



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

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper  
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

April 7, 2017

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Shelby Reap  
Office of Human Environment  
NCDOT Division of Highways

**FROM:** Renee Gledhill-Earley *Renee Gledhill-Earley*  
Environmental Review Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** Historic Structures Survey Report for Replacement of Bridge 40 on US 158 over  
Tabb's Creek, Granville County, ER 17-0600

Thank you for your March 29, 2017, letter transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and concur with your finding that the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House (GV0694) is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the reasons outlined.

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

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

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



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III  
SECRETARY

ER17 0600

Renee Gledhill-Earley  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
4617 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4617

March 29, 2017

# CR 15  
Elizabeth's  
4/16/17

Dear Gledhill-Earley:

Due 4/24/17

RE: Replace Bridge No 40 on US 158 (Williamsboro Rd) over Tabb's Creek

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 40 on US 158 (Williamsboro Rd) over Tabb's Creek in Granville County. The initial screening of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) was conducted in October 2016. The presence of a circa 1920 house was noted in the APE was noted and an eligibility evaluation was recommended. NCDOT contracted with New South Associates, Inc. to conduct a field survey and complete an intensive evaluation of the property. The attached report concluded that the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. (GV0694)

The report and survey materials are enclosed for your review and comment per 36CFR.800. Please let me know if you have any additional questions regarding this project. I can be reached at (919) 707-6088 or by email at slreap@ncdot.gov.

Sincerely,

*Shelby Reap*

Shelby Reap  
Historic Architecture Section

Attachment

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# National Register Eligibility Evaluation of the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House for the Replacement of Bridge No. 40 over Tabb's Creek on U.S. 158

*Granville County, North Carolina*

WBSNo. 17BP5.R.82



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National Register Eligibility Evaluation of the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House for the  
Replacement of Bridge No. 40 over Tabb's Creek on U.S. 158

Granville County, North Carolina

WBS No. 17BP.5.R.82

Report submitted to:  
North Carolina Department of Transportation, Human Environment Section  
1598 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699-1598

Report prepared by:  
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New South Associates, Inc.  
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Greensboro, North Carolina 27401



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Mary Beth Reed – Principal Investigator

Ellen Turco – Historian and Co-Author

March 24, 2017 • **Final Report**  
New South Associates Technical Report 2684

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## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 40 over Tabb's Creek in Granville County (WBS# 17BP.5.R.82). This project is subject to review under the Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects in North Carolina (NCDOT 2009). NCDOT architectural historians established an Area of Potential Effects (APE) and conducted a preliminary investigation, identifying one property, the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House (GV 694), warranting additional study and a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility evaluation. The APE for this project is 300 feet from each end of Bridge No. 40 and 75 feet from the road centerline.

In February 2017, NCDOT requested New South Associates, Inc. (New South) assess the NRHP eligibility of the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House and provide this report.

As a result of this study, for the purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, New South recommends the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House not eligible for the NRHP.

Survey Site Number	Resource Name	NHRP Eligibility Recommendation	Criteria
GV 694	Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House	Not Eligible	None

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## I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND METHODOLOGY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 40 over Tabb's Creek in Granville County, approximately two miles east of the county seat of Oxford (WBS# 17BP.5.R.82). This project is subject to review under the Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects in North Carolina (NCDOT 2009). NCDOT architectural historians established an Area of Potential Effects (APE) and pursuant to 36 CFR Section 800.4(b) identified one architectural resource, Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House (GV 694), 4153 U.S. 158, that might be affected by the undertaking. The APE for this project is 300 feet from each end of Bridge No. 40 and 75 feet from the road centerline (Figure 1).

In February 2017, NCDOT requested New South Associates, Inc. (New South) to intensively survey the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House and prepare a report assessing the property's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House was not previously surveyed. The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) has assigned survey site number GV 694 to this resource.

New South senior architectural historian Ellen Turco visited the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House on February 20, 2017. Ms. Glenda Hightower, the property owner, met Ms. Turco on site and provided a recent history of the resource. The property was visually inspected and the exterior, associated outbuildings and setting were documented through written notes and digital photographs. The house's interior was inaccessible. Ms. Turco returned to Granville County on March 6, 2017 to examine documents at the Granville County Register of Deeds Office. The statewide architectural survey records of the HPO were reviewed using the HPOWEB, their online GIS service. No previously recorded aboveground resources were found in the project APE. Historic topographic maps and aerial photographs were viewed at [historicaerials.com](http://historicaerials.com) and [nationalmap.gov](http://nationalmap.gov) and the U.S. Geological Survey's historical topographic map collection. U.S. Census records were reviewed at [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com). The historical development, architecture, and cultural significance of the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House was assessed and evaluated within its respective context according to the established NRHP criteria. The following resources were referenced to develop a local context and identify and comparable resources: *Historic and Architectural Resources of Granville County, North Carolina Multiple Property Documentation Form* (Brown 1988), *Heritage Homesteads, The History and Architecture of Granville County, North Carolina* (Calson and Brown 1988) and the *Oxford Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form* (Brown and Esperon 1998).

The results of this intensive-level investigation and NRHP evaluation are presented in the following chapters of this report. This report complies with the basic requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, as amended; the Department of Transportation regulations and procedures (23 CFR 771 and

Technical Advisory T 6640.8A); the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations on the Protection of Historic Properties (36 CFR 800); and NCDOT’s current Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products and the HPO’s Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/ Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina.

Figure 1. Project Location, APE, and Location of the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House (GV 694)



Sources: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle Map, Oxford, NC

## II. NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION OF ELIZABETH DORSEY WALTERS HOUSE

Resource Name	Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House
HPO Survey Site #	GV 694
Location	4153 U.S. 158, NC (Granville County)
PIN	02032017 11918 302
Date(s) of Construction	Circa 1930
Recommendation	Not Eligible for NRHP



### DESCRIPTION

### SETTING

The Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House parcel, 4153 U.S. 158, is located in Oxford Township, in central Granville County approximately two miles east of the county seat of Oxford (Figures 2 and 3).

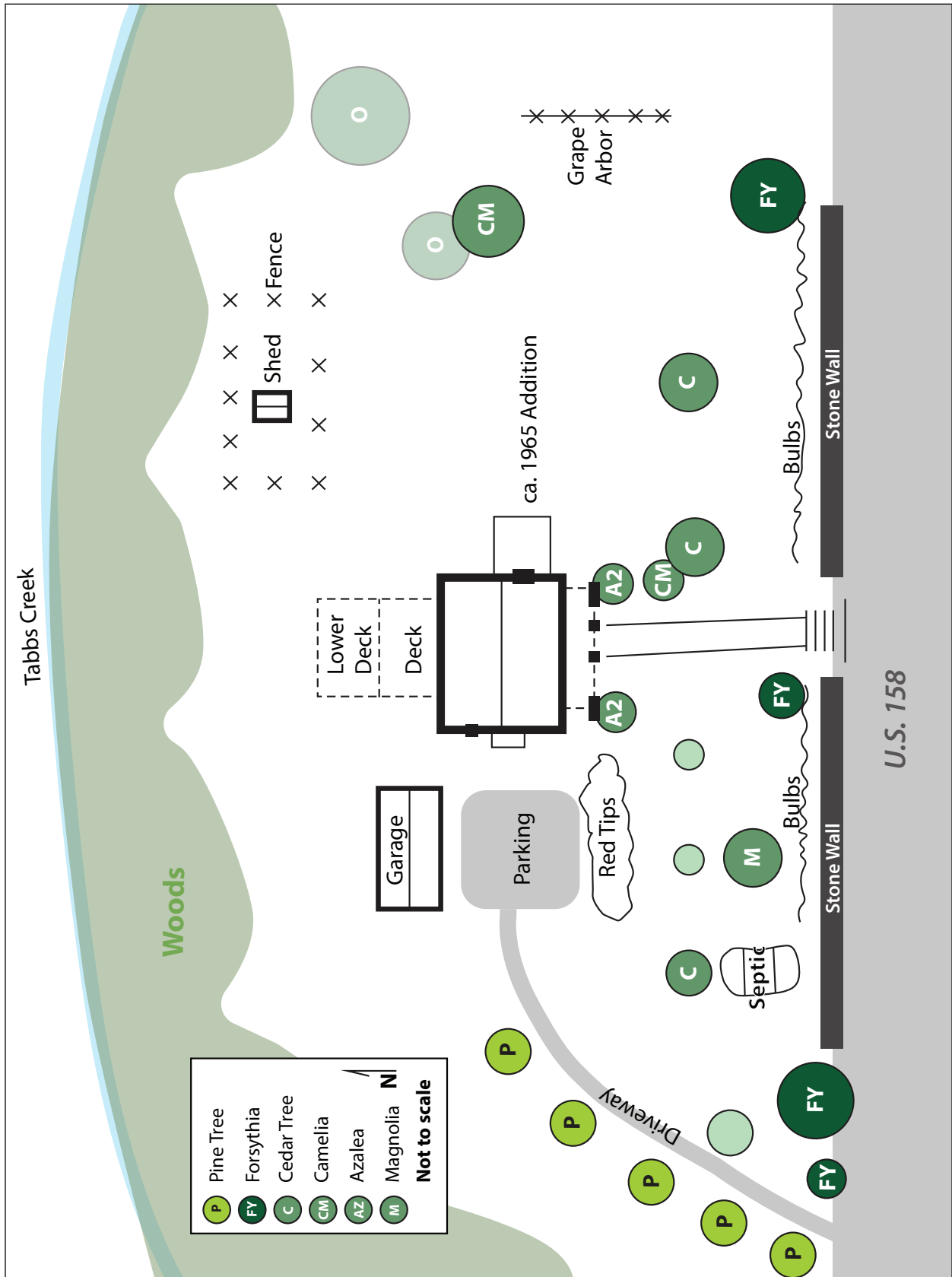
The circa 1930 dwelling, circa 1990 garage, and circa 2000 shed are the only buildings on the irregular, four-sided 0.62-acre parcel. There is approximately 330 feet of frontage on U.S. 158. A two-and-half-foot high quartz retaining wall runs on the south side of the property line along U.S. 158 (Figure 4). Tabb's Creek is on a separate legal parcel north of the subject tract. The

Figure 2. Aerial Photograph of the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House (GV 694)



Sources: Bing Hybrid Maps

Figure 3. Site Plan of the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House (GV 694)



creek wraps around the north side of the parcel, and the waterway and its wooded riparian buffer provide a visual boundary to the yard surrounding the house. Tabb’s Creek runs under Bridge No. 40, which is approximately 300 feet east of the house (Figure 5).

The house is accessed by a set of concrete steps that ascend through a break in the retaining wall and concrete path that leads from the steps to the porch. An unpaved driveway runs for about 135 feet from the west end of the property to an unpaved rectangular gravel parking pad west of the house (Figure 6). North of the parking pad is a one-car garage. West of the dwelling is a rectangular post-and-wire fence enclosure with shed at the center. The yard has a number of decorative plantings that date from Robin Lowe’s period of occupation between 1982 and 1998 (Glenda Hightower, personal communication, 2017) (See Figure 3). Mr. Lowe planted the pine trees on either side of the driveway, the red tip bushes on the south side of the parking pad, the forsythia bushes and daffodil bulbs along the quartz retaining wall, and isolated camellias and azaleas planted around the site. Lowe also built the grape arbor at the east end of the property. Older and more mature plantings are also present on the site, such as the large oak tree west of the house and a row of cedar trees in front of the house (Figure 7). Southeast of the house in the front yard is quartz foundation that played some function in an early septic system (Figure 8) (Glenda

Figure 4. Quartz Retaining Wall





Figure 5. View from Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House East to Bridge No. 40



Figure 6. Driveway to Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House



Figure 7. Row of Mature Cedars in Front of Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House



Figure 8. Quartz Foundation



Hightower, personal communication, 2017).

## INVENTORY LIST

Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House, Circa 1930; Circa 1965, 1985; 1998

The circa 1930 Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House is a 1,558-square-foot one-story Craftsman bungalow with a shallow-pitched side-gable roof (Figure 9). A front-gable dormer centered on the south roof slope illuminates the dwelling's unfinished attic. An engaged porch spans the front elevation. The main block is rectangular with a small gable projection on the west side (Figure 10). A flat-roofed side addition with paired windows was built on the east elevation around 1965 (Figure 11). A shed addition, containing a kitchen and bathroom, was built across the back of the house by around 1985 (Figures 12 and 13). A single-shouldered exterior chimney of the west elevation is partially obscured by the 1965 addition. A brick exterior chimney flue rises on the east elevation. A bi-level rear wood deck was added to the rear addition in 1998 (see Figure 12). The main block and west addition sit on a continuous brick foundation. The rear shed addition is on brick piers. The roof planes are covered with composite shingles.

The house retains a number of original materials and restrained Craftsman-style decorative details. The original plain weatherboard siding is currently painted gray. Decorative trim, which was painted white, includes the plain corner boards, the diamond vents in the gable ends, and the exposed rafter tails and plain fascia boards in the eaves of the main roof and the dormer (Figure 14). Four brick piers with concrete caps support the broad front porch (Figures 15 and 16). The central piers that flank the entry are lower than the full-height corner ones and are surmounted by narrow rectangular wood posts. The piers and posts support an arched frieze.

The original windows of the main block were replaced with one-over-one vinyl windows prior to 1998 (Figure 16). The dormer retains an original triple window made up of fixed, four-light sashes (see Figure 16). The windows of the rear-shed addition are vinyl and have a simulated six-over-six configuration on the west side and one-over-one on the rear. In the northeast corner of the house is a projecting greenhouse window.

The window shutters were added in 1998 (Glenda Hightower, personal communication, 2017). The raised panel security front door and security storm door were also installed in 1998 (see Figure 15).

Figure 9. Front of Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House



Figure 10. West Side of Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House



Figure 11. East Elevation with Circa 1965 Addition



Figure 12. Rear of Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House



Figure 13. Northwest Corner of Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House Showing Rear Addition



Figure 14. South and East Sides of the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House Showing Trim and Diamond Vent



Figure 15. Porch Detail



Figure 16. Porch Detail



### Garage, Circa 1985

The rectangular, side-gable garage is west of the dwelling and sits at the north edge of the gravel parking area (Figure 17). There is a garage door and a walk-through entry door on the south side. The west and north sides have small vinyl windows. The exterior walls are covered with vinyl siding. The roof is covered with composite shingles and is pierced by two skylights. The foundation is made of concrete blocks.

Figure 17. Garage





Shed, Circa 2010

This rectangular front-gable shed is sided with sheets of plywood (Figure 18). It has a composite shingle roof and sits on concrete blocks positioned at each corner.

Figure 18. Shed and Fence Enclosure



## HISTORY

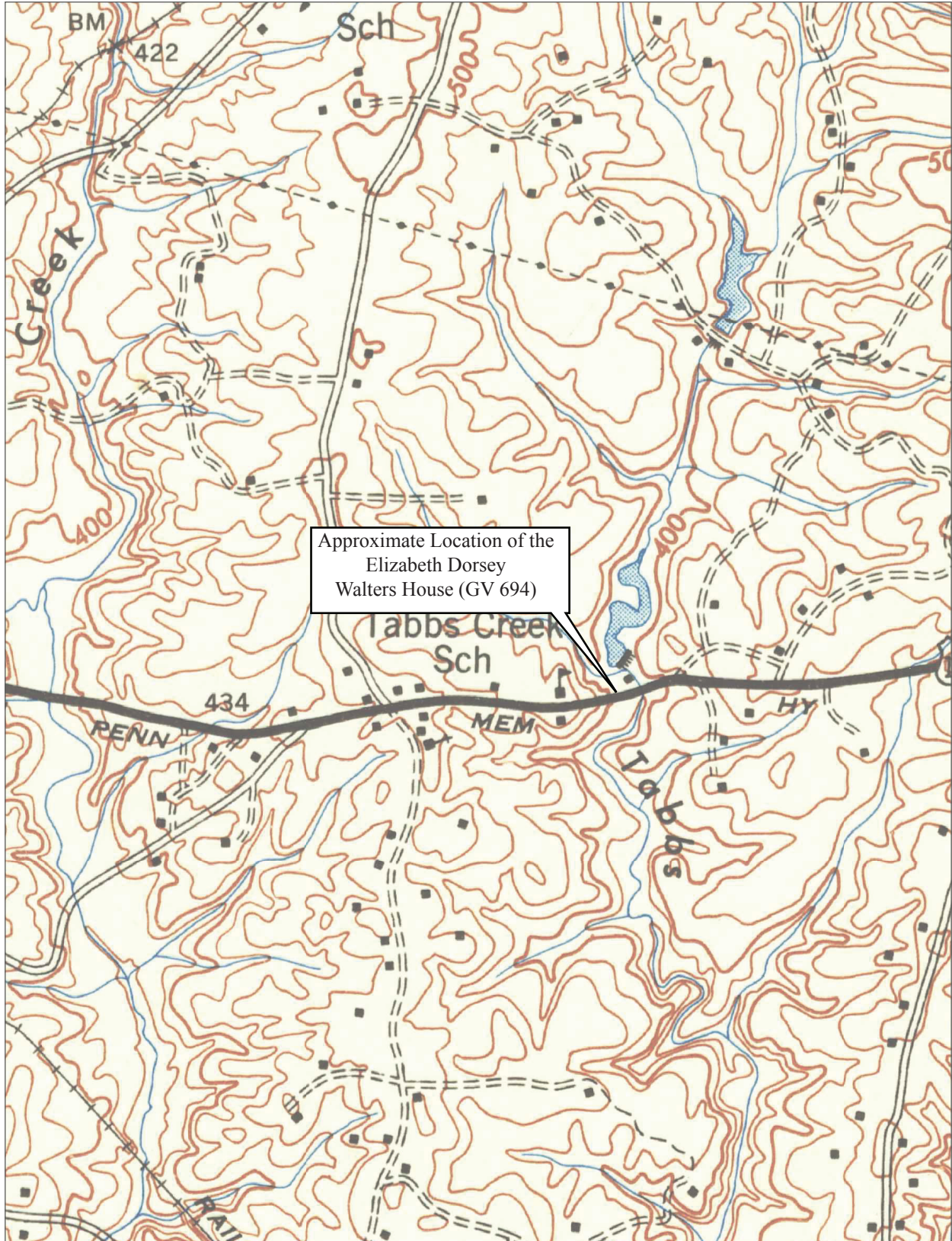
The Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House is owned by Ms. Glenda Hightower. Ms. Hightower purchased the house at a foreclosure auction in 1998 and has leased it ever since. The house was in good condition when Ms. Hightower acquired it, and she has made minimal changes beyond routine maintenance. She added the window shutters and built the deck on the rear elevation. A tenant erected the shed and fence enclosure in the back yard around 2010. Between 1982 and 1994, the property was owned by Robin Lowe (Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, North Carolina [GCC] 1982: Deed Book [DB] 237:52). Mr. Lowe made a number of changes to the house including removing the original windows and installing the vinyl ones, adding the shed addition to the rear elevation and building the garage. Lowe had a green thumb and planted many of the ornamental trees, shrubs and bulbs that populate the yard (Glenda Hightower, personal communication, 2017). During the four-year period between 1978 and 1982, the house was owned by Beatrice and Owen Beasley. The Beasleys purchased the property from its long-term owner, Elizabeth Dorsey Walters Longmire.

It is not known if Mrs. Longmire built the house or if the previous owners, L.F. and Annie Hamme, erected it. Longmire, who purchased the property in 1928, was married to her first husband at the time and went by Elizabeth Dorsey Walters. Her husband, Dudley Walters, was not a party to the deed. The Craftsman style of architecture was popular in Granville County from about 1910 to 1935, so it is plausible that either Elizabeth Dorsey Walters or the Hammes had the house built. For purposes of this report, the house is called the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House, since that was her name at the time she acquired the property.

U.S. Census and other records do not shed much light on Mrs. Longmire's life. She was born around 1908 and appears in the Censuses of 1920, as Elizabeth Dorsey, and 1930, as Elizabeth Dorsey Walters. It is unknown how long she was married to highway patrolman Dudley Walters, or when she married her second husband, Hampton Young Longmire, also of Granville County. She died a widow in Raleigh in 1979, 13 months after she sold house to the Beasleys (Longmire 2017).

The April 17, 1928 deed from Elizabeth Dorsey Walters described the roughly one-half acre parcel as east of the Cozart Mill and west of the filling station on the Oxford-Henderson Road (GCC 1928:DB 90:79). A 1953 topographical map shows a dam and millpond northeast of subject parcel on Tabb's Creek (Figure 19). It is not clear if the black box designated as a structure located southwest of the mill is the subject house or another structure. The filling station is not clearly evident, although it may have been gone by 1953 and was gone for certain by 1970 (Figure 20). Interestingly, the 1930 census lists Elizabeth Dorsey Walters and Dudley Walters residing with Elizabeth's brother, Howard Darsey (sic), in Salem Township, which is just north of the subject property. Sixteen-year-old Howard's occupation is listed as gasoline station worker. The

Figure 19. 1953 USGS Quadrangle Oxford



busy Oxford-Henderson Road (U.S. 158) linked the county seats and tobacco centers of Oxford in Granville County and Henderson in Vance County and would have been a logical place for a filling station. It is plausible that the family acquired the bungalow, or had it built, because of its proximity to the filling station where Howard Dorsey worked. The 1959 Hills City Directory lists Hampton and Elizabeth Longmire, the former Elizabeth Dorsey Walters, as the proprietors of Hamp's Tavern on Henderson Road (Hill Directory Company 1959). An address is not designated, likely because the location was outside the city limits, which ended at Williamsboro Road.

Figure 20. 1970 Aerial Photograph Source: Historicaerials.com



## ARCHITECTURE CONTEXT

Nationally, the Craftsman style was popular for both architect designed and mass-produced residential architecture from the 1910s to the mid-1920s. The style traces its roots to 1903 in Southern California, where the architectural firm of Greene and Greene of Pasadena practiced until 1914. The Greene brothers were the style's progenitors and proponents. The Greenes' designs drew heavily from the English Arts and Crafts Movement and Asian-inspired motifs. The style spread across the country as smaller, scaled down versions of high-style California Craftsman houses were mass-produced and sold as "kit houses" by Sears, Roebuck and Company, the Aladdin Company, and others. One-story Craftsman houses, often known as "bungalows" became the most popular style of newly constructed houses in the U.S. during the 1910s and 1920s (McAlester 2013:578). In non-urban parts of the country that were slower to adopt national tastes, such as Granville County, the style persisted until the mid-1930s.

Craftsman houses typically have shallow-pitched roofs and porches. The most common forms are one or one-and-a-half stories in height with the latter often displaying roof dormers. Interiors possess casual, flowing floor plans and exteriors are clad with natural and textured materials such as shingles, brick, stucco and rustic stone. Structure is expressed in unfinished eave overhangs, exposed rafter tails or eave braces or brackets, and heavy battered, or sloped, porch posts. The windows have many configurations but three or four-over-one sashes were especially common.

The Craftsman style was popular in the county seat of Oxford in the 1910s, 1920s and 1930s, and therefore, there are a number of examples in the Oxford Historic District with which to compare the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House. In the early years of the twentieth century, Oxford was a town flush with money earned from Bright Leaf tobacco cultivation, processing, and sales. The local economy had previously been driven by the county's plantations. This long period of prosperity lasted from about the 1810s through 1929 and enabled successful local residents to erect homes in the latest nationally popular style (Brown and Esperon 1998:8:1;8:11). In the 1910s and 1920s, Oxford citizens were building in the Classical Revival style, which was steeped in idealized plantation traditions, and the Craftsman style, which was a completely new and modern style.

The Crews-Turner House (407 College Street) is a two-story hipped-roof brick Craftsman dwelling built by local contractor Walter Crews around 1920 (Figure 21). The house has exposed rafter ends in the eaves and a broad gabled porch supported by battered paneled posts on stone piers. The porch gable is stuccoed and embedded with stones. The use of stone on the façade and the eave treatment suggestive of structural members are hallmarks of the Craftsman style.

The 1921 George C. Shaw House (202 McClanahan Street) is a one-and-a-half story side-gable brick bungalow that, like the Crews-Turner House, has exposed rafter ends and battered paneled porch posts. The dwelling's side-gable porch is engaged with the main roofline and has shingles and brackets in the gable ends. A bracketed shed dormer is on the roof.

Figure 21. Crews-Turner House, Oxford



Figure 22. 410 Hancock Street, Oxford



Figure 23. 407 Hancock Street, Oxford



Figure 24. Hancock-Easton House, Oxford



Although Hancock Street is not within the Oxford Historic District, a number of well-detailed examples of Craftsman style dwellings are clustered there. The house located at 410 Hancock Street is an excellent shingled example of the style (Figure 22), and 407 Hancock Street has weatherboard siding, a shed dormer an Asian-inspired porch posts, and an Arts and Crafts porch balustrade (Figure 23). The neighboring property, the Hancock-Easton House (409 Hancock Street; GV 251) is a two-story Craftsman house reminiscent of the early California Craftsman houses (Figure 24). Around the corner, 313 Kingsbury Street is a one-and-half story side-gable house with clipped gable ends and a shed dormer (Figure 25). Craftsman features include the dwelling's unfinished eaves and a full-facade inset porch supported by tall stone piers with truncated battered posts.

Drive through the Oxford Historic District and you will see many other examples of Craftsman bungalow dwellings. The number and quality of bungalows is testament to the town's prosperity during the 1910s and 1920s and sets a high bar for comparison with the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House.

Figure 25. 313 Kingsbury Street, Oxford





## NRHP EVALUATION

### INTEGRITY

The circa 1930 Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House possesses its original side-gable and one-story bungalow form. Its front dormer and porch, two important character defining features, remain intact. The two non-historic additions, the rear shed addition and the west side addition, do not detract from the house's historic core in an obtrusive way. Most of the original wood trim remains intact. The original windows are a significant loss, as they would have been an important stylistic feature on an otherwise stylistically restrained building. The two outbuildings on the site are less than 50 years of age.

### EVALUATION

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP if they are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. The Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House was not found to be associated with any such events or historical trends. The minimal acreage historically associated with the house indicates it was not part of a larger agricultural property. It is possible, but unconfirmed, that the house was at one time associated with an adjacent service station that is no longer standing. All evidence indicates the house has been a residence since its construction and no historically important events are known to have occurred there. Therefore, the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP if they are associated with persons significant within community, state, or national historic contexts. Research conducted for this project could not conclude with certainty who built the house, or who occupied it. Elizabeth Dorsey Walters, who married her second husband, Hampton Young Longmire, after the end her first marriage to Dudley Walters, purchased the property in 1928 and retained ownership until 1978. In the 1950s, the Longmires ran a local tavern on the Oxford-Henderson Road (U.S. 158). Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Longmire was found to be historically significant within community, state, or national historic contexts. Therefore, Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House is recommended not eligible under Criterion B.

Properties may be eligible under Criterion C if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. The Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House is a relatively intact circa 1930 bungalow with restrained Craftsman design details. The town of Oxford, which is located two-miles west of the subject property, was a beneficiary of Granville County's great plantation wealth during the antebellum period. Later, Oxford became a vital regional tobacco center in the first three decades of the twentieth century. As a result of this long-term success, the town possesses many residences

that reflect popular architectural styles over the various decades. Craftsman style and bungalow form dwellings represent a significant number of residential buildings in the 246-building Oxford Historic District and the surrounding streets. These examples are comparable with those in the state's larger cities and suburban neighborhoods. The Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House does not stand out when evaluated against Oxford's Craftsman bungalows in terms of style, design, materials or integrity. It is a modest and altered example of a Craftsman bungalow built near the end of the style's prevalence. Therefore, Elizabeth Dorsey Walters House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable through informant interviews and documentary sources. Therefore, the Elizabeth Dorsey Walters is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

## REFERENCES CITED

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