

**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

December 21, 2017

Matt Jorgenson
AECOM
701 Corporate Center Drive
Suite 475
Raleigh, NC 27607

Re: Chatham Park North Substation Project, Chatham County, ER 17-1720

Dear Mr. Jorgenson:

Thank you for your email of December 7, 2017, submitting information on the Bobby Bland House, CH0333.

Due to the numerous alterations to the house, we concur that the Bobby Bland House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Renee Gledhill-Earley".

for Ramona M. Bartos

MEMORANDUM**ER 17-1720****To:** Gail Tyner – Duke Energy Progress**From:** Sarah Potere – AECOM**CC:** Charles Benton – AECOM

Marvin Brown – AECOM

Date: August 24, 2017**Re:** Historic Architecture Review and Field Survey Results for Duke Energy Progress Chatham Park North Project, Chatham County, North Carolina.

NC -- 12/21/17

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This memorandum presents the results of background research and field survey for identified historic resources near the Duke Energy Progress (Duke) Chatham Park North project in Chatham County, North Carolina (Figure 1). No federal permitting is anticipated for this project; however, Duke requested that AECOM perform a background and field study of one designated property, the Bobby Bland House (CH-0333), as due diligence for project planning. Archaeological studies were also performed, and are detailed under separate cover.

Background Studies. AECOM Architectural Historian Sarah Potere performed background research for the above-referenced project. Ms. Potere's research included the examination of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office flat files and online database, United States Federal Census historic data, Ancestry.com, Findagrave.com, Newspapers.com, and the Chatham County Tax Records.

Following the completion of background research, Ms. Potere visited the Bobby Bland House on July 31, 2017 in order to collect photo documentation and observe the current condition of the property. Current property owner, Mr. Ron Hamrick, was interviewed about alterations to the house performed by him and his wife.

Resource Description. The Bobby Bland House (NC survey site number CH-0333) sits along the dirt Lucian Bland Road (Figure 2), just south of the US-64 corridor, about two-and-one-half miles east of the town of Pittsboro. The house was first surveyed by Rachel Osborn in 1982 as part of the larger countywide survey of Chatham County (Figure 3, Figure 4). No determination was made then of the house's potential eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). During the current study, five architectural resources were identified within the resource's complex (Figure 5).

The original square mass of the Bobby Bland house, which dates from ca. 1860, sits on a brick pier foundation that has been filled in with stone over time (Figure 6 through Figure 8). The house's front (north) elevation is three bays wide, and it is one room deep. Its east and west side elevations each hold three windows. The front elevation is symmetrical, with a central door and a window to either side. This suggests a traditional center-hall plan. The house has been heavily altered since it was previously recorded. Its original weatherboards have been removed or covered with vinyl siding and its nine-over-six sash windows have been replaced with one-over-one windows with snap-in muntins. Additionally, its Greek Revival-style three-part surrounds and corner pilasters have been removed or covered. Within the last ten years its exterior-end chimneys were removed and its standing-seam hipped roof replaced (Hamrick 2017, personal communication). Overall, no original features remain visible at the house's exterior. The original interior trim was already removed by 1982 when it was first recorded.

A three-bay porch supported by Craftsman-style columns continues to frame the front elevation. It is not original, but dates from the early twentieth century. The one-story kitchen ell is also a twentieth-century addition that was in place at the earlier recordation.

The house is accompanied by four resources (Figure 9 through Figure 12, see also Figure 5). Directly to its east stands a modern frame shed building with attached carport. To the south is a small brick well that is original to the house. Across the road to the west are remnants of two agricultural buildings, suggesting tobacco production was once the livelihood of the Bland family. Both of these buildings—a tobacco barn and small shed—are heavily covered by vegetation and sit in ruins.

Resource History. Oral tradition states that the Bobby Bland House was constructed by William Bland (1823-1895) and his wife, Frances Hatch (1826-1896), around 1860 (Hamrick 2017, personal communication). This conforms with its no-longer-extant Greek Revival-style finish recorded in 1982. Census data shows that the Blands were of moderate means around the time of construction, William having a net real estate worth of \$500 (1850 US Census). The original frame house built by William and Francis was the square block that comprises the front portion of the house standing today. A detached kitchen building was constructed to accompany the house. This ancillary structure has since disappeared; however, the pathway leading to it from the house remains. An original well still stands directly south of the house.

The house has remained in the Bland family since its construction, passing from William and Frances to their son, Robert (1847-1906), for whom it is named. The house then passed into the hands of Robert's son, William F. Bland (1883-1976), and then to Robert's grandson, Lucian B. Bland (1916-2007). It is thought that Lucian's father was responsible for the construction of the additions to the house, in addition to the remaining outbuildings on the property. Following Lucian's death in 2007, the property passed into the hands of his niece, Beverly Bland Hamrick. By this time, it had fallen into disrepair. Over the last ten years, Beverly, along with her husband, have carried out a substantial amount of work on the house including: replacement of the siding, windows, and roof; reconstructing the porch; and tearing down remnants of the original chimneys (Hamrick 2017, personal communication). These improvements have stabilized the house but resulted in a further loss of historic integrity.

Summary and Recommendations. The Bobby Bland House has never had a formal assessment of its NRHP eligibility. In the opinion of AECOM, it has lost its integrity due to numerous alterations and does not appear to be eligible for NRHP listing. As such, no further architectural studies are recommended for the resources on the Bland property.

We recommend that the Chatham Park North project will have no adverse effect on significant historic architectural resources. Further, we recommend no further architectural survey work be required in conjunction with the Chatham Park North project.

Respectfully Submitted –

AECOM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Potere". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Potere
Architectural Historian
AECOM

REFERENCES CITED

Ancestry.com. *1850 United States Federal Census*. Electronic resource available at <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8054>, accessed August 8, 2017.

Ancestry.com. *1860 United States Federal Census*. Electronic resource available at <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=7667>, accessed August 8, 2017.

Chatham County Tax Records, Chatham County Tax Office, Pittsboro, North Carolina.

Hamrick, Marion Ronald "Ron." Personal communication with Ron Hamrick, owner of the Bobby Bland House, July 31, 2017.

Headstone: Lucian B. Bland. 2007. Hanks Chapel Christian Church Cemetery, Pittsboro, NC. Digital image by Michael Len Herndon. Findagrave.com Memorial #70365371 created May 25, 2011. Electronic resource available at Findagrave.com, accessed July 30, 2017.

Headstone: Robert Ward Bland. 1906. Pittsboro Baptist Church Cemetery, Pittsboro, NC. Digital image by Kelly in Birmingham. Findagrave.com Memorial #69216816 created May 1, 2011. Electronic resource available at Findagrave.com, accessed July 30, 2017.

Headstone: William Bland. 1895. Hanks Chapel Christian Church Cemetery, Pittsboro, NC. Digital image by Michael Len Herndon. Findagrave.com Memorial #70356249 created May 25, 2011. Electronic resource available at Findagrave.com, accessed July 30, 2017.

Headstone: William F. Bland. 1976. Hanks Chapel Christian Church Cemetery, Pittsboro, NC. Digital image by Michael Len Herndon. Findagrave.com Memorial #70365502 created May 25, 2011. Electronic resource available at Findagrave.com, accessed July 30, 2017.

Newspapers.com. Electronic resource accessible at <https://www.newspapers.com/> accessed July 30, 2017.

North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC SHPO). 2017. File CH-0333: "The Bobby Bland House". North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

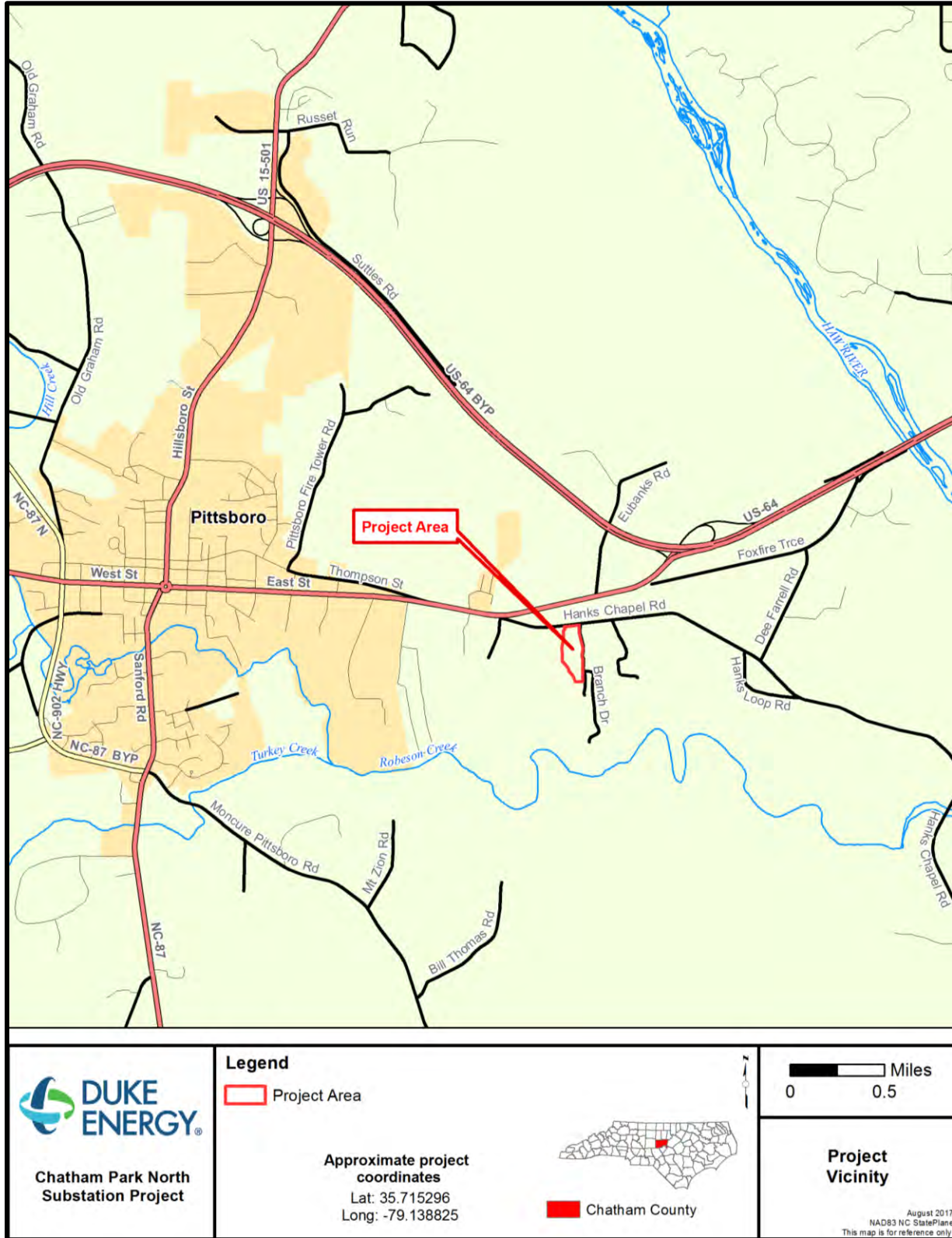


Figure 1. General Location of Chatham Park North Project, Chatham County, North Carolina.

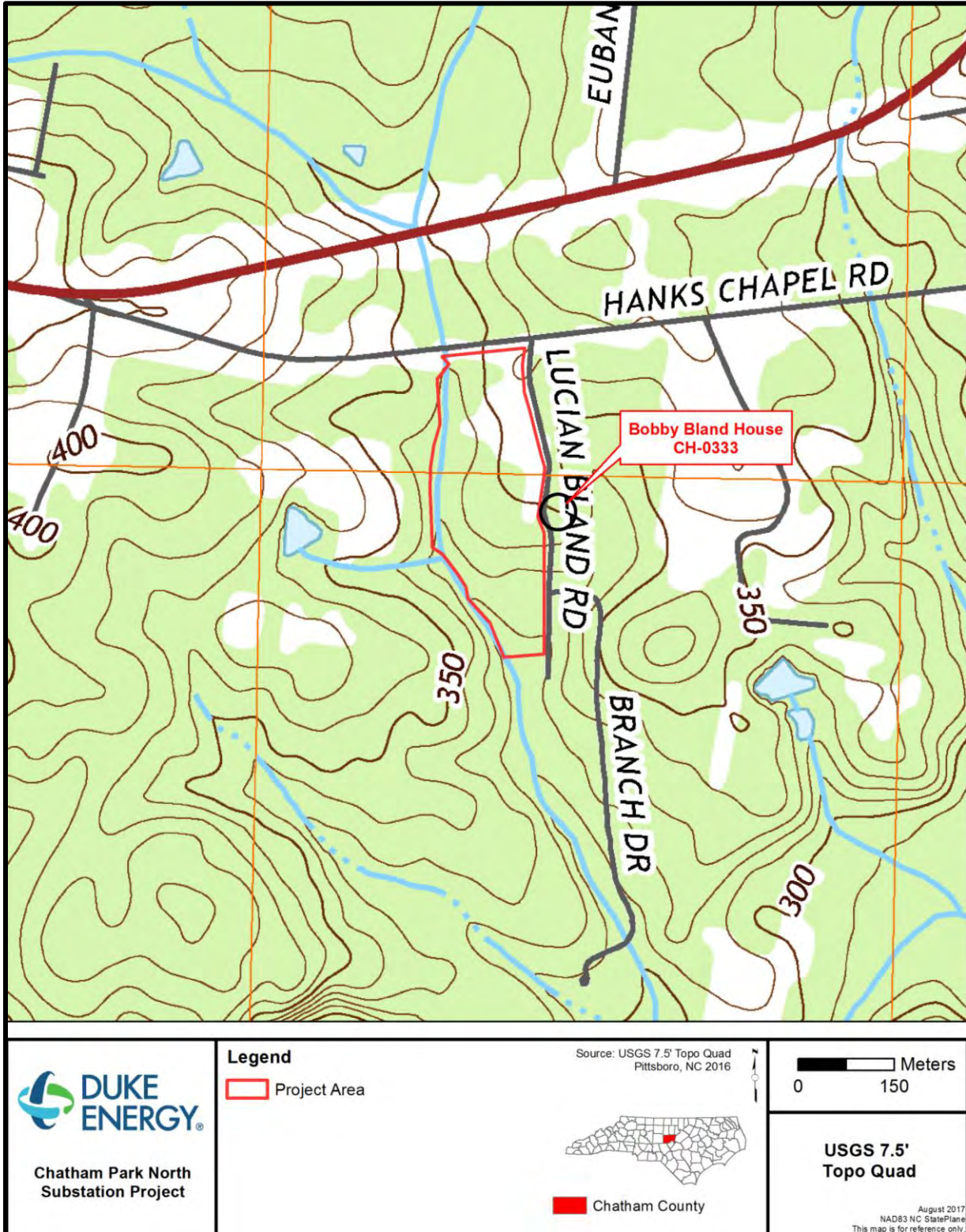


Figure 2. Topographic Setting of Chatham Park North Project, Chatham County, North Carolina.



Figure 3. East Side Elevation with Original Windows and Chimney in Place, 1982 (photo credit: Rachel Osborn).



Figure 4. Greek Revival-style Pilaster, 1982 (photo credit: Rachel Osborn).



Figure 5: Site Map of Bobby Plan House and Associated Outbuildings.



Figure 6. Primary Façade of the Bobby Bland House, View South.



Figure 7. Bobby Bland House, View Southwest.



Figure 8. Rear Elevation of Bobby Bland House Showcasing 1920s Addition, View Northwest.



Figure 9. 21st-century Shed Located to the Southeast of the Bobby Bland House, View Northwest.



Figure 10. Interior View of 20th-century Tobacco Barn.



Figure 11. 20th-century Tobacco Barn.



Figure 12. View of Overgrown and Dilapidated Shed in Project Area, View Northwest.