

# 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

December 30, 2016

**MEMORANDUM** 

TO: Megan Privett

Office of Human Environment NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley are Wledhill-Earley

**Environmental Review Coordinator** 

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report for Improvement to US 70 between SR 1921 and

west of SR 3067, U-5720, PA 16-03-0003, Durham and Wake Counties, ER 16-2191

Thank you for your letter of November 22, 2016, transmitting the above-referenced report, which staff has reviewed and provides comments as follow.

This is one of the best-written reports we have reviewed in sometime. It is clear and concise, yet with all of the required coverage. We particularly appreciate the way comparables are presented within each property discussion for the purposes of comparing and contrasting and drawing conclusions about National Register eligibility.

We concur that the following properties are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the reasons outlined.

- May House (DH2448)
- W. A. Beasley House and Store (DH2161)
- Sherron House (DH2590)
- Sherron House (DH1794)
- Biddle House (DH2176)
- Rich-Yates House (DH2635)

However, we have reservations about the evaluations for the two properties below.

Dewitt Bailey Tenant Farm (pp. 68-79): We do not believe there is enough information to determine this property's eligibility. The collection of buildings, with no associated acreage left, does not seem to be eligible under Criterion A. Making assumptions about Mr. Bailey, about whom we know very little, does not make the property eligible for its agricultural significance. Nor are we sure when the buildings were constructed. A 1930s date is likely for the house and probably the store, but the agricultural buildings could very well be earlier. While we would agree that tenant farms are rapidly disappearing, certainly in southern Durham County, we suspect there are more in the northern reaches. As a collection of buildings (house, barns, corn crib, store), the property is more likely eligible under Criterion C, even though the store probably has been moved back from the road, and we would agree with an evaluation of the property as a rare surviving and largely intact example of a property type – a tenant farm – in the once-rural, suburban outskirts of Durham. Minus additional information and/or documentation, we cannot recommend the property as eligible for the National Register.

Choplin Place House (pp. 87-97): The original bungalow appears to have been a frame house with a brick chimney that was later veneered in stone, apparently when the large side wing with a stone chimney was added. The history section states that the house was built in the 1910s, according to oral history, and modified in the mid-1920s, but the construction date given in the table at the beginning of the entry is ca. 1925. The mortar in the wall immediately to the right of the stone chimney has been reworked or not done by the original mason, suggesting an alteration in this area (was this a door or a window originally?). We disagree with the statements made in the second paragraph of the evaluation on p. 96. A single property such as this small parcel cannot be important as an expression of suburbanization, and it is a stretch to assume that the use of stone in this particular example illustrates a "commitment to the escapism and rural idealism of suburbanization." Eligibility is possible under Criterion C as an example of the use of masonry, but more information about the mason(s) is necessary to make this claim. The house is "said to be the work of a husband-and-wife team of stone masons named Arthur and Lilly Newsome," but when compared to two other examples attributed to them, the craftsmanship of the Choplin Place masonry appears less polished. What do we really know about the Newsomes? Consequently, we cannot determine the house eligible as an example of their work. In her MPDF for Durham County, Ruth Little states (see p. 45) that conclusions about the significance of the county's many modest rustic revival houses of the 1920s and 1930s cannot be properly evaluated "until this property type is surveyed and analyzed for the entire county." She also states that by the time this study is done, many of the examples may be gone, and this may very well be the case. Without that study, however, we cannot draw conclusions about the relative importance of single buildings. We realize such a study is beyond the scope of this report, but without more information about the craftsman, the building chronology of the house, including alterations and certainly some information about the interior, we must conclude that this house is not eligible for listing in the National Register.

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 <a href="mailto:environmental.review@ncdcr.gov">environmental.review@ncdcr.gov</a>. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc:



# STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



November 22, 2016

PAT MCCRORY

GOVERNOR

Ms. Renee Gledhill-Earley Historic Preservation Office

4617 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-4617

Department of Cultural Resources

Dear Ms. Gledhill-Earley:

NICHOLAS J. TENNYSON ACTING SECRETARY

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RE: U-5720, 16-03-0003, Historic Architectural Resource Report, WBS # 46308.1.1, **Durham and Wake Counties** 

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes improvements to U.S. Highway 70 between SR 1921 (Lynn Road) and west of SR 3067 (T.W. Alexander Drive) in Wake and Durham Counties. A project screening and reconnaissance survey identified several properties over the age of fifty years within the Area of Potential Effects (APE); some of them were previously identified surveyed sites. NCDOT determined further study and evaluation for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) was needed for eight resources prior to assessing the project for environmental compliance for historic properties.

NCDOT contracted with Sarah David of CALYX Engineers and Consultants to conduct a field survey and intensive evaluation of the eight resources for eligibility to be listed to the NRHP. The report, completed in November of 2016, concluded that two of the eight resources were eligible for listing to the NRHP: the Dewitt Bailey Tenant Farm (DH2150) under Criteria A and C, and the Choplin Place House (DH2231) under Criteria A and C.

The Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report and survey materials for the U-5720 evaluation are enclosed for your review and comment per 36CFR.800. Please let us know if you have any additional questions regarding this project. I can be reached at (919) 707-6061 or by email at mnprivett@ncdot.gov .

Sincerely.

Megan Privett

NCDOT Historic Architecture

Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT Historic Architecture

# HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE REPORT INTENSIVE EVALUATION FOR MAY HOUSE, W.A. BEASLEY HOUSE AND STORE, SHERRON HOUSE, SHERRON HOUSE, BIDDLE HOUSE, DEWITT BAILEY TENANT FARM, RICHYATES HOUSE, AND CHOPLIN PLACE HOUSE

U-5720 Improve U.S. 70 Wake and Durham Counties WBS# 46308.1.1

Prepared for:

Human Environment Section North Carolina Department of Transportation 1598 Mail Service Center Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699

Prepared by:

**↓**CALYX

CALYX Engineers and Consultants 6750 Tryon Road Cary, North Carolina, 27518

**NOVEMBER 2016** 

# HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE REPORT INTENSIVE EVALUATION FOR MAY HOUSE, W.A. BEASLEY HOUSE AND STORE, SHERRON HOUSE, SHERRON HOUSE, BIDDLE HOUSE, DEWITT BAILEY TENANT FARM, RICHYATES HOUSE, AND CHOPLIN PLACE HOUSE

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November 2016

November 22, 2016

Garah Woodard David, Principal Investigator

Date

Saran vvoodard David, Principal investigator

Date

# Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes improving U.S. Highway 70 between Secondary Road (SR) 1921 (Lynn Road) to west of SR 3067 (T.W. Alexander Drive). The project's Area of Potential Effects (APE) as defined by NCDOT, encompasses a wide swath along U.S. Highway 70 and is illustrated in Figure 2 and subsequent details. NCDOT architectural historians reviewed the properties within the APE and determined that eight properties greater than 50 years of age warranted further evaluation.

This project is subject to review under the *Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects* (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA, 2007). NCDOT architectural historians established an APE for the project and, following preliminary background research and field investigation, ultimately identified eight resources for further evaluation.

No other properties within the APE that are greater than 50 years of age appear to be eligible for the National Register, and no properties within the APE that are less than 50 years of age appear to meet Criteria Consideration G for properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years.

An architectural survey of Durham County, overseen by the State Historic Preservation Office, was undertaken in 1987-1988 and updated in 1996-1998. All of the eight properties recommended for evaluation by NCDOT were documented during one or both of those surveys.

In September 2016, NCDOT requested that CALYX Engineers and Consultants (CALYX) complete research, an intensive-level historic field survey, and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluations for these eight properties.

Based on the field survey, background research, and the evaluation documented in this report, the recommendations for the NRHP are as follows:

Property Name	NCHPO Survey	Eligibility	Criteria
	Site Number	Determination	
May House	DH 2448	Not Eligible	
W. A. Beasley House and Store	DH 2161	Not Eligible	
Sherron House	DH 2590	Not Eligible	
Sherron House	DH 1794	Not Eligible	
Biddle House	DH 2176	Not Eligible	
Dewitt Bailey Tenant Farm	DH 2150	Eligible	A, C
Rich-Yates House	DH 2635	Not Eligible	
Choplin Place House	DH 2231	Eligible	A, C

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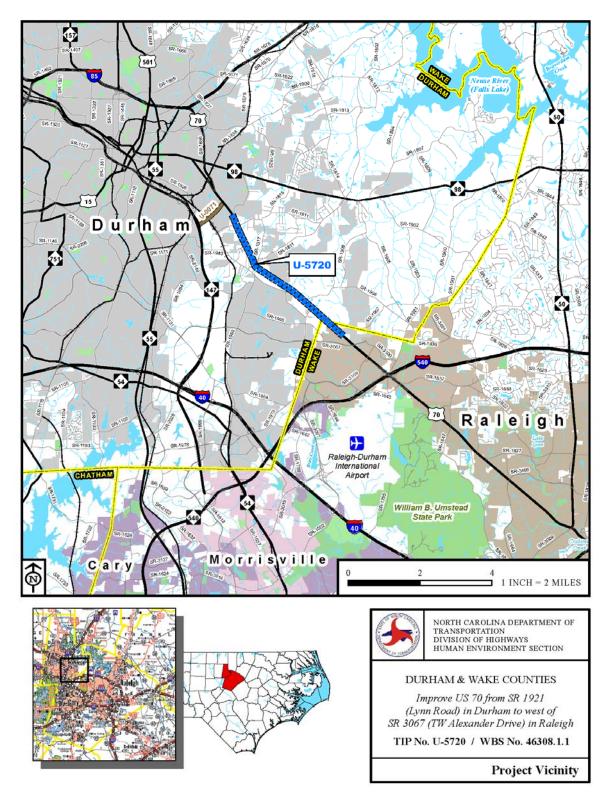


Figure 1: Project Vicinity

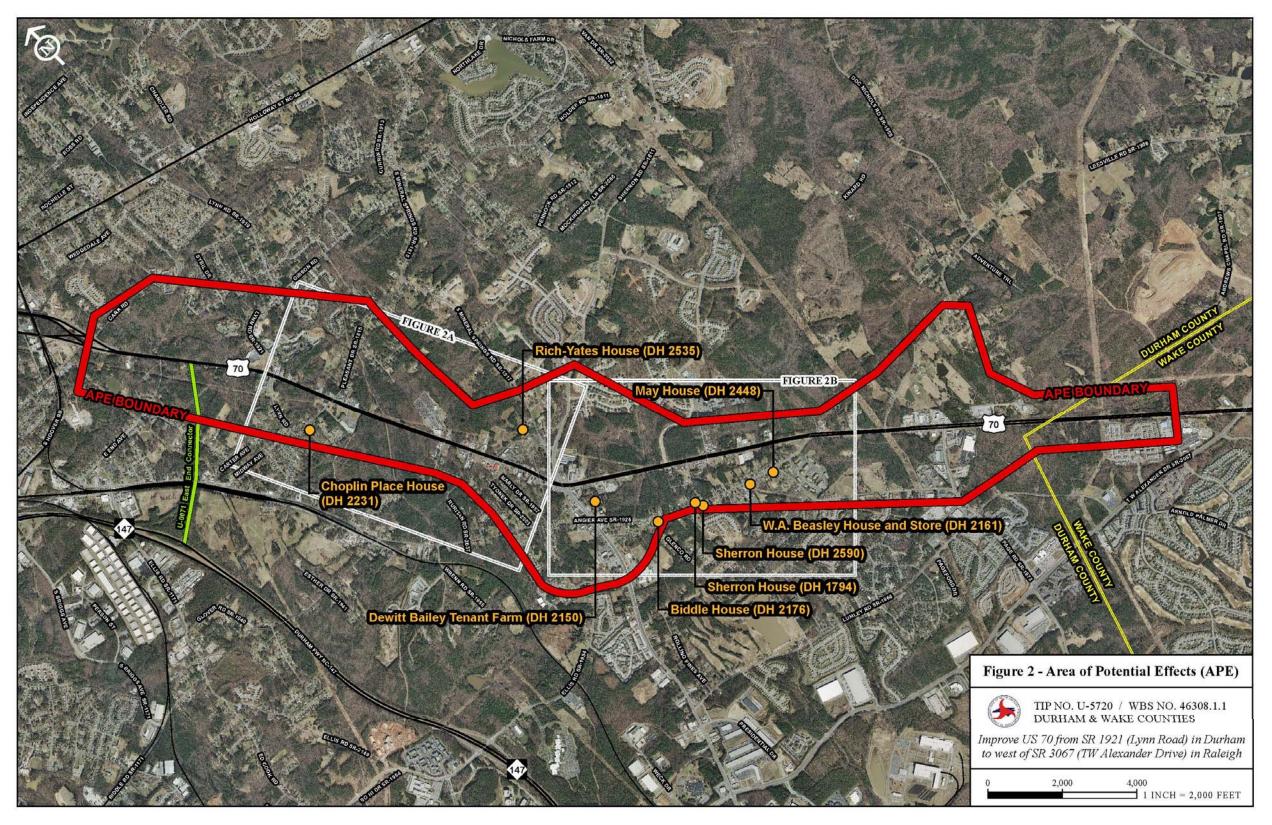


Figure 2: Area of Potential Effects

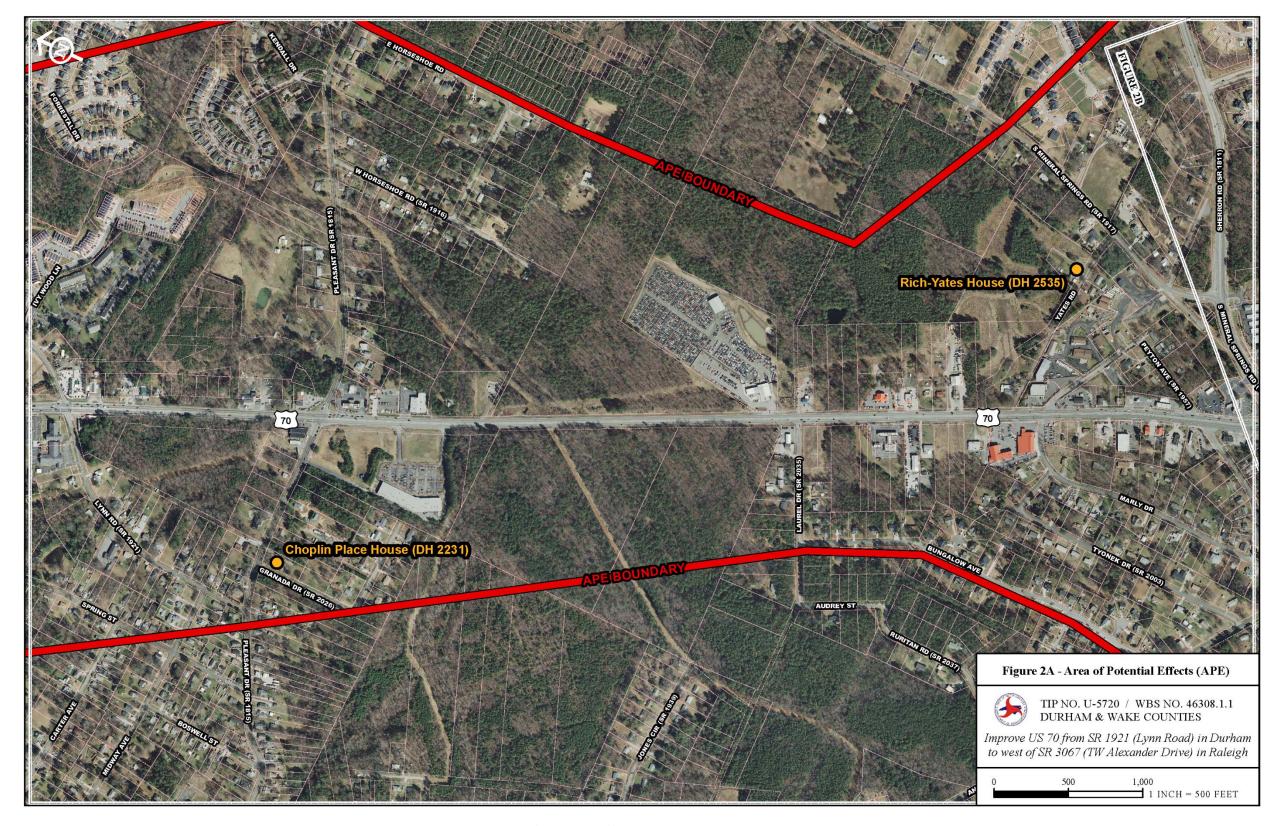


Figure 2A: Area of Potential Effects, detail

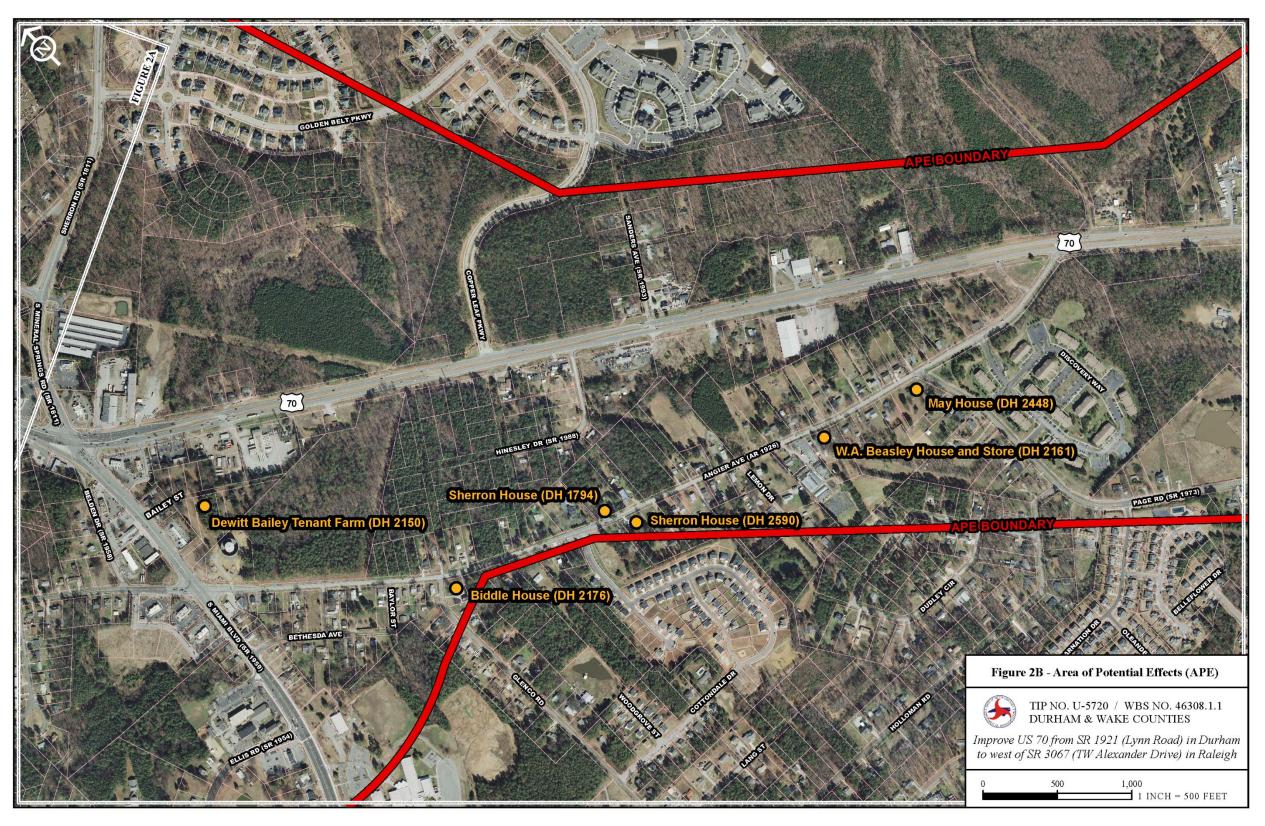


Figure 2B: Area of Potential Effects, detail

# Methodology

On October 13 and 14, 2016, CALYX Architectural Historian Sarah Woodard David visited the Bethesda area of Durham County and completed photo documentation of the resources. The investigator undertook research at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, the North Carolina State Library, and at the North Carolina State Archives. The investigator also used online research tools and resources, including the Durham County Register of Deeds online index, Durham County GIS Mapping, Wake County Register of Deeds online index (the study area was part of Wake County prior to 1881), the website findagrave.com, and the web-based subscription services ancestry.com and newspapers.com. The investigator drove the eastern half of the county on October 25, 2016 to identify and review comparable communities.

CALYX conducted all fieldwork, research, and evaluations to meet the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800, as well as NCDOT's *Guidelines for the Survey Reports for Historic Architectural Resources*.

# Historical Background

In the early and mid-1700s, white settlers from Virginia, eastern North Carolina, and Pennsylvania began moving into the area that would become Durham County. At the time, the region was a loosely regulated backcountry, but as the eighteenth century progressed, settlers of European extraction poured into the region and the colonial government created five new counties, including Orange County which included present-day Durham County.<sup>1</sup>

White farmers developed farms and plantations, and while most white families owned no enslaved people, two planters owned more than ten enslaved persons each by 1790. All of the area's planters were subsistence farmers with some larger plantations producing tobacco as a cash crop.<sup>2</sup>

For the first half of the nineteenth century, white people living in what would become Durham County continued following those same patterns. Most farms were subsistence operations with small quantities of tobacco, cotton, and corn grown for sale. African Americans were, nearly exclusively, enslaved in groups ranging in number from fewer than three or four to the substantial enslaved communities on the vast plantations of the Benneham Cameron families of Stagville and Farintosh.<sup>3</sup>

In the vicinity of present-day Bethesda, which is at the heart of this project's study area, two houses appear to date from this era: the Biddle House and the Sherron House. Both houses have been significantly altered, but both appear to have been constructed in the early to mid-1800s. Given their close proximity, it is likely that members of the same family built both houses. Notes in the Biddle House survey file indicate that a slave house on the property was torn down, and it is likely that enslaved people were associated with the Sherron House as well.

Immediately following the Civil War, the settlement of Durhamville or Durham Station, named for a nearby resident who donated land to the North Carolina Railroad in 1854, exploded as a center of tobacco manufacturing. Consequently, farmers in the surrounding countryside grew more and more tobacco and less and less food. Some plantations and larger farms were broken up into smaller farms that could be managed without the unpaid labor of enslaved persons. More whites and African Americans became landowners, but their farms were small and African Americans were far less likely to own land. Tenancy, meanwhile, became very common. Both whites and blacks became tenant farmers or share tenants (sharecroppers) who used a landlord's land, housing, and implements to harvest a crop to be divided between farmer and landowner. Tenant farming produced more dependency on cash crops, and all farmers became less self-sufficient. The Rich-Yates House was probably a tenant house for a landowner named M. C. Jones.

During the late 1800s, the county's farmers often became entangled in a cycle of debt to local storekeepers because their farms were no longer self-sufficient. Additionally, their soils were becoming

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ruth Little, "Historic Resources of Durham County," Durham County Multiple Property Documentation Form, State Historic Preservation Office, 1991, 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Little, 8-9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Little, 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Little, 11 and 14.

exhausted, and most employed antiquated farming methods. Nevertheless, many still managed to construct new houses, and historian Ruth Little notes that the proliferation of the dominant tri-gable house form, of which the May House is an example, paints a picture of a prospering farming class that contradicts the statistics of the day.<sup>5</sup>

As post-war recovery continued, some residents also founded schools and churches. In 1878, A. C. Hayes sold an acre of land on the Morrisville Road to Wake County School District 5 for the district's use. Within a few years, a group of Baptists were holding services in the Hayes School, and in 1884 they formed Bethesda Baptist Church. Eventually, Bethesda became the name of the community, and the 1887 so-called Southgate Map of Durham County marked the community of Bethesda but with Hayes in parenthesis next to the word Bethesda.

In the meantime, in 1881, the Bethesda vicinity, which had been in western Wake County, had become part of the newly-formed Durham County. Around 1910, the community built a new school, called Bethesda, which presumably replaced the earlier Hayes School.<sup>9</sup>



Figure 3: 1887 Map of Durham showing Bethesda and Hayes

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Little. 19-20.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> A.C. Hayes to Ransom O'Brian et al, September 24, 1878, Wake County Deed Book 53, page 456.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Jean Bradley Anderson, *Durham County: A History of Durham County, North Carolina* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1990), 195, and *Biblical Recorder*, April 9, 1884, page 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> George Franklin Cram, Map of Durham County, NC, 1887. Accessed in October 2016 via the University of North Carolina's North Carolina Maps website at http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/531. This map is sometimes known as the "Southgate Map."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Preservation Durham maintains a website called Open Durham, on which is published a photograph of the Bethesda School from the 1910s. Accessed in October 2016 via http://www.opendurham.org/buildings/bethesda-school.

As the twentieth century dawned, country folk moved in droves to Durham for mill work in tobacco and textile factories, but by 1910, macadam roads radiated out of Durham, allowing people to live farther away from work. Little notes that most of the men associated with the bungalows lining Angier Avenue in the study area worked in Durham and merely farmed on the side. The Sherron House, the W. A. Beasley House and Store, and the Rustic Choplin Place House are all examples of these twentieth-century residents with one foot in rural Durham County and another foot in the city or a non-farming business. <sup>10</sup>

Farming, however, did continue, as did tenancy as exemplified at the Dewitt Bailey Tenant Farm. In the 1930s, when the Bailey Tenant buildings were completed, being a farmer meant riding a financial roller coaster. Famers tried to use growers' cooperative associations to improve farming techniques and control price volatility. The boll weevil hit Durham County in 1923, but following the boll weevil, better farming practices created overproduction of cotton, which depressed profits. Tobacco farmers experienced similar ups-and-downs, so that when a quota program was introduced over ninety percent of the county's tobacco farmers signed up for reductions.<sup>11</sup>

During the Depression, the Works Progress Administration partially funded new schools in several Durham County communities, including Bethesda, which built a large, brick, Colonial Revival-style school.<sup>12</sup>

Following World War II, Durham County and the small communities like Bethesda became bedroom communities for the City of Durham. Farming has decreased in importance so that today not a single cultivated acre, beyond that used for a backyard vegetable garden, was seen in the study area.

# **Architectural Context**

Durham County's architectural record is one shared with the state's Piedmont counties. Prior to the Civil War, a small number of large-scale plantation owners built imposing family seats in fashionable styles. Comfortable farmers and planters with means constructed smaller I-houses and one or one-and-a-half-story dwellings with hall-parlor plans and, later, center passage plans. To these houses, the owner applied stylistic references as money, fashion-awareness, and access to talented carpenters and masons allowed. White yeomen farmers and poorer people often lived in one-room log or frame houses. Housing for enslaved persons also ranged from the sturdy, "scientific" houses that the Cameron family built at Stagville to shacks to makeshift sleeping arrangements in barns or kitchens.

During the early 1800s, housebuilders and owners in North Carolina tended to make conservative choices and used a variety of plans and forms, often preferring "open" plans where the front door

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Little, 21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Little, 22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Anderson, 351. A photo of the WPA school and an image of its floor plan, by Winston-Salem firm Northup and O'Brien, can be found on the Open Durham website, accessed in October 2016 via http://www.opendurham.org/buildings/bethesda-school.

opened into a room rather than a hallway. Ruth Little attributes this to "greater isolation and varied geographic and ethnic backgrounds of the earlier settlers as compared with society after the Civil War." <sup>13</sup>

Catherine Bishir writes that during the Federal era, "in most rural areas, even the richest planters built along conservative lines." She goes on to note that builders concentrated stylistic references and enrichment inside houses, and that exteriors "presented little external display of ornament and fashion. They communicated their owners' status through their size and the familiar language of good materials and craftsmanship, which they shared with more elaborate buildings."<sup>14</sup>

Both the Biddle House and the earlier Sherron House probably exemplified the types of houses built for the area's upper class citizens in the early 1800s. Both have been significantly altered and original materials have been lost or obscured, but it is likely that both these houses date from the early nineteenth century. Their original owners were probably white, upper-class landowners, and the houses were probably conservatively finished on the exterior with only slightly more elaborate finishes inside. The Sherron House retains a full-height, paneled mantelpiece while the Biddle House has one surviving Federal mantel.

After the Civil War, Durham County's architectural tastes followed the pattern seen across North Carolina: builders and owners began to adhere to a smaller number of types and forms and to conform to nationally-popular style preferences. In this era, a single plan, the three-bay-wide, single-pile form, emerged as the form-of-choice, and forty-four percent of all the houses recorded during the 1987-1988 architectural survey follow this layout.<sup>15</sup>

Stylistically, the nationally popular Queen Anne captured the imagination of many prospective home builders. With cheaper, mass-produced window sash, doors, sawnwork, spindlework, and brackets, carpenters could reference high-style, asymmetrical, elaborate Queen Anne designs by applying mass-produced woodwork to the three-bay-wide, side-gable cottage or I-house.

Another feature preferred in Durham County was the front roof gable, which created a roof sometimes called a tri-gable or triple A. Builders added a front roof gable to the side-gable roof so that the house had three gables (one on each end and one on the front). This treatment was so popular that two-thirds of the turn-of-the-twentieth-century, side-gable houses in Durham County have this front roof gable. <sup>16</sup>

This change in fashion awareness coincided with a building boom as farm families slowly recovered from the Civil War, railroad lines brought prosperity, and new communities, such as Bethesda, flourished. Indeed, well over half of the properties surveyed in the 1987-1988 architectural survey date from the late 1800s to the early 1900s.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Little, 27, and Catherine Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, portable edition, 2005), 132.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Bishir, 128-129.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Little, 36.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Little, 36-37.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Little, 37.

In the project study area, the May House, with spindlework in its gables and stained glass in its front door and attic window, exemplifies the tri-gable house form, while the Rich-Yates House is a more restrained and much plainer side-gable house.

Eventually, the three-bay-wide house form yielded to a new national style: Craftsman. Bungalows started gaining popularity in Durham in the late 1910s and, as in the rest of the country, the style continued to be popular into the 1930s. With better roads and growing opportunities for work in Durham's industries, many rural bungalows were not farm houses, but rather homes for commuters who also farmed on the side. 18

Craftsman architecture is built on the idea of exposing or celebrating a building's craftsmanship. In the highest style examples, beams and mortise and tenon joints are exposed. More commonly, raftertails were left exposed and elements were applied to represent structure, such as exposed beam ends or kneebraces applied to gable ends. Porch posts were often massive in scale or at least somewhat oversized to communicate the weight they carried. A second Sherron House on Angier Avenue is a broad, side-gabled bungalow with Craftsman details including gable end kneebraces and original doors with multi-pane glazing.

In a similar vein, Rustic Revival architecture gained favor during the later 1920s and 1930s. Most often, Rustic Revival buildings were executed in log that, as in Craftsman bungalows, allowed the building's structure and craftsmanship to be displayed or exaggerated. Such designs achieved their greatest popularity during the 1930s when the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service popularized the style for camps, parks, and resorts. Several examples exist in Durham County, but the county also has a handful of stone-veneer bungalows built by Arthur and Lilly Newsome, a husband-and-wife team of stonemasons. At the Choplin Place House, the Newsomes transformed an earlier log house into a quartz bungalow with matching rock-lined planting beds and a matching wall along the road in front of the house.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Little, 21.

# Evaluation: May House, DH 2448

Resource Name	May House
HPO Survey Site Number	DH 2448
Street Address	4648 Leesville Road
PIN	0759-01-26-2683
Construction Dates	ca. 1893
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible



### **Property Description**

The May House is a one-story, side-gable house with a forward-facing gabled roof dormer on the front roof slope. This roof form, sometimes called a tri-gable for the three gables (one on each end and the dormer on the front slope), was ubiquitous in Durham County during the late-nineteenth century. At the May House, spindlework ornamentation trims the forward facing gable and the south gable. The north gable is plain because a chimney occupied that gable end originally. A full-width, hip-roof porch shelters the three-bay façade. Two original, turned half-posts remain with diminutive brackets, but other porch materials have been replaced. The front door is original with a glazed panel framed by square, stained glass panes. The windows on the façade have been replaced with wooden, eight-over-eight sash, likely dating from the 1950s or 1960s. Original four-over-four sash windows are located on the south elevation, while the front-facing gable retains a pointed attic window with stained glass. Weatherboards cover the exterior. A rear ell is an addition and features a variety of windows: four-over-four, three-over-one, and six-over-six.

The house stands on a concrete block foundation that was installed in the 1980s to replace a stone pier foundation. Asphalt shingles cover the roof.

According to notes in the architectural survey file, the interior has been completely remodeled and retains no historic fabric.

Directly behind the ell is a gabled, weatherboarded outbuilding.

The house stands in a relatively flat yard with no large trees or plantings in the front yard. The original survey file for the house notes a cemetery toward the back of the property, but the current investigator did not see evidence of a cemetery during the site visit, and no obvious signs of a cemetery were visible in aerial imagery. The website, findagrave.com, notes three interments in the May Family Cemetery, but the location of the cemetery was not known to the researcher who posted the information. The interments include the presumed builders of this house, Wiley Walter May (died 1963) and Cora Ferguson May (died 1928), and Cora May's mother, Corrinnee Brown Ferguson (died 1925).

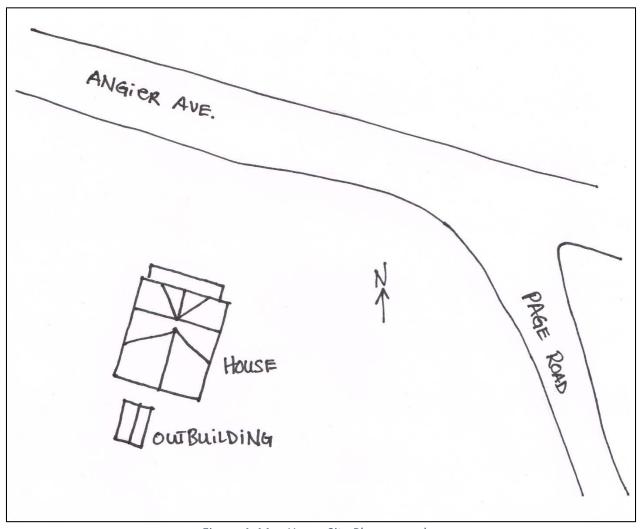


Figure 4: May House Site Plan, no scale



Figure 5: May House, north elevation



Figure 6: May House, east elevation



Figure 7: May House, west elevation



Figure 8: May House, east elevation detail



Figure 9: May House, front door



Figure 10: May House, porch detail

### History

The May House was probably built by Wiley and Cora May around the time of their marriage in 1893 and at a time when cash crop farming and soil-exhaustion made farm life precarious but, in some cases, profitable. Based on census and cemetery records, both Wiley and Cora came from local families that had settled in the vicinity of present-day Bethesda by the mid-1800s. According to the 1900 census, Wiley May worked as a farmer, and their household included two young sons and a nineteen-year-old, male African American servant named Sonui or Soni Isalhaus. Cora's parents, Corrinne and Henry Ferguson, appear to have lived next door.<sup>19</sup>

By 1910, the May household had grown to include the boys and a four-year-old daughter named Ollie. The 1920 census documents the arrival of the family's final child, a daughter named Roberta. By 1930, Ollie was married to W. A. Beasley, who now headed the family, which included Ollie's father, Wiley May, and her sister, Roberta. It appears that W. A. and Ollie Beasley inherited or purchased this house from the May family, and that by the time of the 1930 census, they likely resided in the nearby W. A. Beasley House and rented this one out.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> North Carolina Marriage Records and U.S. Census records, 1900, both accessed via ancestry.com.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> U.S. Census records, 1910, 1920, and 1930, accessed via ancestry.com.

In 1974, the Beasleys sold the house to David and Bettie Ann Haley. Brent and Susanne Parks purchased it in 1980 and replaced the stone pier foundation with concrete blocks. It is not known when the gable-end chimney was removed or when the replacement windows were installed on the façade, but both changes had been made by the time of the 1988 architectural survey.<sup>21</sup>

## Comparable Examples

The late-1980s architectural survey recorded many one-story, tri-gable houses. Today, their numbers have been reduced, and the investigator did not see any examples with the gable ornamentation seen at the May House. The Hampton-Ellis Farm (Figure 11) near Bahama is an intact tri-gable farm home complete with multiple outbuildings. It was listed in the National Register in 2011. The investigator saw very few that were unaltered. Those that were closest in original appearance were usually not occupied and deteriorating. Nevertheless, even some of the altered examples retained more integrity of feeling than the May House because they retained more landscape features, outbuildings, and/or architectural features like original windows or chimneys.



Figure 11: Hampton-Ellis Farm, photo from National Register Nomination

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office Architectural Survey File, DH 2448, and Ollie May and W.A. Beasley to David and Bettie Ann Haley, Durham County Deed Book 413, page 684, April 19, 1974.



Figure 12: Rhew House, DH 2534, Hamlin Road



Figure 13: Rhew House detail



Figure 14: House, 2523 Hamlin Road, with original windows and chimneys and vinyl siding



Figure 15: Copley Crabtree House, DH 2251, 1501 Bahama Road, with original porch posts, vinyl siding, and replacement windows



Figure 16: House, 10200 block of Quail Roost Road, with few alterations



Figure 17: Dunn House, DH 2280, 264 Red Mountain Road, with vinyl siding and modern windows



Figure 18: Rougemont tri-gable, Red Mountain Road, unaltered except for a later but historic porch



Figure 19: Poole-Terry House, DH 2521, Guess Road, with replacement porch materials

# National Register Evaluation

The May House's architectural integrity, including the building's integrity of design, workmanship, and materials, has been negatively affected by the addition of modern replacement materials and the removal of original materials, including the exterior chimney, porch posts, and façade windows. It does retain gable ornaments. The house was a rural farm house, but its integrity of feeling, setting, and

association has been degraded by the removal of out buildings and the loss of surrounding farmland. It has not been moved and, therefore, retains integrity of location.

The May House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with any aspect of the history and development of rural Durham County or the Bethesda community. Particularly, its association with agriculture and farming has been lost. The Hampton-Ellis Farm is a good and intact example of a tri-gable house and farm complex.

The May House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past; no such association was identified.

The May House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. New materials and changes, such as new porch materials, chimney removal, and replacement windows, detract significantly from the house's architectural character. Furthermore, the house form was built time and time again in the county, and while their numbers have decreased since the 1988 survey, numerous unaltered or minimally altered examples remain.

The May House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D because it has not yielded nor is it likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.

# Evaluation: W. A. Beasley House and Store, DH 2161

Resource Name	W. A. Beasley House and Store
HPO Survey Site Number	DH 2161
Street Address	4624 Angier Avenue
PIN	0759-01-16-6746
Construction Dates	Ca. 1922
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible



### **Property Description**

The W. A. Beasley House is a one-story, side-gable vernacular Craftsman bungalow. The side-gable roof features a broken pitch on both the front and rear roof slopes that allows the roof to extend over an inset porch across the façade and a rear shed across the rear elevation. The house retains weatherboard siding, with cementitious siding on portions of the house, and some four-over-one sash windows. The house also retains its original, multi-pane front door. Corbelled brick chimneys break the roof ridge. The house also features one original porch post with a rubble-stone pier and battered square post. Other posts have been replaced with decorative iron posts, and three of the original porch-post piers have been replaced with brick.

Most changes to the house occurred prior to the late 1980s. The north end of the front porch was enclosed and extended to the north to accommodate a garage and carport, and portions of the stone foundation were replaced with brick. Since the earlier architectural survey, some windows in the porch enclosure/garage addition and along the rear elevation have been replaced with modern, vinyl windows.

Most notable of the property's outbuildings is the diminutive store. The one-story, gable-front, stone building features a cantilevered front gable. This building has deteriorated over time, and the façade has been left open due to the removal of the front door and an original window. A chimney flue on the north side has been taken down, and the building has suffered significant neglect since it was recorded in the architectural survey in 1988.

The property also includes a frame barn and two prefabricated modern storage sheds.

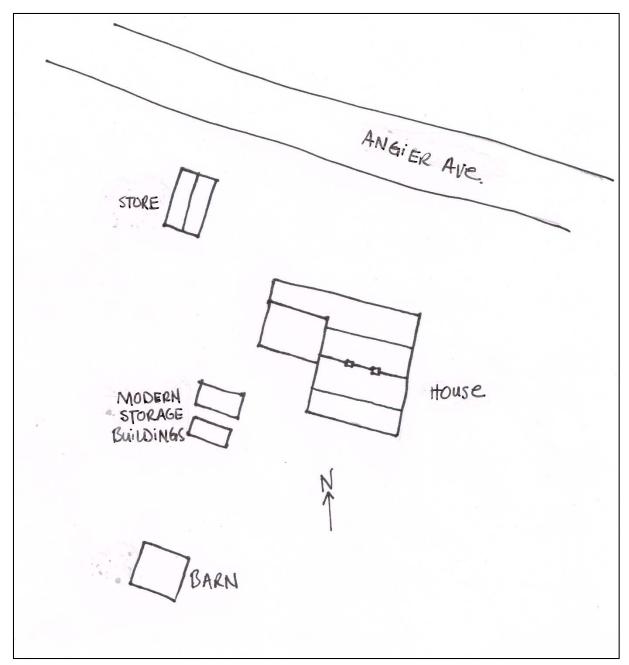


Figure 19: W. A. Beasley House and Store Site Plan, no scale



Figure 20: Beasley House, north elevation



Figure 21: Beasley House, north elevation



Figure 22: Beasley House, west elevation



Figure 23: Beasley Store, northeast corner



Figure 24: Beasley Store, north elevation

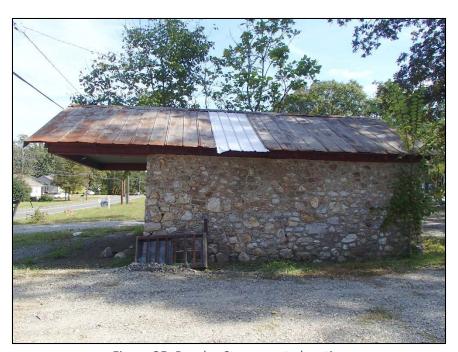


Figure 25: Beasley Store, west elevation



Figure 26: Beasley Store, south elevation



Figure 27: Beasley House, modern storage sheds



Figure 28: Beasley House, barn

In 1922, William Allie Beasley married Ollie May, who was the daughter of Wiley and Cora May. Ollie May's parents probably built the May House, just to the south of this location. William Beasley was from western Wake County, near Durham County. The Beasleys probably built this house around the time of their marriage, and they eventually inherited or bought the May House along with two other dwellings on Angier Avenue.<sup>22</sup>

The Beasleys operated the store on the property and farmed. No tobacco barns or other specialized outbuildings remain.

In the mid-1970s, the Beasleys sold their Angier Avenue properties, and W. R. Glenn acquired this house and store in 1975.<sup>23</sup> Ollie Beasley died in 1979 and is buried at Bethesda Baptist Church. William Beasley died in 1983 and is also buried at Bethesda Baptist.

#### Comparable Examples

House and store combinations are relatively rare in Durham County. The investigator saw only the H. O. Carpenter House and Store as an example built around the same time as the Beasley House and Store. The D. C. Umstead Store and House is listed on the National Register, but it is a much older complex with the store dating from ca. 1880 and the house from the 1870s.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> North Carolina Marriage Records, accessed via ancestry.com; gravemarker inscriptions accessed via findagrave.com; and information in the State Historic Preservation Office Survey File, DH 2161.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> SHPO Survey File, DH 2161.

Examples of individual bungalows in eastern and northern Durham County can be seen in Figures 39 through 42.



Figure 29: H. O. Carpenter House and Store, DH 2216, Baptist Road



Figure 30: H. O. Carpenter House and Store, DH 2216, Baptist Road



Figure 31: H. O. Carpenter House and Store, DH 2216, Baptist Road

The W. A. Beasley House and Store have lost much of their integrity. The house has been altered several times, and while it retains some original windows and other materials, it has lost many original features. A front-elevation addition dominates the façade, obscuring the house's original design and form. This has resulted in a loss of integrity of design, workmanship, materials, and feeling. Integrity of setting, association, and location as a suburban bungalow remain intact. The store has suffered from neglect and probably vandalism. The loss of materials and part of the façade have had a negative effect on the building's integrity of design, workmanship, materials, and feeling. As with the house, it retains integrity of setting, association, and location as a roadside store in a suburban area of Durham County.

The W. A. Beasley House and Store is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with any aspect of the history and development of rural Durham County or the Bethesda community. The complex is a rare example of its type, but the architectural integrity of the house has been significantly compromised and the store is a gutted shell. Neither the store nor the house retains sufficient integrity to represent roadside commerce or suburban residential development in Durham County.

The W. A. Beasley House and Store is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past; no such association was identified.

The W. A. Beasley House and Store is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C because it does not embody a particular style or characteristic nor is it the work of a master. The house is a vernacular Craftsman bungalow but alterations to it have had a negative effect on its

architectural integrity. Because the store has suffered substantial neglect and deterioration, it too has lost the integrity necessary to embody the distinctive characteristics of a small store executed in Rustic Revival stonework. Other examples of Craftsman bungalows exist all across Durham County and better, more intact examples of Rustic Revival masonry can be found at several sites.

The W. A. Beasley House and Store is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D because it has not yielded nor is it likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.

## Evaluation: Sherron House, DH 2590

Resource Name	Sherron House
HPO Survey Site Number	DH 2590
Street Address	4430 Angier Avenue
PIN	0759-01-07-3245
Construction Dates	Ca. 1925
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible



## **Property Description**

The Sherron House is an altered, side-gable Craftsman bungalow dominated by a weighty gable-front porch with substantial battered posts on brick piers at each exterior corner. The house features typical gable kneebraces, but with scalloped edges rather than the more common straight edge. This bracket treatment is repeated on gabled dormers that flank the porch gable and on a gabled stoop on the north elevation.

The front and side door are original with multi-pane Craftsman-style glazing above pairs of long panels. Matching multi-pane Craftsman-style windows are also found in the dormers and gable ends.

Significant changes to the house include the application of vinyl siding and the replacement of all windows, except the attic and dormer windows, with vinyl sashes. Vinyl railings have been added between the brick piers on the porch, and a large bay window replaced a pair of windows to the westof the front porch.

To the north and west of the dwelling is a one-and-a-half-story, gable-front, single-bay garage with shed dormers on the roof slopes. This building has also been renovated with vinyl siding and replacement windows.

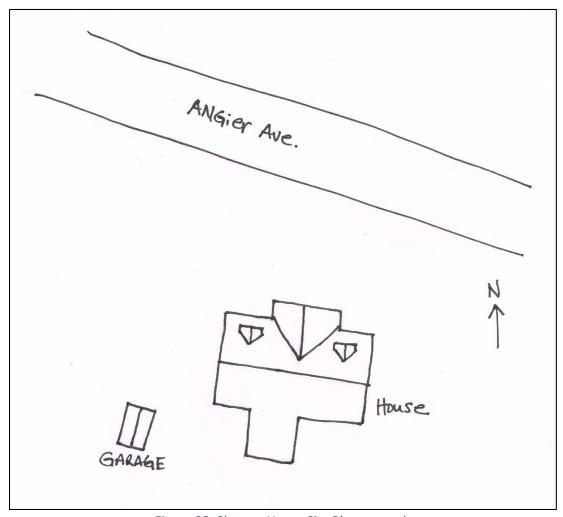


Figure 32: Sherron House Site Plan, no scale



Figure 33: Sherron House, north elevation



Figure 34: Sherron House, northeast corner



Figure 35: Sherron House, front door

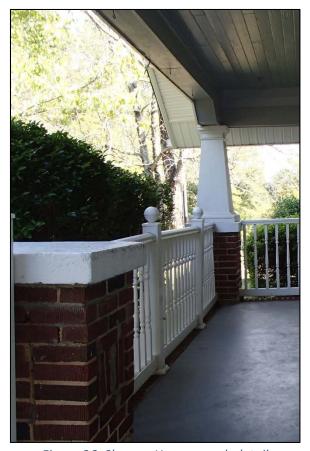


Figure 36: Sherron House, porch detail



Figure 37: Sherron House, northwest corner



Figure 38: Sherron House, garage

This house appears on a 1926 plat map as part of the "Sherron Estate." <sup>24</sup> The 1988 architectural survey files do not include information about the earliest owners, but it was likely constructed in the 1920s by the Sherron family, mostly likely by Spurgeon and Belle Sherron.

William and Armittie Sherron began purchasing land in this area in the 1880s. The Sherrons were from Granville County, and William, who was also known as Washington, had served in the Confederate Army. William and Armittie had a large family, including a son, Spurgeon, but by 1920, only one daughter remained in the household with William and Armittie.<sup>25</sup>

In 1926, after Armittie's death, the family's property was surveyed and subdivided. The plat shows both the earlier Sherron House across the road and this house as part of the Sherron family's estate. In 1937, Spurgeon and Belle Sherron sold the house to M. G. and Jeannette Bryant. <sup>26</sup> This suggests that Spurgeon and Belle built the house sometime before 1926.

The Bryants owned the house for less than two years before selling it to W. W. and Claire Jones.<sup>27</sup> The Jones sold the house to Grace and Marvin Vickers at some point, and in 1949, Grace Vickers received the house in a divorce settlement.<sup>28</sup> Within just a few months, Grace Vickers sold it to a single woman

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Durham County Plat Book 6A, page 44.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> U.S. Census records, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1900.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Spurgeon and Belle Sherron to M.G. and Jeanette Bryant, Durham County Deed Book 122, page 461, March 17, 1937.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> M.G. and Jeannette Bryant to W.W. and Claire Jones, Durham County Deed Book 132, page 80, December 24,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Marvin Vickers to Grace Irone Vickers, Durham County Deed Book 186, page 151, April 26, 1949.

named Raye Perry.<sup>29</sup> Perry occupied the house for decades, and her household eventually included her husband, John Schmitt. In 1983, John and Raye Schmitt gave the house to Mrs. Perry's children with a life estate for themselves.<sup>30</sup> In 1992, the Perry children sold the house to another Perry family member who continues to own it.<sup>31</sup>

### Comparable Examples

Craftsman bungalows are common in Durham County. The example at 5322 N.C. Highway 98 (Figure 38) has vinyl siding but is otherwise unaltered and, like the Sherron House, has a bracketed, gabled stoop on the side elevation. The property also includes a barn and smaller outbuildings. Close by is another bungalow with a more vernacular appearance (Figure 40). Like the Sherron House, it is, essentially, a side-gable house with a forward-facing gable element centered on the façade. Farther west, at 6308 N.C. Highway 98, another bungalow incorporates stone porch posts (Figure 41). These three bungalows along a single one-and-a-half-mile stretch of road illustrate the frequency with which Craftsman bungalows occur in the county.



Figure 39: Bungalow at 5322 N.C. Highway 98, with vinyl siding, but retaining other original features

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Grace Irone Vickers to Raye Perry, Durham County Deed Book 188, page 272, September 13, 1949.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Raye Perry Schmitt and John Schmitt to Jacqueline Perry Mlaker and A.M and Helen Perry, Durham County Deed Book 1140, page 274, November 23, 1983.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Jacqueline Perry Mlaker and A.M and Helen Perry to James W. and Carolyn Perry, Durham County Deed Book 1748, page 744, June 19, 1992.



Figure 40: Bungalow at 5324 N.C. Highway 98, unaltered



Figure 41: Bungalow at 6308 N.C. Highway 98, with vinyl siding but retaining original windows and porch materials



Figure 42: Bungalow at 6308 N.C. Highway 98

The Sherron House is still recognizable as a Craftsman bungalow with well-executed details, such as scalloped kneebraces; however, the introduction of vinyl siding, replacement windows including a bay window, and a modern, vinyl porch balustrade detracts significantly from its integrity of workmanship, materials, and feeling. It retains much of its integrity of overall design, as well as its association, feeling, setting and location as a Craftsman bungalow constructed in a farming community transitioning to a suburb of Durham.

The Sherron House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with any aspect of the history and development of Durham County or the Bethesda community. The house stands in a suburban setting, but its loss of integrity through the introduction of so many modern materials prevents the house from conveying its association with suburbanization.

The Sherron House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past; no such association was identified.

The Sherron House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. It is recognizably Craftsman, but it no longer retains adequate architectural integrity to convey its original Craftsman style, nor is it the work of a master. The house is a Craftsman bungalow but alterations to it have had a significant, negative impact on its architectural integrity, and the house no longer embodies Craftsman design. Comparable examples that retain more original material were seen throughout Durham County, and it is likely that many other better examples exist.

The Sherron House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D because it has not yielded nor is it likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.

# Evaluation: Sherron House, DH 1794

Resource Name	Sherron House
HPO Survey Site Number	DH 1794
Street Address	4425 Angier Avenue
PIN	0759-01-07-3715
Construction Dates	Ca. 1810, ca. 1940
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible



## **Property Description**

The Sherron House is an altered early nineteenth-century dwelling. The house is one-and-a-half-stories with two wall dormers on the façade. The three-bay façade features six-over-six sash windows and a gable-front stoop with an arched ceiling and decorative metal posts. Flush gable ends and a boxed cornice suggest an early construction date. An asymmetrical, stone chimney stands on the west gable end, while on the south east end, a generous side porch with square posts has been screened-in. Vinyl siding covers the exterior.

A one-story rear ell contains modern windows and doors, but it does retain a five-panel door on the north elevation that probably dates from the 1930s or 1940s. A brick chimney flue and an enclosed porch occupy the ell's east end.

Asphalt shingles cover the roof, but the foundation was not visible.

As of the 1988 survey, the house retained a Georgian mantelpiece with a narrow shelf and paneled over-mantel. The original hall-parlor plan had been changed to a single open room and the staircase moved to the back wall.

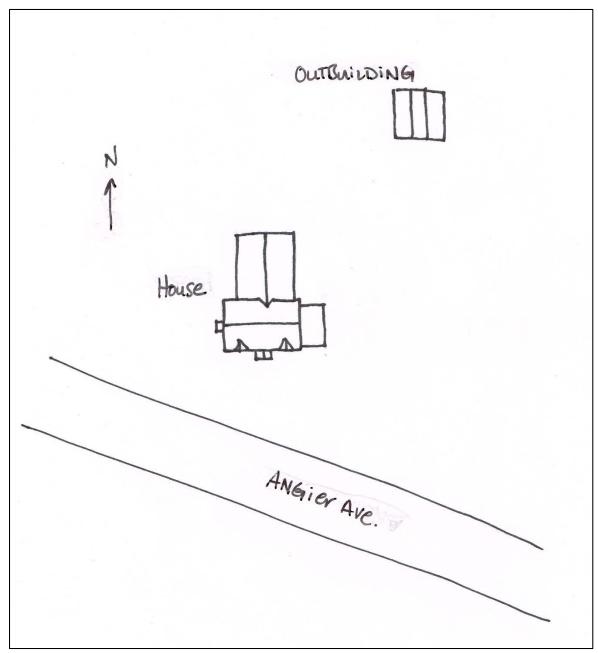


Figure 43: Sherron House Site Plan, no scale



Figure 44: Sherron House, south elevation



Figure 45: Sherron House, east elevation



Figure 46: Sherron House, north elevation



Figure 47: Sherron House, northwest corner



Figure 48: Sherron House, west elevation



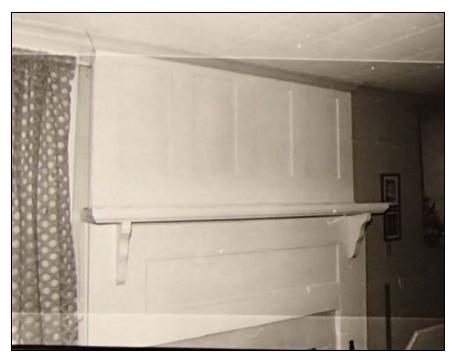
Figure 49: Sherron House, west elevation



Figure 50: Sherron House, south elevation



51: Sherron House, mantel from survey photograph



52: Sherron House, mantel detail from survey file photograph



Figure 53: Sherron House, outbuilding

The Sherron House was built in the early 1800s, possibly by the Jones family, as a one-and-a-half-story, hall-parlor house. The investigator has estimated a construction date of circa 1810 based on the mantel and the original hall-parlor form, however, the date of construction may have been earlier or possibly as

late as the early 1820s; substantial material changes to the house have resulted in the loss of the historic fabric that would help a historian make a fully-informed estimate.

Washington or William and Armittie Sherron began buying land in this part of Durham County in the 1880s. In 1888, they bought 230 acres from John T. Scott.<sup>32</sup> That transaction included the house where John T. and Sarah Scott were living. That land had been deeded to Scott from his father, John W. Scott, in 1877. The 1877 deed refers to this as "the Jones tract."<sup>33</sup>

John W. Scott was involved in many land transactions, but none with a Jones, so it is not known how or when the land passed from Jones to Scott.

In 1850, John W. Scott owned \$1,100 worth of land, but by 1860, he owned \$15,000 worth of real estate, far surpassing any of his neighbors. After the Civil War, Scott's fortunes declined, and in 1870 his real estate and personal wealth totaled \$4,000. By 1877, he was transferring land to his son to cover debts to that son.

Notes in the survey file suggest that Washington or William J. and Armittie Sherron's son, Ennis and his wife, Lula, sold the property to Ennis' siblings, and it passed out of Sherron family ownership in 1932.

Colonial Revival and Rustic Revival changes were made in the 1930s or 1940s. These changes include the addition of gabled wall dormers, the addition of a side porch, the alteration of the front porch to a stoop, and the replacement of the original chimney with a rustic stone stack. Inside the house, the interior wall dividing hall from parlor was removed, and the staircase, reported to have risen along the dividing wall, was moved to a location along the main block's rear wall.

The Sherron House appears to be the earliest home in the project study area, and one of the earliest homes in eastern Durham County. The house was constructed at a time when the area's economy was based almost totally on agriculture, and residents fell into one of three social groups: planter families who owned plantations and large numbers of enslaved people, famers who worked smaller tracts with no slaves or a small number of enslaved workers, and enslaved persons. Most of the people who lived in the area that would become Durham County were small-scale farmers (fifty to sixty percent of the area's families) or enslaved persons, who made up a third of the population by 1860.<sup>34</sup> Given the size of the Sherron House and the finish of the one remaining mantelpiece, it is likely that its owner fell into the category of a prosperous farm family that owned enslaved workers, but did not reach the level of affluence seen with the county's largest planters, such as the Benneham and Cameron families.<sup>35</sup>

#### Comparable Examples

With the exterior alterations to the Sherron House, it is difficult to know its original exterior appearance. The house does not appear to be a significant example of Colonial Revival design in Durham County, and any likely historic or architectural significance would be derived from the house's survival as a late

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> J.T. Scott to W.J. Sherron, Durham County Deed Book 9, page 51, September 20, 1888.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> John W. Scott to John T. Scott, Wake County Deed Book 47, page 407, February 1, 1977.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Little, 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Little, 8-10.

Georgian or early Federal style house rather than the application of Colonial Revival design elements. Therefore, comparable examples are limited to buildings likely built around the same time as the Sherron House, and assuming that the Sherron House dates from the early 1800s, comparisons are few and far between. Properties that date from that era that are already listed on the National Register include the Benneham House and Horton House, both at Stagville, and Farintosh, which is tied to Stagville through family connections. Compared to the Sherron House, the Horton House is a smaller, less-well-finished, one-room dwelling, and the Benneham House is much larger than the Sherron House. However, the Sherron House and Benneham House may have shared fine but unassuming woodwork and finishing. The 1799 portion of the Benneham House has a full-height, paneled mantel that, while taller and more elegant, is similar to the surround at the Sherron House. Farintosh is a well-detailed Federal house that could be a contemporary with the Sherron House, but it is significantly larger and more elaborately finished.

Additionally, the Sherron House may have shared some similarities with Hardscrabble, an eighteenth-century, National Register-listed house in northwestern Durham County. Hardscrabble is larger and more high-style, but part of it has a hall-parlor plan, paneled overmantel, and an enclosed stair, all features that the Sherron House had or has.

The Nichols-Belvin-Stokes House (DH 2167, not listed on the National Register) was inaccessible, but the investigator viewed it from a distance to confirm its continued existence. It may be the closest extant comparison to the Sherron House. It is log, while the Sherron House is frame, but it retains, or retained, a vernacular Georgian mantel and an enclosed winder stair. It is one-and-a-half-stories or one-story with a loft, which was probably the Sherrons House's original configuration.

Another early house is the Chandler House (DH 2227 and DH 2580) at 1010 Stallings Road. This house has undergone exterior alterations and it is two-stories in height, but the houses may have been contemporaries. The Chandler House has two paneled, transitional Georgian-Federal mantels, a hall-parlor plan, and an enclosed corner stair.



Figure 54: Chandler House, DH 2227 or 2580, 1010 Stallings Road



Figure 55: Chandler House, original mantel, 1988 survey photograph



56: Chandler House, original mantel, 1988 survey photograph

The Sherron House retains a paneled, Georgian mantelpiece, but other character-defining features, including the front porch and hall-parlor plan, have been lost or obscured. A ca. 1930-1940 Colonial Revival renovation and the application of vinyl siding have degraded the building's integrity of workmanship, design, materials, and feeling as a late Georgian or early Federal house. The house retains its integrity of location, but, because it is surrounded by residential development, the adjacent farmland has been allowed to grow up with trees, the front yard has been covered with concrete, and it has only one historic outbuilding, its integrity of setting and association as a farm has been lost.

The Sherron House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the history and development of farming or plantations in Durham County. It retains only one outbuilding and the surrounding land is developed or wooded, with no cultivated or open farm land near the house.

The Sherron House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past; no such association was identified.

The Sherron House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C because it does not embody a particular style or characteristic nor is it the work of a master. The house is an early building in Durham County, and, as such, the expectation and evaluation of integrity can and should be lowered for the county's oldest buildings. However, with only a single remaining mantelpiece and the house's flush gable ends, the Sherron House does not retain enough historic fabric and design to embody Georgian or Federal architecture or vernacular architecture of that period. The house has been substantially altered to the extent that its original appearance has been substantially obscured. Most of

the county's early buildings have undergone significant alterations, but the changes at the Sherron House have created a house that bears very little resemblance to a Georgian or early Federal-period house. Furthermore, it is not a significant example of Colonial Revival design from the 1930s or 1940s, and the addition of vinyl siding and removal of the stoop's Colonial Revival columns diminish its Colonial Revival integrity.

The Sherron House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D because it has not yielded nor is it likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.

# Evaluation: Biddle House, DH 2176

Resource Name	Biddle House
HPO Survey Site Number	DH 2176
Street Address	4300 Angier Avenue
PIN	0749-02-97-1981
Construction Dates	Ca. 1825
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible



## **Property Description**

The Biddle House is a two-story, side-gable house that probably originally had a hall-parlor plan based on the slightly off-center front door. The house features flush gable ends and tall, single-shoulder chimneys that emphasize the house's verticality. The north chimney is a later replacement, but the south chimney is an early chimney constructed of stone to a height about half-way up the house and topped with brick and paved shoulders.

On the façade, a full-width, full-height, shed-roof portico replaced the original porch. Tall nine-over-nine sash windows flank the front door and the north chimney on the lower level. Second-story windows contain six-over-six sash. The front door has been crowned with a Colonial Revival broken pediment. A one-story shed extends across the rear and was probably an original feature or early porch enclosure. Vinyl siding covers the exterior and asphalt shingles cover the roof.

The 1988 survey documented one original Federal-era mantelpiece, but noted that other interior features had been removed or obscured.

The house stands on a rise overlooking Angier Avenue. Mature deciduous trees shade the house and lawn. Behind the dwelling are a modern garage and one-story storage building. No original or historic outbuildings remain. The owner in 1988 reported that a house for enslaved persons stood on the property into the twentieth century.

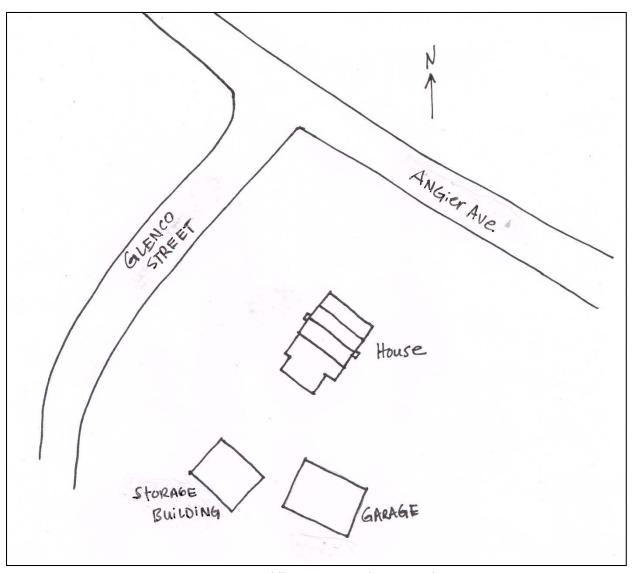


Figure 57: Biddle House Site Plan, no scale



Figure 58: Biddle House, east corner



Figure 59: Biddle House, northeast elevation



Figure 60: Biddle House, northeast elevation



Figure 61: Biddle House, east corner



Figure 62: Biddle House, original mantel from survey photograph



Figure 63: Biddle House, garage

According to the architectural survey file associated with this property, local tradition holds that this house was the seat of a Biddle family plantation; however, no Biddle is recorded as having purchased land in this area prior to the Civil War.

It is more likely that a descendant of the builder of the earlier and nearby Sherron House constructed the house.

The Biddle House was probably constructed in the 1830s based on its flush gables, tall chimneys, large windows, and Federal-era mantelpiece recorded in 1988. A construction date in the 1820s or even 1810s is not out of the question, but the nine-over-nine windows on the front elevation point to an 1830s or possibly 1840s construction date.

While the 1830s and 1840s is often described as North Carolina's "Rip Van Winkle era," characterized by out-migration, soil exhaustion, and a legislative gridlock concerning internal improvements, farmers who stayed often built solid late-Federal-era or early Greek Revival houses with either hall-parlor or center passage plans. Before the state's tobacco boom of the 1850s, North Carolinians generally preferred restrained designs and reserved ornamentation for their interiors, and it is likely that the Biddle House's original owner followed that pattern. The investigator in the late 1980s had access to the interior, and documented a loss of original finishes with the exception of one mantelpiece, but she did not record the house's floor plan.

At some point, the house underwent an extensive Colonial Revival remodeling, probably during the brief ownership of George Ray who bought the house from a trustee for Pearl M. Grinstead, who does not appear to have ever lived here.<sup>36</sup> The owner replaced the original porch (likely a shed-roof porch that mirrored the shed across the rear elevation) with a full-height, full-width portico with square columns. A broken pediment and pilasters were installed around the front door.

## Comparable Examples

As with the older Sherron House, comparable examples for the Biddle House are uncommon. Two good examples of an 1830s or 1840s, two-story house in Durham County are the Patterson Farm (Figures 61 and 62) and the Rev. John McMannen House. Both of these houses are on the State Historic Preservation Office's Study List. The McMannen House is surrounded by new development and has been expanded with a sprawling addition, but the original house is being well-maintained. The Patterson House is vacant and somewhat overgrown, but it appears to have undergone very little non-historic alteration; the house combines Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival features, suggesting historic remodeling. An undocumented house (Figure 63) on Leesville Road is covered in vinyl siding and has replacement windows, making it comparable to the Biddle House in terms of exterior alterations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> E.K. Powe, trustee, to George and Shirley Ray, Durham County Deed Book 971, page 533, April 17, 1978; George and Shirley Ray to Holland Harry and Jean Tyler, Durham County Deed Book 971, page 535, May 10, 1978; and Durham County Plat Map Book 92, page 79, The Property of Pearl M. Grinstead and Others, 1977.

Most other houses still standing from the 1830s and 1840s are dissimilar in one way or another. The Coggin House (DH 2236, Figures 64-67) is a one-story house, but it was probably built during the same era and it retains similar features including flush gable ends and chimney stacks that stand away from the gable end. Unlike the Biddle House, however, interior features endure, including waiscotting and mantels that may be similar to those that were at the Biddle House originally.



Figure 64: Patterson House, 1988 survey photograph



Figure 65: Patterson House, mantelpiece, 1988 survey photograph



Figure 66: House, 5100 Leesville Road



Figure 67: Coggin House, DH 2236, South Lowell Road



Figure 68: Coggin House, DH 2236, South Lowell Road



Figure 69: Coggin House, interior, 1988 survey photograph



Figure 70: Coggin House, interior, 1988 survey photograph

The Biddle House retains some qualities of an early-nineteenth-century house, but critical character-defining features, including the front porch, have been lost or obscured. In addition, a Colonial Revival renovation and the application of vinyl siding have been detrimental to the building's integrity of workmanship, design, materials, and feeling as a late Federal or early Greek Revival farmhouse. With its

prominent presence on a slight rise, it does retain its intended feeling of impressiveness. It also retains its integrity of location. However, because it is surrounded by non-historic residential development, its integrity of setting and association as a farm has been lost.

The Biddle House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the history and development of farming or plantations in Durham County. It has no surviving historic outbuildings, and its setting is entirely suburban rather than agricultural.

The Biddle House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past; no such association was identified.

The Biddle House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C because it does not embody a particular style or characteristic nor is it the work of a master. The house is an early building in Durham County, and, as such, the expectation and evaluation of integrity can and should be lowered for the county's oldest buildings. However, the Biddle House's original architectural details are so few as to disqualify it from representing the county's 1830s-era architecture. Both the Patterson and McMannen Houses are superior examples of two-story, flush-gable, transitional Federal-Greek Revival houses.

The Biddle House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D because it has not yielded nor is it likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.

# Evaluation: Dewitt Bailey Tenant Farm, DH 2150

Resource Name	Dewitt Bailey Tenant Farm
HPO Survey Site Number	DH 2150
Street Address	1610 Bailey Street
PIN	0749-02-89-3452, 0749- 02-89-4359, 0749-02- 89-6314
Construction Dates	Ca. 1935
NRHP Recommendation	Eligible, Criteria A and C



#### **Property Description**

The Dewitt Bailey Tenant Farm is situated in a grove of trees below a large water tower. The complex features a house, three tobacco barns, a livestock barn, log crib, and a small store building.

The house is a plain, gable-front bungalow with drop siding, six-over-six sash windows, and a gable-front porch with plain, square posts. The house has exposed raftertails, and a brick exterior chimney is located on the north side. The house is simple in form and ornamentation, but it appears to be essentially unaltered.

Behind the house is a small, gable-front outbuilding with flushboard sheathing and lean-tos on both sides. Behind this outbuilding is a large, frame, gabled barn that is partially collapsed. Immediately north of the barn is a low log crib that may have sheltered pigs.

To the east of the house three log tobacco barns stand along an east-west axis.

Set somewhat apart from the farm buildings to the south is a gable-front, frame store. The store has drop siding weatherboards. A "cross-and-Bible" front door is centered on the façade and flanked by six-over-six sash windows.

The Bailey Tenant Farm stands on level ground in a grove of pine trees and hardwoods. None of the land around the house and outbuildings is cultivated and the tobacco barns are located in clearings in the woods rather than at the edge of a field.

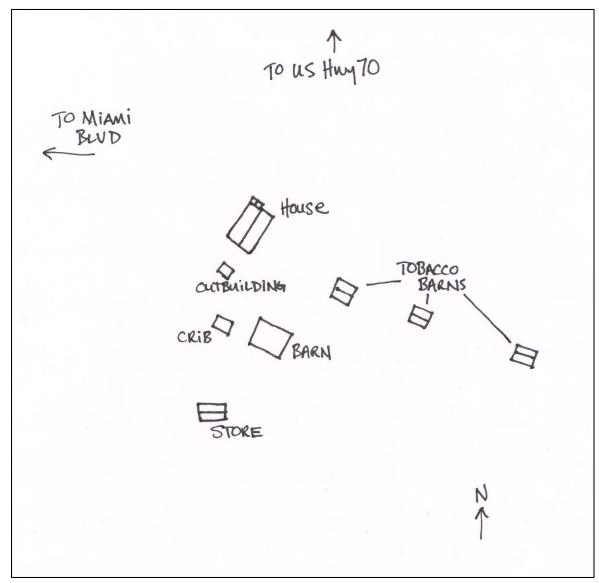


Figure 71: Dewitt Bailey Tenant Farm Site Plan, no scale



Figure 72: Bailey Tenant Farm, house, north elevation



Figure 73: Bailey Tenant Farm, house, south elevation



Figure 74: Bailey Tenant Farm, house, west elevation



Figure 75: Bailey Tenant Farm, house, northwest corner

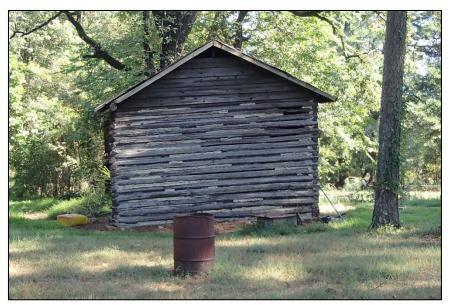


Figure 76: Bailey Tenant Farm, tobacco barn

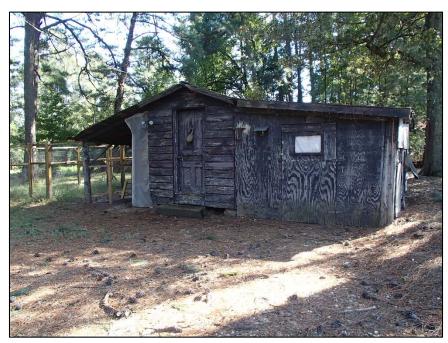


Figure 77: Bailey Tenant Farm, outbuilding



Figure 78: Bailey Tenant Farm, barn



Figure 79: Bailey Tenant Farm, tobacco barn



Figure 80: Bailey Tenant Farm, log crib



Figure 81: Bailey Tenant Farm, store building

## History

Dewitt Bailey was a World War I veteran who lived in Apex prior to his 1921 marriage to Alma Daisy Barbee, of Morrisville. By 1930, the couple was living in the Oak Grove Township of Durham County. Mr. Bailey worked as a tobacco buyer, and the same remained true at the time of the 1940 census.

Like many county residents from the 1910s and 1920s forward, Mr. Bailey participated in the urban economy of Durham as a tobacco buyer, but he also farmed and maintained at least one tenant farm. It appears he built this complex in the mid-1930s as part of his tobacco farming operations.

That Mr. Bailey maintained tenants and a job outside farming put him squarely in the category of suburban farmers Ruth Little documented in Durham County in the 1920s. She specifically writes of Bethesda that it was not a self-sufficient community, "but an agricultural suburb of Durham," and, indeed, Mr. Bailey exemplified that pattern.<sup>37</sup>

In 1935, Mr. Bailey subdivided a triangle-shaped parcel of land flanked by present-day Miami Boulevard and U.S. Highway 70, which the plat notes was still under construction.<sup>38</sup> The plat does not show the farm or buildings, and because the house faces what was, in 1935, a road still under construction, it is likely that the Baileys built the farm after the subdivision failed to sell. Indeed, the existing landscape and building stock suggest that the subdivision did not sell quickly.

#### Comparable Examples

Complete farmsteads from any time period are increasingly rare in Durham County. The investigator saw scores of gable-front bungalows in the county that were almost certainly part of farm complexes originally, but they had been subjected to unsympathetic alterations and/or no longer retained outbuildings. Conversely, groups of historic outbuildings were frequently missing their original house.

One complex in the 1400 block of Sherron Road was particularly notable for its completeness, with two gable-front bungalows, various barns, and a slatted corncrib. However, both houses have vinyl or aluminum siding and modern, vinyl replacement windows.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Little, 21.

<sup>38</sup> Property of D.T. Bailey, Durham County Plat Book 9, page 110.



Figure 82: Bungalow in Sherron Road group



Figure 83: Bungalow and outbuilding in Sherron Road group



Figure 84: Barn and corn crib in Sherron Road group



Figure 85: Sherron Road group

### National Register Evaluation

The Dewitt Bailey Tenant Farm retains many aspects of integrity including workmanship, design, materials, and location. Its integrity of feeling, setting, and association has been diminished because trees have grown up around the property, no cultivated fields surround it, and a modern water tower dominates the landscape. Its outstanding architectural character, however, allow it to continue to communicate significance as a good example of an early-twentieth-century tenant farm. Very few tenant farms or small farms that are National Register eligible appear to remain in Durham County.

The Dewitt Bailey Tenant Farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the history and development of farming, tenancy, and the pattern of suburban farming that developed in Durham County as roads improved and factory work became more accessible and appealing to farmers. The complex is surrounded by modern development, no cultivated land remains, and a large modern water tower dominates the landscape, but it is a nearly unaltered example of a 1930s tenant farm and the buildings successfully communicate the complex's use and association with farm history in the county.

The Dewitt Bailey Tenant Farm is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past; no such association was identified.

The Dewitt Bailey Tenant Farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C because it embodies the architectural characteristics of a tenant farm complex. The house is plain but unaltered and a collection of deteriorating outbuildings retain sufficient integrity to represent a small tobacco farm in eastern Durham County. Tree growth and other deficiencies in the complex's integrity of setting and association do not detract from its architectural purity and integrity. Although numerous small tobacco farms were developed in Durham County during the late nineteenth century and through the first half of the twentieth century, few extant examples retain the high level of physical integrity conveyed by the Dewitt Bailey Tenant Farm, which includes and intact house and outbuildings.

The Dewitt Bailey Tenant Farm is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D because it has not yielded nor is it likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.

#### Boundary Description and Justification

The Dewitt Bailey Tenant Farm boundary encompasses the house and remaining outbuildings associated with the farm. It follows parcel lot lines that were laid out in the 1935 plat map. The unpaved driveway leading to the house and outbuildings behind it runs along the edge of the western boundary and is included within the boundary.



Figure 86: Dewitt Bailey Tenant Farm Proposed National Register Boundary

# Evaluation: Rich-Yates House, DH 2535

Resource Name	Rich-Yates House
HPO Survey Site Number	DH 2535
Street Address	212 Yates Road
PIN	0840-04-82-3364
Construction Dates	Ca. 1900
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible



### **Property Description**

The Yates-Rich House is a simple, one-story, side-gable farm house with a gable-end chimney. A full-width, shed-roof porch with original or early turned posts shelters the façade. The porch railing is a modern replacement. Vinyl siding covers the exterior, and all windows and doors are also modern replacements. Original windows contained two-over-two sash. A shed or enclosed porch and a gabled ell are located on the rear elevation. Asphalt shingles cover the roof, and the house stands on brick pier foundation with concrete block fill.

A group of three modern, prefabricated outbuildings stands behind the house while a metal carport is located off the west gable end. Downhill to the east is a log outbuilding that probably served as a smokehouse or curing house.

While no cultivated land is near the house, it does retain expansive grassy areas around the house and outbuildings, which provide an agricultural and rural feel.

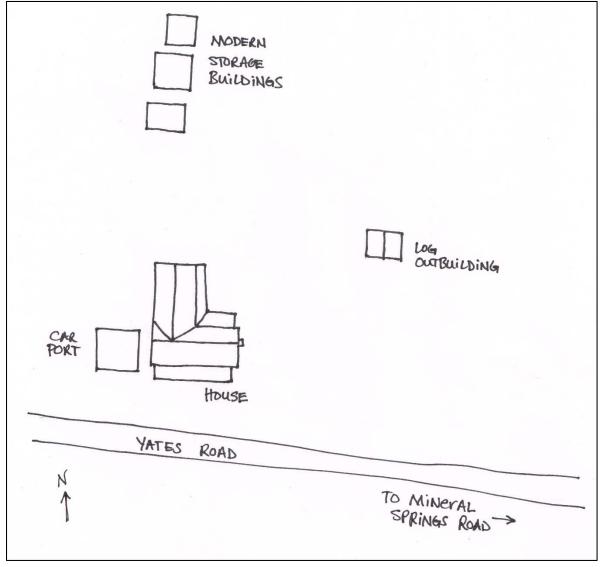


Figure 87: Rich-Yates Site Plan, no scale



Figure 88: Rich-Yates House, view from the east



Figure 89: Rich-Yates House, south elevation



Figure 90: Rich-Yates House, southeast corner, with modern storage buildings behind



Figure 91: Rich-Yates House, log outbuilding

#### History

The Rich-Yates House was built around 1900, possibly as a tenant house on the Marcillus C. Jones property. Jones was a prosperous farmer and merchant and a former Wake County Sherriff. Upon his death in 1933, his sizable estate was divided, and this tract of land ended up in the hands of a grandson, Onice Vaughn, who had lived with the Jones family.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Reporter of Commissioners (M.C. Jones Estate), Durham County Deed Book 112, page 457, March 29, 1934, and Onice S. and Margaret Vaughn to J.C. and Effie Yates, Durham County Deed Book 156, page 336, January 11, 1945.

J. C. and Effie Yates purchased the property in 1945 and they sold it to Sylvester and Brenda Churchill in 1967. Brenda Churchill, now Brenda Oakley, continues to own the house today.<sup>40</sup>

It is unclear when Jones purchased the property because he was engaged in a tremendous number of land transactions. During the county architectural survey, the investigator believed the house's first or early occupants were members of the Rich family, but it is not known when anyone from the Rich family was associated with the property. The Rich surname is common in eastern Durham County, and the family could have been associated with the farm as a tenant or as an owner prior to Jones' ownership.

Like the May House, the Rich-Yates House was built during a time of relative prosperity for the county's small farmers.

### Comparable Examples

One-story, side-gable houses are surprisingly scarce in Durham County where builders obviously favored the tri-gable roof form when constructing a one-story house at the turn of the twentieth century.



Figure 92: House at 1401 Stallings Road

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> J.C. and Effie Yates to Sylvester and Brenda Churchill, Durham County Deed Book 338, page 246, November 21, 1967, and Sylvester Churchill and Brenda (Churchill) Oakley to Brenda and Julian Oakley, Durham County Deed Book 1163, page 758, June 24, 1984.



Figure 93: House, 2809 Hamlin Road



Figure 94: House, 424 Red Mountain Road, Rougemont

## National Register Evaluation

The Rich-Yates House retains its form, but it has lost many aspects of integrity including workmanship, design, and materials due to numerous non-historic changes. Its integrity of feeling, setting, and association has been diminished because no cultivated fields surround it, and only one historic

outbuilding exists. However, open grassy areas around the house help to maintain some sense of its agricultural past. It retains integrity of location.

The Rich-Yates House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the history and development of farming in Durham County because of a loss of farmland and the loss of outbuildings.

The Rich-Yates House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past; no such association was identified.

The Rich-Yates House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C because it does not embody the characteristics of a particular style or type nor does it represent the work of a master. The Rich-Yates House represents a common form, although less common than the tri-gable form, but this example retains very few original materials.

The Rich-Yates House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D because it has not yielded nor is it likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.

# Evaluation: Choplin Place House, DH 2231

Resource Name	Choplin Place House
HPO Survey Site Number	DH 2231
Street Address	601 Pleasant Drive
PIN	0840-10-46-3223
Construction Dates	Ca. 1925
NRHP Recommendation	Eligible, Criteria A and C



## **Property Description**

The Choplin Place House is a Rustic Revival-style gable-front bungalow with a jerkinhead roof. A gabled wing, also with a jerkinhead roof, extends from the east elevation. The house is clad in quartz rubble stone with thick rope mortar joints. Tapered chimneys are located on the west elevation and the north or front elevation of the side-gable wing. The west chimney is brick while the north chimney is constructed with stone to match the house. The gable ends are finished with half-timbering and stucco or pebbledash. Windows throughout retain original three-over-one sash. A pair of six-over-six sash windows occupy the front-facing gable and are likely a later, but historic, alteration. The front door is a multi-pane, single-leaf French door. Brown brick trims all window and door openings. A front porch extends across the front gable and features a nearly-flat roof and battered square posts on stone piers. The porch floor is concrete and ramped stone cheek walls flank the steps up to the front porch.

The house is situated on a flat yard in the midst of a grove of trees. In front of the house, round planting beds outlined with low stone walls occupy each half of the front yard, on either side of a straight, concrete sidewalk. At the front of the property, a stone wall follows the edge of the road. The wall swags between tapered, round piers. Behind the house is a Rustic Revival, log outbuilding constructed from round, saddle-notched logs. A modern gazebo stands in the eastern edge of the yard.

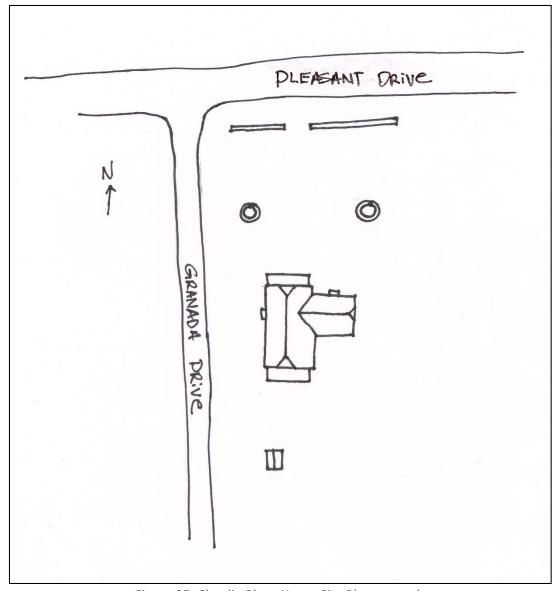


Figure 95: Choplin Place House Site Plan, no scale



Figure 96: Choplin Place House, north elevation



Figure 97: Choplin Place House, north elevation



Figure 98: Choplin Place House, wall



Figure 99: Choplin Place House, wall and house



Figure 100: Choplin Place House, west elevation



Figure 101: Choplin Place House, south elevation



Figure 102: Choplin Place House, log outbuilding

#### History

Thomas Wesley and Cora Clodfelter Choplin were both natives of Davidson County, North Carolina. They married in the first years of the 1900s, and by 1910 they lived in Durham where Thomas painted buggies for a living. Ten years later, the growing family resided on Geer Street in Durham, and Mr. Choplin managed a restaurant.<sup>41</sup>

Sometime between 1920 and 1930, the couple and their six children moved to the Oak Grove Township, presumably to this home. <sup>42</sup> The Choplins bought numerous parcels in this vicinity beginning in 1926. Many of those lots were in a subdivision called Sherron Acres, close to this site, but the locations of the other lots, while somewhere in this vicinity, were not determined.

Oral history suggests that the house was built as a log structure in the 1910s and covered in the existing stone veneer at a later date. Whether the Choplins built this house or veneered an existing building, their whimsical choice of rubble stone and the use of a jerkinhead roof form gives the house an air of enchantment. Their romantic stylistic choice combined with their significant investments in the Sherron Acres subdivision illustrates their commitment to the escapism and rural idealism of suburbanization.

The house is said to be the work of a husband-and-wife team of stone masons named Arthur and Lilly Newsome. <sup>43</sup> The Newsomes are listed in the 1930 census as living in Durham, and Arthur is described as a stone mason.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> U.S. Census records, 1910 and 1920, accessed via ancestry.com.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> U.S. Census records, 1930, accessed via ancestry.com.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Little, 44.

In 1940, Thomas Choplin ran a meat market, and his 1960 death certificate describes him as a retired grocer. The 1940 census records two of his sons still living at home with one working in a tobacco factory and the other working at a beer factory.

Cora Choplin died in May 1960, and Thomas only lived a few more months, passing away in October 1960. At the time of their deaths, they resided at this house along with their daughter, Betty Kerr. In 1964, the property was subdivided as the "T. W. Choplin Subdivision." <sup>44</sup>

#### Comparable Examples

Arthur and Lilly Newsome have been credited with work at other locations in Durham, most notably along Geer Street where two examples are located, one at the corner of Geer Street and Watson Road (Figures 100 and 101) and the other across the street at 1823 Geer Street (Figure 102). Examples of Rustic Revival stone chimneys that may be the work of the Newsomes can be found at 1110 Hamlin Road (Figure 103) and on the earlier Sherron House (Figures 48 and 49) evaluated in this report. At 1215 Bahama Road, remnants of what appears to be their work remains (Figure 104). A Rustic Revival log house (Figure 105) is also located on Bahama Road near the stone remnants at 1215 Bahama Road.



Figure 103: House at Geer Street and Watson Road

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Durham County Plat Book 44, page 122.



Figure 104: House at Geer Street and Watson Road



Figure 105: House at 1823 Geer Street, with log outbuilding or guesthouse



Figure 106: Chimney at 1110 Hamlin Road



Figure 107: Wall and porch remnants at 1215 Bahama Road



Figure 108: Rustic Revival log house, 1100 block of Bahama Road

### National Register Evaluation

The Choplin Place House has undergone few changes since its construction in the 1920s, and it retains integrity of workmanship, design, materials, feeling, setting, and association.

The Choplin Place House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the history of suburbanization in Durham County. The house was built at a time when urbanites were romanticizing rural life and built Rustic Revival houses as second homes or as primary residences. The Choplins moved here from Durham, and appear to have invested heavily in suburban real estate. That they chose a romantic, rustic style for their own home illustrates their commitment to the escapism and rural idealism of suburbanization.

The Choplin Place House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past; no such association was identified.

The Choplin Place House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C because it embodies the traits and characteristics of a Rustic Revival stone house, and it is representative of the work of Arthur and Lilly Newsome, a husband-wife team of notable local stone masons. The house and landscape features, including stone planters, a stone wall, and log outbuilding, together compose a cohesive resource that embodies an expression of rural romanticism through rustic designs. The stone house at the corner of Geer Street and Watson Road is an equal or better example of the Newsomes' work, but it has lost its original windows. The house at 1823 Geer Street retains original features, but the landscape does not include a wall or planting beds. The Choplin Place House is a very good and intact representative of the Newsomes' talents and of masonry Rustic Revival architecture in Durham County.

The Choplin Place House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D because it has not yielded nor is it likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.

## Boundary Description and Justification

The Choplin Place House Boundary follows the parcel lot line associated with the house except along the north edge where the boundary extends to the edge of pavement along Pleasant Drive. This boundary incorporates the house and all associated landscape features.



Figure 109: Choplin Place House, Proposed National Register Boundary

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