, triple-A-roofed house at 4704 Bahama Road is very similar to the Hampton-Ellis Farm both in the style of the house and in the number and arrangement of domestic and tobacco-related outbuildings. The side-gabled house features a wing extending from the left rear,

¹² Bishir, Catherine W., pg. 360.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 14

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

wood siding, two-over-two wood-sash windows, and a three-light-over-two-panel door sheltered by a hip-roofed front porch on square posts. The house has decorative, imbricated shingles and a round vent in the front gable. Immediately adjacent to the house is a log smokehouse. Behind the house is a series of outbuildings in varying states of disrepair. These include two log tobacco barns, a mid-century frame tobacco barn, a mid-century packhouse, a small, front-gabled frame structure, and a partially collapsed log building. While the size of this farm complex is comparable to the Hampton-Ellis Farm, several of the buildings are of newer construction and many are in disrepair.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 15

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 & PHOTOS Page 16

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

SECTION 10 – GEOGRAPHIC DATA

Verbal Boundary Description –

The nominated area is marked by a heavy line on the attached tax map at a scale of 1" = 200'.

Boundary Justification –

The boundary includes approximately eleven-and-a-half acres of the one-hundred acre tract that was historically associated with the Hampton-Ellis Farm. The boundary includes the historic house as well as fourteen associated outbuildings. The nominated area provides an appropriate historic setting for the house and outbuildings.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Name: Hampton-Ellis Farm

County and State: Durham County, North Carolina

Photographer: Heather M. Wagner

Date: 2009

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

1. Exterior Hampton-Ellis House, Hampton-Ellis Farm
facing northwest
2. Exterior Hampton-Ellis House, Hampton-Ellis Farm
facing north
3. Exterior Hampton-Ellis House, Hampton-Ellis Farm
facing south
4. Bedroom 1 Hampton-Ellis House, Hampton-Ellis Farm
facing southeast
5. Kitchen Hampton-Ellis House, Hampton-Ellis Farm
facing east
6. Domestic Outbuildings, Hampton-Ellis Farm
facing east
7. Woodshed 1 and Cannery, Hampton-Ellis Farm
facing southwest
8. Smokehouse 1 and Garage, Hampton-Ellis Farm
facing northwest
9. Feed House, Hampton-Ellis Farm

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 & PHOTOS Page 17

Hampton-Ellis Farm
Durham County, North Carolina

-
- facing northwest
10. Tenant House, Smokehouse 2, and Woodshed 2, Hampton-Ellis Farm
facing northwest
11. Tobacco Barns, Hampton-Ellis Farm
facing west
12. Pack House, Hampton-Ellis Farm
facing northeast
13. Ordering/Stripping House, Hampton-Ellis Farm
facing northwest
14. Tobacco Barns 1, 2, and 3 Hampton-Ellis Farm
facing west
15. Interior Tobacco Barn 4, Hampton-Ellis Farm
facing southwest