



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

June 20, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vanessa Patrick
Human Environment Unit
NC Department of Transportation

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

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report for Replacement of Bridge 219 on SR 1354 over Bear Swamp, PA 16-12-0022, Duplin County, ER 17-0998

Thank you for your May 24, 2017, memorandum transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and offer the following comments.

We concur that the Hill House (DP0865) is not eligible for listing in the National Register.

While the report includes a lot of good research and extensive consideration of the Ceness Taylor Farm (DP0319), much of it is problematic as outlined below.

The Ceness Taylor Farm is probably NR-eligible, but not the entire large parcel, which is 161.78 acres per HPOWEB (the report does not give the acreage). The consultant states that the property meets Criteria A and C but presents context only for residential architecture under C. The only discussion of Criterion A is on page 41, under "Evaluation Criteria" -- a single paragraph that states the farm illustrates how agriculture changed in the county and "how one farming family adapted to new labor sources and markets." Is one to infer the validity of this statement from the discussion of the farm's history and how it was subdivided from Buckner Hill over the generations? Lacking any more context, there can be no argument for the significance of these changing patterns which do not equate with significance.

The architectural context (pages 37-40) is minimal and only addresses the main house, although there is the barest mention of outbuildings and landscape features regarding a couple of the properties offered as comparables. The Ceness Taylor Farm complex may qualify under Criterion C, considering the number of outbuildings that are over fifty years old, but there's hardly any discussion of agricultural complexes. This appears mostly on pages 42-43 and concludes with the statement that the complex might qualify if the Duplin County MPDF is amended.

The discussion of significance on page 40 is confusing. Under “Integrity,” the discussion starts by stating that “Separately, the house and agricultural buildings do not retain sufficient integrity for listing on NRHP, but together they do appear to retain integrity as a rural historic landscape . . .” While none of the built resources may qualify individually, the complex in its immediate setting of several acres probably does. The report goes on, however, to discuss the entire 161-acre parcel including fence lines, trees, fields, etc., but one cannot find the entire parcel eligible without a case for agricultural significance which, as outlined above, has not been done.

This report would be a lot easier to follow if the resources had been presented as a numbered inventory list keyed to the site plan rather than in a continuous narrative. The two barns at the far northwest edge of the property post-date 1974, per the aerials. Mention of them on page 23 (fourth paragraph) is hard to follow and is incorrect. Thus, these noncontributing resources should be cited in the list on page 42.

The fact that the owner/builder of the noncontributing 1968 ranch house is still living (see page 42) is irrelevant.

While we might be able to accept a finding of eligibility under Criterion C for twenty to thirty acres of the farm, there needs to be careful consideration of proposing appropriate boundaries, including the treatment of the portions of the farm that may fall within the road right-of-way.

Given the issues outlined above, we recommend a thorough revision of the report and its resubmittal for further consideration of the Ceness Taylor Farm.

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

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

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT, mfurr@ncdot.gov



PAT McCRORY
Governor
NICHOLAS J. TENNYSON
Secretary

elle Hers 6/17/17

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H 6/15

To: Renee Gledhill-Earley, NCHPO
From: Vanessa E. Patrick, NCDOT
Date: May 24, 2016
Subject: *Historic Structures Survey Report for
Bridge No. 219 Replacement, Duplin County, North Carolina -
PA Project 16-12-0022*

Due 6/20/17

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project. Enclosed for your review is a report presenting an evaluation of one historic architectural resource in the Bridge No. 219, Duplin County project area (one hard copy and a CD).

The report addresses the Ceness Taylor Farm (DP0319) and recommends it as *eligible* for the National Register of Historic Places.

Photographs, GIS data, and a survey site form (all on CD) for the evaluated resource are also enclosed.

We look forward to receiving your comments on the report. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at vepatrick@ncdot.gov or 919-707-6082. Thank you.

V.E.P.

Attachments



**Historic Structures Survey Report
Replace Bridge No. 219 on SR 1354 (Taylor Town Road) over Bear Swamp
Duplin County, North Carolina**

WBS# 17BP.3.R.60

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

Prepared by
Cardno, Inc.
5400 Glenwood Avenue, Suite G-3
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612

May 12, 2017 – Final Report


**Historic Structures Survey Report
Replace Bridge No. 219 on SR 1354 (Taylor Town Road) over Bear Swamp
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Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT Historic Architecture Supervisor



Lucy D. Jones, Cardno Principal Investigator

May 12, 2017 – Final Report

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 219 on State Road (SR) 1354 (Taylor Town Road) over Bear Swamp in Duplin County (WBS# 17BP.3.R.60). In February 2017, NCDOT requested that Cardno, Inc., complete an assessment of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of certain structures within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and provide this report.

As a result of this study, Cardno recommends that Ceness Taylor Farm (DP0319) retains sufficient integrity to be considered eligible for the NRHP as a rural historic landscape. It is recommended eligible for listing under Criterion A for its association with events that have made a contribution to the broad patterns of our history and Criterion C for its physical design and construction.

A preliminary review of GIS HPOWeb showed a second structure (Hill House, DP0865) mapped just to the south of Ceness Taylor Farm; however, no structure could be seen in that location on current aerial images or on site. Upon further examination of files at HPO and consultation with the Survey and National Register Branch, it was determined that DP0319 and DP0865 are the same property. Going forward, all information will be combined in one record as DP0319.

Property Name	NCHPO Survey Site Number	NRHP Eligibility Recommendation	NRHP Criteria
Ceness Taylor Farm	DP0319	Eligible	A, C
Hill House	DP0865	Not applicable	None

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I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND METHODOLOGY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 219 on State Road (SR) 1354 (Taylor Town Road) over Bear Swamp in Duplin County (WBS# 17BP.3.R.60). This project is subject to review under the *Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects* (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA 2015). NCDOT architectural historians established an Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project and conducted a preliminary investigation, identifying resources warranting additional study and eligibility evaluation (Figure 1). The APE extends approximately 350 feet (ft.) from both ends of the existing bridge (northwest-southeast) and 100 ft. to either side of the SR 1354 centerline (southwest-northeast).

In February 2017, NCDOT requested that Cardno, Inc., complete an intensive-level survey and assess the NRHP eligibility of one property over 50 years of age in the project APE (Figure 2).

- Ceness Taylor Farm (DP0319), #597 Taylor Town Road, Duplin County PIN 247800054516

A preliminary review of HPOWeb GIS Service online showed a second structure (Hill House, DP0865) mapped just to the south of Ceness Taylor Farm; however, no structure could be seen in that location on current aerial images or on site. Upon further examination of files at North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) and consultation with Chandrea Burch of the Survey and National Register Branch, it was determined that DP0319 and DP0865 are the same property. Going forward, all information will be combined in one record as DP0319.

On March 23, 2017, Cardno senior architectural historian Lucy Jones and Cardno archaeologist Valerie Nobles visited the property listed above. Each building was visually inspected, and the exterior, interior (when accessible), and setting were documented through written notes and digital photographs. An on-site interview was conducted with Samuel Taylor, the current owner. Site visits also were made to other historic structures within Duplin County to provide an architectural context for the resource under evaluation.

Basic research was conducted prior to the site visit including Duplin County GIS and tax records and a search of the historic structure records. Copies of NRHP nomination forms for relevant resources were obtained from HPO. Additional information came from Duplin County Historical Society publications and the Faison Museum. Anne Taylor with the museum and the librarians at the Duplin County Library in Kenansville were very helpful in our efforts to contact Sam Taylor.

The Samuel E. Taylor Farm, established 1894, is a North Carolina Century Farm, and the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services recognizes that it has been continuously owned by a family, in all or in part, for 100 or more years (North Carolina State Fair 2016). The Samuel E. Taylor Farm and the Ceness Taylor Farm are the same property.

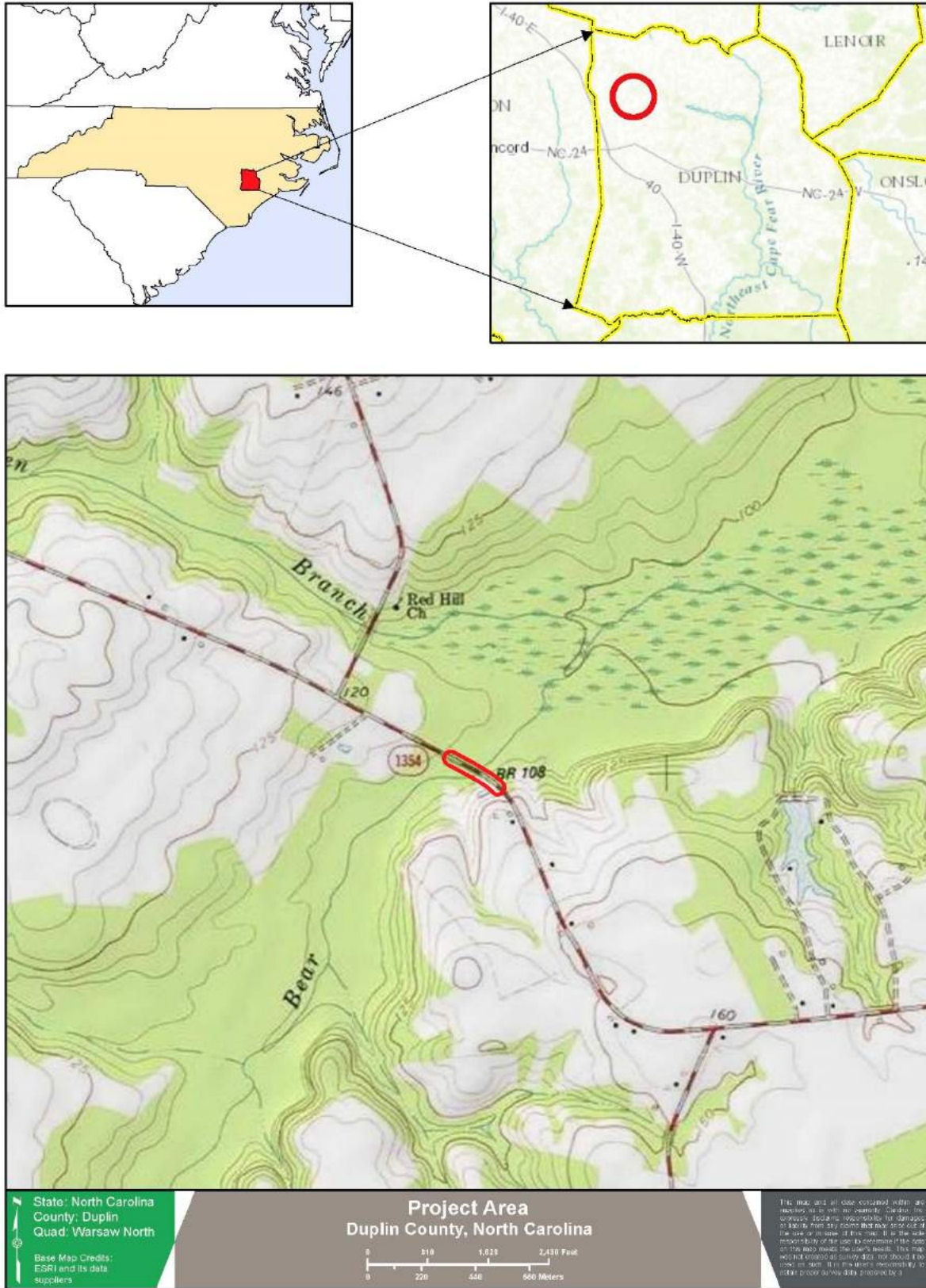


Figure 1. Project location map, Duplin County, North Carolina.

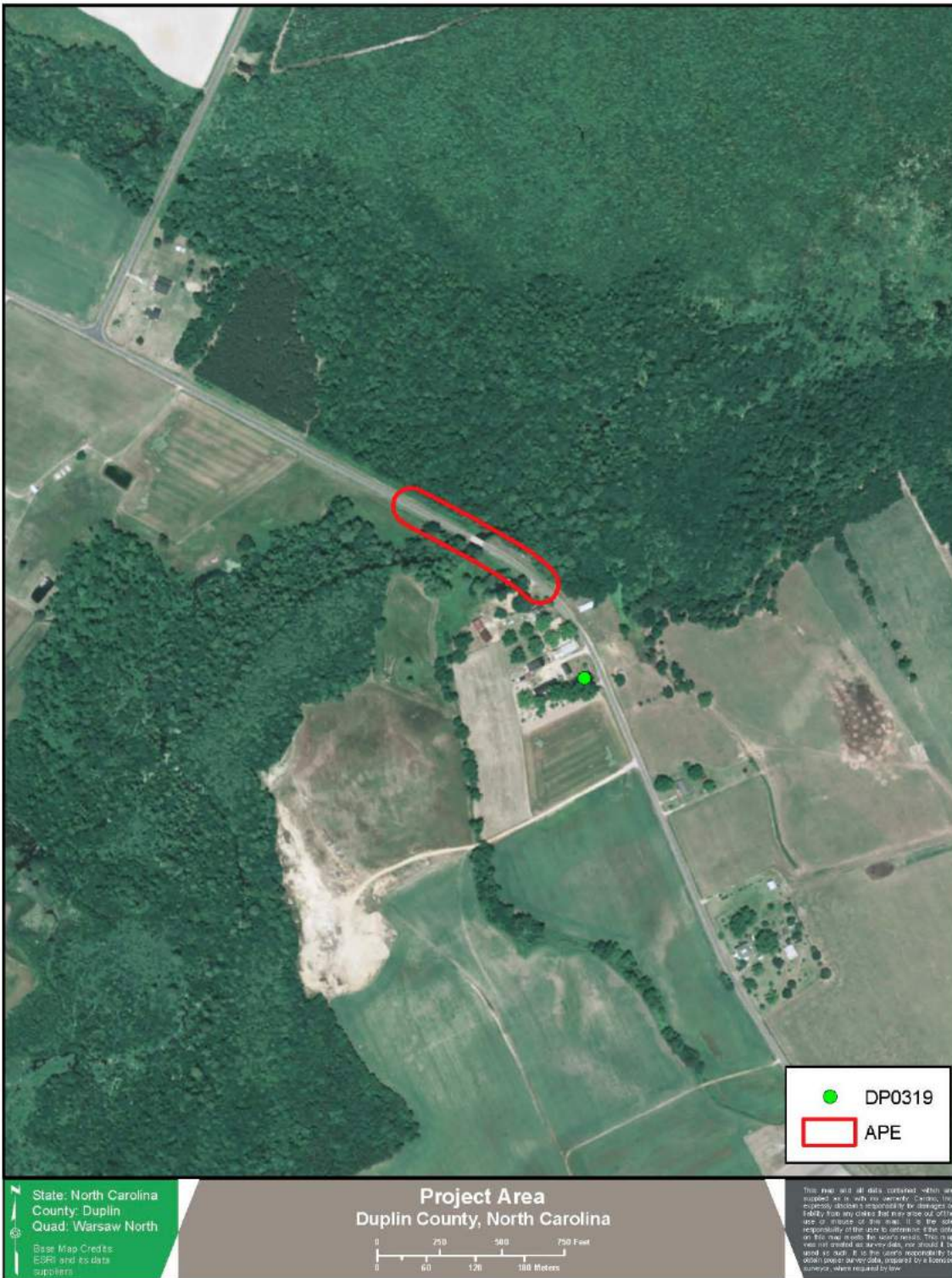


Figure 2. Aerial photograph showing APE and location of resource to be evaluated.

II. PROPERTY EVALUATION

Resource Name	Ceness Taylor Farm (Figure 3)
HPO Survey Site Number	DP0319
Location	597 Taylor Town Road, Faison
PIN	247800054516
Date of Construction	Circa 1890
Recommendation	Eligible



Figure 3. Ceness Taylor Farm House (597 Taylor Town Road). Main (northeast) elevation.

SETTING

The Ceness Taylor Farm is located south of Faison on the southwest side of SR 1354 (Taylor Town Road) on a parcel bisected by Bear Swamp (Figure 4). Today, the surroundings are rural, including pasture, fields, and other farmsteads. To the east and southeast are the historic Hill Family Cemetery, a modern house and older barn at 556 Taylor Town Road, and the NRHP-listed Buckner Hill Plantation. Bridge No. 219 carries Taylor Town Road over the main flow of Bear Swamp (Figure 5). The House Branch of this waterway runs behind the main cluster of buildings on the farm.

Two houses and 15 outbuildings were identified on this parcel, the majority of which are south of the bridge on the west side of the road, surrounded by fields and wetlands. Two barns are north of Bear Swamp across from SR 1356 (McNeill Road). Aside from two or three manmade ponds and some recent artificial drainage in the western portion of the parcel, the topography is naturally gently rolling with buildings on relatively higher ground away from water.



Figure 4. Northern boundary of Ceness Taylor Farm along Taylor Town Road, view of Bear Swamp with barn roofs partially visible through trees.

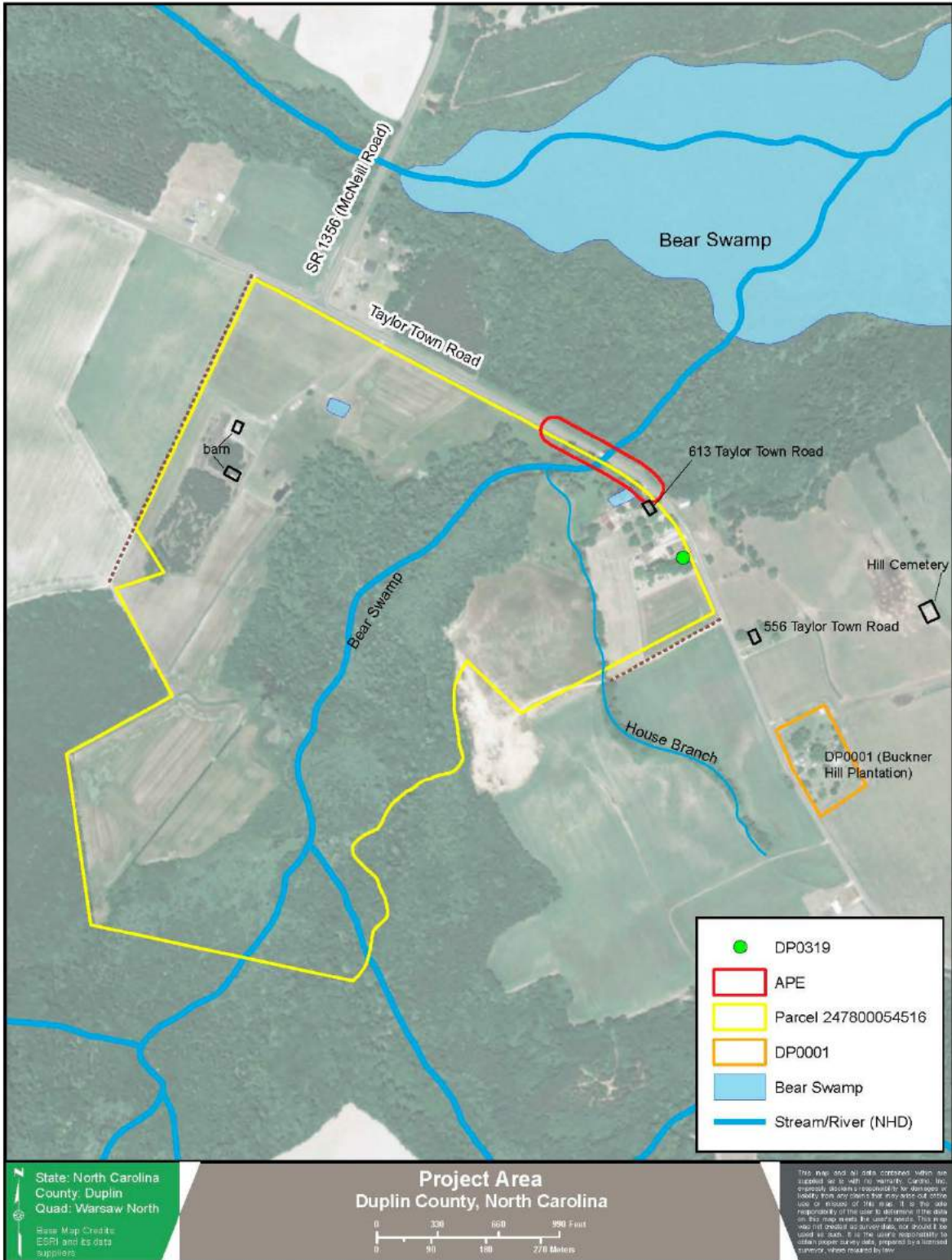


Figure 5. Sketch map of project setting.

DESCRIPTION

Two residences and 15 outbuildings today comprise the Ceness Taylor Farm (see Figure 5 and Figure 6). The heart of the farmstead is concentrated around 597 Taylor Town Road, with barns, shops, sheds, and poultry houses organized in rows beside and behind the house. The remaining outbuildings and the house at 613 Taylor Town Road are scattered less methodically on the rest of the parcel. By the early twentieth century, tobacco was the dominant cash crop for the county's farmers, with less emphasis given than in previous decades to cotton and livestock; the county did have increased production of chickens and turkeys (Martin 1994). On this property, the Taylors have grown corn and tobacco, and raised hogs and chickens.

According to county property records, 597 Taylor Town Road was built in 1898. The Taylors have a sign by the back door claiming it to date to ca. 1883. The 1993 HPO structure form posits construction in 1870, and still another source says 1902 (Sikes and Sikes 1996). Given the style of the house and the land ownership history, it seems most plausible that it was built no earlier than 1883, no later than 1908, and most likely in the 1890s.

This is a central-passage-plan house, one-room deep, with a rear ell and at least two subsequent additions: a side shed-roofed room dating to the 1930s and a rear space built by Samuel Taylor in the 1950s (Figure 7 and Figure 8). According to Taylor, this is the building's original location. It rests on brick piers with hollow tile infill, except for the back room, which has a continuous concrete foundation. The exterior is currently covered with vinyl siding, and the eaves have been enclosed. The original siding would have been wood, and the 1993 structure form indicates that there was asbestos siding on the westernmost portion. The false shutters were added along with the vinyl siding. Three-quarters of the gabled roof is covered with metal sheets, with some wooden shakes remaining underneath. The rear quarter of the roof is clad with asphalt or composite shingles (Figure 9).

The main entrance faces Taylor Town Road and is through a half-light door with three-pane sidelights centered under a hip-roofed porch with a wood floor (see Figure 3). Ornamentation includes turned posts with a symmetrical, plain balustrade and matching stair railings. Secondary entrances are found on the south and west elevations, all served by concrete steps. While the side entrance is unsheltered, the rear stoop is shaded by a cantilevered gabled roof with braces (see Figure 8).

At one time the house had three chimneys, but the exterior brick flue on the southern gable end has been removed entirely, and the two chimneys on the rear ell (one brick and one concrete block) have been taken down to the roofline. Six-over-six sash windows are found on the older sections of the house, while the rear elevation has a picture window south of the door (new since 1993) and an aluminum sash window over the stoop.

To the south of the house beside the two-track driveway is a round lily pond complete with goldfish. Each morning Samuel Taylor and his friends gather in the side yard to socialize under large pecan trees planted by Leon Taylor nearly 100 years ago (see Figure 7). Pecan trees are commonly found near farmhouses in Duplin County where their planting was encouraged in the 1920s and 1930s by agricultural extension agents (Martin 1994:F-52).

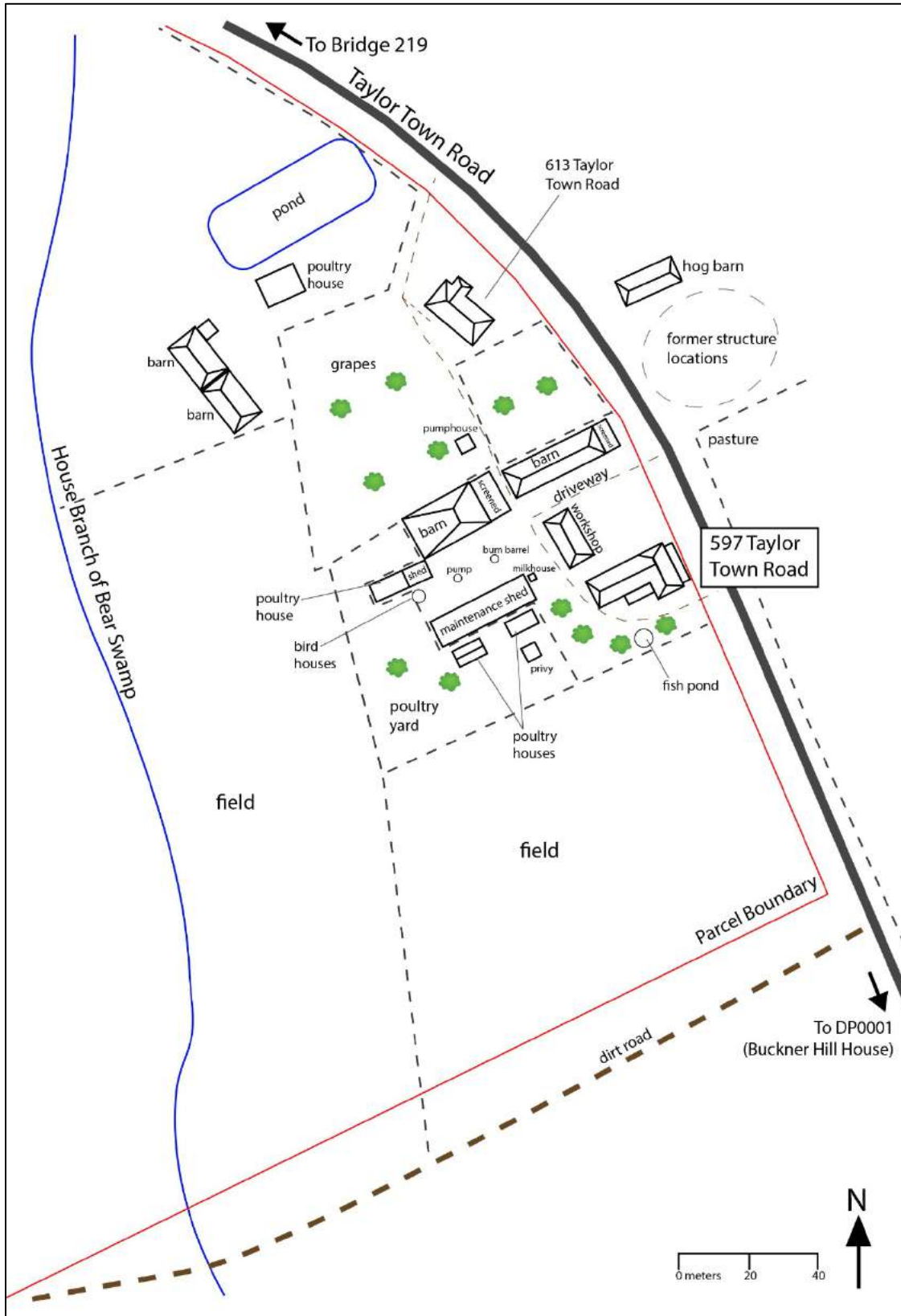


Figure 6. Sketch map of house and farm building complex.



Figure 7. Rear and south elevations of house.



Figure 8. Rear elevation of house.



Figure 9. North elevation of house.

To the immediate north of the residence is a workshop also used as offices for Bear Swamp Taxidermy (Figure 10). The floor plan is three rooms in a row, beginning with the southern bay (originally the farm's pump house), which dates to the early twentieth century. The second room was added in the 1950s as a concrete-block carport on a concrete slab, but is now enclosed. Taylor built the final room in the 1960s for his taxidermy work resulting in a simple rectangular plan building with a side-gabled roof covered with 5V metal sheets. The southern gable is also covered with metal. The shop's exterior fabric is painted block and vinyl siding, with aluminum slider windows and six-over-six wood sashes. One vertical wood door is located on the east elevation where the eaves are wide enough that with wrought-iron supports it forms a porch over the entry. Each room has at least one door opening on the west elevation. The original pump house doors are wooden sliding doors hung from the top. The other two rooms have half-light panel doors with screens. There are small concrete pads along this elevation at the doorways, but no actual porch.



Figure 10. Workshop and house, looking southeast.

To the north of the workshop is a large rectangular six-bay pole barn built in the late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century (Figure 11). Three western bays are open to their full height on the south elevation, but the top half of the three eastern bays is enclosed as a loft. The bottom of the easternmost bay is enclosed as well, with a horizontal wood-plank wall. The exterior fabric, including that of the asymmetrical-gable roof, is 5V metal sheeting. The loft, which is accessed up wooden steps without risers, has a hinged wooden door with narrow vertical planks. The enclosed room on the lower level has a hinged double door covered with the same metal exterior fabric. On the eastern elevation is a shed addition, fenced, and currently used by Samuel Taylor to raise peacocks. To the immediate north of the barn is a fenced yard for the birds (Figure 12).



Figure 11. Barn to north of workshop.



Figure 12. Barn and house on west side of Taylor Town Road.

To the west of this large barn is another (Figure 13). Over the course of a century farm buildings come and go. According to Samuel Taylor, the original structure at this location was destroyed by Hurricane Hazel in 1954. The replacement was used as a pack house, but now for storage. A long shed addition to the west provides equipment shelter. The main body of the building has two levels, and twelve-light metal casement windows allow light into the lower floor. Concrete steps lead to a vertical-plank hinged door, with a similar opening for the loft above, centered under the gable. At the southwest corner of this barn is a flat-roofed open pole shed that appears to postdate the pack house and currently is used for storage (Figure 14).

Adjacent to the west side of the pole shed but on the other side of a fence is a poultry house likely dating to the 1930s, a wooden framed structure with exterior horizontal-plank siding (Figure 15). Small wooden awnings are placed over each of three vertical-plank hinged doors on the south elevation; the lower half of this wall is screened for ventilation and there is a screened sun parlor to the west. The shed roof has exposed rafter tails. While not currently in use, the structure stands within a large poultry yard. The poultry yard is also used to store equipment. On the fence line between the open pole shed and the maintenance shed is a metal pole holding several gourd bird houses (Figure 16).



Figure 13. Pack house with shed extension. Southeast elevation.



Figure 14. Pole shed. Southeast and northeast elevations.



Figure 15. Poultry house. Southeast elevation.



Figure 16. Poultry yard and bird houses. Looking west.

Across a dirt yard from the pack house is a long one-story maintenance or tractor shed dating to the early or mid-twentieth century (Figure 17). This is a seven-bay pole barn with an enclosed room on the eastern end that has a half-panel entrance on its north elevation and is covered with vinyl siding. The shed has a concrete floor, three sides covered with metal sheets, and the northern elevation left open. A brick furnace or cooker was built into one of the open bays (Figure 18). Metal sheets cover the gabled roof, leaving the rafter tails exposed. In the open yard between buildings are a pump and a burn barrel (Figure 19). The fenced poultry yard wraps around the back of the maintenance shed (Figure 20).

In the poultry yard to the north of the maintenance shed are two circa-1930s poultry houses. The chicken house is still in use (see Figure 20 and Figure 21), while the turkey house has been repurposed as a storage shed covered with vinyl siding and the windows and door replaced (Figure 22). In the 1920s, the state's Extension Service encouraged farmers to build poultry houses using standard plans distributed by their office, and laying houses were often placed near a farm's main residence for the convenience of the person caring for the chickens (Jull 1930; Oliver and Parrish 1925). Wood was a commonly used material as it was inexpensive. Part or all of the front wall of the structure would be left open depending on the need for ventilation, lighting, or warmth in winter. This chicken house is typical of shed-roofed laying houses with a human-sized doorway on the corner side, although a shed-roofed porch creates the appearance of a gable roofline.



Figure 17. Maintenance shed. Northwest elevation.



Figure 18. Interior of maintenance shed.



Figure 19. Yard and burn barrel between outbuildings. Looking northeast.



Figure 20. Poultry yard and rear elevation of maintenance shed. Looking west.



Figure 21. Poultry house. Southeast and northeast elevations.



Figure 22. Former poultry house now used for storage. Southeast and northeast elevations.

Also in the yard is the farm's privy (Figure 23). According to Taylor, the privy was moved from place to place when a new pit was needed. Now that it is no longer used for its original purpose, he has fixed it up to store garden tools. Based on a review of HPO records (Carnes-McNaughton and Harper 2000), this outbuilding is typical of North Carolina's early-twentieth-century rural privies, 91 percent of which were of frame construction and 40 percent had metal-covered shed roofs. The horizontal flush-plank walls of this example are less common than the more frequently found vertical-plank or weatherboard siding.



Figure 23. Former privy now used as garden tool shed. Northeast elevation.

At the east end of the maintenance shed is found a small milk house, also known as a cool house or screen house (Figure 24). This structure is not original to this farm and was moved here from elsewhere by Taylor and repurposed as additional garden storage. Nonetheless, it does display a good degree of historic fabric, including wood shingles under a newer covering of 5V metal sheeting. This type of milk house is a small construction raised off the ground and used to keep food cool before refrigeration was widely available. This particular example resembles those at Portsmouth Village on the Outer Banks (Village Craftsmen 2014).



Figure 24. Milk house. Looking northwest.

Continuing east from the milk house across the dirt yard and behind the former pack house stands a pump house and grape arbor (Figure 25 and Figure 26). The pump house is a frame structure on a concrete slab with a metal-covered shed roof. It appears newer than the nearby barns, but the exact date of construction is unknown.

Muscadine wine has a long history in North Carolina. Locally, Louis Froelich produced scuppernong wine in Kenansville during the 1870s. When, in 1909, North Carolina declared a statewide prohibition on the production or consumption of alcohol, farmers lost a market for their fruit. Later, grapes were seen as a cash crop alternative to tobacco or cotton, with a resurgence in the 1960s and 1970s. Several Duplin County grape growers came together in the late 1970s to form what is now the Duplin Winery, the state's largest (Helsey 2010; Pinney 2005). The grape trellises on the Taylor farm are composed of wires stretched between unmilled wood posts, the end posts braced by additional timbers in a manner illustrated in the 1919 *A Manual of American Grape-Growing* (Figure 27). This is an older style seldom used today. While it is possible that grapevines have been cultivated here for 100 years with the trellis repaired with in-kind materials, this may be a mid- to late-twentieth-century expression of an older farming technique.



Figure 25. Pump house. Looking northwest.



Figure 26. Grape trellises. Looking west.

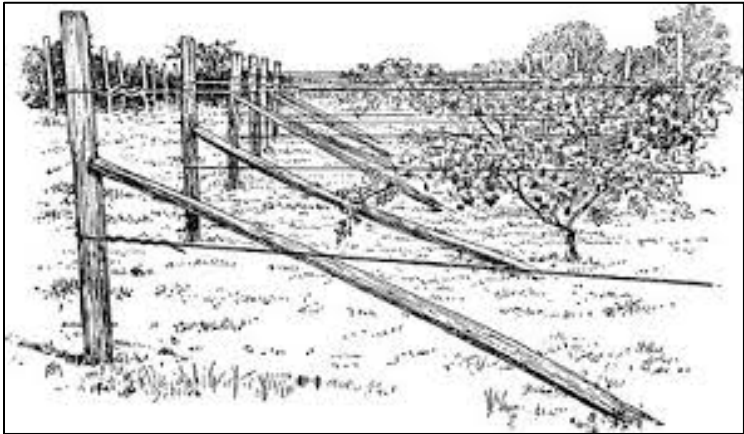


Figure 27. Illustration of trellis end post bracing (Hedrick 1919:120).

Further down this two-track driveway is a single-family residence with the address 613 Taylor Town Road (Figure 28). According to county property records, it dates to 1968 and was built around a single-wide mobile home. Taylor explained that after he married he and his wife lived here. When his parents died, Samuel and Linda moved into the older house, leaving the newer house available for his stepson.

This is a side-gabled, one-and-a-half-story linear ranch house with a protruding gabled front porch. Ornamentation on the porch includes wrought iron columns and rails, with wooden lattice covering the porch foundation. Concrete steps with wrought iron handrails on the side of this porch provide access to the main entrance. The exterior is covered with white vinyl siding, part of which peeled off in a recent storm. Windows are single and paired two-over-two, double-hung sashes accented with false shutters. The building rests on a continuous concrete-block foundation. The roof is covered with composite shingles, and vents are located under the gable ends. The flat-roof open patio on the rear elevation has a view of the grapes (Figure 29).

Since the house was built on a slope, the garage on the north elevation is below the living space. A paved driveway curves up from Taylor Town Road along a concrete-block retaining wall. The garage doors are a pair of hinged, wooden panels. To the side is a paneled door serving as a secondary entrance.

North of this house is a pond excavated by Taylor and his brother; Taylor now keeps ducks here (Figure 30). Nearby are an unused poultry house and a pair of gabled barns. The property card lists two swine houses on the parcel, one built in 1952 (1536 square feet) and one built in 1960 (1600 square feet), which may be these two barns, although they more resemble corn cribs. Both barns are built on a slope and are elevated on concrete piers (Figure 31). The poultry house has a sloping roof, weatherboard siding, and a corner entrance, similar to the example nearer the main house. This structure, however, has partially collapsed at one corner, possibly due to its location on a slope (Figure 32).

Just across Taylor Town Road from the ranch house is a barn formerly used by the Taylor family to raise hogs, 100 or so at a time (Figure 33). It does not stand on Samuel Taylor's property, although the land was originally part of the Bear Swamp Plantation and is still family owned. To the immediate south of the hog barn are foundations where other farm buildings once stood. Despite the proximity of the hog barn to the Ceness Taylor Farm (Figure 34), it is not part of this resource.



Figure 28. Front and northeast elevations of 613 Taylor Town Road.



Figure 29. Rear and southeast elevations of 613 Taylor Town Road.



Figure 30. Pond. Looking southwest.



Figure 31. Pair of barns west of 613 Taylor Town Road. Looking northwest.



Figure 32. Poultry house by pond. North and east elevations.



Figure 33. Hog barn. Southwest and southeast elevations.



Figure 34. View looking north from the peacocks' sun parlor toward hog barn.

In the fields north of Bear Swamp are two apparently historic agricultural outbuildings that Samuel Taylor reports he currently uses for goats. While the existing fence lines are the same as seen in 1950, 1964, and 1974 aerial photographs, the buildings are not evident in the images (Figure 35, Figure 36, and Figure 37). Additionally, there are structures in places where none were seen during our field visit. It is possible that these outbuildings were moved here from elsewhere, particularly since the smaller of the two has the form of a poultry house, a building type intended to be relatively easy to relocate. Both buildings are entirely covered with the same type of metal sheets as seen on other barns at the Ceness Taylor Farm.

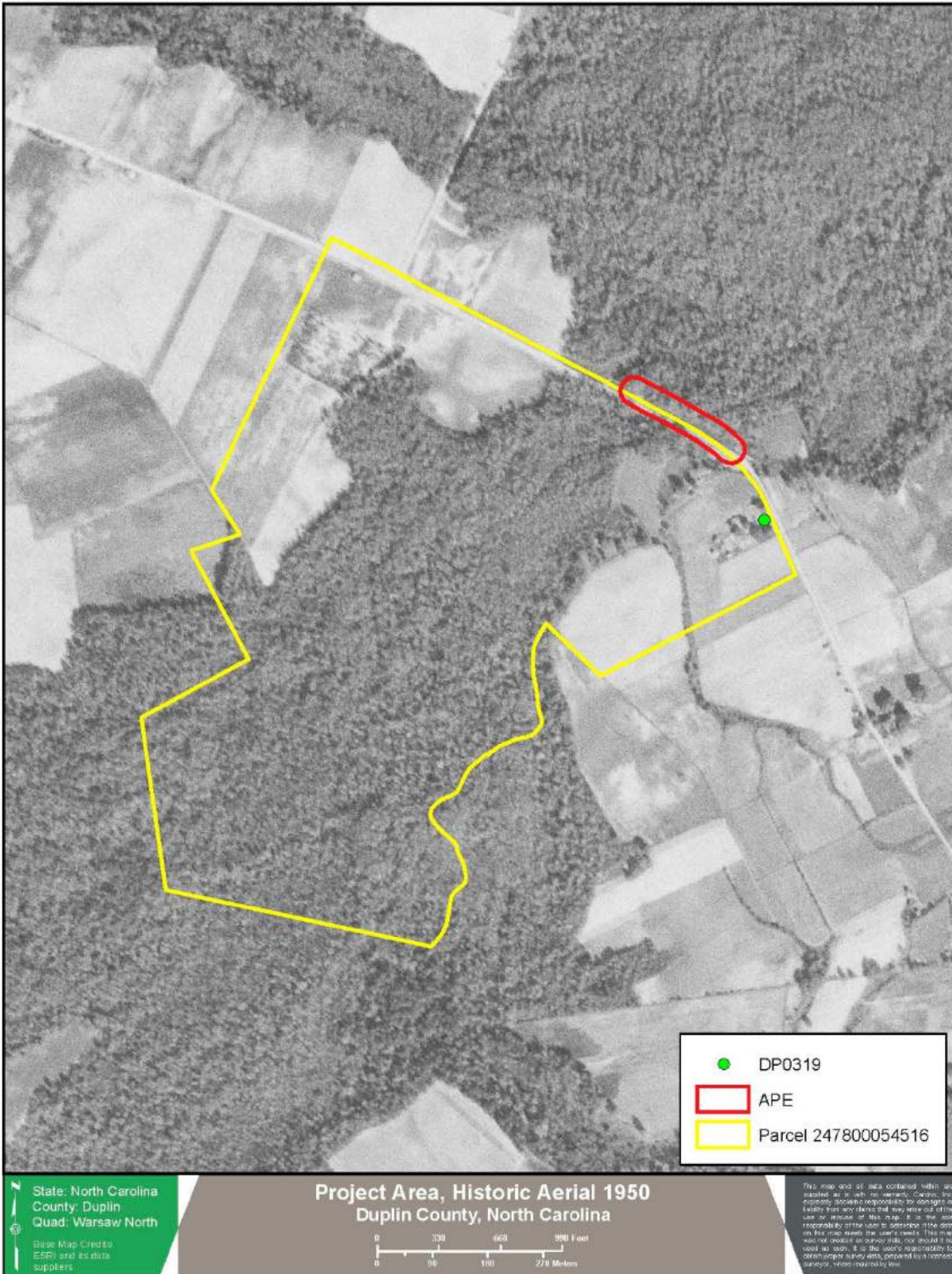


Figure 35. 1950 aerial photograph.

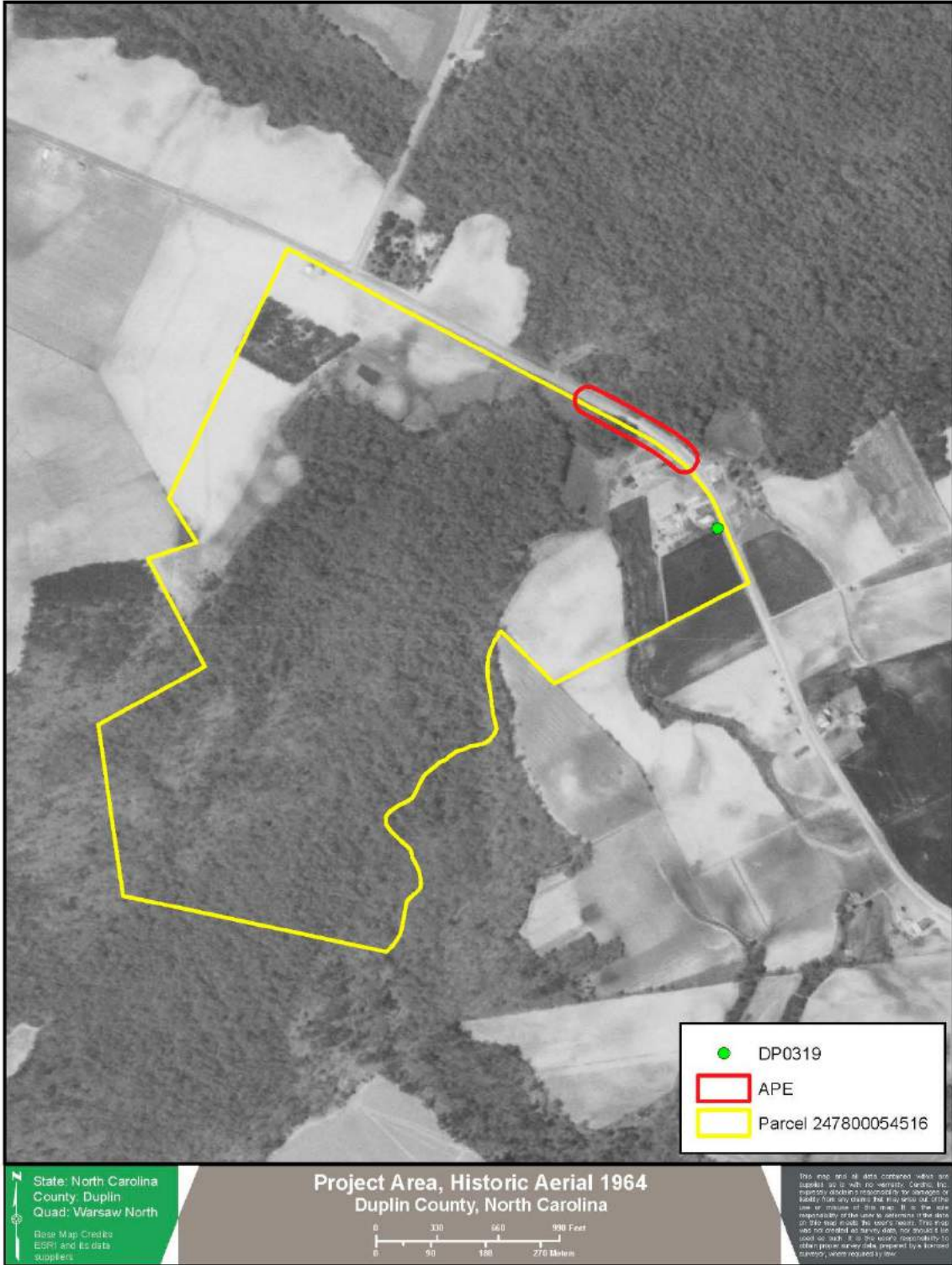


Figure 36. 1964 aerial photograph.

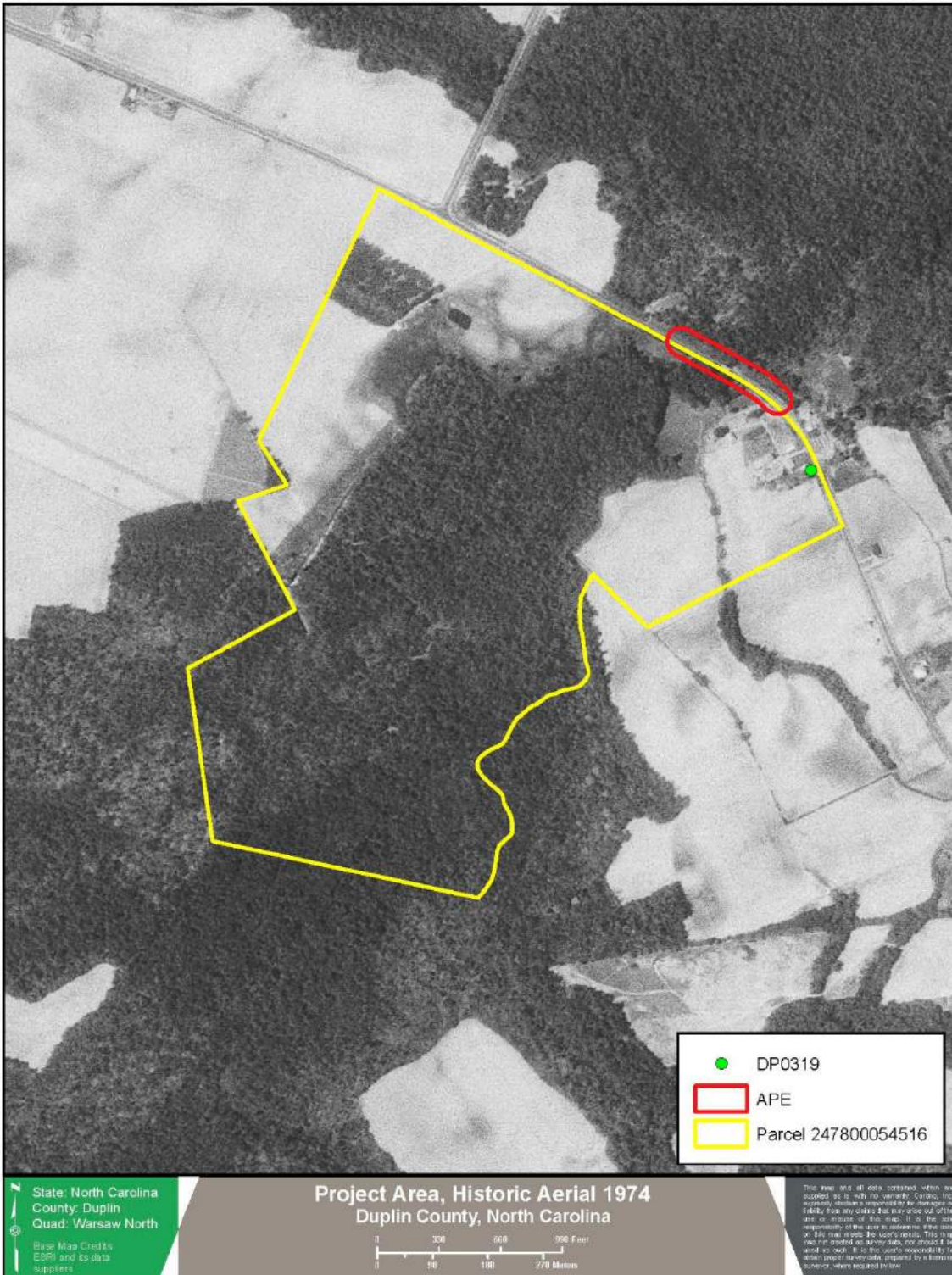


Figure 37. 1974 aerial photograph.

The larger of the buildings located to the north of the main farm complex is a transverse frame crib barn (Figure 38). Given the history of the area, it may have originally been built as a tobacco barn and moved here when no longer serving that purpose. Door openings are on the east and north elevations, with an opening into the loft centered under the eastern gable end. The land immediately around the barn is fenced.

The smaller of the two buildings has square plan and a back-sloping shed roof, with a side door configuration that usually signifies a poultry house (Figure 39). Metal sheets clad the exterior walls and the roof. This building is also fenced to contain livestock.



Figure 38. Barn to north of Bear Swamp. Northeast and northwest elevations.



Figure 39. Former poultry house north of Bear Swamp. Northeast and northwest elevations.

HISTORY

Thomas Hill was the first owner of Bear Swamp Plantation, subsequently inherited by his son Dr. Buckner L. Hill. Dr. Hill built a large Italianate house here in the 1850s (Buckner Hill Plantation, DP0001, NRHP Listed; Figure 40). He owned nearly 3,000 acres of land in Duplin County and was a stockholder in the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, which provided him a means to transport goods to and from the plantation. Upon his death in 1860, Dr. Hill left “unto Isaac Wright and Halstead Bowden and to the survivors of them to the heirs executors administrators and assigns my piece of land in Duplin County on the south side of Bear Swamp, where my new dwelling house is with the tenements hereditaments & appurtenances, And also my piece of land Known as the Mill tract on the north side of Bear Swamp (said tract having been bought by me from W.D. Pearsall...). To Have and To Hold The said negroes and lands upon the confidence and in Trust for the use benefit and behalf of my son Thomas B. Hill, sometimes called Thomas B. Stephens, and his wife Betsy" (Little-Stokes 1975; Martin 1994; Scott 2001). Family lore has it that Thomas B. was the illegitimate, but recognized, son of Dr. Hill and Jakey Wilkins Stephens, who worked for him as a maid (Scott 2001).

Thomas B. Hill lived at the Bear Swamp Plantation with his wife and their eleven children until his death in 1881 (Little-Stokes 1975). His will outlined the equitable distribution of his property amongst his heirs. A plat surveyed and drawn by D.T. McMillan, dated February 2, 1893, and copied by Matthew & O'Brien Engineers, Wilmington, N.C. on February 21, 1906, shows the subdivision of the plantation (Duplin County Map Book 1, Page 022; Figure 41 and Figure 42). Today, Taylor Town Road follows the path of a cart road shown on this map.



Figure 40. West elevation of Buckner Hill Plantation.

Tract 9 went to Caroline Malissa Hill Taylor, the daughter of Thomas B. Hill and Elizabeth Martin, who was born August 4, 1863 and in 1884 married Ceness Washington Taylor (1856-1939), the original owner and builder of the house at 597 Taylor Town Road (Scott 2001). Tract 2C went to Susan (Sudie) Hill, Malissa's sister (Duplin County Deed Book 98, Page 185). Sudie conveyed her property to Ceness in August 1898 (Book 60, Page 64). He acquired other property in the area, including additional tracts of the Bear Swamp Plantation (for example, Tract 5 from John S. Hill in 1905 [Book 91, Page 352]), but these are not part of the land currently delineated as the Ceness Taylor Farm.

Upon the death of Elizabeth Ann (Bet) Martin Hill (Thomas B. Hill's wife) in 1905, Ceness W. Taylor and his family moved to Buckner Hill Plantation; from 1906 to 1924, tenants lived at 597 Taylor Town Road. When his son Ceness Leon Taylor (1892-1983) married Velma Mozingo in November 1924, the newlyweds replaced the tenants (Scott 2001; Sikes and Sikes 1996). Ceness died in 1939, leaving all his personal and real property to his wife to be equally divided among his children upon her death. Malissa died in 1959, and the plantation house became the home of her daughter Ruth Taylor Parks (Little-Stokes 1975). Buckner Hill Plantation is no longer owned by the Taylor family.

The Ceness Taylor Farm's current owner, Samuel, was born in this house in 1926, the oldest child of Leon and Velma. Samuel has farmed for most of his adult life, with the exception of years he served in the Merchant Marines after World War II and in the Army during the Korean War. He founded Bear Swamp Taxidermy with Ben Parks in 1966 and in 1976 married Linda DeLuca (Brown 2011). A plat recorded in 2002 shows Taylor's property along Bear Swamp south and west of Taylor Town Road (Figure 43).

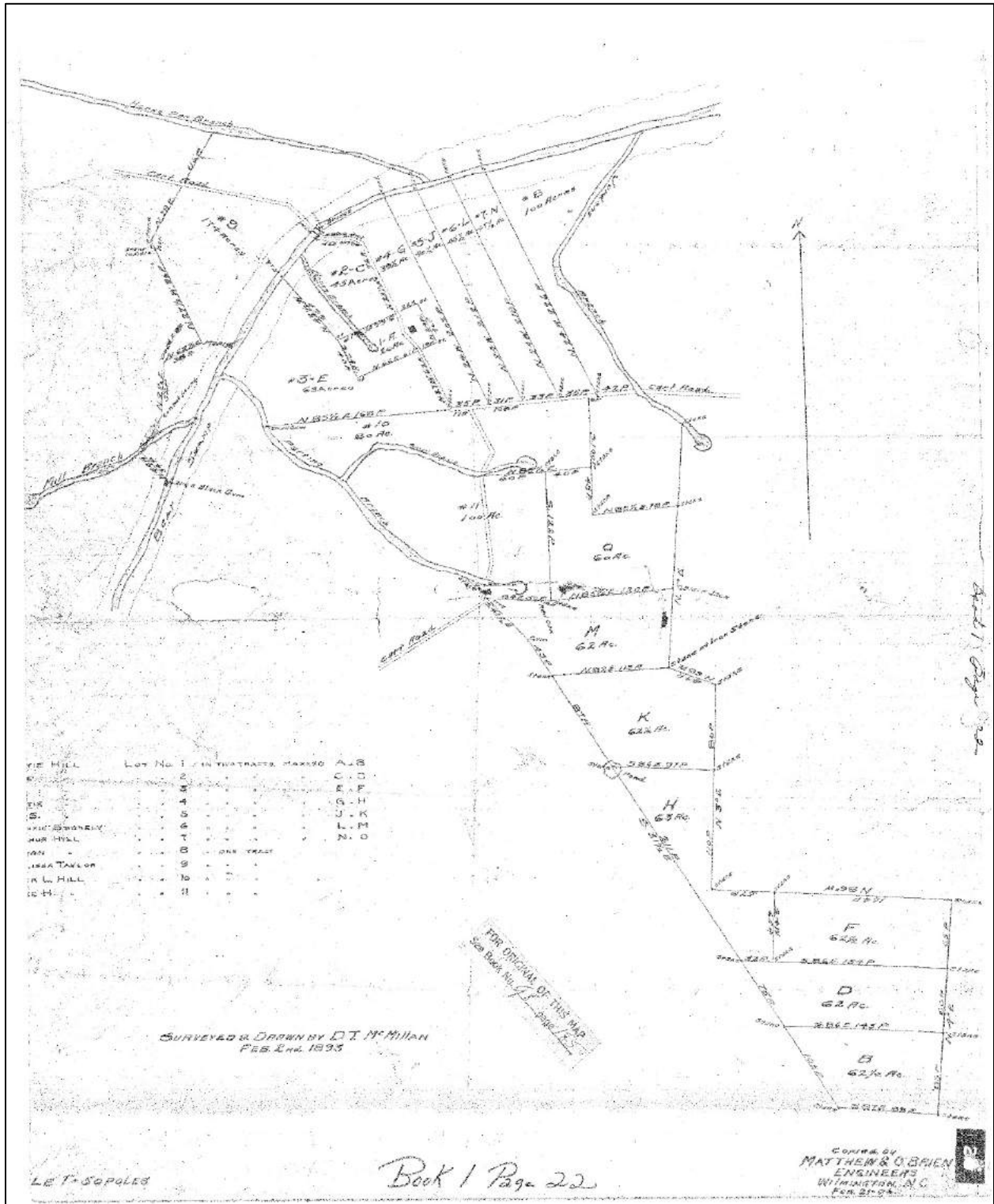


Figure 41. Duplin County Map Book 1, Page 022.

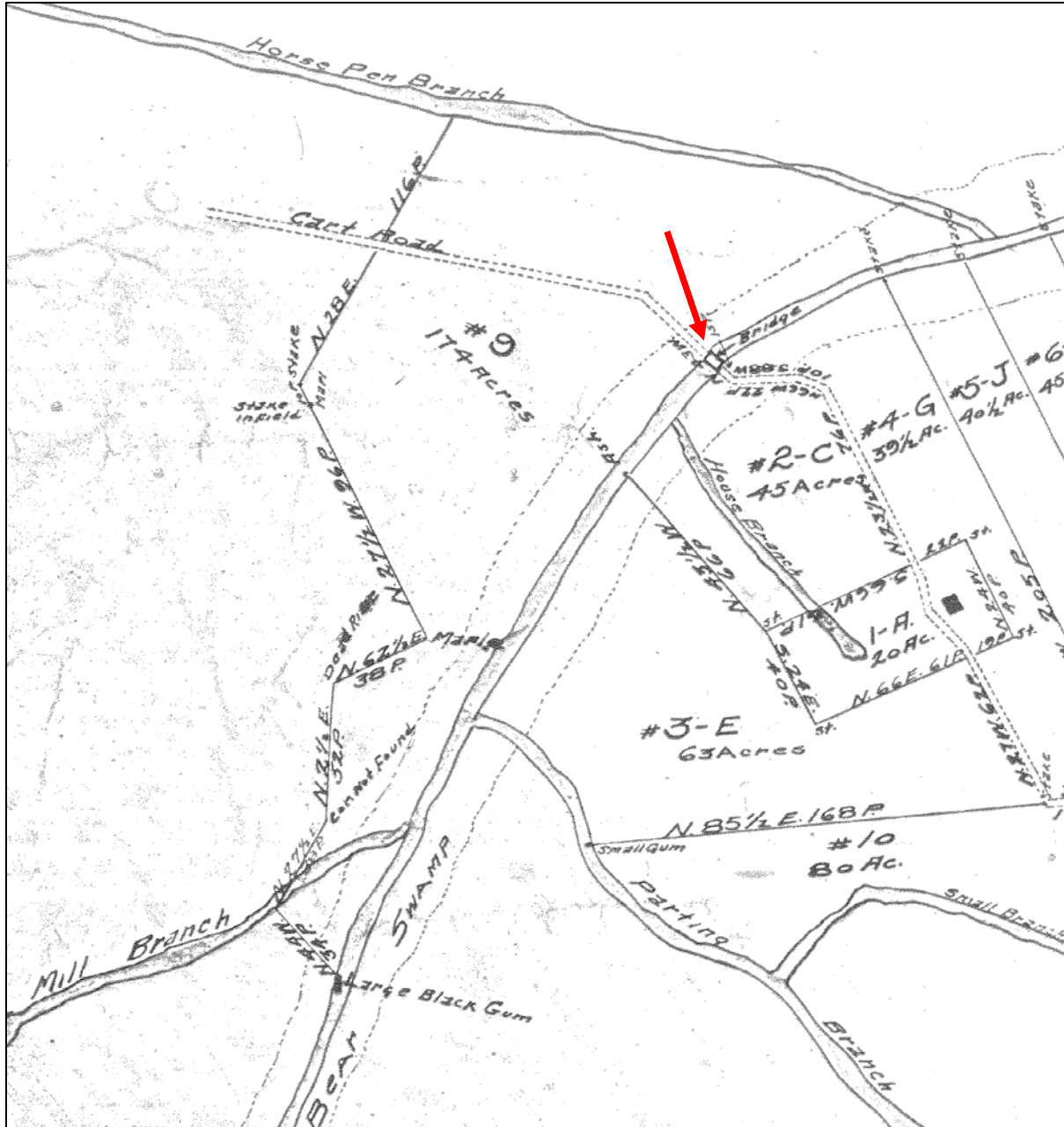


Figure 42. Detail of Duplin County Map Book 1, Page 022, showing landmarks surrounding Tracts 2C and 9; bridge location indicated by arrow.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the central-passage house, one-room deep with a rear ell, became a common floor plan in eastern North Carolina, whether built one or two stories tall. The type was popular with landowning farmers, and is frequently found within an agricultural landscape of numerous outbuildings arranged both in an orderly fashion near the home and scattered across the land (Bishir and Southern 1996). Martin (1999) describes this as the most common house form in Duplin County: “typically the dwellings of middle class farmers, the abundance of this house type chronicles the prosperity farm families, especially those who grew tobacco along with food crops, experienced during the early 1900s” (Martin 1994:E-35).

The Chester Houston Farm (DP0232) stands along SR 1701 near Sarecta in Smith Township east of Kenansville (Figure 44). This one-story, one-room deep house gains additional living space from an ell extending from the rear. Alterations since this circa 1918 structure was recorded in the early 1990s include replacement of the pressed-metal roof with standing seam metal, removal of the two end chimneys, and loss of the porch balusters (Martin 1999:199). Vinyl false shutters have been added to all the windows. One historic outbuilding remains, a pack house (Figure 45).



Figure 44. Chester Houston Farm. West elevation.



Figure 45. Overview of Chester Houston Farm, including remaining pack house. Looking northeast.

The Ben Williams House (DP0276), also on SR 1701 near Sarecta, is a slightly earlier example of this type, built contemporaneously with Ceness Taylor's house (Figure 46). Although the circa 1884 structure was well-preserved when recorded in the early 1990s, it has since suffered the loss of two gable-end chimneys and replacement of the metal roof with composite shingles (Martin 1999:201). Like the Ceness Taylor house, it displays turned posts under a hipped porch with sidelights flanking a centered doorway.

The Robert Wells Farm (DP0402) on Cornwallis Road near Corinth Church in Rose Hill Township is a more intact and elaborate example of the house form than the examples mentioned above (Figure 47). The exterior fabric is wooden siding with a metal roof, and the turned posts, balustrades, and sawn ornaments remain as does the original chimney on the north gable end. Again, a rear-extending ell provides additional living space. Robert Wells built this residence in 1902 as part of a farmstead on which the family produced strawberries and tobacco (Martin 1999:178-179). Some historic outbuildings stand near the house.



Figure 46. Ben Williams House and outbuildings. Looking west.



Figure 47. Robert Wells Farm. Looking southeast.

Many of Duplin County's historic farms have been subsumed by modern operations raising hogs or poultry, leading to loss of older agricultural outbuildings and making intact farmsteads from the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries increasingly rare. Buildings may be arranged in lines or scattered across the property, although the main residence is the focal point. Landscape features such as fences, fields, pastures, trees, creeks, and cemeteries are key elements of this property type (Martin 1994:F-52). Gardens and grapevines are found near the houses, as they were at the Ceness Taylor Farm (formerly, the Taylors maintained a garden just north of the house and east of the workshop).

SIGNIFICANCE

Integrity

Separately, the house and agricultural buildings do not retain sufficient integrity for listing on NRHP, but together they do appear to retain integrity as a rural historic landscape, defined as:

a geographical area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features. (McClelland et al. 1999:2)

The farm is clearly in its original location, and correlates to tracts originally designated in the 1890s. While there have been changes in the crops raised here, the design and location of circulation networks, roadways, and buildings remain same, retaining their historic placement relative to Taylor Town Road and Bear Swamp. Some alterations have transpired over the years—there is no longer a garden next to the house, the privy has been modified, the more distant barns have been moved, and the land around Bear Swamp in the western part of the parcel has in part been cleared and drained. However, the setting is still agricultural, with many old fence lines as reference points on the landscape. The association with Buckner Hill Plantation is still apparent with that house and the family cemetery within view of the Ceness Taylor Farm (Figure 48). Inspection of mid-twentieth-century aerial photographs shows trees, ponds, streams, and fields unchanged during Leon and Samuel Taylor's stewardship. Historic materials present include wood and wire fences, dirt roads, wooden outbuildings with metal roofs or siding, and pecan trees planted in the 1920s. Samuel Taylor is not following agricultural practices of the late-nineteenth century, and the types of crops raised on his farm are not those of the past century, but workmanship is still evident in building types and their placement. These structures still exhibit the craft of the Taylor family, and it should be recognized that Samuel Taylor, at the age of 91, is still active in their maintenance. The property's feeling is strongly that of a century farm, unquestionable rural, agricultural, and family owned, demonstrated by the continuing use and occupation of the property by direct descendants of the Hill family, specifically Malissa and Ceness W. Taylor's grandson, who was born and raised here.



Figure 48. View looking southeast from Ceness Taylor House toward Buckner Hill Plantation.

Evaluation Criteria

The Ceness Taylor Farm is recommended as eligible for individual listing in the NRHP under Criterion A for its association with events that have made a contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Together with Buckner Hill Plantation, the Ceness Taylor Farm illustrates how agriculture changed in Duplin County following the Civil War and how one farming family adapted to new labor sources and markets. The Ceness Taylor family has been actively involved in agriculture in Duplin County continuously from the late-nineteenth century to today, and this rural historic landscape reflects the events of that time span.

The Ceness Taylor Farm is not recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion B for its association with individuals significant in history.

Properties, such as centennial farms, are recognized in many States for the ownership or contributions of one family over a long period of time. These properties qualify for National Register listing, under criterion B, if the accomplishments of one or more family members stand out. (The cumulative accomplishments of several individuals or the continuing operation of the farm over several generations may meet criterion A) (McClelland et al. 1999:14).

While the Taylor family collectively has played a prominent role in Duplin County's agriculture since the nineteenth century, none have made significant contributions to local or state history individually.

The Ceness Taylor Farm is relatively unchanged and retains sufficient integrity to convey the distinctive characteristics of its type or style. It is one of the better examples of its type in the region although it does not possess high artistic merit. The farm represents a "significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction." Therefore, the property is recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C for its physical design and construction.

As a well-documented resource type and style, it is unlikely that the above-ground structures and landscape features at Ceness Taylor Farm would provide information about their construction not otherwise recoverable. Therefore, they are not recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D for potential to yield information important in the history of the state. This evaluation did not include an archaeological investigation of the property.

The Ceness Taylor Farm is significant in the area of agriculture, from 1893 to 1967 (50 years ago). All of the buildings, structures, and landscape features within the proposed NRHP boundaries should be considered contributing with the following exceptions:

- > The drainage ditches on Bear Swamp in the western part of the parcel are not contributing as they post-date the period of significance.
- > The milk house is not contributing as it was moved to this property after the period of significance.
- > The two buildings north of Bear Swamp are noncontributing since they were moved to their current locations after the period of significance.
- > The ranch house built in 1968 is part of the multigenerational history of the family's use of the property, but since it is only 49 years old and its owner/builder is still alive, it is unlikely to be considered contributing at this time. In the future, this assessment may merit reconsideration.

The NRHP multiple property documentation form for "Historic and Architectural Resources of Duplin County, North Carolina, ca.1790-1943" mentions the Ceness Taylor Farm in the text (Martin 1994:F-55) because of the scarcity of surviving 1930s poultry houses, but it is not included in a list of eligible farm complexes.

In order for a farm complex or individual component of a farmstead in Duplin County to be eligible for the National Register, it must meet certain registration requirements. The basic requirement is that the property, or the majority of buildings, structures, and field patterns on the farm, should be fifty years old or older. The farm and its components should illustrate a theme or periods in the county's agricultural development and retain integrity in form, material, and workmanship. Farm complexes should retain an integrity of location and setting, as well as in the arrangement of buildings, structures, and landscape features such as ponds, fields, and fences. For an entire farm complex, integrity is determined by that of the numerous components which make up the entire farmstead. These components include dwellings, outbuildings, landscape features, and other contributing elements. Individual buildings and structures may have been altered or moved within the complex without affecting the integrity of the entire complex. In fact, such alterations or moves

often reflect changes in agricultural methods and are important for understanding the evolution of farming techniques (Martin 1994:F-55).

At the time the multiple property listing was written, the 50 year cut-off was 1943; with structures and events dating to the 1950s and 1960s, the Ceness Taylor Farm is likely to be considered eligible as a farm complex if, in the future, the NRHP submission is revised to extend the date range.

NRHP BOUNDARIES

The recommended NRHP boundaries include that land within both the current Duplin County tax parcel 247800054516 owned by Samuel Taylor and within that property shown on a 2002 plat of the farm (Map Book 17, Page 148), and excludes those portions within only one or the other of those maps (Figure 49).

While the official property lines have changed somewhat since the 1890s, the outline of tracts 9 and 2C as drawn for the division of Thomas Hill's estate can still be easily discerned on paper and on site. The proposed NRHP boundary encompasses all of the contributing structures and landscape features of the Ceness Taylor Farm, and reflects Ceness, Leon, and Samuel Taylor's ownerships during the period of significance.

While Taylor Town Road and Bridge No. 219 define the northeastern edge of the property and are part of the general historic setting, these features' locations predate the Ceness Taylor Farm and were not owned by Ceness, Leon, and Samuel; therefore, the road right-of-way and the Bear Swamp crossing are excluded from the proposed NRHP boundaries.



Figure 49. Proposed NRHP boundaries.

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