

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper Secretary Susi H. Hamilton Office of Archives and History Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

September 21, 2018

Samantha Dailey Raleigh Regulatory Field Office US Army Corps of Engineers 3331 Heritage Trade Drive, Suite 105 Wake Forest, NC 27587 Samantha.j.dailey@usace.army.mil

Re: Blackbird Stream and Wetland Mitigation Site, SAW-2015-01800, Johnston County, ER 15-1819

Dear Ms. Dailey:

Thank you for your notice of August 15, 2018, concerning the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the materials submitted and offer the following comments.

The project would affect Parker's Mill (JT0898), a rural mill house complex and associated dam, which was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), under Criterion A and Criterion C, in 2004 and was re-evaluated in March 2016, and remained eligible.

Based on an email from Mr. Daniel Ingram, October 28, 2016, the Parker's Mill complex suffered considerable damage during Hurricane Matthew. Satellite imagery of the area from March 2018, shows that the remaining extant structures were lost some time after. Due to loss of the mill structures, we have determined that the property no longer retains sufficient integrity necessary to be considered eligible for listing in the NRHP. Therefore, the project as proposed will have no effect on historic properties.

However, in response to Mr. Ingram's October 2016 email, we requested that he provide photo documentation of the damages caused by Hurricane Matthew, preferably from the same vantage points as the photos shown in the 2016 Architectural Survey Report. As of this date we have not received the requested photos.

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

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

Sincerely,

▼Ramona M. Bartos

Rence Gledhill-Earley



Received: 08/21/2018

State Historic Preservation Office

PUBLIC NOTICE

ER 15-1819

Issue Date: August 15, 2018 Comment Deadline: September 14, 2016 Corps Action ID Number: SAW-2015-01800

FEDERAL PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION OF THE NEU-CON UMBRELLA MITIGATION BANKING INSTRUMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE ADDITION OF THE BLACKBIRD MITIGATION SITE

The Corps has received a proposal to modify an existing Umbrella Mitigation Banking Instrument for the addition of a 51.17-acre stream mitigation site, known as the Blackbird Mitigation Site, located in the Upper Neuse Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 03020201 of the Neuse River Basin.

Specific details and location information are described below and shown in the Instrument modification document. This Public Notice and all attached maps and plans are also available on the RIBITS web site:

Due -- 9/6/18

https://ribits.usace.army.mil/ribits apex/f?p=107:2

Bank Sponsor/Agent: EBX -Neuse I, LLC

Attention: Mr. Daniel Ingram 302 Jefferson Street, Suite 110 Raleigh, North Carolina 27605 **A**-

Authority

The Corps will evaluate this modification request and the establishment of the mitigation site in accordance with the procedures outlined in 33 CFR Part 332. Additionally, this proposal will also be reviewed pursuant to the permitting authority under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for proposed activities involving the discharge of fill material into waters and/or wetlands of the United States.

Due -- 9/6/18

Location

The 51.17-acre proposed mitigation site includes Mill Branch and is located on the west side of NC Highway 96, south of its intersection with NC Highway 50, approximately six miles southeast of Benson, in Johnston County, North Carolina. (35.309155° N, -78.463155° W)

Existing Site Conditions

The site is located on a single parcel comprised of the former Parker Pond. The dam was breached during Hurricane Matthew in October 2016 which effectively drained the pond. The site currently consists of seven forested wetland areas totaling approximately 14 acres and one fringe wetland totaling approximately 7 acres, and ten surface water

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features. The site is located in the Southeastern Plains eco-region within the Wagram-Blanton-Bonneau soil association.

Current land use surrounding the site is primarily cropland, forest, and low density residential lots with maintained vegetation. The forested areas along the easement corridor are classified as mixed pines and hardwoods within the uplands, and a mixture of wetlands classified as Bottomland Hardwood Forest, Riverine Swamp Forest, and Non-tidal Freshwater Marsh. Common tree species within the wetland areas include swamp tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), and laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*). Understory species include greenbriar (*Smilax sp.*), giant cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), and Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*).

Project Purpose

The purpose of the proposal is the establishment of a mitigation site under the existing Neu-con Umbrella Banking Instrument to generate stream and wetland mitigation credits that may be used to provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to warm water streams and riparian wetlands associated with Department of the Army permit authorizations pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Project Description

The sponsor proposes to restore 4,462 linear feet (LF) and preserve 2,358 LF of John K. Swamp, Mill Branch, and four unnamed tributaries, and to re-establish 30.22 acres and preserve 16.16 acres of riparian wetlands. Stream restoration activities will include construction of single thread meandering stream channels within the old pond footprint. The majority of the wetland restoration is proposed within the riparian corridor along the future stream alignment of John K. Swamp and Mill Branch.

Service Area

The proposed Geographic Service Area for the Bank encompasses the entire boundary of the 8-digit HUC 03020201, Upper Neuse watershed. The easement will be conveyed to an appropriate conservation easement holder who will serve as long-term manager for the mitigation property.

Evaluation and Commenting Information

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties, in order to consider and evaluate the proposed mitigation site. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps in evaluating this proposal.

Preliminary review indicates:

- 1) An environmental impact statement (EIS) will not be required.
- 2) The activities associated with development of the mitigation site are not likely to adversely affect any fish, wildlife, and/or plant species (or their critical habitat) listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (PL-93-205).
- 3) Historic properties, or properties eligible for inclusion in the National Register, are present within the Corps' permit area; moreover, the undertaking may have an adverse

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effect on these historic properties. The Corps subsequently initiates consultation with the SHPO.

Additional information may change any of these preliminary findings.

Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above and as described in the modification request, will be received in this office, Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers, Raleigh Regulatory Field Office, Attention: Samantha Dailey, 3331 Heritage Trade, Suite 105, Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587, until 5pm, September 14, 2018. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Dailey by phone at (919) 554-4884 x 22 or by e-mail at samantha.j.dailey@usace.army.mil.

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Neu-Con Stream and Wetland Umbrella Mitigation Bank Blackbird Site

INSTRUMENT MODIFICATION

Neuse River Basin HUC 03020201



Prepared by: Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC

Bank Sponsor: EBX-Neuse I, LLC 302 Jefferson Street, Suite 110 Raleigh, NC 27605 919-209-1056



April 19, 2018

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

The Blackbird Mitigation Site (the "Site") is located six miles southeast of Benson, NC and contains one parcel totaling 51.17-acres in Johnston County, NC. The Site will involve the restoration and preservation of the former John K. Swamp (Parker Pond), Mill Branch, four unnamed tributaries, and re-establishment and preservation of adjacent riparian wetlands. Parker Pond was subject to draining following Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. The Site was identified by EBX-Neuse I, LLC as having potential to help meet the compensatory mitigation requirements for stream impacts in hydrologic unit 03020201 of the Neuse River Basin.

The conceptual stream and wetland mitigation design presents 6,820 linear feet of stream mitigation generating 4,698 Stream Mitigation Units (SMU) through restoration and preservation. Additionally, the design presents a total of 46.38 acres of wetland mitigation, generating 16.73 Wetland Mitigation Units (WMU) through wetland re-establishment and preservation.

1.2 Project Location

The Blackbird Site is in Johnston County approximately six miles southeast of Benson, NC (**Figure 1**). The GPS coordinates of the site are 35.309155 °N and -78.463155 °W. To access the site from the town of Benson, head southeast on NC-50 for approximately 7.5 miles, then turn right onto NC-96 South, the destination will be on the right.

1.3 Service Area

The Site will provide mitigation credits to offset unavoidable impacts to stream and wetland resources within the Upper Neuse subbasin (8-digit USGS HUC 03020201).

The Site is located within the Neuse River Basin (8-digit USGS HUC 03020201, 14-digit USGS 03020201150040). This proposed Site will result in significant ecological improvements including instream and riparian wetland habitat. The Site is in the Mill Creek Watershed, a Targeted Local Watershed (TLW). The Site supports many of the Neuse River Basin Restoration Priorities Plan (RBRP) and Neuse Regional Watershed Plan (RWP) goals.

The Site's watershed is primarily cropland with NC-50 occupying a small portion the eastern portion of the watershed. The project parcel was formerly an impoundment accompanied by the abandoned Parker's Mill Dam (**Figure 3**). Based upon an archaeological survey of the mill pond site the mill was constructed during the late 1800's. Water quality stressors currently affecting the Site include sedimentation and nutrient inputs associated with agriculture within the watershed. Ecological functional loss associated with the pond include; stream habitat decreases, alteration of riparian wetlands, hydroperiod modification, decrease in linear feet of stream channel available for hyporheic processes and elimination of stream connectivity from the mill dam upstream. There are no current conservation easements or options that conflict with the proposed mitigation bank.

1.4 Identified Watershed Needs

The North Carolina Division of Mitigation Services (DMS) develops River Basin Restoration Priorities (RBRP) to guide its restoration activities within each of the state's 54 cataloging units. The 2010 Neuse

River Basin RBRP identified several restoration needs for the entire Neuse River Basin, as well as for HUC 03020201. Goals include promoting nutrient and sediment reduction in agricultural areas by restoring and preserving streams, wetlands, and riparian buffers.

The proposed Site is designed to help meet these goals. The project will address stressors identified in the watershed through nutrient removal, sediment removal, runoff filtration, and improved aquatic and terrestrial habitat. These project goals will be achieved through stream preservation and restoration, and wetland re-establishment and preservation.

1.5 Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the proposed Site is to generate compensatory mitigation credits for inclusion in the Neu-Con Umbrella Mitigation Bank in hydrologic unit 03020201 of the Neuse River Basin.

The project goals address stressors identified in the watershed, and include the following:

- Decreased non-point source pollution
- Increase dissolved oxygen concentration and lower water temperature
- Wildlife corridor enhancement and preservation
- Improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat
- Runoff filtration

The project goals will be addressed through the following project objectives:

- Improved aquatic habitat diversity
- Invasive species treatment
- Wildlife corridor enhancement and preservation
- Improved aquatic passage
- Stabilization of eroding stream banks due to lack of vegetation
- Addition of large woody debris such as log vanes, log weirs, and root wads
- Restoration of appropriate pattern, dimension, and profile in stream channels

Technical Feasibility The proposed Site will provide numerous ecological and water quality benefits within the Neuse River Basin. These benefits are not limited to the project area, but have more farreaching effects downstream within the Neuse River Basin. The Site will provide improvements to water quality, hydrologic function, and habitat.

1.6

The technical feasibility of the bank is assured due to EBX-Neuse I, LLC's extensive experience with stream and wetland restoration and enhancement in North Carolina and throughout the Southeast. Examples of EBX-Neuse I, LLC's success with stream restoration and enhancement include Neu-Con Umbrella Mitigation Bank sites: the Gregory, Nahunta, and Cox II Sites. The absence of fatal flaws such as hydrologic trespass, and the absence of threatened and endangered species and their habitats mean the project is unlikely to be impeded by resource issues.

1.7 Site Ownership

The land required for the construction, management, and stewardship of this mitigation project includes the parcel listed in **Table 1**.

Table 1.

Landowner	Pin or Tax Parcel ID	County	Deed Book & Page Number	Parcel Acreage	Protected Acreage
EBX-Neuse I, LLC	156600-07-1915	Johnston	04604-0533	57.60	56.17

2 QUALIFICATIONS

2.1 Bank Sponsor

The Blackbird Mitigation Site shall be established under the terms and conditions of the Neu-Con Umbrella Mitigation Bank made and entered into by EBX Neuse I, LLC, acting as the Bank Sponsor.

Company Name: EBX-Neuse I, LLC

Company Address: 302 Jefferson Street, Suite 110, Raleigh, NC 27605

Contact Name: Daniel Ingram
Telephone: (919) 209-1056
Email: dingram@res.us

2.2 Bank Sponsor Qualifications

Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC (RES) was founded in February 2007 and grew organically from its roots restoring Louisiana wetlands to deliver mitigation solutions across Louisiana, Texas, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. In December 2014, RES acquired industry pioneer Environmental Banc & Exchange, LLC (EBX) and EBX-Neuse I, LLC (a partnership), expanding the RES knowledge base and geographic and technical delivery capabilities.

RES develops and supplies ecological offsets to help public and private sector clients obtain required permits for unavoidable, project-related impacts to wetlands, streams, and habitats. RES helps clients proactively manage risk from operations in environmentally sensitive areas by providing proactive impact analyses, streamlining permitting processes, and limiting liability and regulatory exposure.

- RES is the premier provider of ecological offset solutions in the US
- RES founded in 2007 / EBX founded in 1997
- 110 mitigation sites permitted/in process
- Conservation easements protecting roughly 400 sites
- 32,000 restored wetland acres
- 4,000 acres of custom mitigation solutions
- 155 miles of stream restoration
- Reduced over 240 tons of nutrients
- Rehabilitated and preserved over 3,700 acres of endangered species habitats

In North Carolina, RES and its affiliated companies have won over \$70 million in mitigation contracts with North Carolina state agencies. With a regional office in Raleigh staffed with full-time professionals, RES has the ability to carry out existing projects, as well as secure and carry out new projects and banks in the State. A few representative projects implemented by RES are presented below.

Neu-Con Umbrella Mitigation Bank (North Carolina): One of the first approved wetland and stream banks in North Carolina. The service area of the Bank is the entire Neuse River Basin. The Bank was established in April 2001. Initial contract: 22,964 linear feet of stream mitigation units (SMU) sold to North Carolina DOT based on credits produced from 3 stream restoration sites (initiated November 2000; sold all credits in November 2000; design initiated December 2001; construction completed on all sites Spring 2005; monitoring completed on all sites in Fall 2009). Additional sites added starting in 2008.

Chesapeake Wetland Mitigation Bank (City of Chesapeake, Virginia): 545-acre wetland mitigation bank in the Lower James Watershed in Virginia. The service territory of the Bank includes HUCs 02080206 and 02080208. The Bank was established in July 2009. The remainder of the 1,156-acre property will be sold to the Great Dismal Wildlife Refuge (MBI finalized Spring 2009; construction completed Spring 2011; in the monitoring phase).

Conoconnara Swamp Site (*Halifax County, North Carolina*): 87.0 WMU of wetland restoration and 5,050 SMU of stream restoration (initiated July 2005; construction completed Spring 2007; monitoring completed Fall 2011).

2.3 Consultant

The Designer for the Sites will be W.K. Dickson & Co., Inc (WK Dickson).

Company Name: W.K. Dickson & Co., Inc.

Company Address: 720 Corporate Center Drive, Raleigh, NC 27607

Contact Name: Scott Sigmon Telephone: (919) 782-0495

Email: ssigmon@wkdickson.com

2.4 Consultant Qualifications

For more than eighty years, WK Dickson has been providing engineering and consulting services throughout the southeastern United States. WK Dickson is an innovative, diversified organization of 108 professionals serving the total planning and design needs of their clients. WK Dickson has built a reputation of superior client satisfaction, technical competence, innovation, and integrity.

WK Dickson has over ten years of experience with regional stream and wetland mitigation programs. They have participated in a variety of projects related to stream and wetland assessments and mitigation. WK Dickson also has project experience with NC buffer rules, buffer mitigation, and nutrient uptake mitigation. In total, WK Dickson has completed over 16 stream and wetland mitigation projects in North Carolina, and is currently implementing and designing mitigation projects in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

3 EXISTING CONDITIONS

3.1 Existing Jurisdictional Waters of the U.S.

Wetland delineation and stream classification was performed on August 30, 2016 by Soil and Environmental Consultants, PA. Seven jurisdictional forested wetland areas were identified and delineated totaling approximately 14 acres, while one fringe wetland was delineated totaling approximately 7 acres. Moreover, ten surface water features were identified, four of which were classified as perennial, and six were classified as intermittent. A Notification of Jurisdictional Determination dated November 1, 2017 is included in **Appendix B**.

3.2 Soil Survey

3.2.1 General Soil Characteristics

The Site is located in the Rolling Coastal Plain ecoregion within the Southeastern Plains ecoregion. Existing soil information from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) shows the property is located within the Wagram-Blanton-Bonneau soil association. This association is found on nearly level and gently sloping well drained to moderately drained soils that have a thick, sandy surface layer and subsurface layer and a loamy subsoil; found on uplands of the coastal plain. (**Figure 4**).

3.2.2 Site Mapped Soil Series

Site soils are mapped by the NRCS as Bibb sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slope, frequently flooded; Bonneau sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes; Gilead sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes; Gilead sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes; Goldsboro sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes; Norfolk loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes; Uchee loamy coarse sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes; and Uchee loamy coarse sand, 6 to 12 percent slopes. Bibb sandy loams are considered 90% hydric, while Goldsboro sandy loams are predominately non-hydric (2%) (**Figure 4, Table 2**).

Table 2. Mapped Project Soils Series

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Percent Hydric	Hydrologic Soil Group	Landscape Setting
Bb	Bibb sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slope, frequently flooded	90%	A/D	Floodplains
BoA	Bonneau sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes	0%	В	Ridges and flats on marine terraces
GeB	Gilead sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	0%	С	Ridges on marine terraces
GeD	Gilead sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	0%	С	Ridges on marine terraces
GoA	Goldsboro sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	2%	В	Flats and broad interstream divides on marine terraces
NoA	Norfolk loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	0%	A	Flats and broad interstream divides on marine terraces

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Percent Hydric	Hydrologic Soil Group	Landscape Setting
UcB	Uchee loamy coarse sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes	0%	С	Ridges and broad interstream divides on marine terraces
UcC	Uchee loamy coarse sand, 6 to 12 percent slopes	0%	С	Ridges and broad interstream divides on marine terraces

3.3 Endangered/Threatened Species

Plants and animals with a federal classification of endangered or threatened are protected under provisions of Sections 7 and 9 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The US Fish identifies the following species threatened or endangered within Johnston County, North Carolina: Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), Tar River spinymussel (*Elliptio steinstansana*), Dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*) and Michaux's sumac (*Rhus michauxii*) (**Table 3**). The Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGPA) and prohibits take of bald and golden eagles. Based on initial site investigations, no impacts to federally protected species are anticipated as a result of the proposed project.

In addition to the USFWS database, the NC Natural Heritage Program (NHP) GIS database was consulted to determine whether previously cataloged occurrences of federally protected species are mapped within one mile of the project Site. Results from NHP indicated that there are no known occurrences of federally protected species within a one-mile radius of the project area. However, results did indicate a historical occurrence of the significantly rare Spring-flowering goldenrod (*Solidago verna*) approximately 0.75 mile north of the Project. The environmental screening phase of the project will include USFWS coordination to confirm these findings.

Table 3. Federally Protected Species in Johnston County

Common Name	Scientific name	Federal Status	Habitat Present	Record Status
Vertebrate:				
Bald eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	BGPA	No	Current
Red-cockaded woodpecker	Picoides borealis	Е	No	
Invertebrate:				
Tar River spinymussel	Elliptio steinstansana	Е	No	Current
Dwarf wedgemussel	Alasmidonta heterodon	Е	No	Current
Vascular Plant:				
Michaux's Sumac	Rhus Michauxii	Е	No	Current

E = Endangered; BGPA = Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

3.4 Vegetation and Wildlife

Current land use condition around the Site is primarily cropland and forest. There are low-density residential lots, maintained vegetation, and two-lane roads also present in the immediate project vicinity. The project parcel has been impounded by the Parker's Mill Dam, which has been abandoned for several decades. Following Hurricane Matthew in 2016, this impoundment was breached and effectively drained.

The wooded areas along the easement corridor designated for restoration activities are classified as mixed pines and hardwoods within the uplands, and a mixture of wetlands best characterized as Bottomland Harwood Forest, Riverine Swamp Forest, and Non-tidal Freshwater Marsh. Invasive species are present throughout the wooded areas. Common tree species within the wetlands include swamp tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*), bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*). Common understory species include greenbriar (*Smilax sp.*) giant cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), and Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*).

National Wetland Inventory (NWI) depicts the majority of the Project Parcel as L1UBhh (Lacustrine, Permanently Flooded) and PFO6Fh (Freshwater, Forested) wetlands (**Figure 5**). Wetland delineation was performed in August 2016 and a preliminary jurisdictional determination (JD) notification was received on November 7, 2016 (Documentation included in appendices).

3.5 Cultural Resources

A letter to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) dated April 21, 2016 listed Parker's Mill (JT0898), as a "historic property that continues to be eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A for its association with industry and under C as an intact example of a rural mill house complex." As the removal of the dam and mill was determined to have an adverse effect on the historic mill complex, further consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will be required during the design and permitting phase of the project. Because the destruction of the dam and mill house post-Hurricane Matthew, RES has contacted SHPO and will continue to coordinate with SHPO during the design and permitting phase of the project (Documentation included in appendices).

3.6 Constraints

There are no major constraints at the Blackbird Site, but significant considerations during construction include SHPO coordination, DOT right-of-way access at the remnant dam, and the existing NC HWY 96 roadway. During construction unconsolidated sediments may constrain access to the interior channels. The majority of the Project includes a mapped FEMA 100-year Floodplain (**Figure 6**). The design and permitting of the mitigation work will include coordination with the Johnston County Floodplain Administrator and permitting a FEMA No-Rise Certification or CLOMR/LOMR. The proposed mitigation site is also located within five miles of an air transport facility. Massengill Airport is privately owned and operated and is located approximately four miles east of the Site (**Figure 1**). Conversion of the pond to a forested community will decrease waterfowl use and reduce the risk of bird strikes.

4 PROPOSED BANK CONDITIONS

4.1 Conceptual Mitigation Plan

The Blackbird Site presents the opportunity to provide up to 4,698 stream mitigation units, and 16.73 wetland mitigation units. These will be derived from Restoration and Stream Preservation. **Table 4** details the mitigation types and SMUs generated. The proposed conceptual design plan is shown in **Figure 7**.

Table 4. Proposed Mitigation Summary

Stream Mitigation Units						
Reach ID	Stream Classification	Mitigation Type	Linear Feet	Ratio	SMUs	
John K. Swamp-P	Perennial	Preservation	1,292	10:1	129	
John K. Swamp-R	Perennial	Restoration	3,358	1:1	3,358	
Mill Branch-P	Perennial	Preservation	782	10:1	78	
Mill Branch-R	Perennial	Restoration	128	1:1	128	
UT2-P	Intermittent	Preservation	137	10:1	14	
UT2-R	Intermittent	Restoration	198	1:1	198	
UT3-P	Perennial	Preservation	90	10:1	9	
UT3-R	Perennial	Restoration	268	1:1	268	
UT4-P	Perennial	Preservation	57	10:1	6	
UT4-R	Perennial	Restoration	306	1:1	306	
UT6	Perennial	Restoration	204	1:1	204	
		Total	6,820	Total SMUs	4,698	
Wetland Mitigation Units						
Mitigation	on Approach	Acres	Ratio	WMU	s	
Riparian Wetlan	nd Re-Establishment	30.22	2:1	15.11		

Wetland Mitigation Units				
Mitigation Approach	Acres	Ratio	WMUs	
Riparian Wetland Re-Establishment	30.22	2:1	15.11	
Riparian Wetland Preservation	10.16	10:1	01.62	
Total	46.38		16.73	

4.1.1 Project Development

Proposed mitigation for the Site involves Restoration and Preservation. The stream system is situated on John K Swamp, and Mill Branch (Figure 2). Current stream conditions along the proposed restoration reaches demonstrate sedimentation, terrestrial and aquatic habitat degradation from a lack of riparian canopy, and historic land uses. The proposed mitigation approach is based on preliminary data collected, functional considerations, and generally accepted practices in North Carolina.

The site will include Priority Level I stream restoration and stream preservation. Priority Level I stream restoration will incorporate the design of a single-thread meandering channel within the old pond footprint, with parameters based on data taken from reference sites to be identified later Additional published empirical relationships, regional curves developed from existing project streams, and NC Regional Curves will be used in design. Proposed sinuosity will depend on local reference reach conditions and hydrologic and hydraulic modeling. A full topographic survey is currently being performed.

The majority of the wetland restoration is proposed within the riparian corridor along the future stream alignment of John K. Swamp and Mill Branch. While it is expected that a larger area of the former impoundment will revert to a bottomland wetland, the 30.22 acre corridor is based on existing wetland conditions within the approximate former footprint of Parker Pond. The 2:1 re-establishment ratio is based on previous IRT coordination and wetland restoration projects within the Neuse River watershed.

4.1.2 Stream Restoration and Enhancement

Stream restoration efforts will be accomplished through analyses of geomorphic conditions and watershed characteristics. The design approach will apply a combination of analytical and reference reach based design methods that meet objectives commensurate with both ecological and geomorphic improvements. Proposed treatment activities will include re-establishing stable planform and hydraulic geometry. For reaches requiring full restoration, natural design concepts will be applied and verified through rigorous engineering analyses and modeling. The objective of this approach is to design a geomorphically detailed channel that provides habitat improvements and ties into the existing landscape.

The Site design approach will begin with a thorough study of existing conditions, including the on-site streams, valleys, and watershed. Design parameters, including active channel, habitat and floodplain features will be developed from analysis of suitable reference streams. Analytical design techniques will be an important element of the project, and will be used to determine the design discharge and to verify the design as a whole.

Engineering analyses will be performed using various hydrologic and hydraulic models to verify the reference reach/analog based design. A combination of methods will be used to estimate bankfull flows and flows corresponding to other significant storm events. A HEC-RAS model will then be used to simulate water surface elevations of flows generated by the hydrologic analysis. The development of the HEC models is an important component to the design; therefore, model input parameters are field verified when possible. Through this hydrologic analysis, the design discharge (typically referenced as bankfull or dominant discharge) will be determined. The subsequent design will be based on this calculated discharge. As part of the design process, a qualitative analysis of sediment supply will be performed by characterizing watershed conditions. A combination of windshield surveys, existing land use data, and historical aerial photography, followed up by ground truthing, will be analyzed to assess existing and past watershed conditions and to determine if any changes occurred that would significantly impact sediment supply. Design parameters developed through the analyses of reference reach data, watershed characterizations, and hydrologic and hydraulic modeling will be confirmed using the Stable Channel Design function and/or the Sediment Transport Analysis components within HEC-RAS in conjunction with shear stress and velocity analyses.

Geomorphic and habitat studies will be performed concurrently with the engineering analyses. While the stream design will be verified through simulations of hydrology and fluvial processes, analogs of desirable habitat features will be derived from reference sites and integrated into the project design. Both in-stream and riparian habitat features will be designed. In-stream structures will be used throughout the project to act as grade control and for bank stabilization by dissipating and redirecting the stream's energy. Bank stability may further be enhanced through the installation of brush mattresses, brush toes, live stakes and cuttings bundles.

In-stream habitat is highly dependent on available cover and organic material. A quantitative habitat assessment method will be used to measure type, location, and quantity of habitat in the reference streams. During design, the habitat assessment results will be scaled appropriately to the design parameters such that the quantity and placement of the habitat features along the restored channel will mimic reference conditions. This process provides a natural channel design that addresses aquatic function improvements in addition to stability.

The floodplain will be planted with native species creating a vegetated buffer, which will provide numerous water quality and ecological benefits. Stream banks will be stabilized using a combination of grading, erosion control matting, bare-root plantings, native material revetment techniques (i.e., bioengineering), structure placement, and sod transplants where possible.

4.1.3 Wetland Re-establishment

Immediately following completion of construction activities on a stream segment, disturbed areas will be stabilized to prevent erosion. If possible, topsoil will be stockpiled and re-applied to provide a favorable seed bed. To provide a rapid herbaceous cover, planting of a temporary seed mix will be required. Areas of compacted soil will be ripped and disked prior to seed mix application and tree planting. Soil amendments will be provided as needed based on the results of soil fertility tests.

Some of the variables affecting the vegetation design are soils, slope, compaction, and existing adjacent mature trees. The final planting design will be flexible and based on likely natural recruitment sources. For example, there is little to be gained planting sycamore seedlings a few dozen yards from a large sycamore with a heavy seed crop when a reach is being constructed in the fall and winter; nor is there benefit to adding soft-mast flowering shrubs that are already prevalent in the local community.

The Project will include planting areas with no existing tree canopy (former impoundment footprint); primarily open area that was previously impounded, and will also include floodplain areas disturbed from channel construction. These areas will be planted with two separate strategies as dictated by site conditions. Open areas adjacent to reconstructed channels will be planted with fast growing species to quickly establish a tree dominant community and maximize nutrient uptake. Species selection will include those present in the watershed and/or based on Weakley's Natural Communities of North Carolina (1990). A potential planting mix may include sycamore, tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipera*), willow oak (*Quercus phellos*) and bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*); all of which are fast-growing species and readily available. Additional planting amendments including commercial mycorrhizal root dips or landscape scale inoculants may be necessary in order to achieve initial establishment.

4.1.4 Monitoring

Stream stability and vegetation survival will be monitored across both the restoration and enhancement areas of the site to determine the success of the stream and buffer mitigation. Stream stability will be monitored with cross section surveys and visual assessment stream walks. Vegetation survival rates will be monitored using vegetation plots over approximately two percent of the planted area.

4.1.4.1 As-Built Survey

An as-built survey will be conducted following construction to document channel size, condition, and location on constructed or modified channels. The survey will include a complete profile of Thalweg, water surface, bankfull, and top of bank to compare with future geomorphic data. Longitudinal profiles will not be required in annual monitoring reports unless requested by the DMS or USACE

4.1.4.2 Visual Monitoring

Visual monitoring of all mitigation areas will be conducted a minimum of twice per monitoring year by qualified individuals. A Current Conditions Plan View (CCPV) and associated tables will be submitted every monitoring year in the annual monitoring report. The Current Condition Plan View (CCPV) provides the spatial distributions and qualitative performance ratings for certain monitoring features. Visual assessments will include vegetation density, vigor, invasive species, and easement encroachments. Visual assessments of stream stability will include a complete stream walk and structure inspection. Digital images will be recorded at fixed representative locations during each monitoring event, as well as at any noted problem areas or areas of concern. Results of visual monitoring will be presented in a plan view exhibit with a brief description of problem areas and digital images. Photographs will be used to subjectively evaluate channel aggradation or degradation, bank erosion, success of riparian vegetation and effectiveness of erosion control measures. Longitudinal photos should indicate the absence of developing bars within the channel or an excessive increase in channel depth. Lateral photos should not indicate excessive erosion or continuing degradation of the banks over time. A series of photos over time should indicate successional maturation of riparian vegetation.

4.1.4.3 Cross Sections

Permanent cross sections will be installed at a minimum of one per 20 bankfull widths with half in pools and half in riffles on all reaches that include restoration or significant channel stabilization. All cross-section measurements will include bank height ratio and entrenchment ratio. There should be minimal changes in the annual monitoring cross sections from the as-built cross-sections. If changes do take place, they will be evaluated to determine if they represent a movement toward a less stable condition (for example down-cutting or erosion), or are minor changes that represent an increase in stability (for example settling, vegetative changes, deposition along the banks, or decrease in width/depth ratio). Channel stability should be demonstrated through a minimum of two bankfull events documented in the seven-year monitoring period. Cross section surveys will occur in monitoring Years 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7.

4.1.4.4 Stream Hydrology

Manual and recording pressure transducer crest gauges will be installed on stream reaches exceeding 1,000 linear feet. Manual gauges will be checked a minimum of twice annually. Pressure transducers will be programmed to record several readings daily to capture all flow events. These gauges will be used to document bankfull events as well as the depth of flows. One on-site rain gauge will be installed to measure daily rainfall totals during the seven-year monitoring period. Hydrology success will include documentation of seasonal flow sufficient to maintain an ordinary high water mark and channel design parameters. Hydrology monitoring data will be collected and reported in all seven years of monitoring.

4.1.4.5 Wetland Hydrology

Wetland hydrology performance will be measured with recording pressure transducers installed per USACE and IRT guidance. A local reference wetland will also be instrumented to provide relative observations of wetland hydrology. The design annual hydroperiod will be determined by the maximum consecutive days of saturation within 12 inches of the soil surface during the growing season, as determined by the Johnston County Soil Survey or other appropriate means. Bibb soils have a target wetland hydroperiod of 12-16% of the growing season. One on-site rain gauge will be installed to measure daily rainfall totals during the seven-year monitoring period. Wetland hydrology success will include documentation of hydroperiods at or exceeding design criteria in normal or drier precipitation, as well visual observations of wetland hydrology indicators in the restored areas. Wetland hydrology monitoring data will be collected and reported in all seven years of monitoring.

4.1.4.6 Vegetative Success Criteria

Specific and measurable success criteria for plant density within the riparian buffers on the Project will follow current DMS and IRT Guidance. The following data will be recorded for all trees/shrubs in the plots: species, height, and planting date (or volunteer). Vegetation monitoring will occur in Years 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7. The interim measures of vegetative success for the Project will be the presence of at least 320 three-year or older trees/shrubs per acre at the end of Year 3, and 260 five-year or older trees/shrubs per acre at the end of Year 5. The final vegetative success criteria will be the survival of 210 seven-year-old or older trees/shrubs per acre at the end of Year 7 of the monitoring period.

Invasive and noxious species will be monitored and controlled so that none become dominant or alter the desired community structure of the Project. If necessary, RES will develop a species-specific control plan.

4.1.1.7 Adaptive Management

The Mitigation Plan will include a detailed adaptive management plan that will address how potential problems are resolved. In the event that the site, or a specific component of the site, fails to achieve the defined success criteria, EBX-Neuse I will develop necessary adaptive management plans and/or implement appropriate remedial actions for the site in coordination with the IRT. Remedial actions will be designed to achieve the success criteria specified previously, and will include identification of the causes of failure, remedial design approach, work schedule, and monitoring criteria that will take into account physical and climatic conditions. If tree mortality affects 40 percent or greater of the canopy in a stream or wetland restoration area, then a remedial/supplemental planting plan will be developed and implemented for the affected area(s).

5 BANK ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION

5.1 Establishment and Operation of the Bank

This Bank Parcel shall be established under the terms and conditions of the Neu-Con Umbrella Mitigation Bank made and entered into by and among EBX-Neuse I, LLC, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Services, the North Carolina Department of the Environment and Natural Resources, the North

Carolina Division of Water Resources, and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, collectively, the Mitigation Banking Review Team.

5.2 Proposed Credit Release Schedule

All credit releases will be based on the total credit generated as reported by the as-built survey of the Mitigation Site. The pre-construction credit release (15 percent) will be based on the credit total in the Final Mitigation Plan. The second credit release will be based on the As-Built survey, and will adjust the total released credits based on the actual constructed channel lengths. Under no circumstances shall any mitigation project be debited until the necessary DA authorization has been received for its construction or the District Engineer (DE) has otherwise provided written approval for the project in the case where no DA authorization is required for construction of the mitigation project. The DE, in consultation with the Interagency Review Team (IRT), will determine if performance standards have been satisfied sufficiently to meet the requirements of the release schedule below. In cases where some performance standards have not been met, credits may still be released depending on the specifics of the case. At the direction of the DE, in consultation with the IRT, monitoring may be required to be extended, depending on the extent to which the site fails to meet the specified performance standard. The release of project credits will be subject to the criteria described in **Table 5**.

Table 5. Credit Release Schedule

Release Milestone	Credit Release Activity	Interim Release	Total Released
1	Site Establishment (includes all required criteria stated above)	15%	15%
2	Baseline Monitoring Report and As-built Survey	15%	30%
3	First year monitoring report demonstrates performance standards are being met.	10%	40%
4	Second year monitoring report demonstrates performance standards are being met.	10%	50% (60%**)
5	Third year monitoring report demonstrates performance standards are being met.	10%	60% (70%**)
6	Fourth year monitoring report demonstrates performance standards are being met.	5%	65% (80%**)
7	Fifth year monitoring report demonstrates performance standards are being met.	10%	75% (85%**)
8	Sixth year monitoring report demonstrates performance standards are being met.	5%	80% (90%**)
9	Seventh year monitoring report demonstrates performance standards are being met, and project has received close-out approval.	10%	90% (100%**)

^{**10%} reserve of credits to be held back until the bankfull event performance standard has been met.

5.2.1 Initial Allocation of Released Credits

The initial allocation of released credits, as specified in the mitigation plan can be released by the IRT with written approval of the DE upon satisfactory completion of the following activities:

- 1. Approval of instrument modification by the DE, in consultation with the IRT;
- 2. Approval of a final Mitigation Plan;
- 3. Confirmation that the Bank site has been secured;
- 4. Delivery of executed financial assurances as specified in the Mitigation Plan;
- 5. Delivery of a copy of the recorded long-term protection mechanism as described in the Mitigation Plan, as well as a title opinion covering the property acceptable to the DE; and
- 6. Issuance of any DA permits necessary for construction of the Bank site (if necessary).

5.2.2 Subsequent Credit Releases

The second credit release will occur after the completion of implementation of the Mitigation Plan and submittal of the Baseline Monitoring Report and As-built Survey. All subsequent credit releases must be approved by the DE, in consultation with the IRT, based on a determination that required performance standards have been achieved. As projects approach milestones associated with credit release, the Sponsor will submit a request for credit release to the DE along with documentation substantiating achievement of criteria required for release to occur. This documentation will be included with the annual monitoring report.

5.3 Financial Assurances

The Sponsor shall provide financial assurances in the form of a Performance Bond to the IRT sufficient to assure completion of all mitigation work, required reporting and monitoring, and any remedial work required. Financial assurances shall be payable at the direction of the USACE to his designee or to a standby trust. Financial assurances structured to provide funds to the USACE in the event of default by the Bank Sponsor are not acceptable. A financial assurance must be in the form that ensures that the USACE receives notification at least 120 days in advance of any termination or revocation.

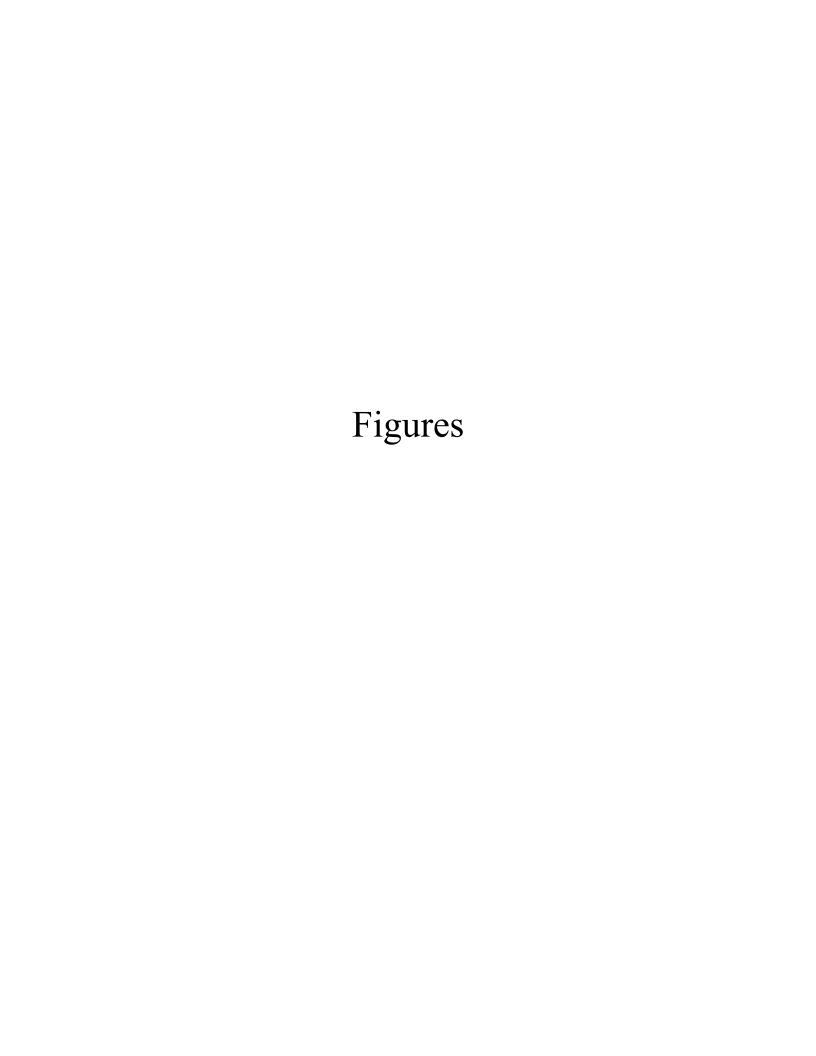
5.4 Proposed Ownership and Long-Term Management

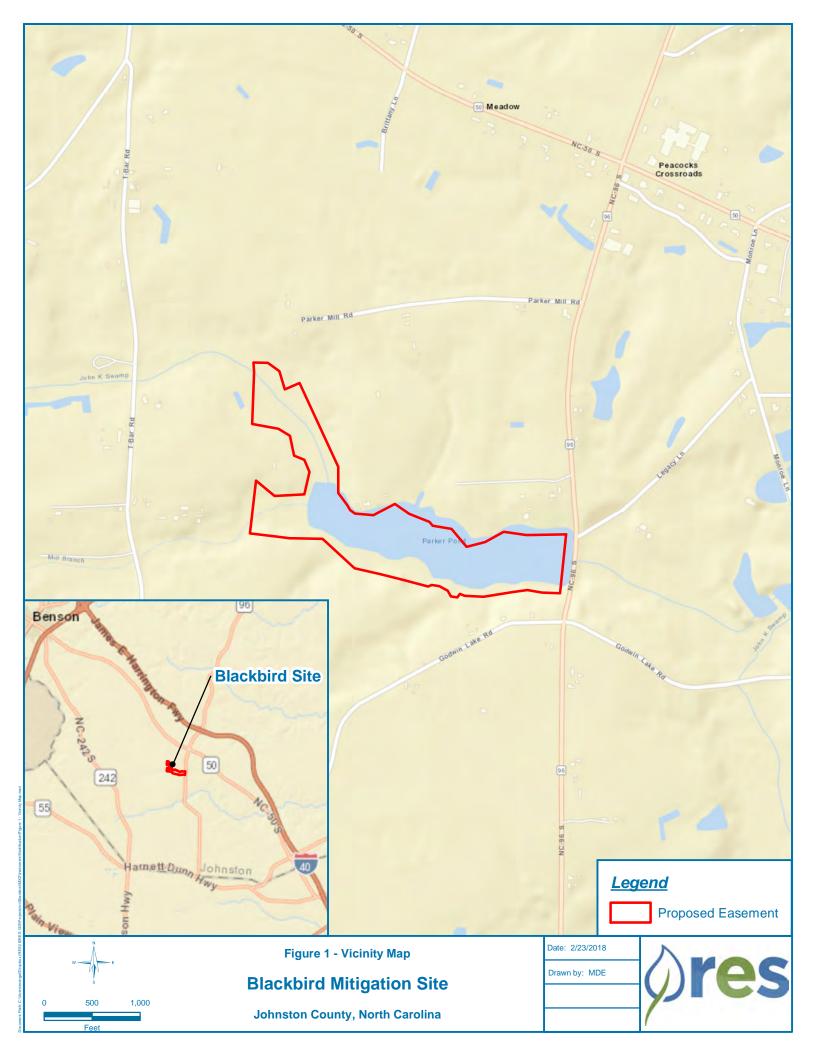
EBX-Neuse I, LLC, acting as the Bank Sponsor, will establish a Conservation Easement, and will monitor the Site for a minimum of seven years. The Mitigation Plan will provide detailed information regarding bank operation, including long term management and annual monitoring activities, for review and approval by the Interagency Review Team (IRT). Upon approval of the Sites by the IRT, the site will be transferred to a long-term land steward (to be determined in the Mitigation Plan). The long-term steward shall be responsible for periodic inspection of the site to ensure that restrictions required in the Conservation Easement or the deed restriction document(s) are upheld. Endowment funds required to uphold easement and deed restrictions shall be negotiated prior to site transfer to the responsible party.

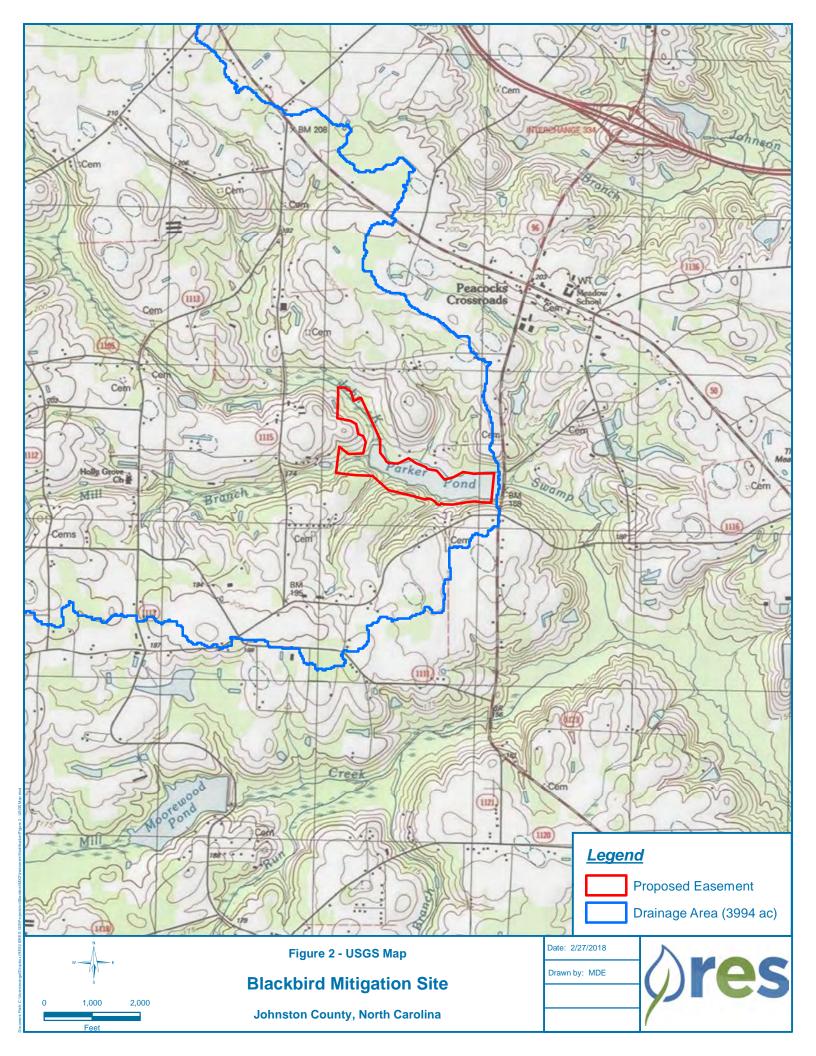
The Bank Sponsor will ensure that the Conservation Easement will allow for the implementation of an initial monitoring phase, which will be developed during the design phase and conducted by the Bank Sponsor. The Conservation Easement will allow for yearly monitoring and, if necessary, maintenance of the Site during the initial monitoring phase. These activities will be conducted in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Neu-Con Wetland and Stream Umbrella Mitigation Bank made and entered into by EBX-Neuse I, LLC, USACE, and NCDWQ.

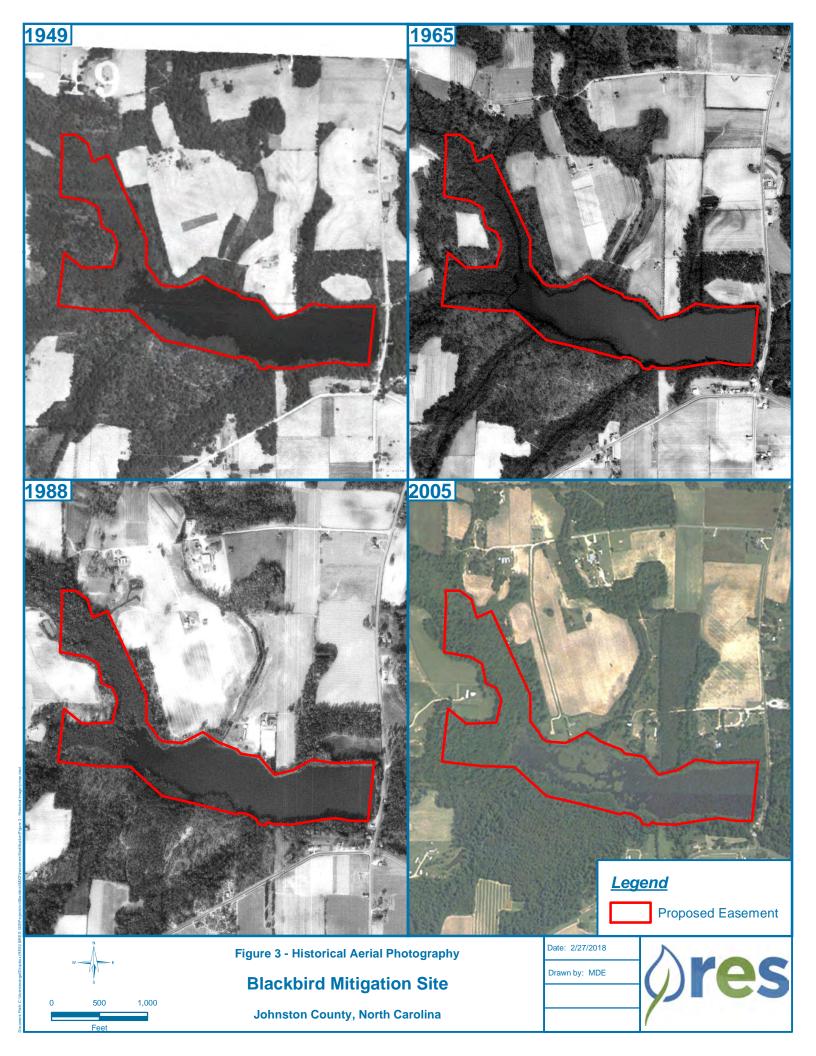
5.5 Assurance of Water Rights

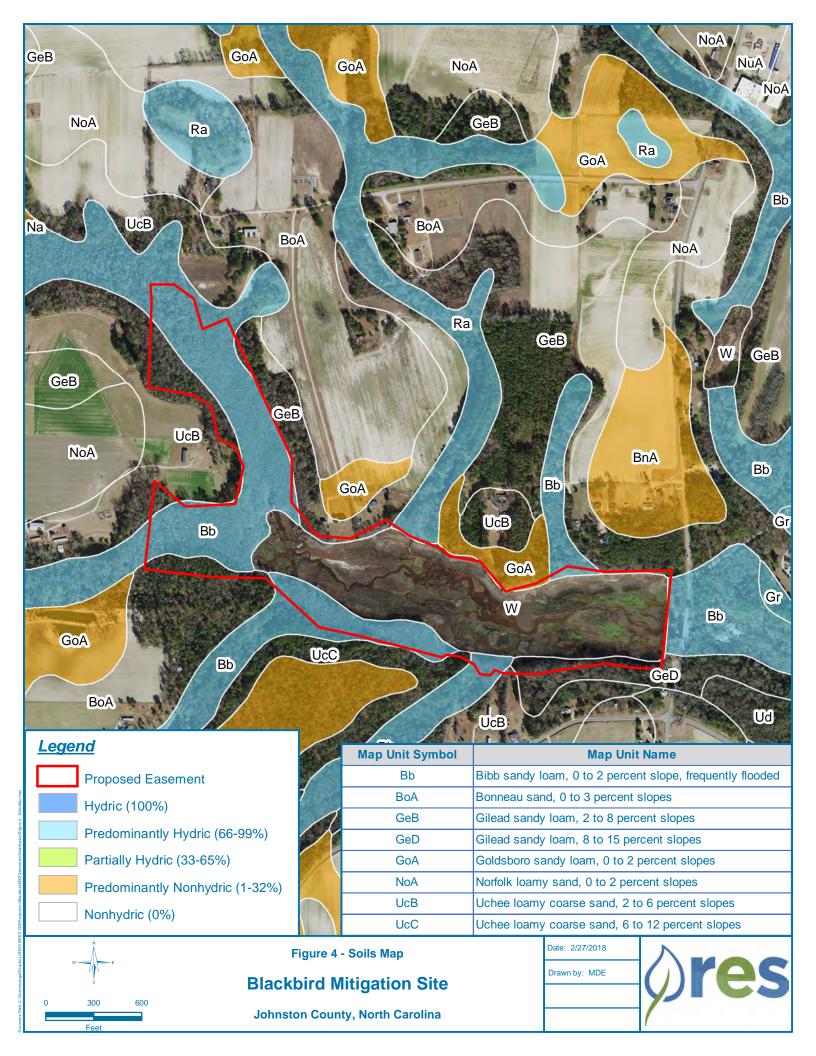
Sufficient water rights exist to support the long-term sustainability of the site, as there are no "severed" rights on the property.

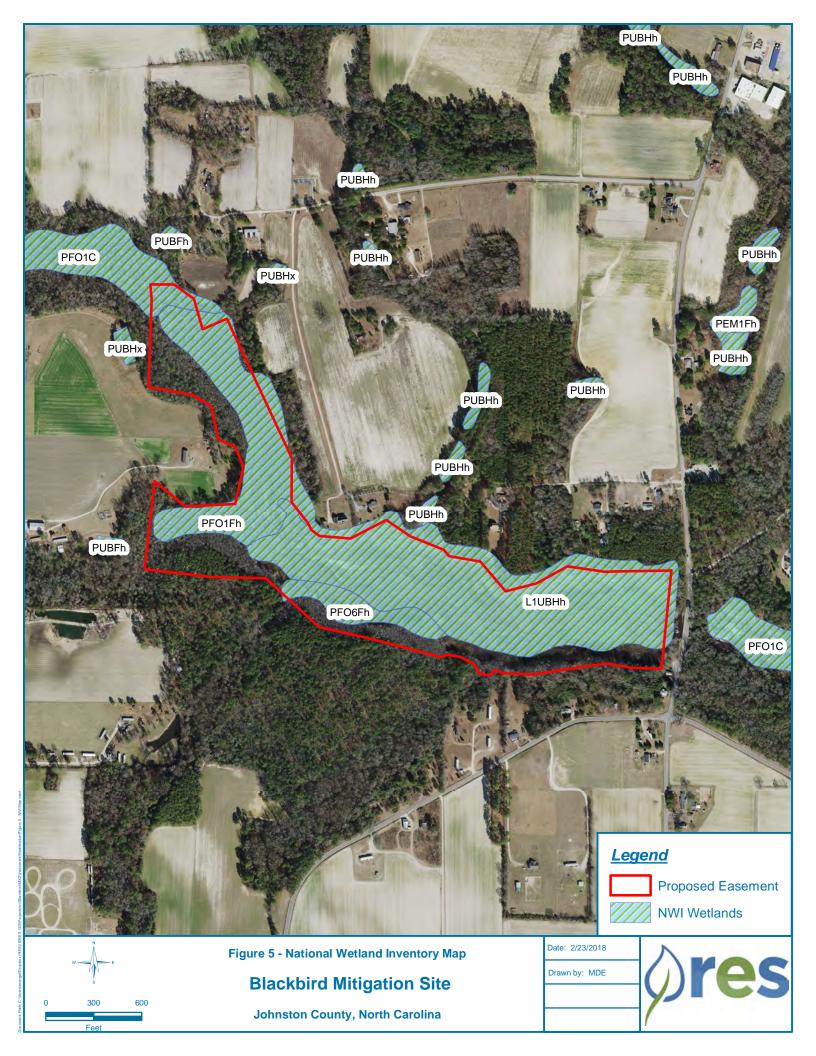


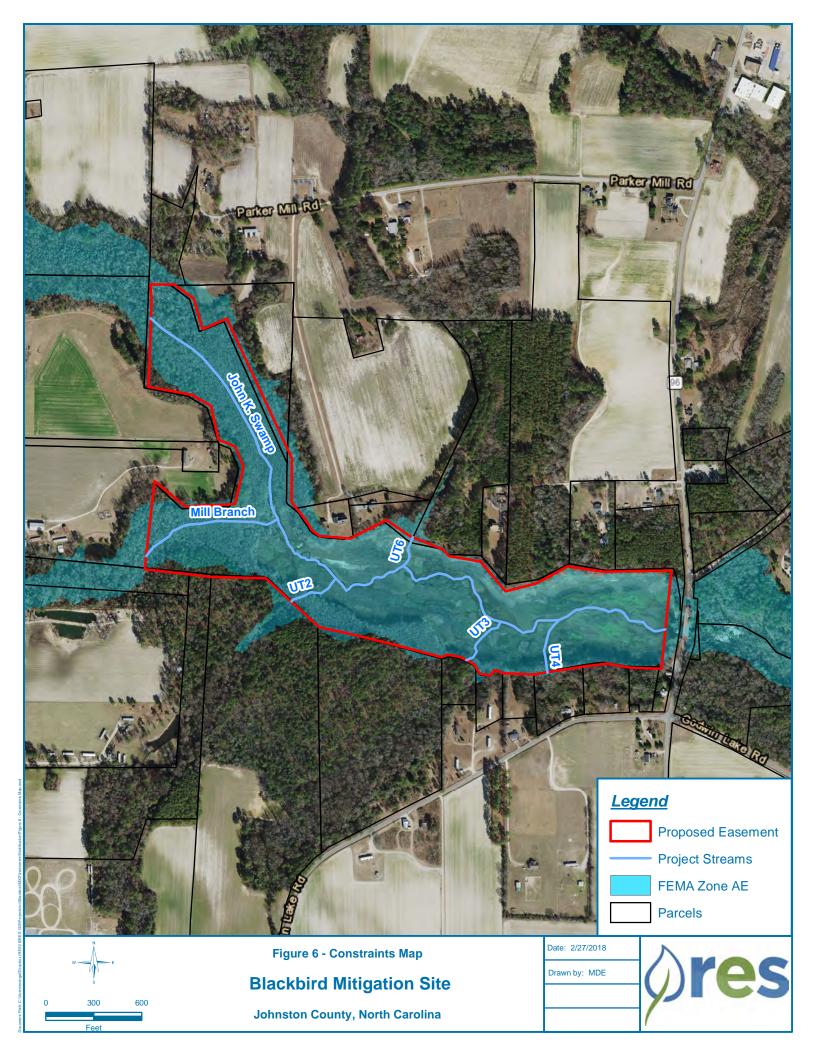


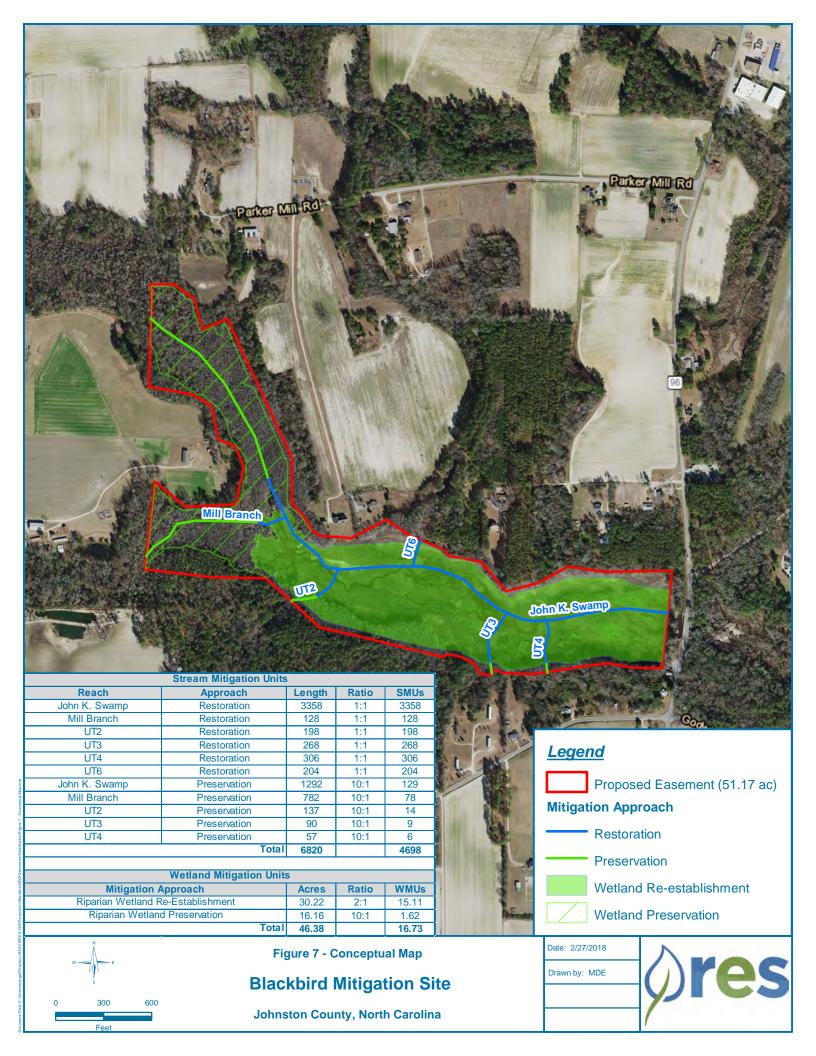


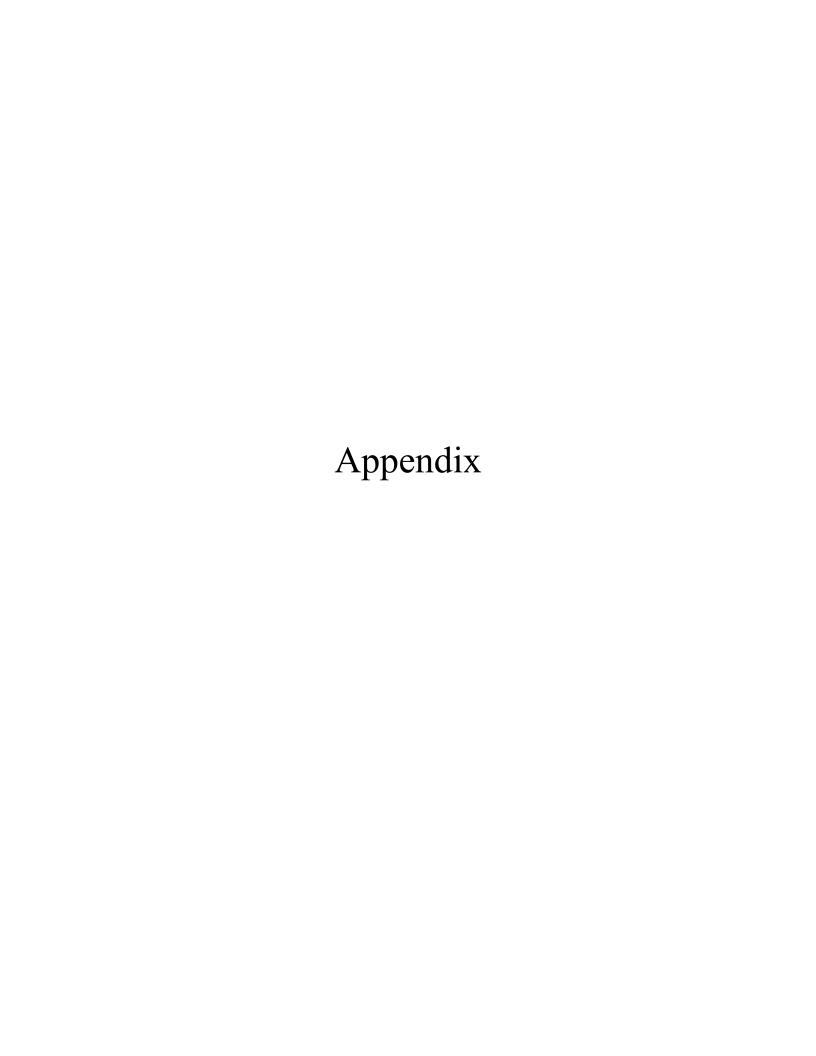












U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

WILMINGTON DISTRICT

Action Id. SAW-2015-01800 County Johnston U.S.G.S. Quad NC-PEACOCKS CROSSROADS

NOTIFICATION OF JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION

Property Owner:

EBX an RE company

Daniel Ingram

Addres :

909 Capability Drive, Suite 3100

Raleigh, VC, 27606



Telephone Number:

Size (acres) Nearest Waterway **USGS HUC**

21 Mill Branch 03020201

Nearest Town Meadows River Basin Coordinates

Upper Neuse Latitude: 35.308873

Longitude: -78.458785

Location de cription: Proposed Blackbird easement located off of NC 96 adjacent to tributaries of Mill Branch, south of Peacock Crossroads, in Johnston County. North Carolina

Indicate Which of the Following Apply:

A. Preliminary Determination

X Based on preliminary information, there may be waters of the U.S. including wetlands on the above described project area We strongly suggest you have this property inspected to determine the extent of Department of the Army (DA) jurisdiction. To be considered final, a jurisdictional determination must be verified by the Corps. This preliminary determination is not an appealable action under the Regulatory Program Administrative Appeal Process (Reference 33 CFR Part 331). If you wish, you may request an approved JD (which may be appealed), by contacting the Corps district for further instruction. Also, you may provide new information for further consideration by the Corps to reevaluate the

JD Please see remarks section in regard to this Jurisdictional Determination.

B. Approved Determination

- There are Navigable Waters of the United States within the above described project area subject to the permit requirements of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Unless there is a change in the law or our published regulations, this determination may be relied upon for a period not to exceed five years from the date of this notification.
- There are waters of the U.S. including wetlands on the above described project area subject to the permit requirements of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA)(33 USC § 1344). Unless there is a change in the law or our published regulations, this determination may be relied upon for a period not to exceed five years from the date of this notification.
 - We strongly suggest you have the waters of the U.S. including wetlands on your project area delineated. Due to the size of your property and/or our present workload, the Corps may not be able to accomplish this wetland delineation in a timely manner. For a more timely delineation, you may wish to obtain a consultant. To be considered final, any delineation must be verified by the Corps.
 - The waters of the U.S. including wetlands on your project area have been delineated and the delineation has been verified by the Corps We strongly suggest you have this delineation surveyed. Upon completion, this survey should be reviewed and verified by the Corps. Once verified, this survey will provide an accurate depiction of all areas subject to CWA jurisdiction on your property which, provided there is no change in the law or our published regulations, may be relied upon for a period not to exceed five years.

The waters of the U.S. including wetlands have been delineated and surveyed and are accurately depicted on the plat signed by the Corps Regulatory Official identified below on _____ Unless there is a change in the law or our published regulations, this determination may be relied upon for a period not to exceed five years from the date of this notification

- There are no waters of the U.S., to include wetlands, present on the above described project area which are subject to the permit requirements of Section 104 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). Unless there is a change in the law or our published regulations, this determination may be relied upon for a period not to exceed five years from the date of this notification.
- The property is located in one of the 20 Coastal Counties subject to regulation under the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA). You should contact the Division of Coastal Management in Morehead City, NC, at (252) 808-2808to determme their requirements

Placement of dredged or fill material within waters of the US and/or wetlands without a Department of the Army permit may constitute a violation of Section 301 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC § 1311). If you have any questions regarding this determination and/or the Corps regulatory program, please contact John Thomas at 919-554-4884 x25 or John. T. Thomas. JR@usace.army.mil

- C. Basis For Determination: Site includes tributaries of Mill Branch which flows to the Neuse River and on to the Atlantic Ocean.
- D. Remarks: The Corps concurs with the preliminary jurisdictional determinations depicted on provided maps included in agents/applicants review request and site inspection conducted on October 28, 2016.

E. Attention USDA Program Participants

This delineation/determination has been conducted to identify the limits of Corps' Clean Water Act jurisdiction for the particular site identified in this request. The defineation/determination may not be valid for the wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985. If you or your tenant are USDA Program participants, or anticipate participation in USDA programs, you should request a certified wetland determination from the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, prior to starting work.

F. Appeals Information (This information applies only to approved jurisdictional determinations as indicated in B. above)

This correspondence constitutes an approved jurisdictional determination for the above described site. If you object to this determination, you may request an administrative appeal under Corps regulations at 33 CFR Part 331. Enclosed you will find a Notification of Appeal Process (NAP) fact sheet and request for appeal (RFA) form. If you request to appeal this determination you must submit a completed RFA form to the following address.

US Army Corps of Engineers South Atlantic Division Attn: Jason Steele, Review Officer 60 Forsyth Street SW, Room 10M15 Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8801

In order for an RFA to be accepted by the Corps, the Corps must determine that it is complete, that it meets the criteria for appeal under 33 CFR part 331.5, and that has been received by the Division Office within 60 days of the date of the NAP Should you decide to submit an RFA for wit must be received at the above address by 1/1/2017.

**It is not necessary to submit an RF correspondence. **	form to the Division Office if you do not object to the determination	n in this
Corps Regulatory Official:		
Date: 11/1/2017		

The Wilmington District is committed to providing the highest level of support to the public. To help us ensure we continue to do so, please complete our Customer Satisfaction Survey, located online at http://regulatory.usacesurvey.com/

NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL OPTIONS AND PROCESS AND REQUEST FOR APPEAL

Applicant: Daniel Ingram EBX an RES company File Number: SAW-2		Date: November 1, 2016
Attached is:	See Section below	
INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT (Sta	A	
PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Per	В	
PERMIT DENIAL	С	
APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DE	D	
PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL	E	

SECTION 1 - The following identifies your rights and options regarding an administrative appeal of the above decision.

Additional information may be found at http://www.mil.Missions.CivilWorks/RegulatoryProgramandPermits.aspx or Corps regulations at 33 CFR Part 331.

A: INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or object to the permit.

- ACCEPT: If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- OBJECT: If you object to the permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may request that the permit be modified accordingly. You must complete Section II of this form and return the form to the district engineer. Your objections must be received by the district engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice, or you will forfeit your right to appeal the permit in the future. Upon receipt of your letter, the district engineer will evaluate your objections and may: (a) modify the permit to address all of your concerns. (b) modify the permit to address some of your objections, or (c) not modify the permit having determined that the permit should be issued as previously written. After evaluating your objections, the district engineer will send you a proffered permit for your reconsideration, as indicated in Section B below.

B: PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or appeal the permit

- ACCEPT: If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final
 authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your
 signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all
 rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the
 permit.
- APPEAL: If you choose to decline the proffered permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein,
 you may appeal the declined permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of
 this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days
 of the date of this notice.
- C: PERMIT DENIAL: You may appeal the denial of a permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.
- D: APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DI TI RMINATION: You may accept or appeal the approved JD or provide new information.
- ACCEPT: You do not need to notify the Corps to accept an approved JD. Failure to notify the Corps within 60 days of the
 date of this notice, means that you accept the approved JD in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the approved JD.
- APPEAL: If you disagree with the approved JD, you may appeal the approved JD under the Corps of Engineers
 Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the district engineer. This form
 must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

E PRELIMINARY JURISDICTION AL DETERMINA I preliminary JD. The Preliminary JD is not appealable. If by contacting the Corps district for further instruction. Al Corps to reevaluate the JD.	you wish. you may r	equest an approved JD (which may be appealed),
SECTION II - REQUEST FOR APPEAL or OBJECTION	NS TO AN INITIAL	PROFFERED PERMIT
REASONS FOR APPEAL OR OBJECTIONS: (Describe proffered permit in clear concise statements. You may att objections are addressed in the administrative record.)	your reasons for app	pealing the decision or your objections to an initial
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The appeal is limited to record of the appeal conference or meeting, and any supple clarify the administrative record. Neither the appellant no However, you may provide additional information to clari record.	emental information r the Corps may add	that the review officer has determined is needed to new information or analyses to the record.
POINT OF CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMA	ATION:	
If you have questions regarding this decision and/or the appeal process you may contact: District Engineer, Wilmington Regulatory Division, Attn: John Thomas RIGHT OF ENTRY: Your signature below grants the right	If you only have of also contact: Mr. Jason Steele, CESAD-PDO U.S. Army Corps 60 Forsyth Street, Atlanta, Georgia Phone: (404) 562-	30303-8801 -5137
consultants, to conduct investigations of the project site dunotice of any site investigation, and will have the opportun	iring the course of the	appeal process. You will be provided a 15 day
	Date:	Telephone number:

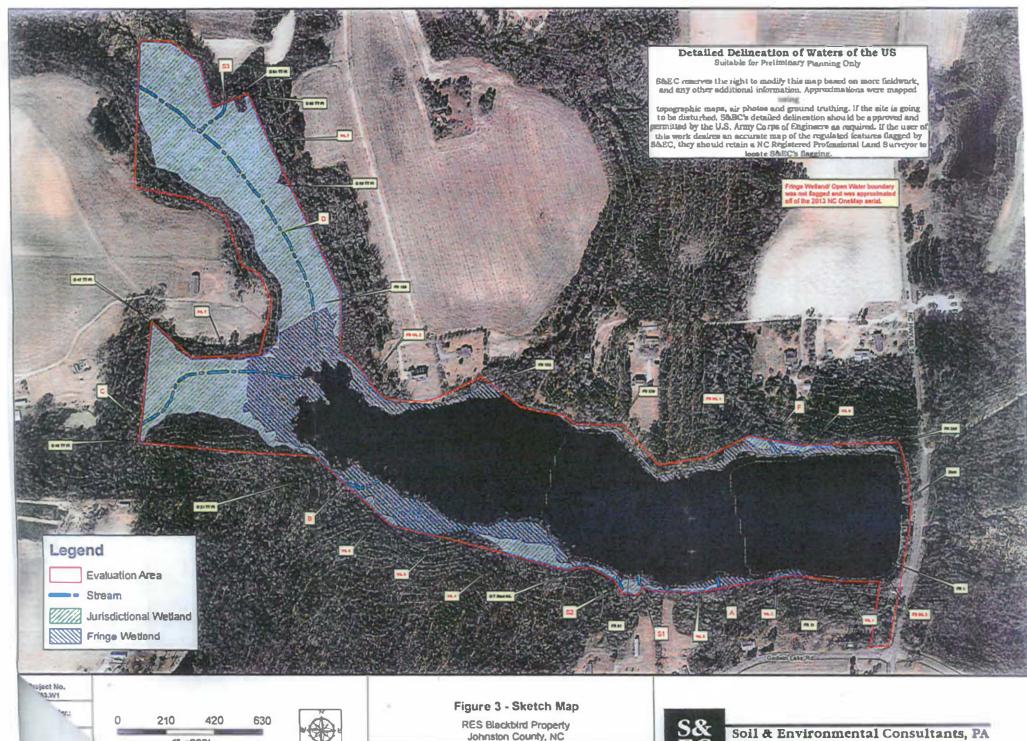
For appeals on Initial Proffered Permits send this form to:

Signature of appellant or agent.

District Engineer, Wilmington Regulatory Division, John Thomas,

For Permit denials, Proffered Permits and approved Jurisdictional Determinations send this form to:

Division Engineer, Commander, U.S. Army Engineer Division, South Atlantic, Attn: Mr. Ja on Steele, Administrative Appeal Officer, CESAD-1 DO, 60 Forsyth Street, Room 10M15, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8801 Phone: (404) 562-5137



1" =200"



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

State Historic Preservation Office Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Pat McCrory Secretary Susan Kluttz Office of Archives and History Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

April 21, 2016

Daniel Ingram Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC 301 Jefferson Street, Suite 110 Raleigh, NC 27605

Re: Blackbird Stream and Wetland Mitigation Site, Johnston County, ER 15-1819

Dear Mr. Ingram:

Thank you for your email of March 4, 2016, regarding the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the *Historic Resource National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Documentation and Evaluation: Parker's Mill (JT0898) and Willie F. Parker Service Station* report and offer the following comments.

The report identifies two properties within the Area of Potential Effect for the project; the Willie F. Parker Service Station and the National Register-eligible Parker's Mill (JT0898).

Fire and general neglect of the Willie F. Parker Service Station have diminished the property's integrity over time. Thus, it is not eligible for listing in the National Register.

Based on current documentation and photographs of Parker's Mill (JT0898), we concur the historic property continues to be eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A for its association with industry and under C as an intact example of a rural mill house complex. Also, the boundary shown in the report, which includes the mill, spillway, and mill pond appears to be appropriate.

As the removal of the dam and mill will have an <u>adverse effect</u> on the historic mill complex, further consultation under Section 106 is necessary. Please contact our office to schedule a date and time for us to meet to discuss the project further. We are available to consult in person or via conference call.

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

Location: 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh NC 27601 Mailing Address: 4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617 Telephone/Fax: (919) 807-6570/807-6599

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

Sincerely,

Ramona M. Bartos

Historic Resource National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Documentation and Evaluation

Parker's Mill (JT0898) and Willie F. Parker Service Station

Blackbird Stream and Wetland Mitigation Site, Benson, Johnston County, North Carolina North Carolina Environmental Review # 15-1891

Prepared for:

Legacy Research Associates 125 West Woodridge Drive Durham, NC 27707

On behalf of:

Resource Environmental Solution, LLC 909 Capability Drive Suite 3100 Raleigh, NC 27606

Prepared by:

Jennifer F. Martin MdM Historical Consultants Post Office Box 1399 Durham, NC 27701 919.368.1602

January 2016

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Management Summary

Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC proposes to undertake stream and wetland restoration work at Parker's Mill Pond in Johnston County. The project area is on the west side of NC Highway 96 in Johnston County. The project area (figure 1) is located just south of the crossroads community of Peacocks Crossroads and a little over seven miles southeast of Benson and fifteen miles south-southwest of the county seat of Smithfield. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed project encompasses Parker's Mill (DOE, 2004), which consists of the mill pond, the mill house, dam, and spillways, and the Willie F. Parker Service Station, a circa 1930 frame former gas station and store, a previously undocumented historic service station.

The historic structures are located on the east end of the mill pond (figure 2). Crossroads Cem Parker Parker's Mill Pond (Cero NC Highway 96 Willie F. Parker Service Station 1111

Figure 1: Project Area on the Meadow USGS map

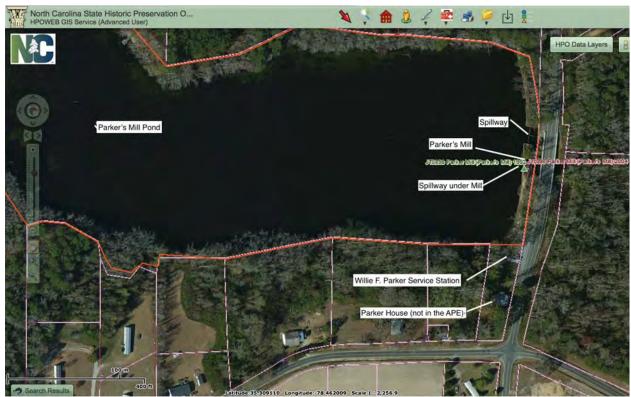


Figure 2: Location of Historic Properties



Figure 3: Parker's Mill, east elevation, facing west



Figure 4: Willie F. Parker Service Station



Figure 5: Willie F. Parker Store, southwest (rear) corner, facing northeast

Legacy Research Associates contracted with MdM Historical Consultants (MdM) in November 2015 to complete an intensive historic architectural resources evaluation and National Register of Historic Places eligibility assessment of the properties located within the APE for the subject project.

Architectural historian Jennifer F. Martin conducted the field survey on November 20, 2015 and January 13, 2016. The historian photographed and mapped the properties, conducted research at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office and the Johnston County Heritage Center, and carried out a survey of 100 percent of the APE (figure 6). This report records the results of the field survey, research, and evaluation.

After an intensive evaluation following the National Register of Historic Places criteria for eligibility, Parker's Mill (JT0898) was found to be eligible under Criterion A and C as a locally significant property under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Industry and Architecture. The Willie F. Parker Service Station, which is located within the APE, was found not eligible under any criteria because a loss of integrity due to fire and deterioration.

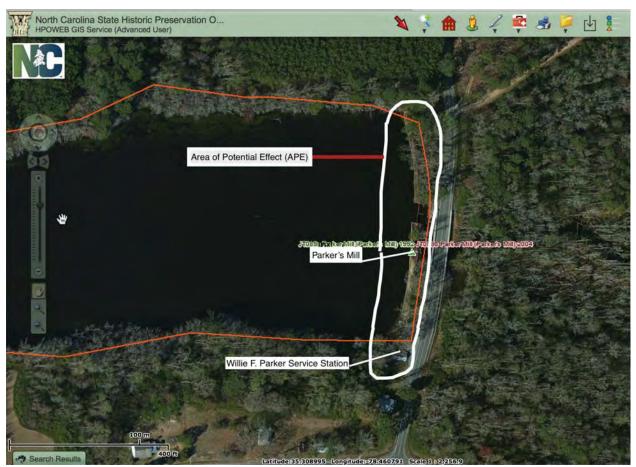


Figure 6: Area of Potential Effect Map

MdM conducted the survey and prepared this report in accordance with the provisions of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 60; and 36 CFR Part 800. This property evaluation

meets the guidelines of the National Park Service and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.

Project Background

From 1981 to 1983, architectural historian Thomas R. Butchko conducted a survey of historic buildings in the rural areas and the unincorporated towns and communities of Johnston County. Parker's Mill was one of hundreds of historic resources Mr. Butchko documented in the comprehensive survey of Johnston County. In 2002, Nancy Van Dolsen, architectural and landscape historian, updated the county survey, which was completed in September 2005. Survey files and maps for that project were never submitted to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.

On January 10, 1992, at the request of the then-owner, Charlotte Parker LoCapo, Parker's Mill was placed on the State Study List of properties that appear potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (see Appendix).

On July 13, 2004, architectural historian Marvin A. Brown of URS Corporation completed a report for the North Carolina Department of Transportation Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch for a Phase II Historic Architectural Survey for the Replacement of Bridge No. 52 on NC 96 over Little Swamp (TIP No. B-4164/Work Order NO. 8.1313301/Federal Aid Project No. BRSTP-96(6)/WBS No. 33512.1.1). In that report, Brown investigated the potential National Register eligibility of the bridge and the adjacent Parker's Mill. Brown conducted fieldwork in the APE for that project, which included the bridge and Parker's Mill, and conducted research on the bridge and mill. His report recommended Bridge No. 52 not eligible for the National Register and Parker's Mill eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, for its connection with the history of non-textile-related mills in Johnston County, and under Criterion C, as an intact representation of a late nineteenth/early twentiethcentury Johnston County mill. As a result of Marvin Brown's report, on August 24, 2004, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office made a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for Parker's Mill (JT0898) in Johnston County (see Appendix). The mill was determined eligible under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Industry and Architecture. In 2008, the North Carolina Department of Transportation replaced Bridge No. 52 with no apparent effect on the historic integrity of Parker's Mill.

The 2004 report for the North Carolina Department of Transportation did not include an evaluation of the Willie F. Parker Service Station. The report concluded that the building was

Historic Property Evaluation Blackbird Stream and Wetland Mitigation Site, Benson, Johnston County, North Carolina North Carolina Environmental Review # 15-1891 Page **7** of **20**

¹ Much of the information in this evaluation comes from "Phase II Historic Architectural Survey for the Replacement of Bridge No. 52 on NC 96 over Little Swamp, Johnston County, North Carolina," prepared by Marvin A. Brown, URS Corporation—North Carolina, July 2004.

"not clearly associated with the operation of the mill." New research concludes that the service station is associated with Parker's Mill, both having been owned by Willie Festus Parker.



Figure 7: Photo of Parker's Mill (facing north-northwest) from "Phase II Historic Architectural Survey for the Replacement of Bridge No. 52 on NC 96 over Little Swamp, Johnston County, North Carolina," by Marvin A. Brown, URS Corporation, July 2004.

Purpose of this Report

In conjunction with the Blackbird Stream and Wetland Mitigation Site (ER 15-1819), the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office requests a re-evaluation of Parker's Mill National Register eligibility. (see letter to Daniel Ingram from the State Historic Preservation Office dated September 10, 2015 in Appendix).

Eleven and a half years have passed since Parker's Mill was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Because of the passage of time, a reassessment of its eligibility is necessary. While the significance of a historic property cannot diminish over time, its integrity can become compromised through a number of factors including but not limited to deterioration, alteration, demolition, and a change in setting. The National Register of Historic Places defines integrity as the ability of a historic property to convey its significance and identifies seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. In order for a historic property to retain integrity, it must possess most or at least several aspects of integrity. This report aims to re-evaluate Parker's Mill's integrity and restate its significance under the National Register Criteria for listing.

This report also evaluates the National Register significance of the adjacent Willie F. Parker Service Station, a circa 1930 frame former gas station and store located just south of Parker's Mill. In his 2004 report, Marvin A. Brown acknowledged the service station, but concluded it was not related historically to Parker's Mill. New research reveals that Willie F. Parker owned the mill and service station and that the two historic properties functioned together historically.

Current Investigation and Methodology

Jennifer F. Martin of MdM Historical Resources conducted background research on Parker's Mill by consulting the survey site file for the property in the State Historic Preservation Office file room. That file contains Thomas Butchko's survey form and contact sheets of photographs of the mill taken in the early 1980s. The file also contains a photocopy of the Study List application from 1992 and correspondence from the State Historic Preservation Office to Charlotte Parker LoCapo about Parker's Mill's placement on the Study List. Ms. Martin also consulted Marvin A. Brown's report, "Phase II Historic Architectural Survey for the Replacement of Bridge No. 52 on NC 96 over Little Swamp, Johnston County, North Carolina," prepared for the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The Willie F. Parker Service Station had not been surveyed so no information was found on the building at the State Historic Preservation Office file room.

On November 20, 2015 and January 13, 2016, Ms. Martin conducted fieldwork to document all properties located in the APE for the project. She photographed and mapped the properties and while in the field, assessed their historic integrity, or ability to convey their historic significance.

Ms. Martin conducted further research on other surviving grist mills that have been documented in Johnston County and field checked them using HPOWEB, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) service. Information about other grist mills in Johnston County provides context for evaluating the National Register eligibility of Parker's Mill at the local level of significance.

Parker's Mill and Willie F. Parker Service Station: Historic Background and Context

A mill has stood at the location of Parker's Mill since the early nineteenth century. Joshua Beasley ran a grist, corn, and saw mill here around 1830 and built the pond some time during that period. Beasley ran the mill into the 1870s, when he sold it to a member of the Raynor family who operated the mill for an unknown period.²

² Brown,12.

It remains unknown when the Parker family acquired the mill, but the earliest known reference to Parker's Mill is in 1920 when it was listed in a directory of local industries.³ Nazro Parker (1871-1940) built the current mill house and operated the mill. According to Nazro Parker's 1940 death certificate, he "suffered a stroke of paralysis in 1936; the attack affected one whole side and rendered him bedridden ever since." It is likely Nazro's son, Willie Festus Parker (1899-1969), who operated the service station next door, took over the mill upon his father's illness.⁴ In 1939, just before his death, Nazro Parker sold the mill, pond, dam, and sixty-three acres to Willie Parker.⁵ The 1940 census lists Willie Parker as operating a service station and his February 16, 1942 enlistment record for World War II references his occupations as farmer and miller.⁶ The post World-War-II history of Parker's Mill is unknown, but it appears the mill ceased to operate in the 1940s or 1950s.

Johnston County, like all counties in North Carolina, once contained numerous grist and saw mills. In his 1982 architectural survey of Johnston County, historian Thomas Butchko identified eleven mills and mill sites, including Parker's Mill. All of the mills identified in the early 1980s survey date to the first half of the twentieth century, except the still-extant Atkinson's Mill (JT0238), a substantial two-story frame building constructed in 1950-1951. Cattail Mill (JT0205), a small, gable-roofed building from 1940, remains standing and includes a spillway. Although the fate of the remaining mills is unknown, it is likely that all extant historic mills in the county that retain integrity would likely be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because of their rarity and representation of a rural industrial and commercial entity.

Parker's Mill and Willie F. Parker Service Station: Physical Descriptions

Parker's Mill is located in Meadow Township in southern Johnston County. The mill house, pond, spillways, and dam stand on the west side of NC Highway 96 south of Peacocks Crossroads. The 54.67-acre parcel contains the mill house, pond, spillways, and dam, as well as the Willie F. Parker Service Station and the Parker House, the latter of which is located outside of the APE.

³ William Marsh Sanders and George Young Ragsdale, *Johnston County: Economic and Social* (Smithfield: Smithfield Observer, 1922), 30.

⁴ Willie Parker operated the adjacent service station as early as August 1936. That month, Brantley Thornton, an employee of Parker's station was charged with killing a violent, disruptive patron of the station, https://casetext.com/case/state-v-thornton-114.

⁵ Nazro Parker Death Certificate, July 30, 1940, *North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1976* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007, accessed January 11, 2016; Johnston County deed book 409, page 75, Johnston County Register of Deeds, Smithfield, North Carolina.

⁶ 1940 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012, accessed January 11, 2016; Willie Festus Parker Draft Card, U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011, accessed January 11, 2016.



Figure 8: Parker's mill house and south spillway, facing west-northwest



Figure 9: North spillway, facing west

The mill house, spillways, dam, and pond make up Parker's Mill. The mill house (figure 8) is composed of two separate but attached early-twentieth-century structures containing a single interior space. The pair of one-story, gable-end, weatherboard-sheathed structures are topped by standing-seam metal roofs. The northern structure is the original mill and stands slightly higher than its counterpart. It features an off-center door on its gable end and two windows on its east elevation. The southernmost structure, which was added shortly after the northern block was built, is wider and projects forward from the northern block on its east elevation

closest to the highway. It displays two window openings on that elevation and a single window and a pair of vertical-board wagon doors on its south elevation (figure 6). The west elevation that faces the pond is open due to deterioration of that wall. The floor is brick just inside the doors on the south end of the mill house, but wood-covered throughout the rest of the structure. The interior retains corn grinders, grain bins, hoppers, and various equipment associated with the operation (figure 10).



Figure 10: Mill house interior, facing north



Figure 11: Parker's Mill Pond, facing west

Two spillways connected by a concrete retaining wall and an earthen dam accompany the mill house. The northern spillway (figure 9) stands north of the mill house and no building or structure accompanies it. It is possible this spillway served to drain the pond in the event of overflow. Half of the northern spillway is slanted and the other half has a shear wall. The mill house, supported by substantial wooden piers, stands over the southern spillway (figure 8). Some shafts and various pulleys survive on the south end of the spillway.

Parker's Mill Pond (figure 11) extends westward from the mill house and spillways and occupies almost the entire 54.67-acre tract mill tract. It is bordered on its shores by dense vegetation and trees.



Figure 12: Willie F. Parker Service Station, facing northwest

The Willie F. Parker Service Station (figure 12) stands ninety yards south of the mill house. Willie Parker, who owned and operated Parker's Mill, owned and operated the station in the 1930s and 1940s. The building is a one-story, front-gable frame structure with an open gable front canopy supported by plain posts. Rafter tails grace the side elevations. Two small additions are located on the rear. The building suffered a fire and part of its rear has collapsed (figures 13 and 14). The gas pumps have also been removed.



Figure 13: Willie F. Parker Service Station, west (rear) elevation, facing east



Figure 14: Willie F. Parker Service Station, south interior wall, facing south

National Register Eligibility Evaluation

Since Parker's Mill was determined eligible (DOE) for the National Register in 2004, the property remains unchanged. The mill house, dam, spillway, and pond retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Parker's Mill remains eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, it is eligible for its

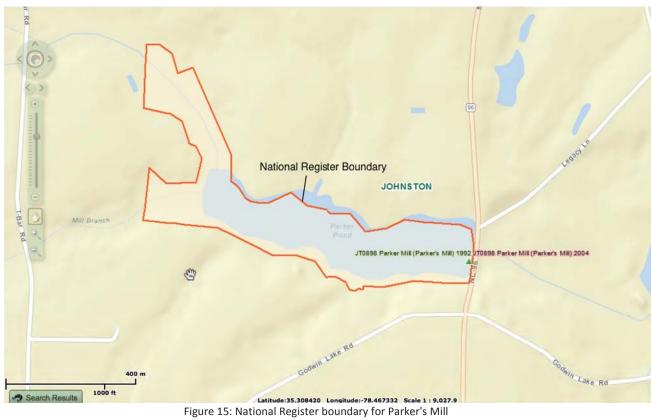
association with industry. Parker's Mill and the other surviving grist and saw mills in Johnston County represent a significant sector of the rural economy in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Under Criterion C, the mill is eligible as an intact rural mill assemblage consisting of the mill house, dam, spillways, and pond. Similar complexes once dotted the county, but now only a small handful remains. Located at its original site and containing some original milling equipment, the intact, but slightly deteriorated mill continues to convey its historic and architectural significance.

Parker's Mill is not eligible under any other criteria. It does not appear eligible under Criterion B because neither the Parkers nor others associated with the property achieved the level of significance necessary to meet the criteria. Although archeology is not addressed in this report, the mill does not appear eligible under Criterion D for its standing elements.

The Willie F. Parker Service Station, which dates to the 1930s, is not eligible under any criteria because of a loss of integrity. The building has suffered a fire and neglect and is in immediate danger of collapse. It does not retain sufficient integrity of materials, design, workmanship, and feeling to meet eligibility requirements for the National Register of Historic Places.

National Register Boundary

The National Register boundary (figure 15) for Parker's Mill encompasses the mill house, dam, spillways, and pond and the edges of the wetlands and streams on the pond's edges. The eligible boundary does not include the Willie F. Parker Service Station standing to the south of the millhouse, but on the same parcel as Parker's Mill. The boundary is shown on the map that follows and includes approximately 53 acres containing the mill house, dam, spillways, and pond.



Sources Consulted

- Brown, Marvin A. "Phase II Historic Architectural Survey for the Replacement of Bridge No. 52 over Little Swamp, Johnston County, North Carolina. July 2004.
- Nazro Parker Death Certificate, July 30, 1940. *North Carolina Death Certificates, 1909-1976* (database on-line). Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. Accessed January 11, 2016.
- Sanders, William March and George Young Ragsdale. *Johnston County: Economic and Social*. Smithfield: Smithfield Observer, 1922.
- Willie Festus Parker Draft Card. *U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947* (database online). Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. Accessed January 11, 2016.

APPENDIX

Study List Notification Letter (January 15, 1992)

Letter from North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office Requesting Reevaluating National Register Eligibility of Parker's Mill (September 10, 2015)



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

James G. Martin, Governor Patric Dorsey, Secretary Division of Archives and History William S. Price, Ir., Director

January 15, 1992

Mrs. Charlotte Parker LoCapo Rt. 2 Box 23A Newton Grove, NC 20166

EE: Farker Mill Highway 96, Johnston County

Dear Brs. LoCapo:

At your request, the above-referenced property was presented to the State Professional Review Committee (SPRC) at its meeting in Raleigh on Jenuary 10, 1992, for a preliminary essessment of the property's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Piaces. The SPRC is a board of professionals and citizens with expertise in history, architectural history, and archaeology, and meets quarterly to advise me on the eligibility of properties for the National Register and the adequacy of nominations.

The committee determined that this property is potentially eligible for the National Register and warrants further study. Accordingly, the property has been added to the Study List of potential nominations to the National Register. Placement on the Study List is the first step in the National Register Listing process. Please note that placement on the Study List does not mean automatic nomination to the National Register. The next step, preparation of the namination, must be initiated by you. The enclosed fact sheets briefly explain the nomination and listing process.

If you wish to have your property nominated, we can provide a list of qualified private consultants with whom you may contract to prepare the nomination. Our staff will advise property owners who wish to prepare their nom nominations, but because of the complexity of technical requirements and standards of documentation, nost nominations are prepared by historians or architectural historians experienced in the nomination process. When a technically complete and adequately documented nomination is submitted to this office, staff can provide timely review and processing. However, we cannot capth historical research services.

Listing in the National Register is largely an honorary designation. It also provides a measure of protection from any state or federally funded or licensed project that might affect the property. In addition, the Tax Reform Act of 1986 provides federal income tax incentives for the rehabilitation of

109 East Jones Street * Raleigh, North Carolina 27611 (919) 733-7303 January 15, 1992 Page 2

income-producing properties (commercial or rental) that are listed in the Mational Register. The tax incentive program does not apply to owner-occupied private residences. Please note that National Register listing does not restrict a private owner's use of his or her property.

Please let us know if the ownership of the property changes, if it is moved, or if it is altered in any significant way. If you have questions about the National Register program, please contact Ms. Claudia R. Brown, National Register Coordinator, Survey and Planning Branch, State Historic Preservation Office, 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-2807, 919/733-6545.

Sincerely.

William S. Price, Jr.

State Historic Preservation Officer

WSP, Jr./alr

Enclosures



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Pat McCrory Secretary Susan Kluttz Office of Archives and History Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

September 10, 2015

Daniel Ingram RES NC Regulatory Manager 302 Jefferson Street, Suite 110 Raleigh, NC 27605

Re: Blackbird Stream and Wetland Mitigation Site, Benson, Johnston County

ER 15-1819

Dear Mr. Ingram:

Thank you for your submittal of August 3, 2015, transmitting information for our review concerning the above project.

With regard to archaeological resources, if the project is implemented and the water level is lowered, the older dams should be mapped and photo-documented, if possible.

The project description was unclear as to whether the Parker Store will be affected by the proposed project and no mention was included regarding the location of staging areas. If the store will be affected some archaeological investigation may be needed in that area, as well as in those areas to be disturbed by staging and construction activities.

Please forward information about the store and staging areas as soon as they are available, so we can complete our review.

We understand the demolition of Parker's Mill (JT0898), a property determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 2004, is being proposed as part of the Blackbird stream and wetland restoration project. The documentation we received seemed to draw heavily upon Marvin Brown's 2004 survey of Parker's Mill as found in the *Phase II Historic Architectural Survey for Replacement of Bridge 52 on NC 96 over Little Swamp* report. As the National Register-eligibility of the property was last conducted eleven years ago, we feel the property should be re-evaluated for National Register eligibility.

We also request digital photographs of Parker's Mill be submitted to our office on cds, per our guidelines, which are available at:

http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/digital/NCHPO_Digital_Photo_Policy.html#Submission_of_Images

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

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

Sincerely,

Ramona M. Bartos

cc: Deborah Joy, Legacy Research Associates

Rence Bledhill-Earley



Date: August 3, 2015

To: Renee Gledhill-Early

NC SHPO

From: Daniel Ingram

NC Regulatory Manager

Subject: Blackbird Mitigation Site Environmental Review

Ms. Gledhill-Early,

Resource Environmental Solutions (RES) is developing the Blackbird Stream and Wetland Mtiigation Site in Johnston County, NC. The site will be included in the Neu-Con Umbrella Mitigation Bank and the bank sponsor is EBX-Neuse I,. LLC (an RES entity). Me, Debra Joy (Legacy Research) and Dolores Hall (SHPO) met in April 2015 to discuss the project and the SHPO review process. Since that meeting RES retained Legacy Research to conduct a preliminary review of the potential historic resources (attached). This letter is intended to convey the information required to initiate an SHPO review of the potential effects to historic resources. Please let me know if you need any additional information to conduct your review.

Project Name: Blackbird Stream and Wetland Mitigation Site

Project Location: 9480 NC HWY 96

Benson, NC 27504

See attached vicinity map

Project Contact: Daniel Ingram

RES NC Regulatory Manager 302 Jefferson Street, Suite 110

Raleigh, NC 27605 919-209-1056 dingram@res.us

Project Description: Stream and wetland mitigation credits will be developed to

offset unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources. The primary

mitigation treatment will be dam and mill removal and stabilization of resulting stream channel and riparian wetlands.

This will include in-stream structures, grading, herbaceous seeding, and tree planting. All mitigation work will be coordinated with and approved by the Interagency Review Team. Required permits include 404/401, FEMA, and Erosion

10055 Red Run Blvd. Suite 130 Owings Mills, MD 21117

412 N. 4th St. Suite 300 Baton Rouge, LA

70802

28203

604 Greene St. Camden, SC 29020

1724 East Blvd., Suite 202 Charlotte, NC

5020 Montrose Blvd. Suite 650 Houston, TX 77006

1200 Camellia Blvd. Suite 220 Lafayette, LA 70508

137 ½ East Main Street Suite 210

Oak Hill, WV 25901

380 Southpointe Blvd. Plaza II, Suite 405 Canonsburg, PA 15317

302 Jefferson St. Suite 110 Raleigh, NC 27605

7 East 2nd St. Suite 208

Richmond, VA 23224

Control. Potential historic resources are described in detail in the attached report provided by Legacy Research and written by Deborah Joy. Project area maps are included in the attached report and as supplemental maps. Site photographs are provided in the attached report.

Description of Historic Properties within or adjacent to the Project Area at Parker Mill over John K. Swamp (aka "Little Swamp) on NC 96 in Meadow Township, Johnston County NC

Two historic structures that are more than 50 years old lie within the Project Area of Potential Effects (APE). No archaeological resources are recorded in the Project APE.

These resources are the Willie Parker Mill (JT-898) and Willie Parker's County Store. They are located about 0.1 mile south of the SR 1116 (Godwin Lake Road) and NC 96 intersection in the Meadow Township of Johnston County.

These two architectural resources are located on property that is identified in the Johnston County, NC, GIS database as Parcel 155660-08-1012 (Tax ID 4266112) and is currently owned by Burton "Burt" Rudolph, who acquired the property on 30 December 2014 from Annie Lee Tine and Laura Frances D'ugo and her husband Siggio D'Ugo (Johnston County NC Deed Book 4542:25). The property is identified in the deed book as being known as "the Willie Parker estate." It was survey by Lonnie Peacock, land surveyor, on 20 July 1984. There is no record that the survey plat was filed with the Johnston County Register of Deeds; the Lonnie Peacock land surveying business that had been located in Benson closed in 2008.

A description of these two architectural resources follows.

Willie Parker Mill (JT-898)

Parker's Mill (JT-898) consists of a dam, pond, mill house, and spillways. The pond extends west of the dam and covers approximately 55 acres.

The resource was evaluated by URS in 2004 for the NCDOT replacement of Bridge 52 on NC 96 (Brown 2004) and was determined to be eligible for the NRHP by the NC SHPO under Criteria A and C. The mill building was found to be representative of the small non-textile mill industry in the early twentieth century.

Historic Occupation

Three versions of the historic occupation of the mill are reported in Brown 2004.

Version 1 - the pond was created in the 1820s by Joshua and Ben Beasley by impounding Little Swamp with an earth dam and concrete spillways. The mill was sold in 1875 to James G. Raynor. It is uncertain about the conveyance of the mill from Raynor to Parker; however, a mill pond and mill dam were sold by Nazro and Rebecca Parker to Willie Parker in 1939. It is suggested that perhaps Nazro Parker acquired the property from his parents (Frank and Sarah Parker) in 1885 or 1910.

Version 2 – the pond and mill were built by John C. Hood; Frank Parker acquired the property in 1867 and then sold it to his son, Nazro, who sold the property to his son, Willie Parker in 1939.

Version 3 – the pond and mill had been owned by William Henry Smith prior to the Raynors. Smith is reported to have operated a general store near the mill around 1874.

Research conducted by Legacy in 2015 at the Johnston County Heritage Center in Smithfield found an undated historical account of Parker's Mill written by Michael Wheeler from an interview with Dewey Parker. This account is summarized below.

The beams under the floor of the mill house pre-date the Civil War. Much of the mill works are still in place. There are two meal grinders that were run by water power when the water level was high enough to turn the paddle wheel. In later years, two other meal grinders could be run off a large *Case* motor that sat outside the mill house. There are several gates that can be lifted from inside the mill house to lower the pond level. Each of the grinding mills consists of two grinding stones. When the stones wore down they would be hoisted out and re-grooved. The public could bring corn to be ground at the mill, and Willie Parker took meal the local stores to be sold. Vehicles or wagons could be backed up to the mills outside double doors by going across the pond's dam. There is a cement spillway that is called a "false dam." This would relieve pressure on the dam in case of a big rain and high water. Dewey Parker recalled that Charles Dudley was the miller and Willie Parker ran the meal route in a 1949 Studebaker. He also recalled that Brodie Parker was the last person to operate the mill after Willie Parker.

Spillways and Dam

The mill consists of two concrete spillways that are connected by an earth dam that is reinforced by a concrete and cement block retaining wall. The earth dam also extends south of the millhouse for approximately 150 ft; the southern extension of the dam parallels NC 96; it appears that some alteration of the mill dam, probably related to boat access to the millpond, has occurred at the southern end.

The northern spillway is described by Brown in 2004 as having two elements; half is a slanted wall and the other half a sheer wall. Brown mentions that it is unclear if the northern spillway supported another millhouse. There is no aboveground evidence of a building; and Brown suggests that perhaps is was built to allow high waters to drain from the pond and thereby protect the gristmill.

The southern spillway is the foundation of the millhouse that is supported by large wooden piers. No wheel is evident; however, during the URS survey in 2004 shaft and

pulleys that turned the grinding stones were evident along the east elevation. This area was overgrown in June 2015; some limited clearing exposed the shaft and pulleys recorded in 2004 as well as the Case motor.

Millhouse

The millhouse consists of two attached structures. The northernmost structure still retains part of its southern elevation as an interior wall between the two structures. This "wall" has a weathered appearance, which suggests that the southern structure was added at a later date. Other structural information that supports the interpretation that the southern structural was added at a later date include the differences in the floor boards and siding (the northern structure has much wider floorboards and siding than the southern structure) and the use of power to drive the mill stone grinders (the southern structure was motor driven and the northern water-powered).

Both structures are one-story, gable-end structures of milled lumber that have been constructed with wire and cut nails. The northernmost structure is 22 ft by 22 ft; the southernmost structure is 17 ft (north-south) by 27 ft (east-west). The western elevation of both structures are aligned; and along the eastern elevation the southern structure extends about 5 ft further toward NC 96 than the northern structure. The exterior of both structures are covered with weatherboard and the roofs are standing-seam metal. The northern structure has a single door at the gable end and two wood-shuttered windows that face NC 96; near the top of the gable is a handwritten sign that reads "Mrs. Willie Parker." All of the floor in the northern structure is wood; the boards vary in width from 13-15 inches. About half of the floor in the southern structure is constructed of concrete paving blocks, the other half of the floor is wood. The southern structure has a wide, double-door wooden entry and a small glazed window on the gable end and two wood-shuttered windows that face NC 96.

The interior includes four grinders and a rolling screen (cleaning stand). Numerous wood bins for collecting ground wheat and corn are scattered throughout the building. The interior of both structures contains a large amount of wood boards and unidentified wood and metal objects that appear likely to be related to the mill operation.

Summary

This resource appears to have retained the structural and mill machinery components that were present during the NRHP evaluation in 2004. Changes since 2004, appear to be more subsidence of the southeast corner of the building that is supported by wood piers and the loss of some weatherboards on the west elevation of both structures. Photographs from 2004 were restricted by limited access, so the amount of loss is unknown.

Willie Parker Country Store

Willie Parker's Country Store consists of an original store building with two additions and a gas pump island. The store is located about 330 ft south of Parker Mill.

According the Benson Museum of Local Society, Ralph Tart who grew up near Parker Pond, Willie Parker and his wife lived in the house that is located about 200 ft south of the County Store, which is outside the Project APE.

The resource is located on the Project property; however, it will not be disturbed during the proposed dam removal project unless that area is needed for staging or stockpiling, etc.

This structure was identified as an early-twentieth-century wood frame building that was located outside the NCDOT Bridge 52 replacement project, and therefore was not assessed for the NRHP (Brown 2004).

Historic Occupation

A phone conversation on June 2, 2015, with Dwayne Parker, the second cousin of Willie Parker, found that the store had been owned by Willie Parker and had been used as a local grocery store/gas station. He reported that the store burned "many years ago."

Country Store

The structure is a one-story wood-frame building with two additions. The interior of the building has been extensively burned; however, store shelves are still attached to the walls and appear contain objects that were present at the time of the fire.

The entire structure (original building and additions) have a standing-seam metal roof. The original structure is 16 ft (north-south) by 18 ft (east-west) and has German siding, also known as drop siding, is a flat-faced board with a concave top and notched bottom. The original structure fronts NC 96 (faces east) and has a canopy that extends 10.5 ft from the east-facing exterior and is supported by two posts that are 7.5 ft high. The ground underneath the canopy has a concrete floor that is bordered on the east by a gas pump island (two gas pumps spaced 9 ft apart) that is about 2.5-ft wide and extends the full width of the canopy (16 ft). Just south of the gas pumps is a metal mailbox and a lamp pole that had at one time a sign that indicated the type of gas sold at the store (Dwayne Parker, personal communication 2014). Gravel paving that has been mostly obscured by grass and weeds is along the east side of the gas pump island and continues to NC 96. The front elevation has a central door and two windows (one on each side of the door). The windows are about 2-ft wide and have metal grid security bars. These two windows appear to be the only windows on the original structure. The absence of windows on the side elevations would maximize the interior retail space; the interior of the building appears to have had shelving along both side walls. The front entrance is about 3-ft wide. The north elevation is covered with vines and poison ivy; however, it is apparent that a chimney was centered along the wall.

The two additions to the building have lap siding. What appears to be the earliest addition (addition 1) extended the west elevation of the original building about 10 ft

and added a 3-ft wide window to the back of the building (west elevation); the window has the same metal security bars that are on the front elevation. The foundation is exposed along the west elevation; it consists of brick piers that have been infilled with concrete blocks. The second addition is attached to the south elevation of the original building and addition 1; the second addition in about 8 ft (north-south) by 12 ft (east-west). This addition has an east-facing doorway (3-ft wide) and a 3-ft wide window opening on the south elevation.

Summary

The building is representative of typical country store with character-defining exterior and interior features. It functioned as an economic and possibly social center of the rural community near Parker's Mill and offered a variety of merchandise and services.

A phone conversation with Dwayne Parker, the second cousin of Willie Parker, on June 2, 2015, found that the mill had been used to grind wheat and corn and that the mill shut down in the 1950s.

Parker Mill Architectural Resource JT-898 Site Mapping and Photo Documentation

Prepared for:

Resource Environmental Solution, LLC 909 Capability Drive Suite 3100 Raleigh, NC 27606

Prepared by:

Legacy Research Associates 125 West Woodridge Drive Durham, NC 27707

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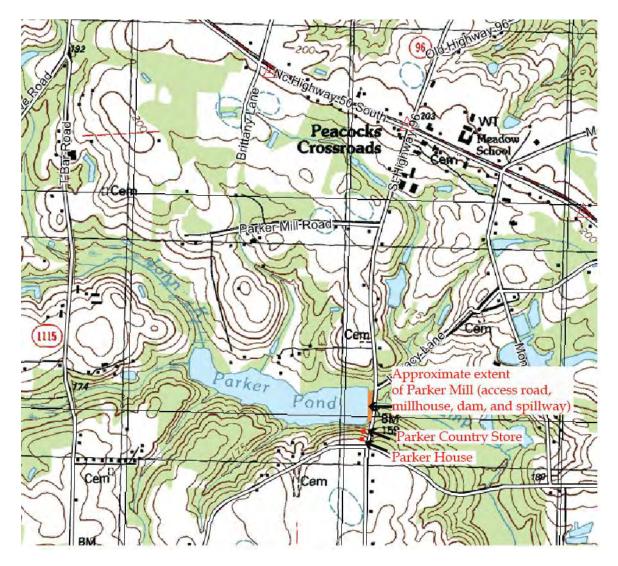


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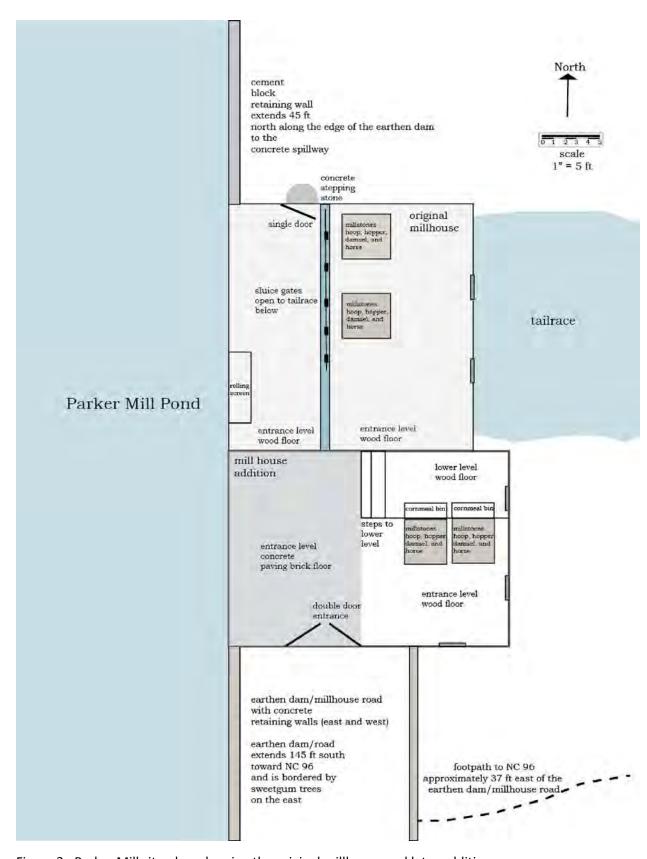


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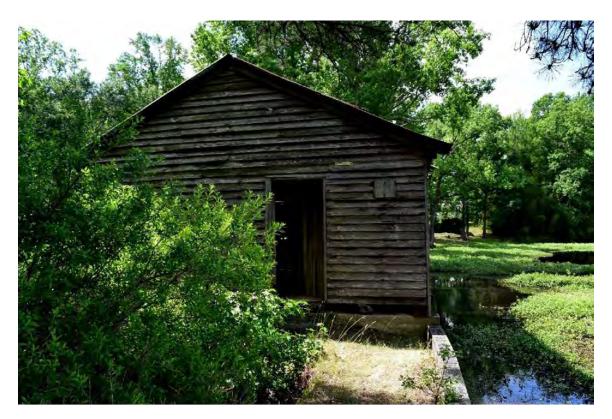


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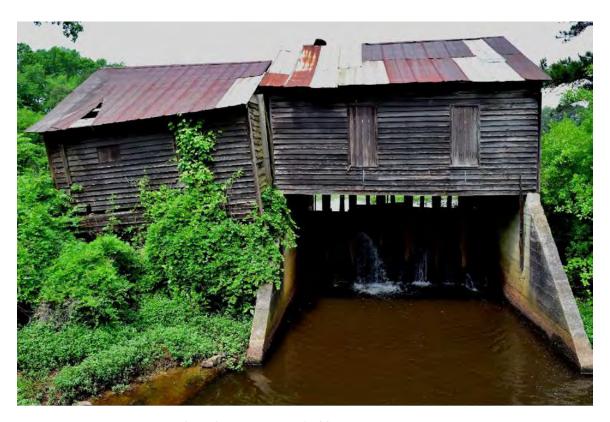


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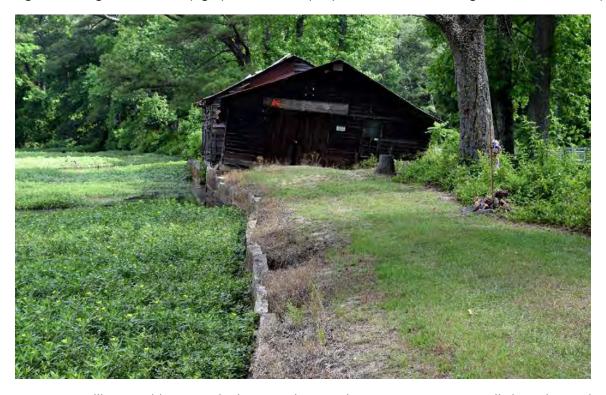


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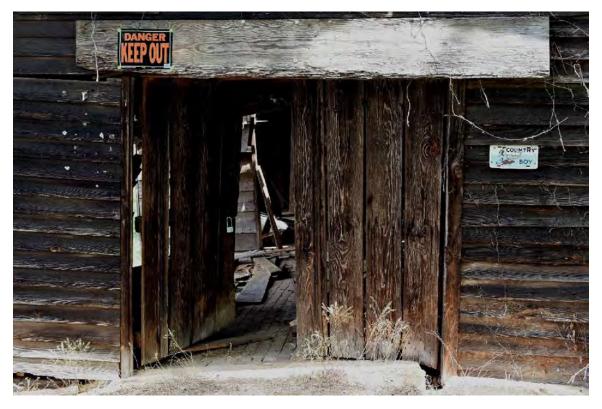


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Figure 37. Millhouse addition, equipment between the building and the NC 96 bridge.



Figure 38. Millhouse addition, Case motor under the building.

Willie Parker Country Store Site Mapping and Photo Documentation

Prepared for:

Resource Environmental Solution, LLC 909 Capability Drive Suite 3100 Raleigh, NC 27606

Prepared by:

Legacy Research Associates 125 West Woodridge Drive Durham, NC 27707

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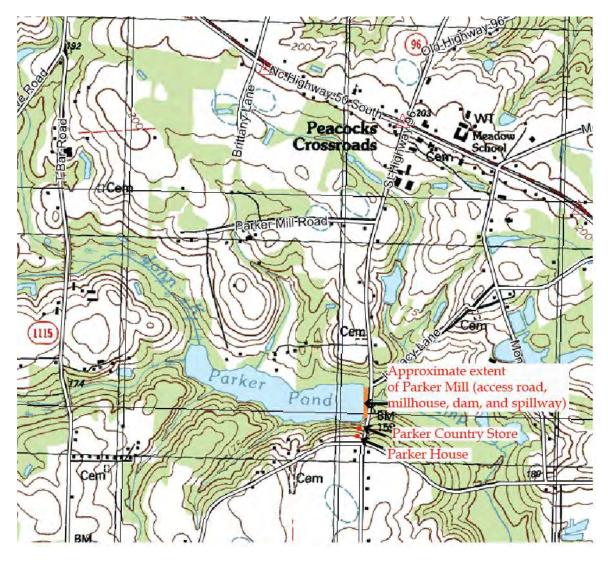


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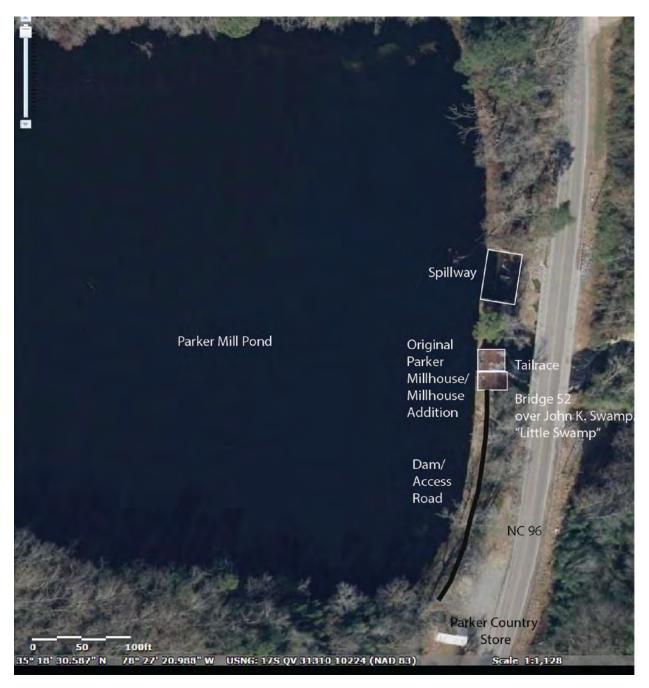


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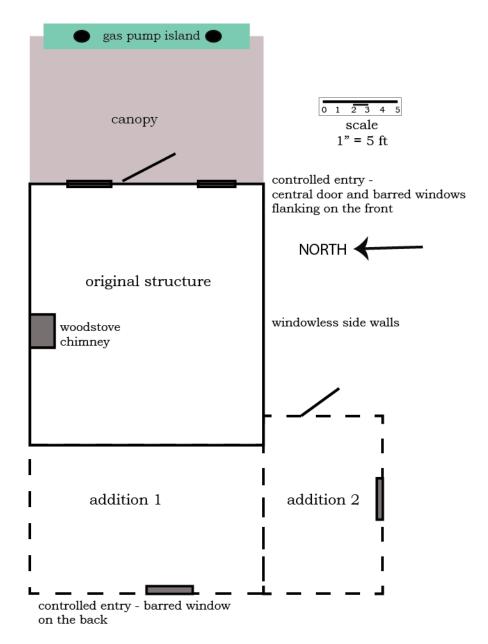


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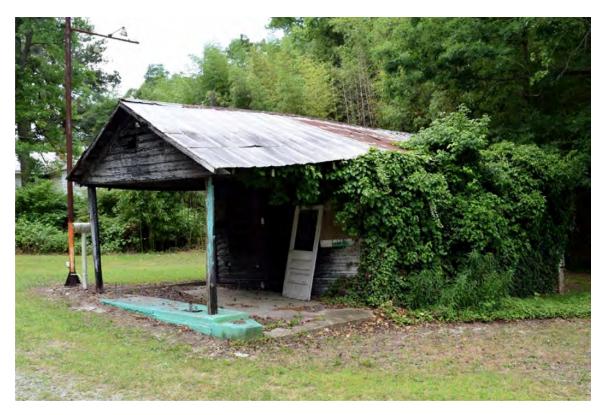


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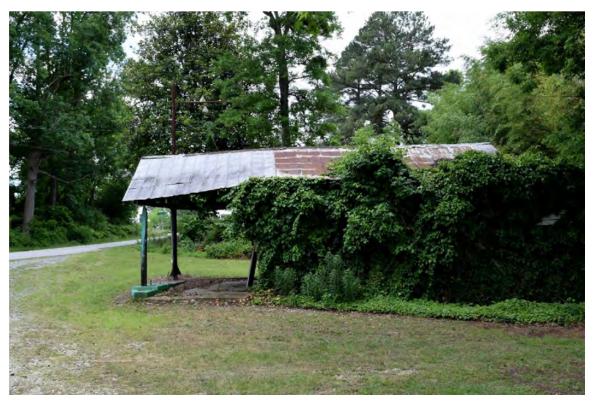


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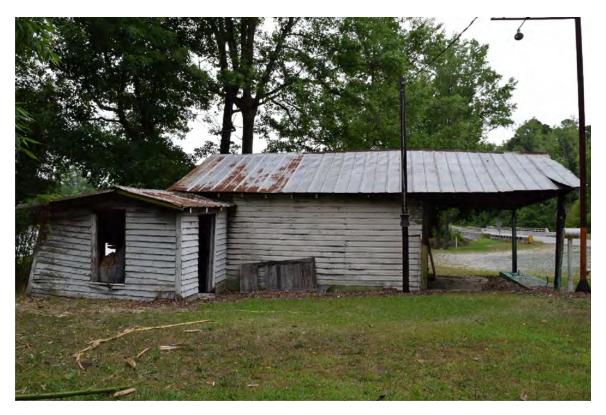


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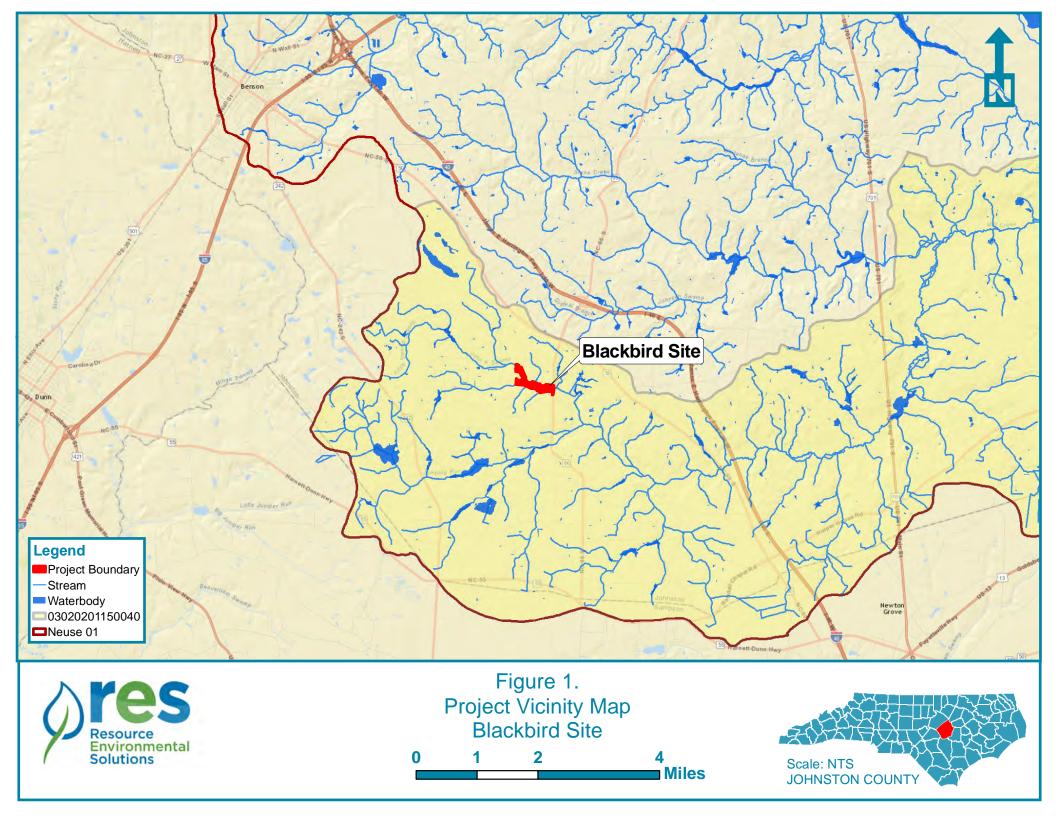
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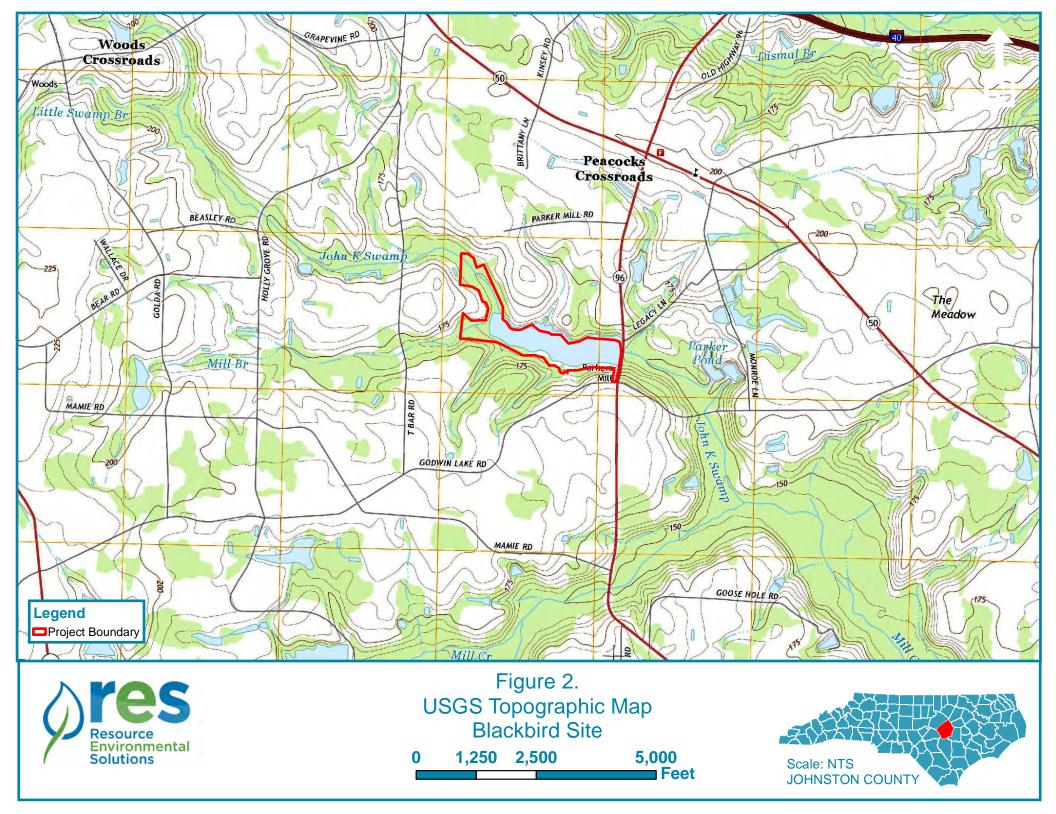


Figure 12. Willie Parker County Store, main structure interior, north wall showing the brick chimney for a wood stove.



Figure 13. Willie Parker County Store, main structure interior, south wall.





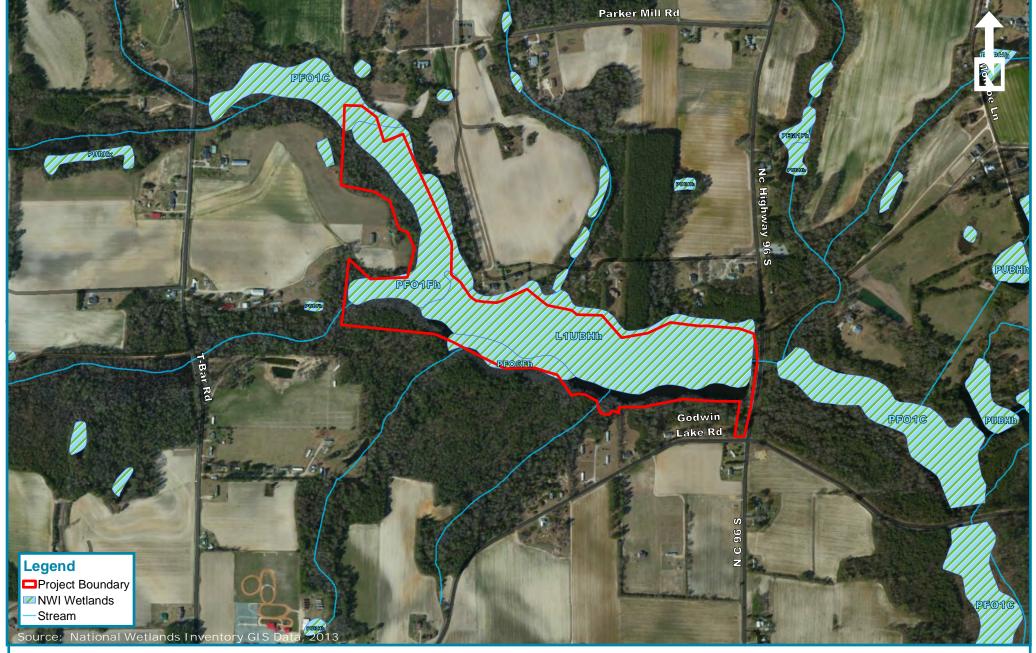




Figure 3. NWI Map Blackbird Site

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet



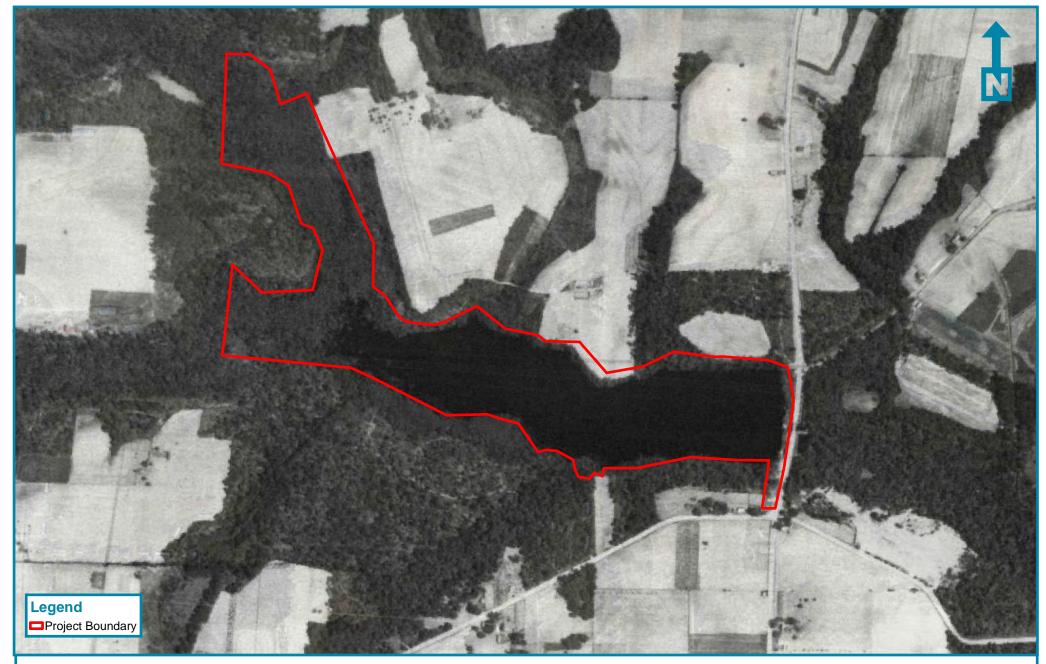




Figure 4a. 1949 Historical Conditions Blackbird Site

0 300 600 1,200 Feet



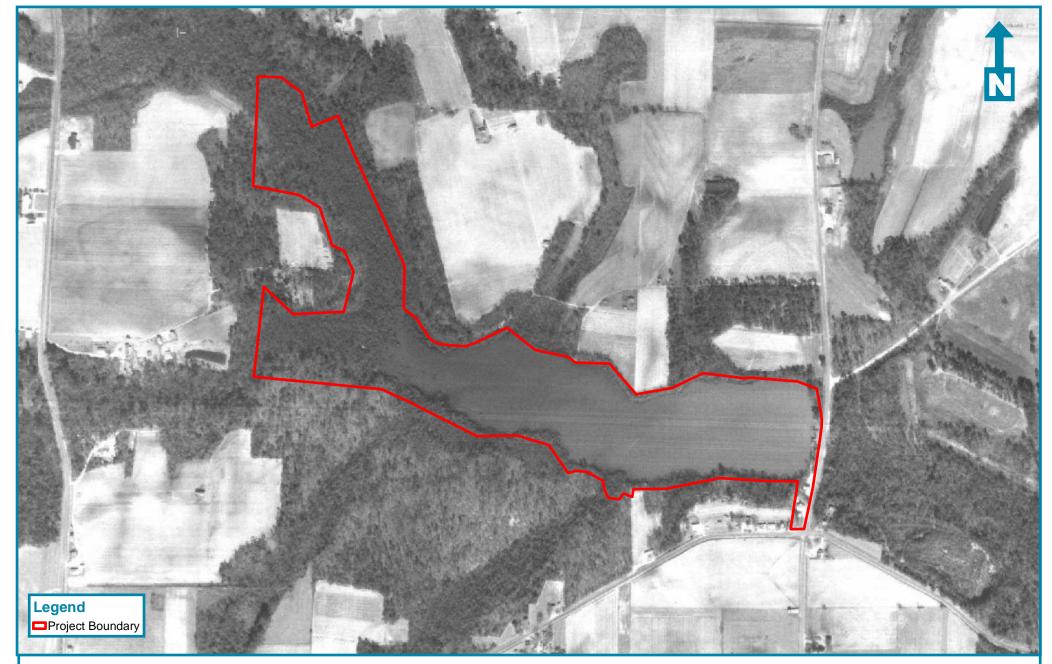
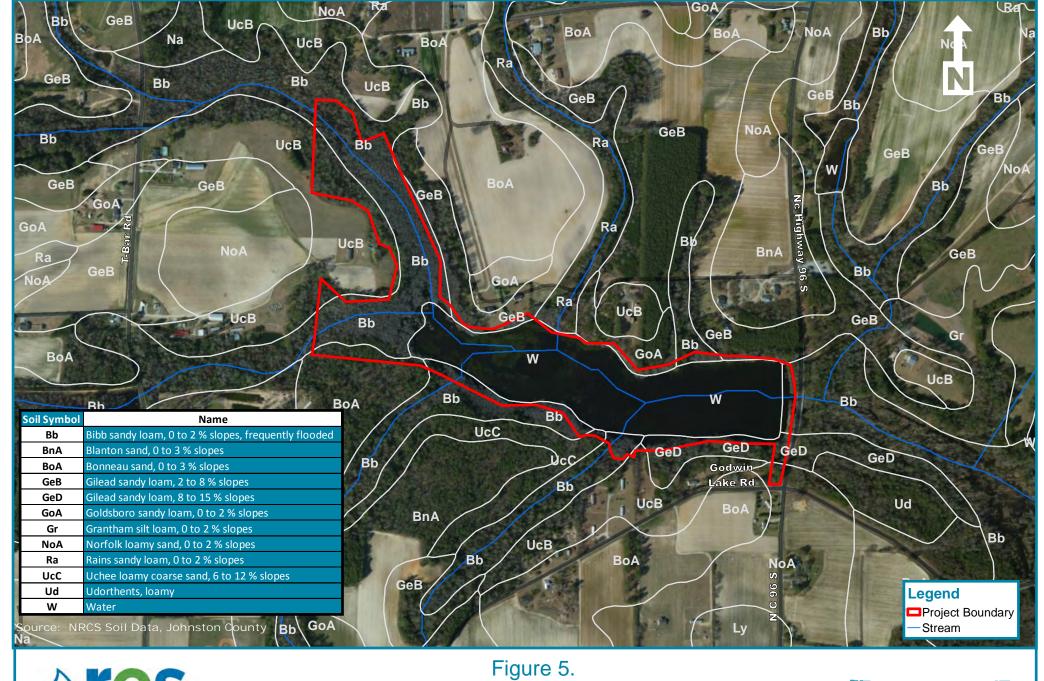




Figure 4b.
1971 Historical Conditions
Blackbird Site

0 300 600 1,200 Feet







Soils Map
Blackbird Site

1,600
Feet







Figure 6. FEMA Map Blackbird Site

0 400 800 1,600 Feet



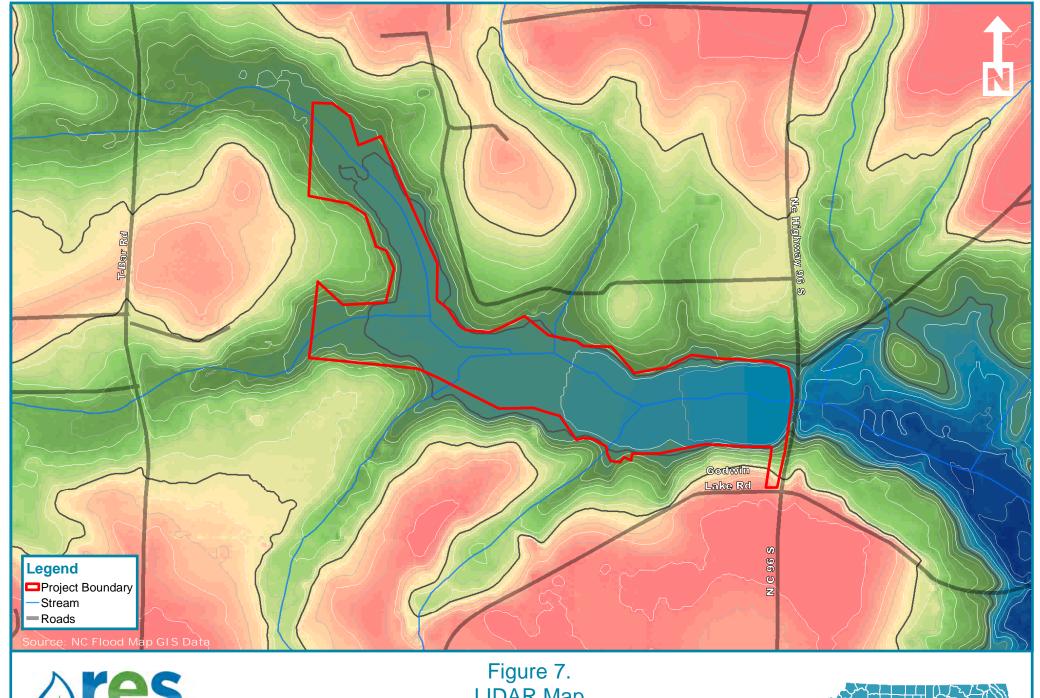




Figure 7.
LIDAR Map
Blackbird Site

0 400 800 1,600 Feet



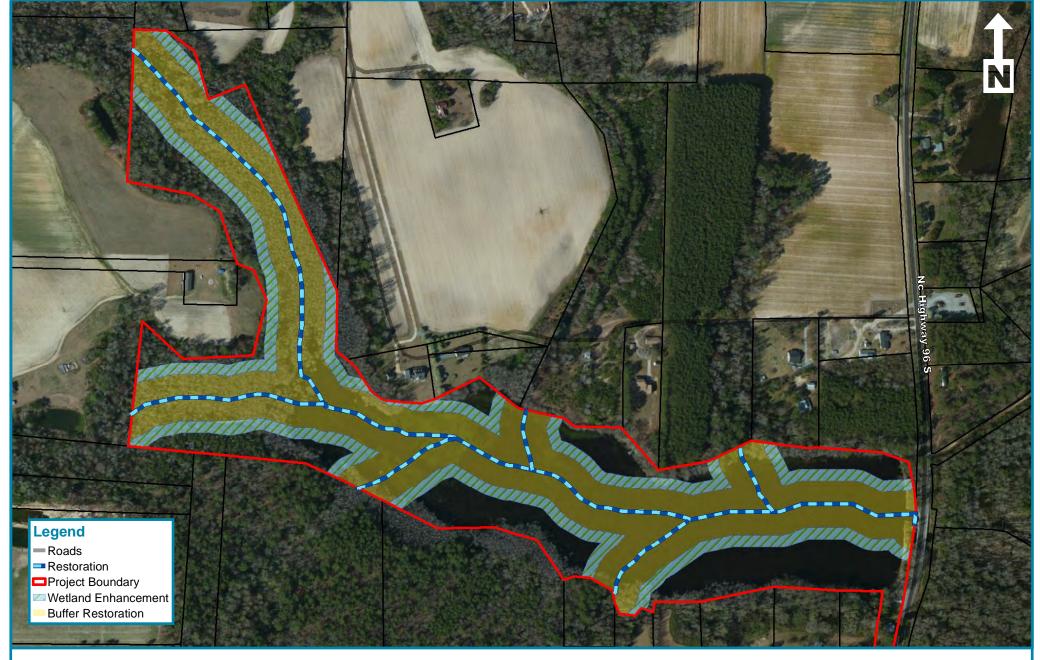




Figure 8.
Conceptual Design Plan
Blackbird Site

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

