



**North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources**  
**State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Pat McCrory  
Secretary Susan Kluttz  
September 28, 2015

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vanessa Patrick  
Human Environment Unit  
NC Department of Transportation

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley   
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Replacement of Bridges 14 and 28 on SR 1005 (Neuse Road) over Beard Creek and Cedar Gut, B-4595 and B-4596, Pamlico County, ER 15-2012

Thank you for your August 24, 2015 submission of the Historic Architectural Resources Evaluation Report, prepared by Coastal Carolina Research for the above referenced project. We have reviewed the submittal and offer the following comments.

The report includes sufficient information to evaluate the historic architectural properties located within the APE. We concur with the evaluation and eligibility determinations outlined in the report as follows:

**The Alex Brinson House (PM0255), the George R. Brinson House (PM0258), the Levin Paul House (PM 0259) are not eligible for listing** in the National Register of Historic Places due to the loss of integrity and the level of significance.

Three additional resources were evaluated as part of a potential historic district (the Beard's Creek Landing Historic District) - **the Benjamin Brinson House (PM0254), the Reel House and Store (PM0256), and the Joe Brinson House (PM 0257)**. Six other buildings were also documented as part of the evaluation of the potential historic district. Based on the information obtained during the evaluation, **none of these resources are individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and there is no potential for an eligible historic district.**

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 any questions concerning the above comment, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919/807-6579.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT, [mfurr@ncdcr.gov](mailto:mfurr@ncdcr.gov)

**Historic Architectural Resources Evaluation Report  
Replacement of Bridge Numbers 14 and 28 on SR 1005 (Neuse Road)  
over Beard Creek and Cedar Gut, Pamlico County  
Final Identification & Evaluation**

**TIP Nos. B-4595 and B-4596  
WBS No. 38425.1.2**

**Prepared for:  
The North Carolina Department of Transportation  
Human Environment Section  
Century Center  
1020 Birch Ridge Road  
Raleigh, NC 27610**

**Prepared by:  
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**Jeroen van den Hurk, Ph.D.  
*Architectural Historian***

**NCR-0708**

**AUGUST 2015**

**Historic Architectural Resources Evaluation Report  
Replacement of Bridge Numbers 14 and 28 on SR 1005 (Neuse Road)  
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*Architectural Historian***

**NCR-0708**

**AUGUST 2015**

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**Jeroen van den Hurk, Ph.D., Principal Investigator  
Coastal Carolina Research**

**8-18-2015  
Date**

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**Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor  
Historic Architecture Group, NCDOT**

**Date**

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace bridge numbers 14 and 28 on SR 1005 (Neuse Road) in Pamlico County. This report represents documentation of historic architectural properties located within the Areas of Potential Effects (APE) for both projects, as per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as well as documentation of the potential for a historic district. These projects are included in the current North Carolina State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) as Project Numbers B-4595 and B-4596 and are federally funded.

The B-4595 and B-4596 projects are subject to review under the *Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects* (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA, 2007). NCDOT architectural historians established an Area of Potential Effects (APE) for each project and conducted a preliminary investigation, identifying three resources warranting additional study and eligibility evaluation. Also identified are three additional resources, which may figure in a possible historic district. All six resources are included in the state architectural survey. Bridge numbers 14 and 28 are not addressed in this report. Both built in 1964, the structures do not exemplify any distinctive engineering or aesthetic type and are considered ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Both APEs extend approximately 900 feet to either end of the existing bridges (NW-SE) and 200 feet (B-4595) and 100 feet (B-4596) to either side of the SR 1005 (Neuse Road) centerline (NE-SW) to encompass planned construction activities.

For the preparation of this evaluation report, the Coastal Carolina Research (CCR) architectural historian conducted architectural analysis and in-depth NRHP evaluations of the identified properties and considered additional architectural resources as they related to a potential historic district (containing late-nineteenth- to early-twentieth-century buildings and a cemetery) along SR 1005 (Neuse Road). The CCR architectural historian inspected resources located along SR 1005 (Neuse Road), Pamlico County in April 2015. Field documentation included notes, sketch maps, and digital photography. Background research was conducted at the Pamlico County Public Library (Bayboro), and the Pamlico County Register of Deeds (Bayboro), both online and on site. Additional background research was conducted at the CCR library in Tarboro, North Carolina, and using online sources. This report recommends that there is no viable historic district and none of the resources are individually eligible for listing in the NRHP.

PROPERTY NAME	NCHPO SURVEY SITE NUMBER	ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION	CRITERIA
Alex Brinson House	PM0255	Not Eligible	None
George R. Brinson House	PM0258	Not Eligible	None
Levin Paul House	PM0259	Not Eligible	None
Potential Beard's Creek Landing Historic District	-	Not Eligible	None

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Management Summary .....	i
Introduction.....	1
Methodology.....	1
Summary of Results.....	4
Physical Environment.....	4
Property Inventory and Evaluations.....	5
Alex Brinson House.....	5
George R. Brinson House.....	15
Levin Paul House.....	24
Potential Beard’s Creek Landing Historic District.....	36
Benjamin Brinson House.....	38
Reel House and Store.....	44
Joe Brinson House.....	49
Additional Resources.....	50
Discussion.....	54
References Cited.....	56

Appendix A. Qualifications

## INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace bridge numbers 14 and 28 on SR 1005 (Neuse Road) in Pamlico County (Figure 1). The projects are included in the current North Carolina STIP as B-4595 and B-4596 and are federally funded. This report includes architectural analysis and in-depth evaluation of historic properties in the two Areas of Potential Effects (APEs) and examination of the potential for a historic district. The investigations comply with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment. This report is on file at NCDOT and is available for review by the public.

The B-4595 and B-4596 projects are subject to review under the *Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects* (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA, 2007). NCDOT architectural historians established an Area of Potential Effects (APE) for each project and conducted a preliminary investigation, identifying three resources warranting additional study and eligibility evaluation. Also identified are three additional resources, which may figure in a possible historic district. All six resources are included in the state architectural survey. Bridge numbers 14 and 28 are not addressed in this report. Both built in 1964, the structures do not exemplify any distinctive engineering or aesthetic type and are considered ineligible for the NRHP. Both APEs extend approximately 900 feet to either end of the existing bridges (NW-SE) and 200 feet (B-4595) and 100 feet (B-4596) to either side of the SR 1005 (Neuse Road) centerline (NE-SW) to encompass planned construction activities (Figures 2a and 2b).

### Methodology

Coastal Carolina Research (CCR) prepared this historic architectural resources evaluation report in accordance with the provisions of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation*<sup>1</sup> and NCDOT's *Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines for Historic Architectural Resources*. This report meets NCDOT and National Park Service guidelines. Resources are evaluated according to National Register criteria. Locations of the APE boundaries, those historic properties that were intensively surveyed, and all the other buildings surveyed for this evaluation effort are shown in Figures 2a and 2b.

The NRHP criteria require that the quality of significance in American history, architecture, culture, and archaeology should be present in buildings, structures, objects, sites, or districts that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and that the buildings, structures, objects, sites, or districts:

- A. are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- B. are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;

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<sup>1</sup> National Park Service, 2014. 48 CFR 44716; 36 CFR Part 800; 36 CFR Part 60

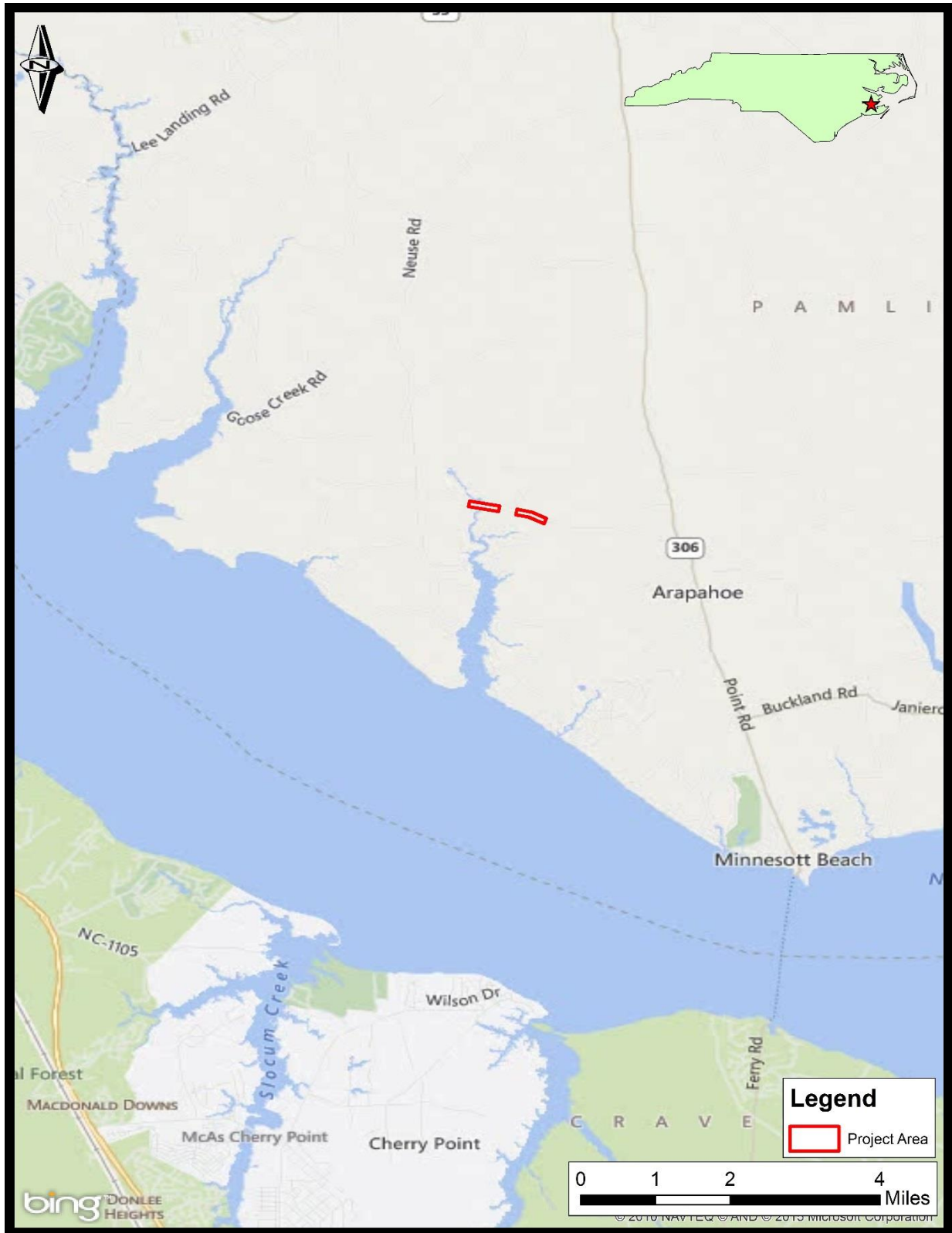


Figure 1: General Location of Bridge Numbers 14 and 28 on SR 1005 (Neuse Road) (B-4595 and B-4596).

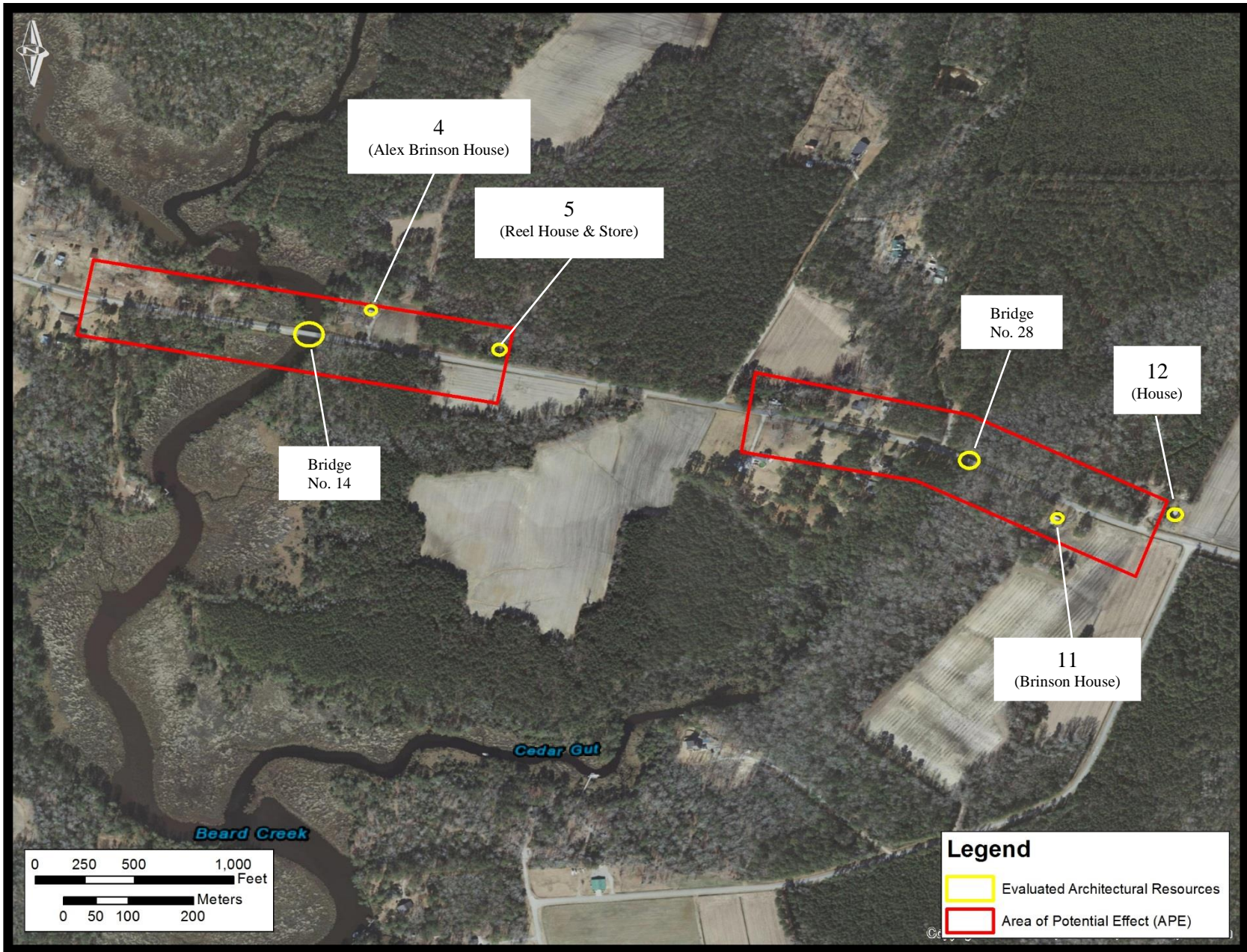


Figure 2: Historic Architectural Resources, Shown on Aerial (B-4595 and B-4596) (ArcGIS Image Service 2015).



- C. embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.<sup>2</sup>

For the preparation of this evaluation report the CCR architectural historian inspected resources located along SR 1005 (Neuse Road), Pamlico County in April 2015. Field documentation included notes, sketch maps, and digital photography. Background research was conducted at the Pamlico County Public Library (Bayboro), and the Pamlico County Register of Deeds (Bayboro), both online and on site. Additional background research was conducted at the CCR library in Tarboro, North Carolina, and using online sources.

### **Summary of Results**

The three intensive-level investigations are all dwelling houses: the Alex Brinson House (No. 1), the George R. Brinson House (No. 2), and the Brinson House (No. 3). The three additional resources suggested for study as part of a potential historic district were three dwelling houses and an associated store, the Benjamin Brinson House (PM0254), the Reel House and Store (PM0256), and the Joe Brinson House (PM0257). Six other buildings were also documented as part of the analysis of potential for a historic district. Based on the information obtained during the evaluation, none of the resources are individually eligible for listing in the NRHP and there is no potential for a historic district.

### **Physical Environment**

The project area is predominantly rural and includes large wooded areas interspersed with agricultural fields and the wetlands associated with Beard's Creek and Cedar Gut. The area to the south of the APEs along Beard's Creek, closer to the Neuse River, has seen some modern development, but no more than half a dozen more modern buildings are included in both APEs along Neuse Road (SR 1005). Most of the evaluated properties retain a rural setting, and the majority of the old building stock dates to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. New infill has occurred within the past sixty years.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

## PROPERTY INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS

Resource Name:	Alex Brinson House
NCDOT Survey Site Number:	1
HPO Survey Site Number:	PM0255
Location:	8195 Neuse Road (SR 1005), Pamlico County
Parcel ID:	6437975033000
Dates(s) of Construction:	ca. 1871
Recommendation:	Not Eligible for the National Register



Figure 3: Alex Brinson House (# 1), Looking Northeast.

### Setting

The Alex Brinson House is located on the north side of Neuse Road (SR 1005), less than 200 feet east of its crossing of Beard's Creek. The house sits approximately 150 feet back from the road and is surrounded by several mature trees, with a wooded area to the north and a small agricultural field to the east (Figures 3 and 4).

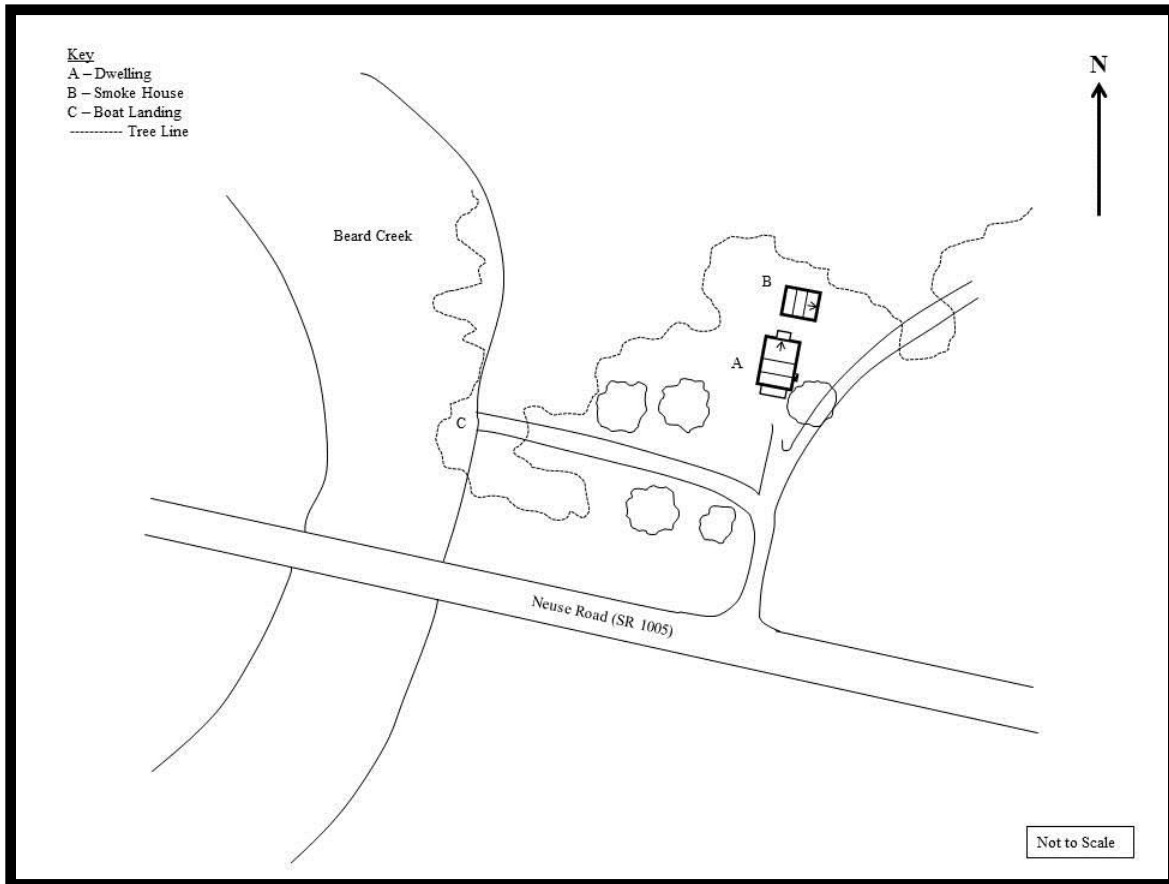


Figure 4: Sketch Map of the Alex Brinson House (# 1).

## Property Description

### *Exterior*

Likely built around 1871, the Alex Brinson House is a small one-story, side-gabled unadorned frame dwelling.<sup>3</sup> A simple shed-roofed porch supported by plain studs shelters the three bays on the south (front) elevation of the dwelling, and a deep shed-roofed section, containing the kitchen, extends off the north (rear) elevation of the main block. Located against the east gable end is a stuccoed double-shouldered chimney on a brick footing.<sup>4</sup> The building is clad in board-and-batten siding, has a metal roof, has six-over-six vinyl sash replacement windows, and rests on brick piers (Figures 5 and 6).

<sup>3</sup> According to the Pamlico County survey, the house was built in the 1860s; however, Alexander Brinson lived in his parent's house until his marriage in 1871, which makes 1871 a more likely date of construction. Too many changes have occurred to determine the date of the dwelling on visible diagnostic elements, such as nails and other hardware. See Angela Barnett, *Pamlico County Imagery, An Architectural Survey*, The Pamlico County Historical Association, 1979, p. 108.

<sup>4</sup> A photo taken in late 1970s suggests that the current chimney is not the original. Barnett, p. 108.



Figure 5: Alex Brinson House (# 1), Looking Northwest.



Figure 6: Alex Brinson House (# 1), Looking Southwest.

### *Interior*

The dwelling has a hall-parlor plan with a shed-roofed wing off the north (rear) elevation of the main block. The entry door on the front elevation gives access to the larger of the two rooms (the hall) in the main section of the dwelling. To the left of the entry is an enclosed steep stair that leads to the upper floor. The stair rises in the smaller of the two rooms (the parlor). A one-over-one wooden sash window in the west gable peak lights the upper floor. The interior walls and ceilings are finished with drywall and the floors are covered with linoleum in some areas, and in other areas particle board subflooring is exposed. None of the original finishes appear to have survived. The shed-roofed wing and appears to be contemporary with the main block and contains a kitchen and a fourth room (due to the deteriorated condition of the rear wing it was not accessible) (Figures 7 and 8).

### *Outbuildings*

Located behind the dwelling is a former front-gabled log smokehouse (late nineteenth century) clad in vertical board and metal siding with a small shed-roofed addition off the east (side) elevation (Figure 9).



Figure 7: Alex Brinson House (# 1), Interior Main Block Looking East.

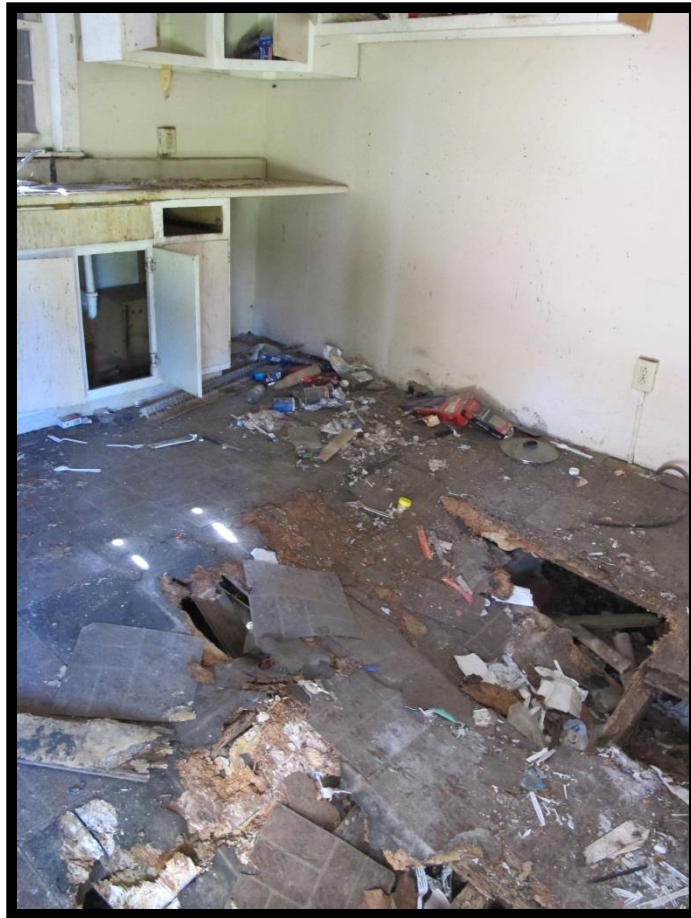


Figure 8: Alex Brinson House (# 1), Interior Kitchen.



Figure 9: Alex Brinson House (# 1), Smokehouse Looking Northwest.

## Historical Background

Recorded ownership of the property can only be traced back to 1920, when it was part of the estate division of Alexander Campbell Brinson.<sup>5</sup> Alex C. Brinson was the oldest son of Benjamin Franklin Brinson and Julia F. Bennett.<sup>6</sup> Alex Brinson was married three times: to Cassie A. Broughton in 1871, to Lina (or Sina) A. Ipock in 1876, and to Hattie Florence Moore in 1887, and he had sixteen children.<sup>7</sup> According to the 1870 Census, Alex was still living at home with his parents and siblings, and his occupation was listed as farm laborer.<sup>8</sup> On April 20, 1871, he married Cassie A. Broughton, and it can be assumed that he built the small house by the creek for this occasion. It is unclear if or when Cassie passed away, but he remarried in 1876. The 1880 Census lists Alexander as a “retail grocer” [sic], and he had three children.<sup>9</sup> According to the family genealogy, he became a speculator and ran a store on the east side of Bairds (i.e., Beard’s) Creek. He dealt in a variety of commodities ranging from patent medicines to groceries and horse collars. In 1878 he opened a post office in his general store, which was in operation for 36 years, and no longer survives.<sup>10</sup> It appears that Alex was one of the more notable members of the Bairds Creek community, and he was a member of the Masonic Lodge in nearby Arapahoe, and served as Justice of the Peace.<sup>11</sup> His second wife Lina passed away in 1886, and the following year he married for a third time. It is his third wife, Hattie, that suspected the location of his house was the culprit in the death of his first two wives and three of his children, potentially lost to malaria, and urged him to build somewhere farther away from the creek. Alex heeded his new wife’s advice, and around 1887 he built an I-house approximately 0.7 miles west of the creek along Neuse Road (SR 1005) (Figure 10).<sup>12</sup> With the death of Alex Brinson the 52-acre tract on which the house stands passed to his second youngest son, Alton Alexander Brinson. It is Lot No. 2 in the division of his lands that is identified as the “Store Filled [sic] Tract” (Figure 11). The land is currently owned by two of Alton’s daughters and was deeded to them by their mother in 2005.<sup>13</sup>

## National Register Criteria Evaluation

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the Alex Brinson House is not recommended eligible for the NRHP.

### *Integrity*

The Alex Brinson House remains in its original location and retains much of its natural setting with its surroundings still being predominantly rural, as woodlands and agricultural fields border it with Beard’s Creek to the west. The design of the dwelling is reflective of mid-to late nineteenth-century architectural practices and styles; however, the use of vinyl replacement windows and the alterations to the finishes on the interior have affected the materials and workmanship. Only the smokehouse survives, but it can be assumed that there originally was a

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<sup>5</sup> Pamlico County plat PC 1 SL 1-4 A.C. Brinson Division, 1920.

<sup>6</sup> Ancestry.com 2015a.

<sup>7</sup> Robert W. Brinson, *Here, There, and Yonder: Cason & Sons, A Brinson Genealogy*, Broadfoot Publishing, 1982, p. 174. He had six children with his second wife, and ten with his third wife.

<sup>8</sup> Ancestry.com 2015b.

<sup>9</sup> Ancestry.com 2015c.

<sup>10</sup> Brinson, p. 174.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> The house is still standing and is located at 7431 Neuse Road (PIN 6437571162).

<sup>13</sup> Pamlico County Deed Book 442, page 743, 2005.



Figure 10: The 1887 Alexander Campbell Brinson House, Looking Northeast.

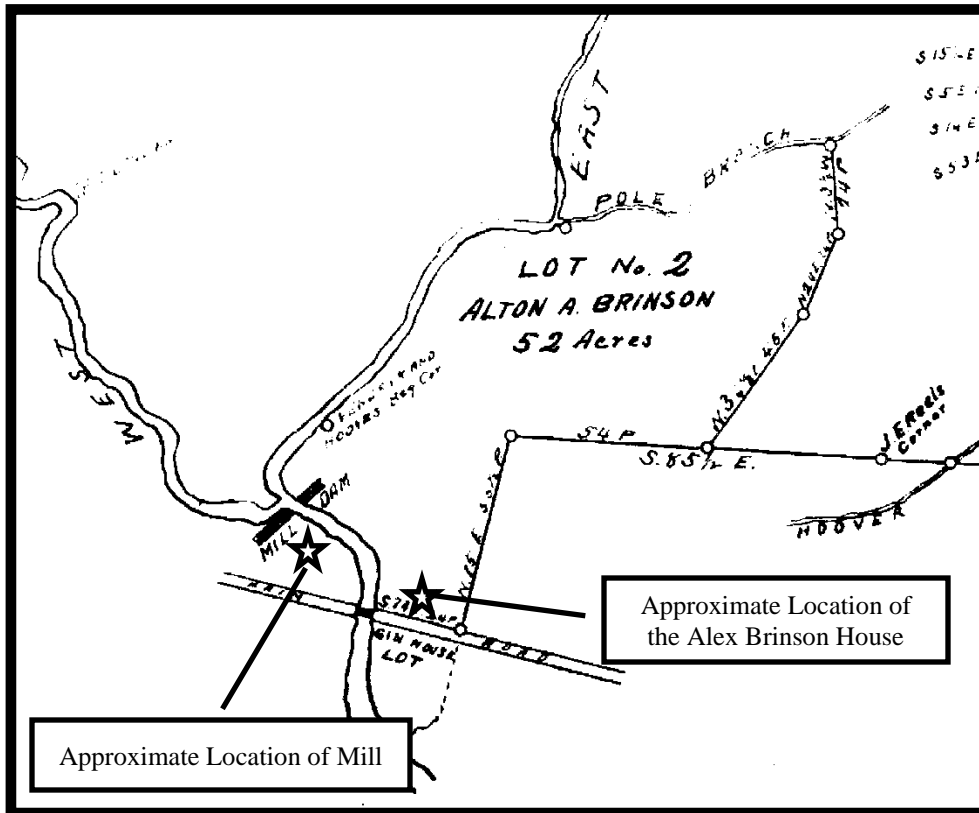


Figure 11: Detail of the Division of Lands of A. C. Brinson, Showing Alton A. Brinson's Lot (Pamlico County Plat PC 1 SL 1-4, 1920).



wider array of small outbuildings associated with the property to meet the needs of its occupants, which affects the integrity of its occupational setting. Because of the loss of integrity of materials and workmanship, and lack of ancillary structures, the property can no longer convey its historic character and feeling. The property is associated with Alexander Campbell Brinson, who was prominent in the Bairds Creek community; however, due to the loss of integrity and ancillary structures it can no longer properly convey this. Also the fact that Alex Brinson opted to build a larger house to the west, which still stands and is identified as the “home tract,” diminishes its importance.

#### *Criterion A*

The Alex Brinson House is not recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion A (Event). To be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American prehistory or history or pattern of events or historic trends that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or a nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property’s specific association must be important as well.

The property is not associated with an important event in American prehistory or history and therefore not recommended eligible under Criterion A.

#### *Criterion B*

The Alex Brinson House is not recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion B (Person). For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person’s productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person’s historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.

Despite the association with Alexander Campbell Brinson, who appears to have played an active role in the Bairds Creek community and Pamlico County during the second half of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century, he was not necessarily of demonstrable importance based on his public service or various occupations and the property does not retain sufficient integrity to convey his importance or contributions, even at the local level. Furthermore, the house he built in 1887, and where he spent thirty-three years of his life, is still standing nearby and retains a higher level of integrity. The Alex Brinson House is therefore not recommended eligible under Criterion B with respect to reflecting his most productive years.

#### *Criterion C*

The Alex Brinson House is not recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2)

represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

The Alex Brinson House represents a common type of architecture built across much of North Carolina during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but due to its small size relatively few of them survive, often having been replaced by larger dwellings to accommodate growing families. A review of similar properties surveyed in Pamlico County in the HPOWEB database revealed at least half a dozen similar, small, one-story, three-bay, side-gabled dwellings with either shed-roofed or gable-roofed rear wings scattered across the county. They each display varying levels of integrity, due to subsequent additions or recent alterations. None of them; however, are included among the thirteen properties which are either listed in the National Register or have otherwise been determined eligible.<sup>14</sup> The nearby Wallace Roberts House (PM0249) is a similar one-story, three-bay side-gabled dwelling, although slightly wider, which appears to retain a higher level of integrity (Figure 12). Comparatively, the Alex Brinson House does not retain the integrity to embody the distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction and therefore is not recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C for architecture.

#### *Criterion D*

The Alex Brinson House is not recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion D (potential to yield information). For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history and prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.

The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design and technology and is therefore not recommended eligible under Criterion D.

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<sup>14</sup> One property in Pamlico County is listed in the National Register, five were determined eligible as part of a Section 106 Review (DOE), and seven are listed on the Study List (SL).



Figure 12: Wallace Roberts House (PM0249), Looking Northeast.

Resource Name:	George R. Brinson House
NCDOT Survey Site Number:	2
HPO Survey Site Number:	PM0258
Location:	8780 Neuse Road (SR 1005), Pamlico County
Parcel ID:	6447144390000
Dates(s) of Construction:	ca. 1893
Recommendation:	Not Eligible for the National Register



Figure 13: George R. Brinson (# 2), Looking Southwest.

### Setting

The George R. Brinson House is located on the south side of Neuse Road (SR 1005) between Howell Road and Cedar Gut. The house sits approximately 50 feet back from the road and is surrounded by a wooded area to the west which separates it from Cedar Gut and agricultural fields to the east extending up to Howell Road. The house itself is surrounded by several mature trees (Figures 13 and 14).

### Property Description

#### *Exterior*

Built around 1893, the George R. Brinson House is a so-called story-and-a-half, or one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled frame dwelling, with a one-story gable-roofed kitchen wing on its

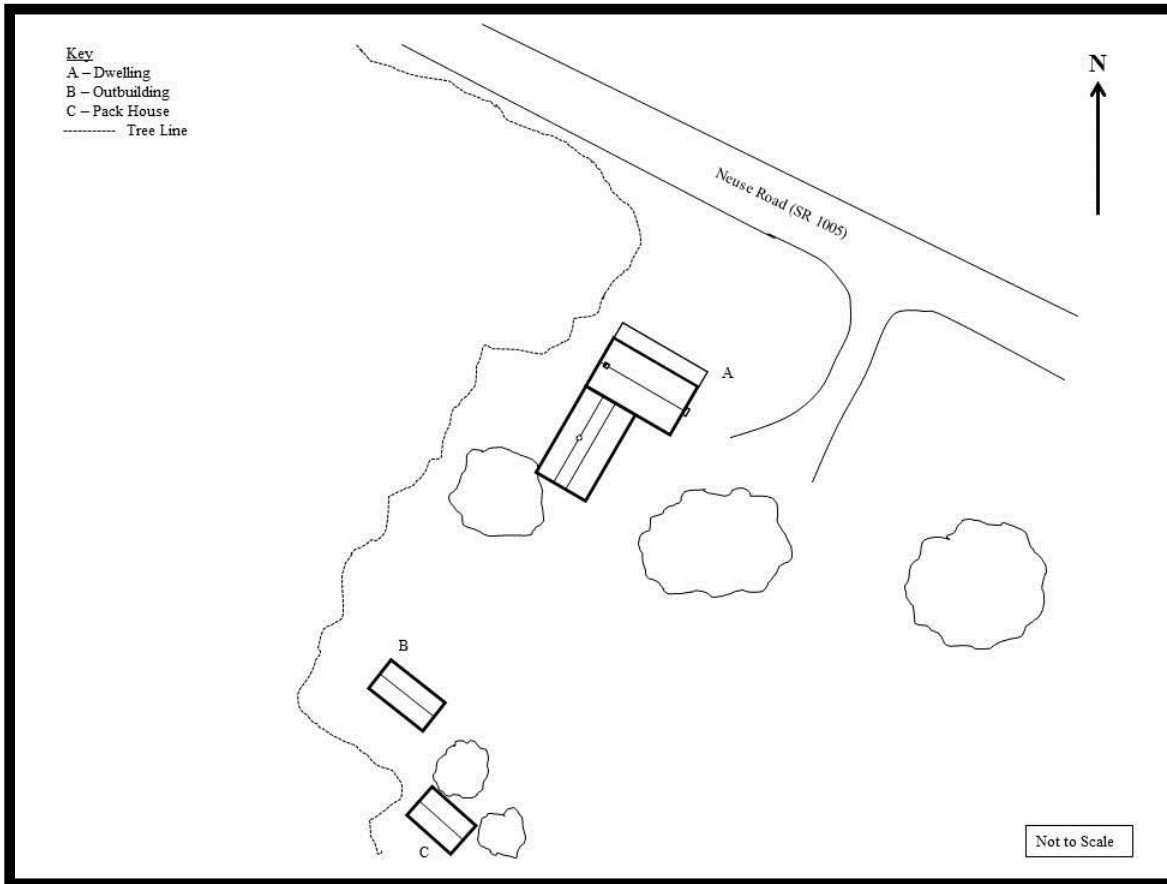


Figure 14: Sketch Map of the George R. Brinson House (# 2).

southwest (rear) elevation, giving the dwelling an L-shaped footprint.<sup>15</sup> A one-story, shed-roofed porch, supported by turned posts, shelters the three bays on the northeast (front) elevation of the building. The main section of the dwelling has a single-shouldered brick chimney on the southeast gable end, and an interior brick flue at the northwest gable end. There is evidence for a central flue on the rear wing, and an integral shed-roofed porch with two enclosed sections runs along the southeast elevation of the rear wing. The building is clad in plain weatherboard siding with simple corner boards, it has a combination of one-over-one, and six-over-six vinyl sash replacement windows, and a corrugated-metal roof on the front section of the dwelling and a 5V-crimp-metal roof on the rear wing. The foundation is covered with metal siding (Figures 15 and 16).

<sup>15</sup> According to the Pamlico County survey, the house was built around 1890, at which time George Brinson would have been 26 or 27. The 1890 census records for Pamlico County no longer survive, which makes it hard to ascertain where he was living at the time. George Brinson got married in 1893, and he could have built the house shortly before or after this event. The style of house, an unadorned story-and-a-half side-gabled dwelling with a one-story kitchen wing, was common for the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and it was not possible to determine the date of the dwelling on visible diagnostic elements, such as original windows, or nails and other hardware. See Angela Barnett, *Pamlico County Imagery, An Architectural Survey*, The Pamlico County Historical Association, 1979, p. 109.



Figure 15: George R. Brinson House (# 2), Looking Southeast.



Figure 16: George R. Brinson House (# 2), Looking Northwest.

*Interior*

The surveyor did not obtain access to the interior of the property at the time of the survey.

*Outbuildings*

Located southwest of the dwelling is a one-story, side-gabled frame outbuilding (ca. 1960), which sits on a concrete-block foundation and has a 5V-crimp-metal roof and siding (Figure 17). Located to the southeast is a deteriorated front-gabled, two-story frame pack house (ca. 1900) (Figure 18).



Figure 17: George R. Brinson House (# 2), Outbuilding Looking Southeast.



Figure 18: George R. Brinson House (# 2), Pack House Looking West.

### **Historical Background**

The property was originally part of the estate of George Robert Brinson, the sixth child of Benjamin Franklin Brinson and Julia F. Bennett, and the second brother of Alexander Campbell Brinson.<sup>16</sup> The 1900 census lists George Brinson as a farmer, living with his wife Alice V. Brinson and their four young children.<sup>17</sup> George and Alice were married in 1893.<sup>18</sup> In 1910, his profession is listed as Sheriff of Pamlico County, but in the following two censuses he returns to being a (general) farmer.<sup>19</sup> In the decades leading up to the twentieth century, corn and cotton were the largest crops in Pamlico County, followed by hay and sorghum for forage, and potatoes and sweet potatoes.<sup>20</sup> In 1932, George Brinson's estate is divided among his children, and his third daughter Minnie Brinson Bell inherits the approximately 37 acres on which the house sits. Upon her death, the property was divided among her children, and her youngest son David G. Bell obtained the interest from his siblings in 1968.<sup>21</sup> The land is currently owned by David Bell's widow and their son.<sup>22</sup>

### **National Register Criteria Evaluation**

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the George R. Brinson House is not recommended eligible for the NRHP.

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<sup>16</sup> Ancestry.com 2015b.

<sup>17</sup> Ancestry.com 2015d.

<sup>18</sup> Ancestry.com 2015h.

<sup>19</sup> Ancestry.com 2015e, f, and g.

<sup>20</sup> John T. Miller and Arthur E. Taylor, *Soil Survey for Pamlico County, North Carolina*, Washington, D.C., United States Department of Agriculture, 1937, 4-6.

<sup>21</sup> Pamlico County Deed Book 149, page 591, 1968.

<sup>22</sup> Pamlico County Deed Book 377, page 48, 2002.



### *Integrity*

The George R. Brinson House remains in its original location and retains much of its natural setting with its surroundings still being predominantly rural, as woodlands and agricultural fields border it. The design of the dwelling is reflective of late nineteenth to early twentieth-century architectural practices and styles; however, the use of vinyl replacement windows has affected the integrity and original workmanship. Only two outbuildings survive, a small barn and a pack house, but it can be assumed that there originally was a wider array of outbuildings associated with the operations of a man making a living as a general farmer. Because of the loss of integrity of materials and workmanship, and lack of ancillary structures, and despite integrity of the location and setting, the property can no longer convey its original feeling and historic character. The complex is associated with farming practices in Pamlico County during the turn of the twentieth century, but due to the loss of outbuildings it can no longer properly convey this.

### *Criterion A*

The George R. Brinson House is not recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion A (Event). To be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American prehistory or history or pattern of events or historic trends that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or a nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.

Since its early settlement, agriculture played an important role in Pamlico County. The initial settlers practiced a system of self-sufficient agriculture producing wheat, oats, rye, corn, cotton, peas, and rice as well raising cattle, hogs and sheep. In the decades leading up to the twentieth century, corn and cotton were the largest crops in Pamlico County, followed by hay and sorghum for forage, and potatoes and sweet potatoes. From 1879 until 1934 corn was the most extensively grown crop, followed by cotton, although the latter saw a sharp decline after 1919. In 1899, only 43 acres in the county were dedicated to the production of tobacco. This number increased exponentially to 482 acres by 1919, and almost doubled by the following decade. According to the 1890 census records, the average size of farms in Pamlico County was 122 acres, with the largest number of farms being between 50 and 99 acres.<sup>23</sup> This number decreased steadily over the next several decades as the number of smaller farms increased. By 1934, the average farm size was 82.3 acres, of which only 31.8 were improved. Most farms ranged in size between 20 and 90 acres and only a few were larger than 174 acres. Most of the farms did not consist of continuous tracts. Of the approximately 1,077 farms recorded in the county in 1935, 77.1 percent were operated by owners, 22.5 percent by tenants, and 0.4 percent by managers.<sup>24</sup> Most of the land was rented on a share basis, with the landlord providing the work animals, tools, seed, and land in return for half of the crop. The cost of fertilizer was shared by the landlord and the tenant. If the tenant provided most of the needed materials he received two-thirds of the crops. Very little land was rented on a cash basis and the price for an acre of land ranged between \$1.50 and \$10 depending on the location and condition of the land. Most of the farmhouses were large and well kept, whereas many of the tenant houses were small and unpainted. The barns and outbuildings were usually small and unpainted but sufficient to take

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<sup>23</sup> Historical Census Browser 2015.

<sup>24</sup> Miller and Taylor, p. 6.

care of the livestock and other needs.<sup>25</sup> It is not known what kind of crops George Brinson grew, but the twentieth century general census records indicated that he was operating a general farm, which suggests that he was growing a variety of crops, none of which made up more than 40 percent of the total value of the crops on the farm. The U.S. government did an agricultural census from 1820 to 1910; however, only the 1840 to 1880 records survive which precede his farming years.<sup>26</sup> The George R. Brinson House is associated with the context of agriculture in Pamlico County from the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth century; however, due to the loss of the original outbuildings it can no longer convey this and is therefore not recommended eligible under Criterion A.

### *Criterion B*

The George R. Brinson House is not recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion B (Person). For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.

Despite the association with George Robert Brinson, who like other members of the Brinson family played an active role in the community, even serving as County Sheriff for a time, he was not necessarily of demonstrable importance based on his public service or occupation as a general farmer. The property would also not retain sufficient integrity to convey any importance or contributions, even at the local level.<sup>27</sup> The George R. Brinson House is therefore not recommended eligible under Criterion B

### *Criterion C*

The George R. Brinson House is not recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

The George R. Brinson House represents a common house type built across much of North Carolina during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A review of similar properties surveyed in Pamlico County in the HPOWEB database revealed several other story-and-a-jump dwellings built across the county. None of them, however, are included among the thirteen properties which are either listed in the National Register or have otherwise been determined

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<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> North Carolina Agriculture, State Library of North Carolina. Electronic document, <http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ghl/themes/may.html>, accessed August 18, 2015.

<sup>27</sup> It is not clear how long he filled this position, but the Annual Report of the Auditor of the State of North Carolina, for 1908, lists George R. Brinson as the Pamlico County Sheriff (p 132), as does the 1910 U.S. Census.

eligible.<sup>28</sup> Located in the northeast corner of the county is Harvey Dunn House (PM0334), a similar story-and-a-jump dwelling although heavily dilapidated (Figure 19). A well-preserved example of a story-and-a-jump dwelling can be found in New Bern: the George N. Ives Rental House (CV1531), which was an important part of Beard's Creek Landing's economic network (Figure 20). Several story-and-a-jump dwellings are also located in the eastern part of the county near Hobucken and Lowland, such as the Noah Ireland House (PM0397) and the Buell T. Potter House (PM0419), the latter of which appears to retain both its original siding and windows (Figure 21). The George R. Brinson House retains a fair level of integrity despite the use of vinyl replacement windows; however, it compares less favorably with some of the examples cited above and generally lacks significance. It therefore is not recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C for architecture.

#### *Criterion D*

The George R. Brinson House is not recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion D (potential to yield information). For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history and prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.

The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design and technology and is therefore not recommended eligible under Criterion D.



Figure 19: Harvey Dunn House (PM0334), Looking Northwest.

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<sup>28</sup> One property in Pamlico County is listed in the National Register, five were determined eligible as part of a Section 106 Review (DOE), and seven are listed on the Study List (SL).



Figure 20: George N. Ives Rental House (CV1531), Looking Southwest.



Figure 21: Buell T. Potter House (PM0419), Looking Northeast.

Resource Name:	Levin Paul House
NCDOT Survey Site Number:	3
HPO Survey Site Number:	PM0259
Location:	8859 Neuse Road (SR 1005), Pamlico County
Parcel ID:	6447257486000
Dates(s) of Construction:	ca. 1900
Recommendation:	Not Eligible for the National Register



Figure 22: Levin Paul House (# 3), Looking Northwest.

**Setting**

The Levin Paul House is located on the north side of Neuse Road (SR 1005) approximately 100 feet west of the intersection with Howell Road. The house sits approximately 80 feet back from the road and is surrounded by a wooded area to the west which separates it from Cedar Gut and agricultural fields to the east. The house itself is surrounded by several mature trees (Figures 22 and 23).

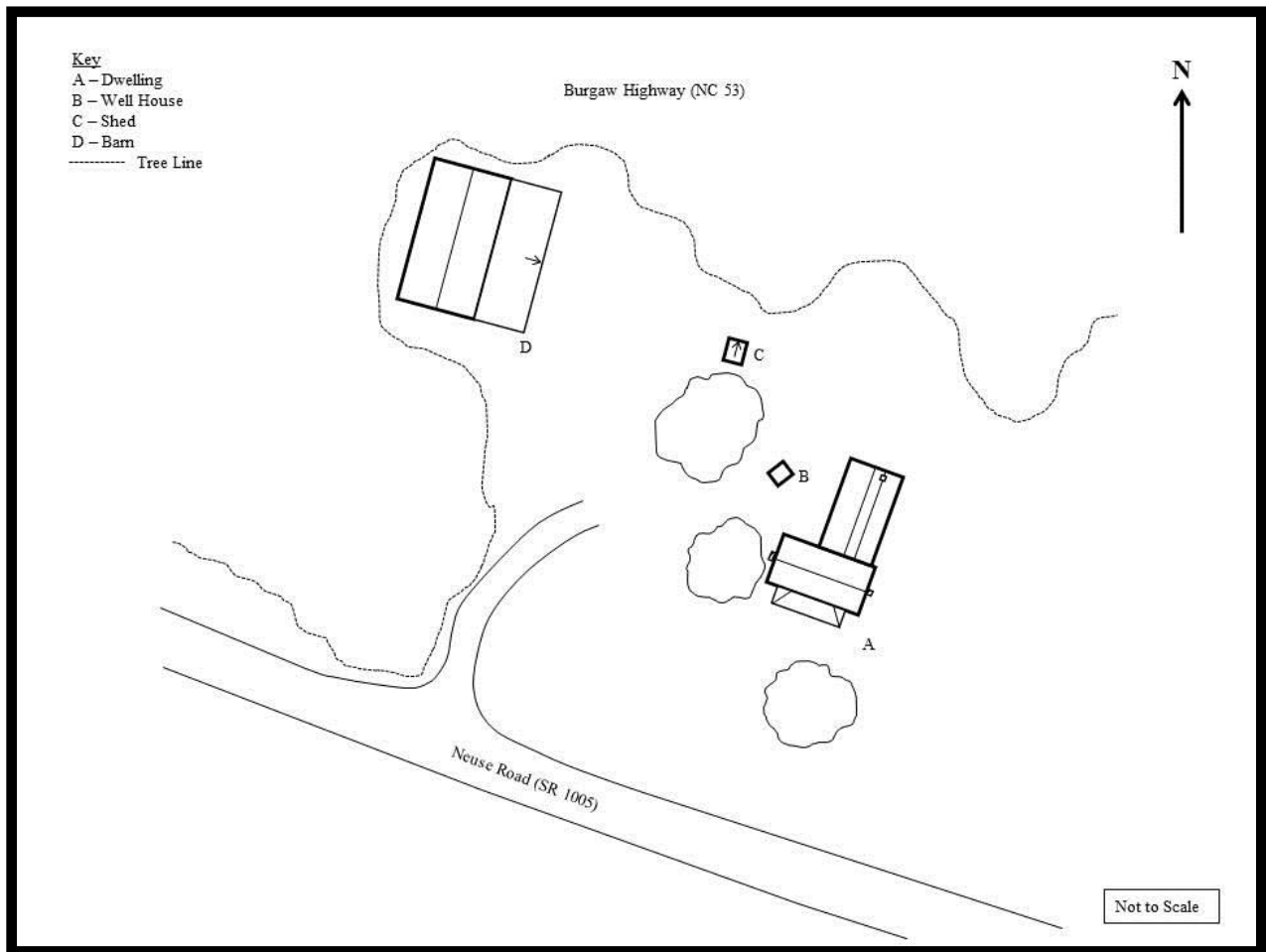


Figure 23: Sketch Map of the Levin Paul House (# 3).

## Property Description

### *Exterior*

Built around 1900, the dwelling is a typical example of a so-called I-house (i.e. a two-story, single-pile dwelling). A hip-roofed porch, supported by chamfered posts, shelters the three bays on the southwest (front) elevation of the dwelling. A contemporaneous one-story, gable-roofed wing extends off the northeast (rear) elevation of the main block, giving the dwelling an L-shaped footprint. Located against the northwest gable end is a single-shouldered brick chimney, and a brick flue is located against the southeast gable end. A second brick flue pierces the ridge of the kitchen wing at the northeast gable end. Originally, an integral shed-roofed porch ran along the northwest elevation of the kitchen wing, with a shed pantry at the northeast gable end, but the current occupant is enclosing the porch with particle board and will ultimately clad it in vinyl siding. The original sections of the building are clad in plain weatherboard with simple corner boards and a box cornice with returns in the gable ends of the two-story block. A distinct decorative feature is the narrow wainscot and diagonal boards, which create V-shape that are located between the entry door and the windows on the front elevation of the dwelling (Figures 24 through 27). The building sits on brick piers, has a metal roof, and a combination of the



Figure 24: Levin Paul House (# 3), Looking Northeast.



Figure 25: Levin Paul House (# 3), Looking Southeast.



Figure 26: Levin Paul House (# 3), View of Sheathing on Southwest (front) Elevation.



Figure 27: Levin Paul House (# 3), Detail of Sheathing on Southwest (front) Elevation.



original two-over-two wooden sash windows on the main block, six-over-six wooden sash windows on the rear wing, and horizontal two-over-two wooden sash replacement windows on both the main block and the wing.

### *Interior*

The main section of the house has a central stair passage with a single room (hall and parlor) on either side. The hearth on the parlor is blocked, but the mantel with raised panels survives, and the walls are covered in lath and plaster (Figure 28). A stove heated the hall, which was connected to the kitchen wing. The kitchen wing is currently being remodeled and all of the original partition walls have been removed creating a single open space, with the walls and ceilings clad in narrow beaded boards. The stair leading to the second floor has a simple chamfered newel post and plain square balusters (Figure 29). Originally, the second floor was divided into a stair landing with a room on either side, but the partition wall of the eastern room was removed creating a two-room plan. The walls and ceilings are clad in narrow beaded boards (Figure 30).

### *Outbuildings*

Located around the house are three ancillary structures: a concrete-block well (ca. 1980) with a plywood cover, a small shed-roofed outbuilding clad in vertical composition-board siding (ca. 1970), and a side-gabled barn (ca. 1930) with a deep open-shed addition off the southeast (front) elevation. The barn is clad in asphalt siding, has a metal roof, and sits on concrete-block piers (Figures 31 through 33).

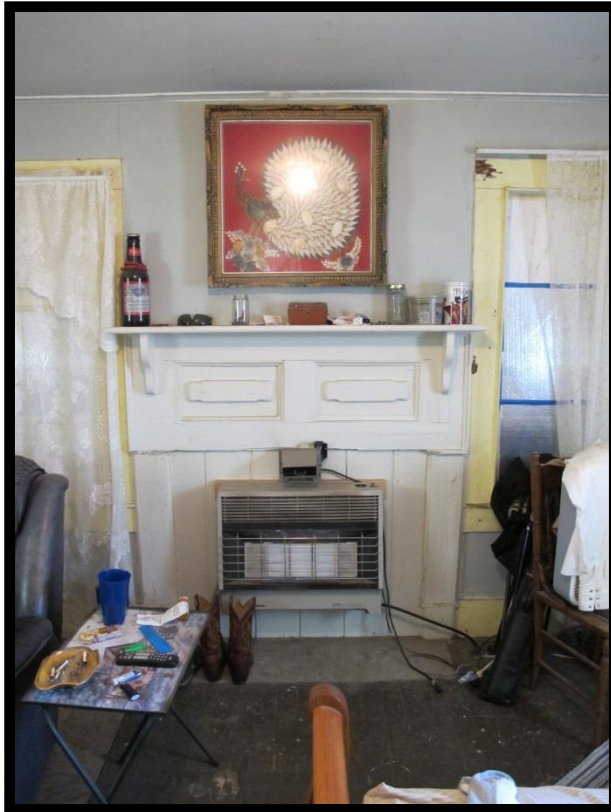


Figure 28: Levin Paul House (# 12), Interior, Parlor Mantle.

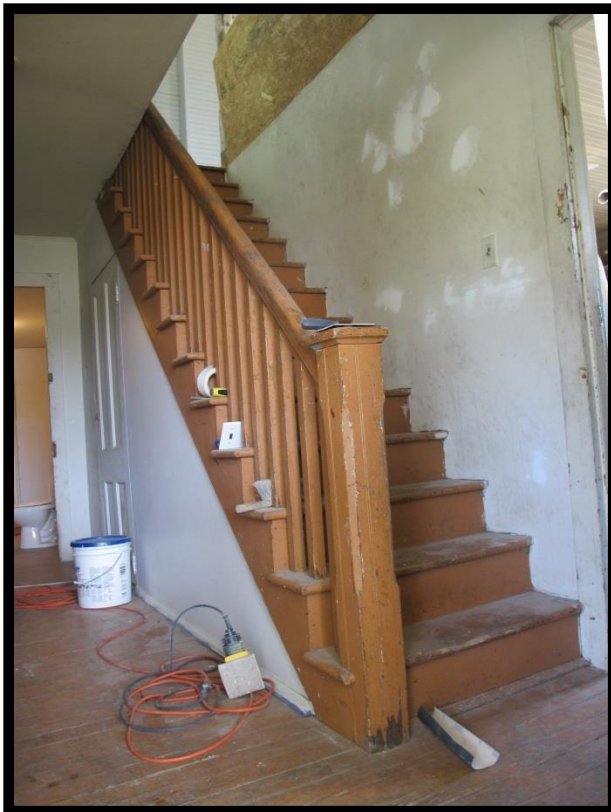


Figure 29: Levin Paul House (# 12), Interior, Stair.



Figure 30: Levin Paul House (# 12), Interior, Second Floor, Looking East.



Figure 31: Levin Paul House (# 12), Well, Looking North.



Figure 32: Levin Paul House (# 3), Shed, Looking Northwest.



Figure 33: Levin Paul House (# 3), Barn, Looking Northwest.

## Historical Background

In 1976 the tract of land on which the Levin Paul House stands was identified as the “Levin Paul Tract.”<sup>29</sup> The 48.4-acre tract was part of a much larger estate, with an additional 168-acre parcel located farther southwest along Cedar Gut and Beard’s Creek. Levin Zacheus Paul obtained part of the property (2.2 acres) in 1923 from Milton Dewitt Brinson and in 1924 an additional 25 acres from Minnie Brinson Bell.<sup>30</sup> M. Dewitt Brinson in turn received the property through the division of his father, Alexander Campbell Brinson’s estate where it was identified as lot No. 16, and Minnie B. Bell from her father, George Robert Brinson (Figure 34). According to the 1900 Census, Levin was living next to George R. Brinson (see # 2) with his wife and daughter, and his profession was given as farmer.<sup>31</sup> In the decades leading up to the twentieth century, corn and cotton were the largest crops in Pamlico County, followed by hay and sorghum for forage, and potatoes and sweet potatoes.<sup>32</sup> The 1920 Census has Levin still living next to George Brinson, and this time their “place of abode” was specified as Neuse Road.<sup>33</sup> By 1940 Levin was listed as living on Beard’s Creek Road as the neighbor of Alice Brinson, the widow of George, and her daughter, Minnie Brinson Bell, and granddaughter.<sup>34</sup> Levin Z. Paul married Lillie Florence Price in 1898, and may have built the house on land that was initially owned by members of the Brinson family.<sup>35</sup>

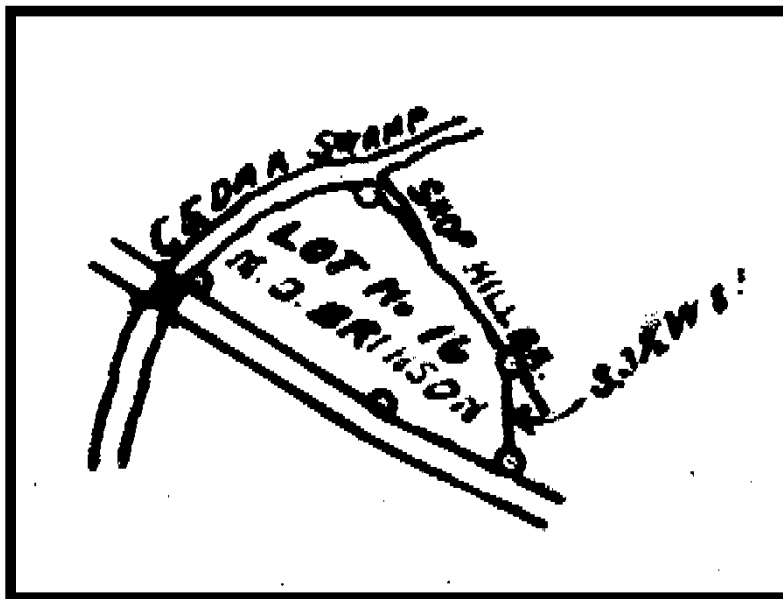


Figure 34: Detail of the Division of Lands of A. C. Brinson, showing M. D. Brinson’s lot (Pamlico County plat PC 1 SL 1-4, 1920).

<sup>29</sup> Pamlico County Map Book 7, page 96 (1976).

<sup>30</sup> Pamlico County Deed Book 79, page 378 (1923), and Book 80, page 210 (1924).

<sup>31</sup> Ancestry.com 2015d.

<sup>32</sup> John T. Miller and Arthur E. Taylor, *Soil Survey for Pamlico County, North Carolina*, Washington, D.C., United States Department of Agriculture, 1937, 4-6.

<sup>33</sup> Ancestry.com 2015f.

<sup>34</sup> Ancestry.com 2015i. The granddaughter is actually a grandson, by the name of Braxton, and he is listed as a farmer.

<sup>35</sup> Ancestry.com 2015i. Genealogical research has not revealed if there was a family connection between the Paul or Price families and the Brinson family.

## National Register Criteria Evaluation

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the Levin Paul House (# 3) is not recommended eligible for the NRHP.

### *Integrity*

The Levin Paul House remains in its original location and retains much of its natural setting with its surroundings still being predominantly rural, as woodlands and agricultural fields border it. The design of the dwelling is reflective of the late nineteenth to early twentieth-century architectural practices and styles, and it retains a large number of original features, although the current occupant is renovating the house, and some features have already disappeared or will disappear shortly.<sup>36</sup> Only two outbuildings survive, a small shed and the barn of which the latter is perhaps the only historic one, but it can be assumed that there originally there may have been a wider array of outbuildings associated with the operations of a general farmer. Despite the integrity of materials, workmanship, location, and setting, the property can no longer convey its original feeling and historic character. The complex is associated with typical farming practices in Pamlico County during the first half of the twentieth century; however, due to the loss of outbuildings it can no longer properly convey this.

### *Criterion A*

The Levin Paul House is not recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion A (Event). To be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American prehistory or history or pattern of events or historic trends that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or a nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.

Since its early settlement, agriculture played an important role in Pamlico County. The initial settlers practiced a system of self-sufficient agriculture producing wheat, oats, rye, corn, cotton, peas, and rice as well raising cattle, hogs and sheep. In the decades leading up to the twentieth century, corn and cotton were the largest crops in Pamlico County, followed by hay and sorghum for forage, and potatoes and sweet potatoes. From 1879 until 1934 corn was the most extensively grown crop, followed by cotton, although the latter saw a sharp decline after 1919. In 1899, only 43 acres in the county were dedicated to the production of tobacco. This number increased exponentially to 482 acres by 1919, and almost doubled by the following decade. According to the 1890 census records, the average size of farms in Pamlico County was 122 acres, with the largest number of farms being between 50 and 99 acres.<sup>37</sup> This number decreased steadily over the next several decades as the number of smaller farms increased. By 1934, the average farm size was 82.3 acres, of which only 31.8 were improved. Most farms ranged in size between 20 and 90 acres and only a few were larger than 174 acres. Most of the farms did not consist of continuous tracts. Of the approximately 1,077 farms recorded in the county in 1935, 77.1 percent were operated by owners, 22.5 percent by tenants, and 0.4 percent by managers.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Personal communication with the current renter who was in the process of renovating the dwelling. He was enclosing the shed-roofed porch on the rear wing with particleboard and plans to cover it with vinyl siding.

<sup>37</sup> Historical Census Browser 2015.

<sup>38</sup> Miller and Taylor, p. 6.

Most of the land was rented on a share basis, with the landlord providing the work animals, tools, seed, and land in return for half of the crop. The cost of fertilizer was shared by the landlord and the tenant. If the tenant provided most of the needed materials he received two-thirds of the crops. Very little land was rented on a cash basis and the price for an acre of land ranged between \$1.50 and \$10 depending on the location and condition of the land. Most of the farmhouses were large and well kept, whereas many of the tenant houses were small and unpainted. The barns and outbuildings were usually small and unpainted but sufficient to take care of the livestock and other needs.<sup>39</sup> It is not known what kind of crops Levin Paul grew, but the twentieth century general census records indicated that he was operating a general farm, which suggests that he was growing a variety of crops, none of which made up more than 40 percent of the total value of the crops on the farm. The U.S. government did an agricultural census from 1820 to 1910; however, only the 1840 to 1880 records survive which precede his farming years.<sup>40</sup> The Levin Paul House is associated with the context of agriculture in Pamlico County from the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, however, due to the loss of the original outbuildings it can no longer convey this and therefore not recommended eligible under Criterion A.

#### *Criterion B*

The Levin Paul House is not recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion B (Person). For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.

The land on which the house stands is associated with members of the Brinson family who played an active role in the community. However, based on the census records and the approximate construction date of the dwelling Levin Paul may have built the house and occupied the land before gaining ownership. Although he can be identified as having the occupation of farmer, Paul does not appear to have been of demonstrable importance at the local level or higher and the property does not retain sufficient integrity to convey his importance or contributions, even at the local level.<sup>41</sup> The Levin Paul House is therefore not recommended eligible under Criterion B.

#### *Criterion C*

The Levin Paul House is not recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2)

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<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> North Carolina Agriculture, State Library of North Carolina. Electronic document, <http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ghl/themes/may.html>, accessed August 18, 2015.

<sup>41</sup> It is not clear how long he filled this position, but the Annual Report of the Auditor of the State of North Carolina, for 1908, lists George R. Brinson as the Pamlico County Sheriff (p 132), as does the 1910 U.S. Census.

represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

The Levin Paul House represents a common I-house form built across much of North Carolina during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A review of similar properties surveyed in Pamlico County in the HPOWEB database revealed at least half a dozen similar two-story, side-gabled dwellings with a variety of porches on the front elevation. A nearby example is the house Alexander Campbell Brinson built for himself on the west side of Beard Creek around 1887. None of these; however, are included among the thirteen properties which are either listed in the National Register or have otherwise been determined eligible.<sup>42</sup> A search for I-houses in the HPOWEB database for all of North Carolina came up 296 I-houses, 101 of which were considered eligible. Twenty-five of these are listed in the National Register and the remaining buildings were determined DOE or were placed on the Study List.<sup>43</sup> The Alexander Campbell Brinson House was recognized as a North Carolina Century Farm, for being a farm owned and operated by the same family for at least a century (see Figure 10). Other examples exist in Pamlico County of I-houses that retain a higher level integrity and also a larger number of historic outbuildings, such as the unrecorded Hunnings House (1494 NC 306 – PIN 6542408875000) (Figure 35). The Levin Paul House presently retains a fair enough level of integrity generally to embody the distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction; however, it lacks the distinction and significance of earlier and/or better preserved examples of its type and is not recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C for architecture.

#### *Criterion D*

The Levin Paul House is not recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion D (potential to yield information). For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history and prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.

The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design and technology and is therefore not recommended eligible under Criterion D.

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<sup>42</sup> One property in Pamlico County is listed in the National Register, five were determined eligible as part of a Section 106 Review (DOE), and seven are listed on the Study List (SL).

<sup>43</sup> A sample of the National Register listings shows that they have been considered eligible for both Criterion A and Criterion C.





Figure 35: Hunnings House, 1494 NC 306, Looking Northeast.

### **Potential Beard's (Bairds) Creek Landing Historic District**

Beard's Creek shows up as early as 1737, on Edward Moseley's map of North Carolina, and local lore has associated it with the infamous pirate Blackbeard (Figure 36).<sup>44</sup> A more likely connection is with James Beard, one of the early eighteenth-century landowners in the area.<sup>45</sup> In the 1800s, a community known as Bairds Creek formed where the road between Oriental, located to the east on Smith's Creek, and New Bern crossed the creek (Figure 37). Bairds Creek quickly became a hive of activity and boasted both a sawmill and a cotton gin, as well as a regular boat service to New Bern. The Bairds Creek post office was opened in 1879 and is said to have been one of the earliest post offices in Pamlico County. The postmaster was Alexander C. Brinson, and it was in operation until 1914. The sawmill and cotton gin were owned by A. C. Brinson, his brother George R. Brinson, and Joseph P. Willis. These businesses were discontinued in 1904. Amity Christian Church was formed in 1884 to the west of Beard's Creek, and by 1885 it counted 65 members.<sup>46</sup> A new church was constructed in 1889, which is still standing to the northwest of the current project area along Neuse Road (SR 1005).

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<sup>44</sup> William S. Powell, *The North Carolina Gazetteer: A Dictionary of Tar Heel Places*, Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1968, p. 29.

<sup>45</sup> Joe A. Mobley, *Pamlico County: A Brief History*, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1991, p. 7.

<sup>46</sup> Pamlico County Historical Society, *Pamlico County: 100 Years, 1872-1972*, Morgan Printers, 1972.



Figure 36: Detail of Edward Moseley's 1737 Map of North Carolina, Showing Beard's Creek (Moseley, 1737).



Figure 37: Detail of Shaffer's 1886 Township Map of North Carolina, Showing the Beard's Creek Community (Shaffer, 1886).

The evaluated resources (the Alex Brinson House, No. 1; the George R. Brinson House, No. 2; and the Levin Paul House, No. 3) are representative of the formerly thriving Bairds Creek community. Besides these three, three additional previously recorded resources located near, or within the APEs for the current project as well as in the Bairds Creek community area (Figure 38).

### **Benjamin Brinson House (PM0254)**

#### **Setting**

The Benjamin Brinson House is located on the north side of Neuse Road (SR 1005), approximately 0.2 miles west of its crossing of Beard's Creek. The house sits approximately 100 feet back from the road and is surrounded by grass with several shrubs (Figures 39).

#### **Property Description**

Built around 1850, this one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, side-gabled vernacular dwelling has an integral shed-roofed porch, supported by plain posts, sheltering the southwest (front) elevation of the dwelling. A one-story gable-roofed wing extends off northeast (rear) elevation of the dwelling across its entire width. The building sits on a solid brick foundation, is clad in asbestos shingles, and has one-over-one vinyl sash replacement windows. The dwelling has a metal roof and a chimney/flue was removed from its southeast gable end (Figures 40 and 41).

#### **Outbuildings**

Located near the house are several outbuildings, including two chicken coops, a two-story, front-gabled pack house with a partially open shed-roofed wing off the south elevation, and two frame tobacco barns on concrete-block foundations (Figures 42 through 45).

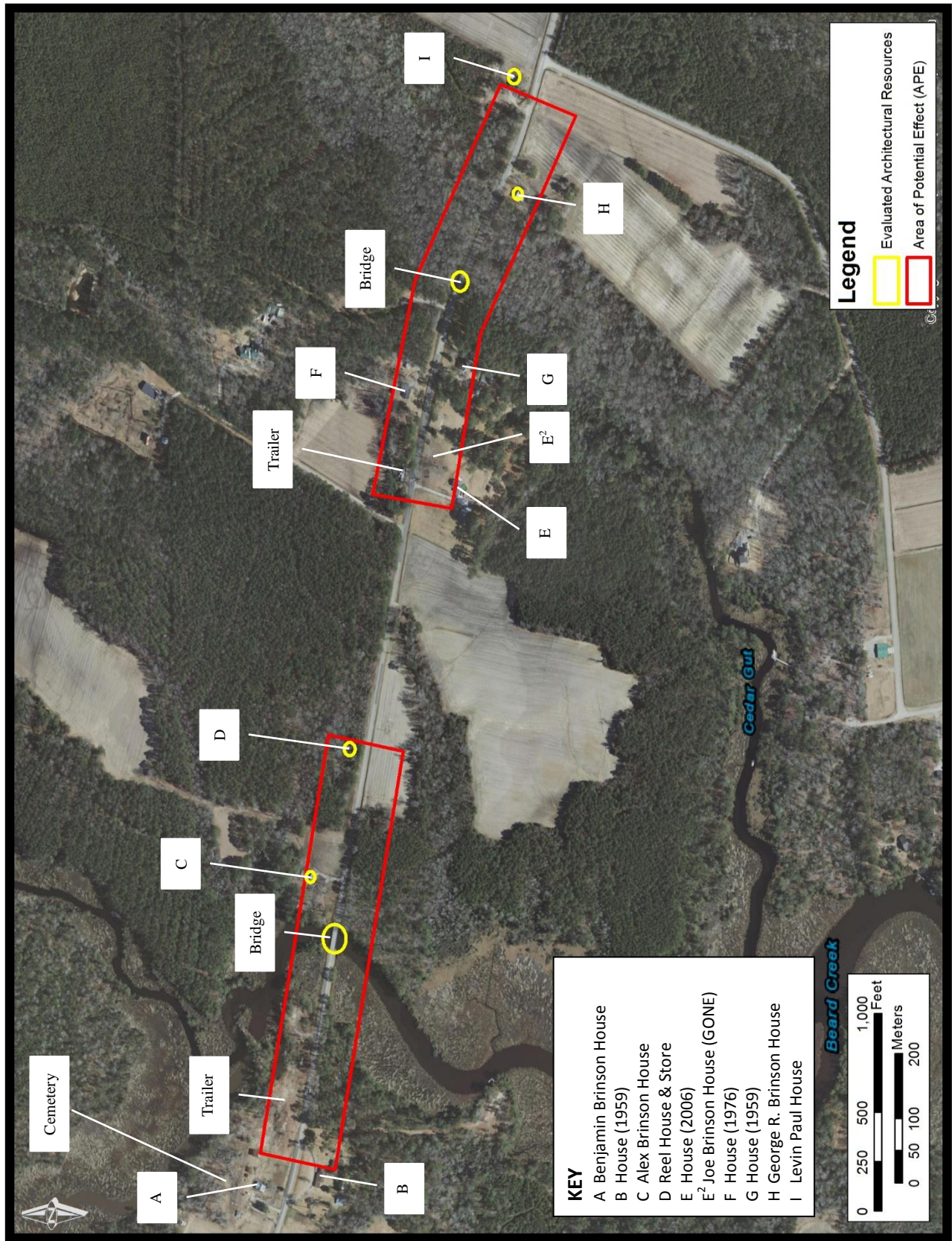


Figure 38: Location of Surveyed Resources, Shown on Aerial (B-4595 and B-4596) (ArcGIS Image Service 2015a).



Figure 39: Benjamin Brinson House (PM0254), Looking Northeast.



Figure 40: Benjamin Brinson House (PM0254), Looking Northwest.



Figure 41: Benjamin Brinson House (PM0254), Looking South.



Figure 42: Benjamin Brinson House (PM0254), Chicken Coops Looking Northeast.



Figure 43: Benjamin Brinson House (PM0254), Pack House, Looking Northeast.



Figure 44: Benjamin Brinson House (PM0254), Tobacco Barn, Looking Northwest.



Figure 45: Benjamin Brinson House (PM0254), Tobacco Barn, Looking Northeast.



Figure 46: Benjamin Brinson House (PM0254), Cemetery, Looking Northeast.



### **Cemetery**

Located to the north of the house is the Brinson Bennett family cemetery. The cemetery contains approximately forty-four burials dating from 1835 to 1963. The majority of the stones are plain with simple segmental arches and there are a few early twentieth-century obelisks. The oldest burial is that of Cason Brinson IV (1785-1835) (see Figure 46).

### **Reel House and Store (PM0256)**

#### **Setting**

The Reel House and Store are located on the north side of Neuse Road (SR 1005), approximately 0.14 miles east of its crossing of Beard's Creek. The buildings sits approximately 50 feet back from the road and are heavily overgrown and deteriorating (Figures 47 and 48).

#### **Property Description**

The property received the Reel name during the initial HPO survey. The name may be related to J. E. Reel, one of the local merchants at the time of Alexander C. Brinson. Built around 1887, the dwelling is a typical I-house with a shed-roofed porch, supported by turned posts sheltering the three-bays on the south (front) elevation of the building. A two-story wing extends off the north (rear) elevation of the main block giving the dwelling an L-shaped footprint (Figures 49 and 50). Located approximately 40 feet to the west of the house is the store, which was built around 1890. It is a two-story, front-gabled commercial building with a one-story shed-roofed wing running along the east (side) elevation of the building. The store was located on the first floor and a stair accessible from a door on the north (rear) gable end gave access to the second floor (Figures 51 and 52).

#### **Outbuildings**

Located around the house are three ancillary structures; a front-gabled concrete-block well house, a shed-roofed chicken coop and a collapsed barn (Figures 53 through 55).



Figure 47: Reel House (PM0256), Looking Northeast.



Figure 48: Reel Store (PM0256), Looking Northwest.



Figure 49: Reel House (PM0256), Front Elevation, Looking Northeast.



Figure 50: Reel House (PM0256), Rear Wing, Looking Northeast.



Figure 51: Reel Store (PM0256), Rear Gable End, Looking Southwest.



Figure 52: Reel Store (PM0256), Interior, Looking Northeast.



Figure 53: Reel House and Store (PM0256), Well House, Looking Northwest.



Figure 54: Reel House and Store (PM0256), Chicken Coop, Looking Northeast.



Figure 55: Reel House and Store (PM0256), Barn, Looking Northeast.

### **Joe Brinson House (PM0257)**

#### **Setting**

The Joe Brinson House was located on the south side of Neuse Road (SR 1005), approximately 0.14 miles west of its crossing of Cedar Gut.

#### **Property Description**

Built around 1890, the building was a two-story, four-bay, side-gabled dwelling with a one-story shed-roofed porch on the northwest (front) elevation.<sup>47</sup> The building is no longer extant (Figure 56).

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<sup>47</sup> Barnett, p. 108.



Figure 56: Joe Brinson House (PM0256), Former Site, Looking Southeast.

### **Additional Resources**

Besides the intensely evaluated properties and three additional previously recorded historic properties, there are half a dozen other buildings located in or near the two APEs.

Located across from the Benjamin Brinson House on the south side of Neuse Road (SR 1005) is a side-gabled, Ranch-style dwelling (B), built around 1959, with a semi-detached front-gabled two-car carport on the west side of the house (Figure 57). Located to the southeast of the Benjamin Brinson House is a trailer home (Figure 58).

Located just southwest of where the Joe Brinson House (PM0257) used to stand is a modern one-story, side-gabled dwelling (E) on a raised foundation with a double front-gabled bay on the northeast (front) elevation, built around 2006 (Figure 59). On the north side of Neuse Road (SR 1005), northwest of where the Joe Brinson House stood, is a trailer home (Figure 60). Located to the east, approximately 400 feet west of Cedar Gut are a side-gabled Ranch-style dwelling (F), built around 1976, with an integral carport on the southwest gable end (Figure 61), and a hip-roofed Ranch-style dwelling (G) clad in asbestos shingles, built around 1959 (Figure 62).



Figure 57: House (B), Looking South.



Figure 58: Trailer Home, Looking Northeast.





Figure 59: House (E), Looking Southwest.



Figure 60: Trailer Home, Looking Northeast.



Figure 61: House (F), Looking Northwest.



Figure 62: House (G), Looking Southeast.

## Discussion

The community that evolved in the nineteenth century around the crossing at Beard's Creek has seen numerous changes, which have diminished the potential for a historic district (Figure 63). Whereas the landscape remains predominantly unaltered, the built environment has suffered due to both alteration and loss. The previously recorded historic houses in the APEs are without a doubt associated with the Bairds Creek community, and the majority has a connection with members of the Brinson family, who owned large tracts of land surrounding the creek and played active roles in the community and the county. However, the buildings retain insufficient integrity, and the loss of historic outbuildings prevents them from conveying their individual historic character or association and that of the community as a whole. Furthermore, a large section of the commercial infrastructure associated with the community no longer survives, with the exception of the Reel Store, which is in poor condition. Based on the historic record the community migrated to the northwest of the creek towards the end of the nineteenth century, with A. C. Brinson building his new house 0.7 miles northwest of the creek and a church being constructed 1.1 miles northwest of the creek. A review of the HPOWEB database revealed that several similar crossroads, landings, and small rural historic districts have been placed on the Study List (SL), Determined Eligible (DOE), or listed in the National Register (NR). These include Clark's Creek Rural Historic District (WA0759, DOE 2015); Clear Run, a 1898 house with a river landing complex (SP0616, NR 1986); Hopkins Crossroads (WA1878, SL 1991); and Story Family Farm and Cemetery (Story's Crossroads Historic District) (GA0388, SL 1988, DOE 2006). Similar to the Bairds Creek community, Clear Run had a connection with both the land and the water; however, the latter is eligible under criteria A, B, and C for not only the role it played in the development of county and the community (A), but also the importance of its owner and developer (B) and for its large number of buildings representative of the architectural styles of Sampson County from the 1830s until the early twentieth century (C). Story's Crossroads Historic District, which has a period of significance from the 1880s to the first half of the twentieth century, is similar to the Bairds Creek community because of the important role played by a single family. Story's Crossroads, which is eligible under Criterion A, retains a higher level of integrity and is a better illustration of a crossroads community, as it provided a social, commercial, and industrial focus for the surrounding agricultural area, which characterized Gates County. Furthermore, the main farm retains a larger number of exceptional outbuildings, which is not only remarkable for Gates County, but for the region and the state. In contrast to these comparable properties, because of the loss of resources and materials and the subsequent infill, the Bairds Creek community no longer contains a cohesive collection of buildings to distinguish it as a late nineteenth to early twentieth century community. It is therefore recommended that a historic district meeting the criteria of eligibility for the National Register is not present in the APEs for the bridge replacement projects.

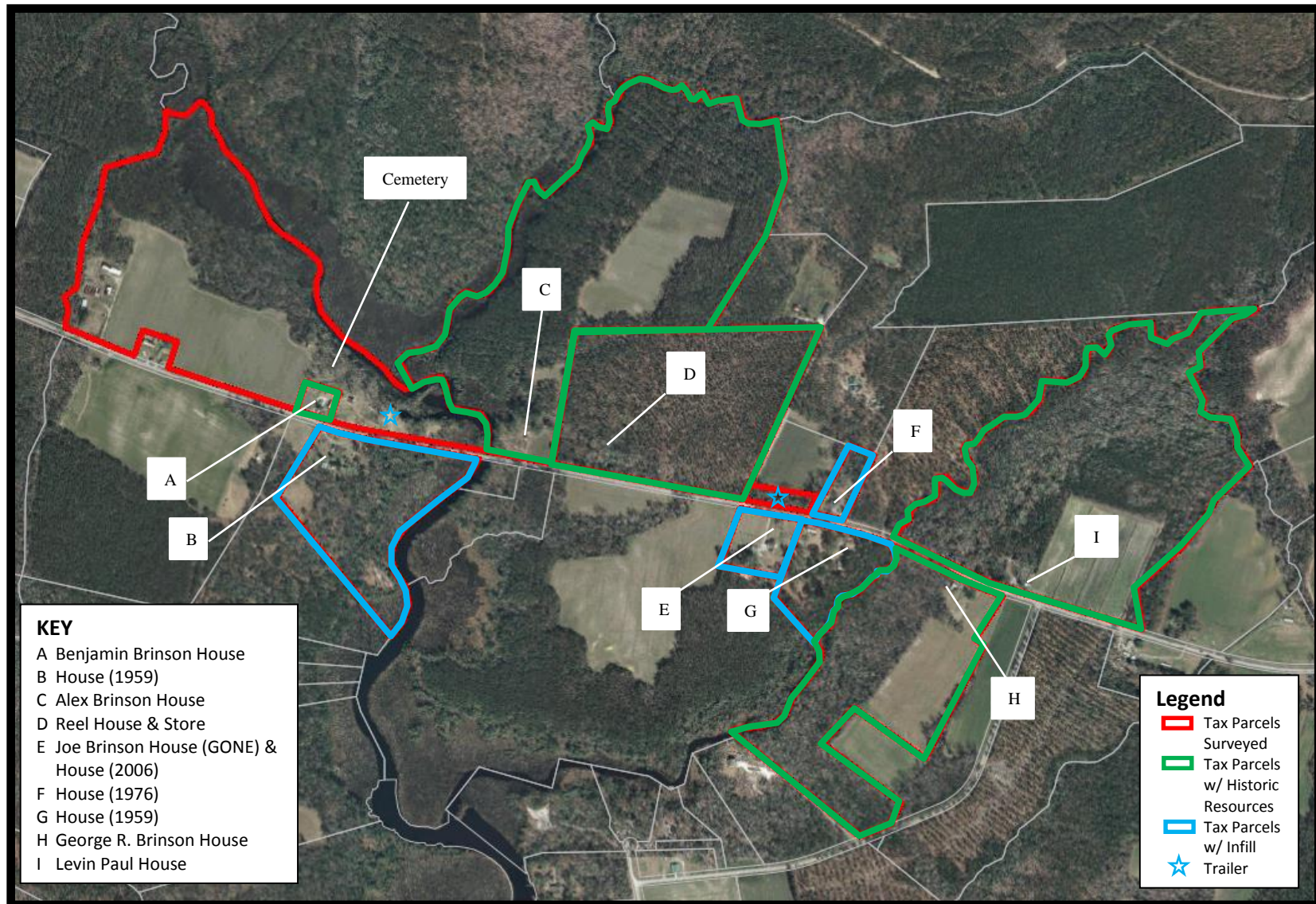


Figure 63: Tax Parcels of Recorded Architectural Resources, Shown on Aerial (B-4595 and B-4596) (Pamlico County GIS 2015).

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**APPENDIX A**

**QUALIFICATIONS**



## **Jeroen van den Hurk, Ph.D.**

## **Architectural Historian**

### **Address**

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### **Education**

Ph.D., Art History (American Art and  
Architectural History),  
University of Delaware, 2006

M.A., Architectural History,  
Utrecht University, the Netherlands, 1994

### **Professional Societies**

Member Society of Architectural Historians

Vernacular Architecture Forum  
(Board Member)

Member National Trust for Historic  
Preservation

### **Professional Experience**

Dr. Van den Hurk received his M.A. in architectural history from Utrecht University in the Netherlands. He graduated from the University of Delaware in 2006 with a Ph.D. in American Art and Architectural History. His dissertation, "Imagining New Netherland: Origins and Survival of Netherlandic Architecture in Old New York," focuses on the architecture of New Netherland, providing an analysis of the historical documents referring to the built environment and the surviving architecture, as well as a comparative study of contemporary seventeenth-century Dutch architecture. He has eighteen years of experience documenting historic buildings, including work in the Netherlands and twelve years in the United States (in Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Virginia, and North Carolina).

From 2006 to 2007, he was a Limited Term Researcher at the Center for Historic Architecture and Design at the University of Delaware, in charge of project management for the Delaware Agricultural Landscapes Evaluation and a cultural resources survey of Cape May Point, New Jersey, among other tasks.

From 2007 to 2010, he was a Lecturer at the College of Design, Department of Historic Preservation at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. There he taught both historic preservation and architectural history classes.

As principal architectural historian for CCR, he has completed numerous surveys for transportation projects including VDOT identification surveys for the I-73 Henry County Alternative, the extension of Odd Fellows Road in Lynchburg, the Coalfields Expressway project southwestern Virginia, and the US 501 bridge replacement in Amherst and Bedford Counties. In North Carolina he has completed an NCDOT survey and evaluation for the NC 87 widening project in Bladen and Columbus Counties and a survey for Dare County in connection with proposed pathways for the Outer Banks Scenic Byway, as well as surveys in Cumberland and Harnett Counties for US 401 (R-2609) and Lee County for NC 42 (R-3830). Smaller transportation projects include the Carpenter Fire Station Road realignment project for the Town of Cary; a survey for improvements to Rives Road/US 301 in Petersburg, Virginia; an architectural survey for the widening of Fall Hill Avenue in Fredericksburg, Virginia; and an architectural evaluation for the City of Suffolk's US 58 widening project in Suffolk, Virginia.

Other projects include the 2010 countywide survey of Hertford County in eastern North Carolina, conducted for the North Carolina SHPO.