



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

November 17, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kate Husband, Architectural Historian klhusband@ncdot.gov
NCDOT/PDEA/HES

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

RE: Historic Structures Survey Report for Widening SR 1547 from SR 3106 to
I-85, U-5308, Randolph County, ER 17-2013

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

We concur that the Underwood Farm (RD0930) is eligible for National Register listing under Criterion A as a good example of a late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth century family farmstead that has developed and been adapted to contemporary needs under the ownership of a single family. The complex retains a ca. 1880s farmhouse, the ca. 1950s ranch house, several early-to-mid-twentieth century outbuildings, and historic fields. The resources on the property retain good historic integrity, with the majority of alterations dating to the mid-twentieth century. The proposed boundaries sufficiently encompass the full extent of historic resources associated with the Underwood 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, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or renee.gledhill-earley@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above-referenced tracking number.

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



Historic Structure Report
TIP No. U-5308, WBS No. 47028.1.2
Widen SR 1547 (Finch Farm Road) from
SR 3106 (Kennedy Road) to I-85
Randolph County, North Carolina
S&ME Project No. 4213-17-245

PREPARED FOR:

**North Carolina Department of Transportation
Environmental Analysis Unit
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598**

PREPARED BY:

**S&ME, Inc.
620 Wando Park Boulevard
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464**

October 17, 2017



**Historic Structure Report
TIP No. U-5308
Widen SR 1547 (Finch Farm Road)
from SR 3106 (Kennedy Road) to I-85
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**DRAFT REPORT
WBS No. 47028.1.2**

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

Prepared by:

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620 Wando Park Boulevard
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

S&ME Project No. 4213-17-245

Heather L. Carpini

October 17, 2017

Heather Carpini, M.A.
Principal Investigator, S&ME, Inc.

Date

Mary Pope Furr
Supervisor, Historic Architectural Resources Group
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

October 17, 2017



Management Summary

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), S&ME, Inc. (S&ME) has completed a historic architectural analysis of one property located within the project area for the widening of Finch Farm Road (SR 1547) from Kennedy Road (SR 3106) to Interstate 85 in Randolph County, North Carolina (TIP No. U-5308, WBS No. 47028.1.2) (Figures 1.1 and 1.2).

NCDOT architectural historians established an Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project, which corresponded to the Environmental Study Area for the proposed widening, approximately 450 feet from the centerline of the existing road each way, from the northern terminus to the southern terminus of the project. In September 2017, S&ME conducted a historic architectural analysis and eligibility evaluation on one previously unrecorded structure, the Underwood Farm (RD0930) within the project area. S&ME recommends the Underwood Farm (RD0930) as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, under Criterion A, as an example of a late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth-century family farm. This project is subject to review under the Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC-HPO)/Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) 2007).

Table 1. Summary of properties surveyed in R-5710/R-5721/U-5765 project area.

Property Name	NC-HPO Survey Site No.	Eligibility Determination	Criteria
Underwood Farm	RD0930	Eligible	A

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Randolph County, North Carolina

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1.0 Introduction (Methodology)

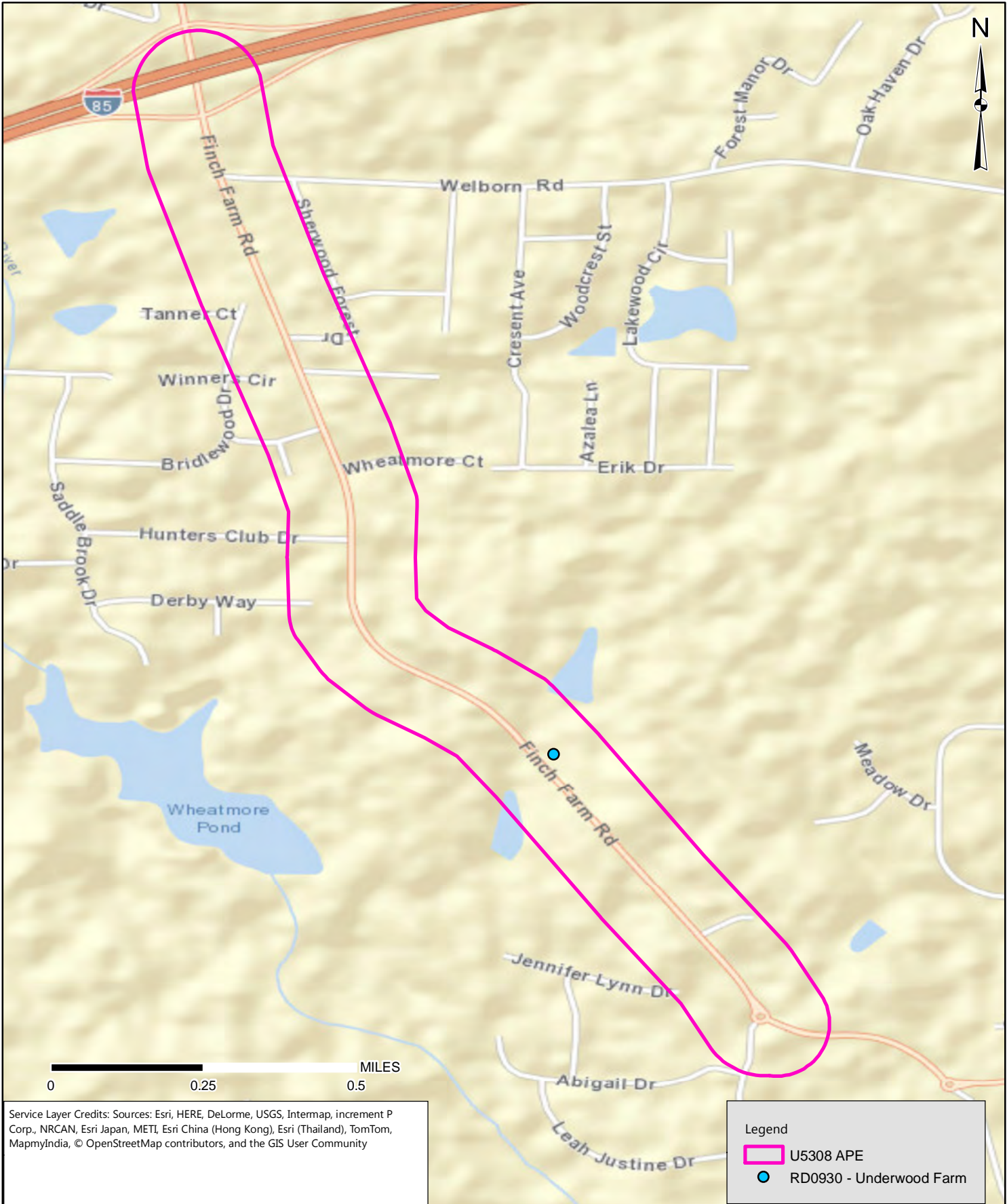
On behalf of the NCDOT, S&ME has completed a historic architectural analysis of one property located within the project area for the widening of SR 1547 (Finch Farm Road) from SR 3106 (Kennedy Road) to Interstate 85, in Randolph County, North Carolina (TIP No. U-5308, WBS No. 47028.1.2) (Figures 1.1 and 1.2). Work was conducted in general accordance with the agreed-upon scope, terms, and conditions presented in the Proposal No. 42-1700991, dated August 16, 2017.

NCDOT architectural historians established an APE for the project which corresponded to the Environmental Study Area for the proposed widening, approximately 450 feet from the centerline of the existing road each way, from the northern terminus to the southern terminus of the project. They conducted a preliminary investigation, identifying resources warranting additional study and eligibility evaluation.

The project area is located in the northwestern portion of Randolph County, southwest of the community of Trinity, North Carolina. Interstate 85 travels approximately east-west to the north of the project area. Although this portion of Randolph County was once primarily rural, the growth and expansion of nearby towns, including Thomasville and High Point, has led to increased residential development in the area. Many new subdivisions have been constructed during the late-twentieth and early-twenty first century, resulting in the demolition of many older structures in the area, as well as the division and parceling off of many of the large tracts of farmland that once dominated the rural landscape.

The historic architectural analysis included surveying, analyzing, and evaluating one historic property according to NRHP criteria. Fieldwork for the project was conducted in September 2017, by Senior Architectural Historian Heather L. Carpini, who completed photography, mapping, research, and authored the report. Research was conducted at the Randolph County Registers of Deeds, the Randolph County Public Library in Asheboro, North Carolina, and at the Trinity Historical Society in Trinity, North Carolina. Additional information was compiled from survey records of the NC-HPO survey files and additional research was conducted using online federal census data, historic maps, and other county records.

This report has been prepared in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, as amended; the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1979; the Department of Transportation regulations and procedures (23 CFR 771 and Technical Advisory T 6640.8A); procedures for the Protection of Historic Properties (36 CFR Part 800); 36 CFR Parts 60 through 79, as appropriate; NCDOT's current *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Report Products* (2015); and NC-HPO's *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina* (2015).



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Legend

- U5308 APE
- RD0930 - Underwood Farm



SCALE:	1:13,500
PROJECT NO:	4213-17-245
DRAWN BY:	HLC
DATE:	10/16/2017

Street Map
 U-5308 APE and surveyed property
 Trinity, Randolph Conty, North Carolina

EXHIBIT NO.
1.1

2.0 Eligibility Evaluations

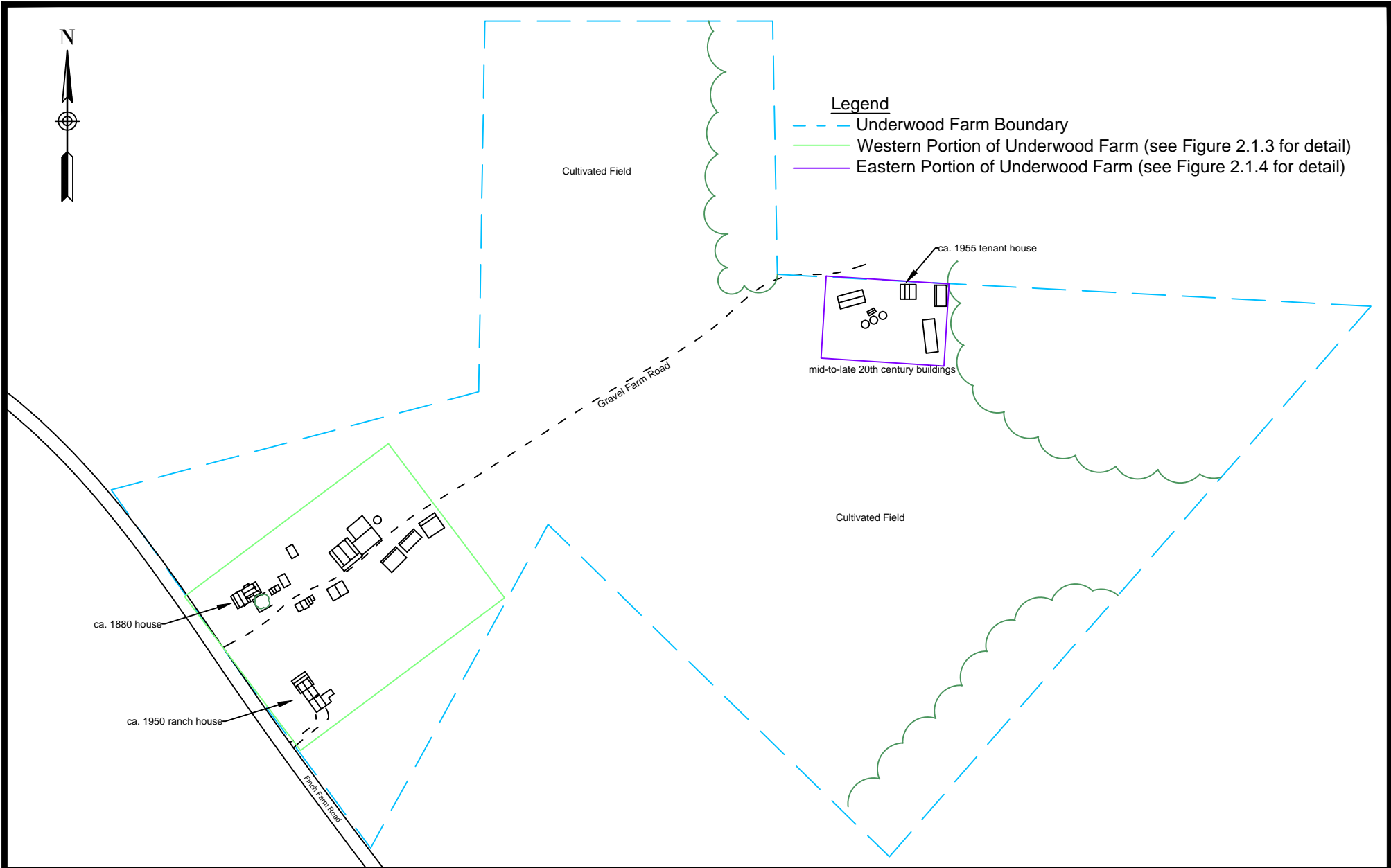
2.1 Underwood Farm (RD0930)

Resource Name	Underwood Farm
HPO Survey Site #	RD0930
Street Address	4736, 4758, and 4760 Finch Farm Road
PIN	6796-55-9867, 6796-55-9407, 6796-65-8663
Construction Date(s)	Circa-1880 to 1950s
NRHP Recommendation	Eligible, Criterion A



Figure 2.1.1. View of the Underwood Farm, circa-1880 house, facing north.

The Underwood Farm includes three tax parcels, totaling over 51 acres, located northeast of Finch Farm Road, in the community of Trinity, Randolph County (Figure 1.2). The farm consists of 22 structures, including three residences and 19 domestic and agricultural outbuildings; there are also two large agricultural fields associated with the property (Figures 2.1.1 and 2.1.2). The oldest structure at the Underwood Farm is a circa-1880 house, which was the original dwelling of the Underwood family, but is currently used as a rental property; the circa-1950 ranch house located south of the nineteenth-century house is the residence of the present property owner (Figure 2.1.1). The farm has two distinct groupings of structures, with the circa-1880 house and circa-1950 ranch house, along with early through late-twentieth-century outbuildings on the western portion, along Finch Farm Road, and a collection of mid-twentieth-century to modern structures at the end of a private farm road, on the eastern portion of the property (Figures 2.1.2 through 2.1.4).



Underwood Farm - Full Site Plan

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SCALE:	As Shown
DATE:	10/5/2017
PROJECT NUMBER	4213-17-245

FIGURE NO.	2.1.2
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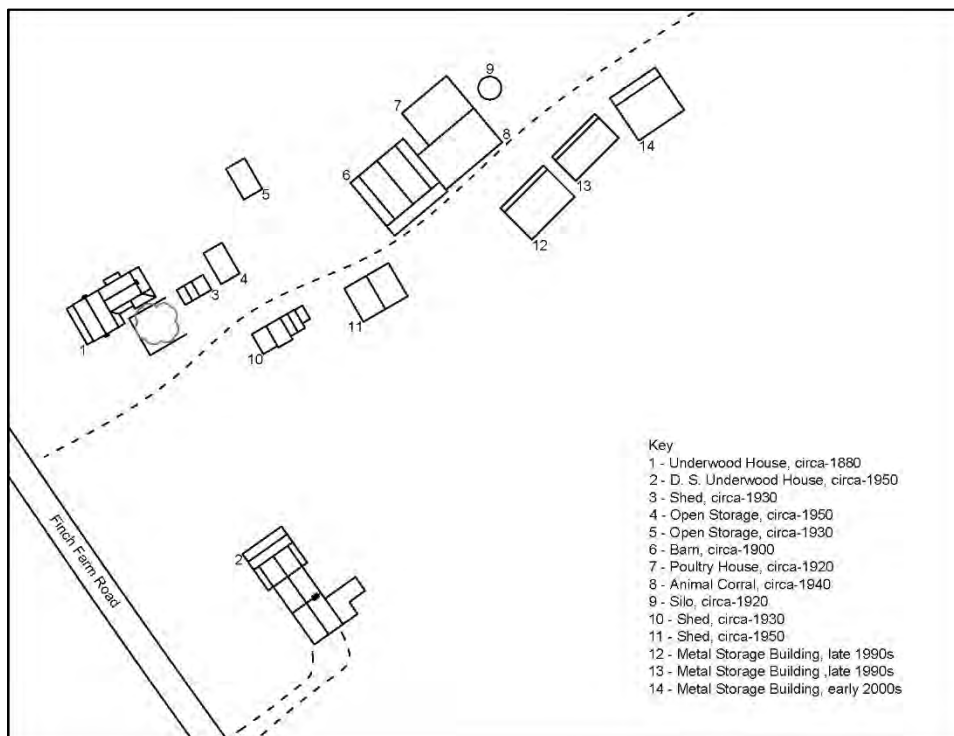


Figure 2.1.3. Site plan of Underwood Farm, western portion.

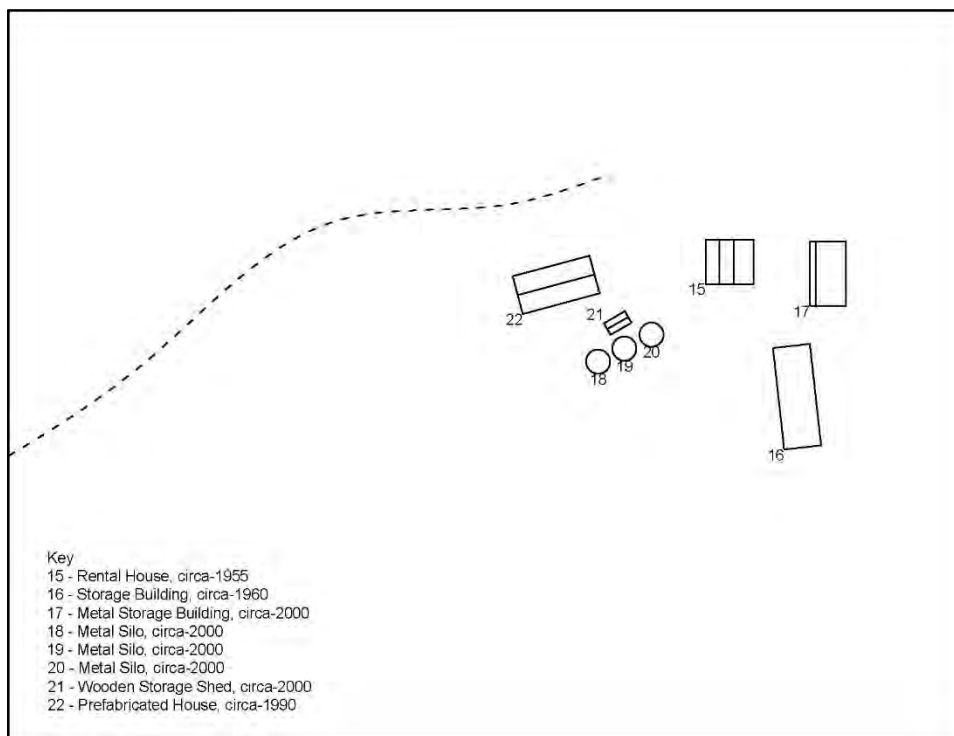


Figure 2.1.4. Site plan of Underwood Farm, eastern portion.

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The circa-1880 Underwood House is a two-story, single-pile, frame dwelling, with a two-story rear-ell, as well as later additions. The front elevation is three bays wide and rests on a brick pier foundation that has been infilled (Figure 2.1.1). It has an original central door, with two arched upper window panels and two rectangular lower panels, flanked by a single four-over-four, double-hung wooden sash window with exterior metal storm windows on either side; the upper story has three evenly spaced four-over-four, double-hung wooden sash windows (Figure 2.1.5). The flat-roofed porch, which spans the width of the front elevation, is supported by decorative metal posts that are replacements for original porch supports; the foundation of the porch is newer brick than the house foundation and the floor and stairs are both concrete, suggesting that it is a mid-twentieth-century alteration. Each side elevation of the original I-house has an exterior, brick chimney, between single four-over-four, double-hung wooden sash windows on both the first and second stories (Figures 2.1.6 and 2.1.7). The gable ends have a moderate eave overhang, with an open cornice and decorative exposed roof beams; a simple, wide, raking frieze meets the corner trim of the house.

The rear ell portion of the structure is two bays long by two bays deep, with an exterior chimney that has been covered in stucco along the east elevation (Figure 2.1.8). The lower story of the north elevation has a shed-roofed porch structure, which has been enclosed using plywood, beadboard, and one-over-one, double-hung, metal sash windows; the structure sits on an infilled brick pier foundation that appears to date to the same period as the foundation of the rear ell, suggesting that this was an early porch structure that was enclosed during the mid-twentieth century. A single-story, shed-roofed addition has been attached to the east elevation of the rear-ell; it retains the raking frieze, exposed roof beams, and four-over-four, double-hung, wooden sash window of the I-house and rear-ell (Figure 2.1.9). In the early-twentieth century, this shed-roofed addition was continued with a hipped roof section, which wraps around the rear-ell and attaches to the enclosed rear porch on the south elevation; this small addition has a different roof structure than the earlier addition and also has six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash windows and rests on a concrete foundation (Figure 2.1.10). The south elevation of the house has a shed-roofed porch that is inset between the front section of the house and the rear ell (Figure 2.1.11); the roof structure is similar to the original portion of the house, with exposed beams and raking frieze band, suggesting that it was an early rear porch that was later enclosed, using beadboard and screening.



Figure 2.1.5. Underwood House, circa-1880, front elevation, facing northeast.

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Figure 2.1.6. Underwood House, circa-1880, oblique view, facing north.



Figure 2.1.7. Underwood House, circa-1880, oblique view, facing southeast.



Figure 2.1.8. Underwood House, circa-1880, north elevation, facing southwest.



Figure 2.1.9. Underwood House, circa-1880, east elevation, facing west.



Figure 2.1.10. Underwood House, circa-1880, oblique, facing northwest.



Figure 2.1.11. Underwood House, circa-1880, south elevation, facing northwest.

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Although the house was constructed and porches enclosed during multiple building periods, the entire structure is covered with wooden weatherboard siding and the roof is sheathed in standing-seam metal. The I-house form was a ubiquitous rural house style in this portion of Randolph County, and most of North Carolina, from the early-nineteenth through the early- twentieth centuries, making it difficult to date. The house has little period-defining detail, although the four-over-four windows, front door, and exposed roof beams suggest basic elements of multiple styles that were popular during the 1870s and 1880s. Access to the interior of the house was not granted and additional information was not provided during a conversation with the owner's daughter.

South of the circa-1880 Underwood House, also along Finch Farm Road, is a second residence, the D. S. Underwood House, dating to approximately 1950. This ranch dwelling is a single story, frame residence with a brick veneer exterior and gabled roofline (Figure 2.1.12). The long, low profile of the house, under a laterally gabled roof, with the small cluster of rooms forming a cross-gable at the northern end, along with the integrated side garage, are hallmarks of Ranch-style architecture, which became popular along the east coast in the 1940s through the 1970s. The front entry door is inset within the intersection of the front and side-gabled sections, beneath a flat-roofed porch that is supported by decorative metal posts (Figure 2.1.13). There are multiple window types on the home, including single and paired two-over-two, double-hung, metal sash windows, a triple one-over-one, double-hung, metal sash window, and a tripartite picture window; the windows close to the corner of the rear of the front-gabled section are also common in early Ranch house architecture (Figure 2.1.14). At the rear of the house, a flat-roofed sun porch mirrors the front porch, but includes a brick half-wall and a full windowed upper section (Figure 2.1.15). A small interior chimney is visible at the junction of the side-gabled and front-gabled sections, while a more prominent chimney rises above where the main house meets the garage. A flat-roofed carport has been added to the rear of the structure. The house is set back from the road and integrated into the topography of the land, with the side-gabled roofline stepping down to follow the elevation of the lot; the front yard of the house is open, although a large tree that predates the house remains, and there are foundation plantings along the front elevation which helps tie the house into the landscape. These landscape characteristics are also elements of the mid-twentieth-century Ranch house design.



Figure 2.1.12. D. S. Underwood House, circa-1950, front elevation, facing east.

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Figure 2.1.13. D. S. Underwood House, circa-1950, oblique view, facing northeast.



Figure 2.1.14. D. S. Underwood House, circa-1950, north elevation, facing south.

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Figure 2.1.15. D. S. Underwood House, circa-1950, rear oblique view, facing west.

Along a private, gravel farm road, located between the circa-1880 Underwood House and the circa-1950 D. S. Underwood House, there are multiple domestic and agricultural outbuildings (Figure 2.1.3). North of the farm road, directly behind the circa-1880 Underwood House is a circa-1930 frame shed (Figure 2.1.16). The shed has a front-gabled roof and rests on a stacked stone pier foundation, which has been augmented with concrete block; the exterior of the shed is covered with wooden weatherboard siding and the roof is standing-seam metal. The roof has a wide overhang in the front, where there is a single, central entry door; there are visible rafter tails at the sides of the roof (Figure 2.1.17). To the east, there is a shed-roofed carport addition that is supported by rough-hewn wooden timbers used as posts. East and northeast of the shed are two open storage areas, dating from around the 1930s through the 1950s (Figure 2.1.3). The open storage structure closest to the farm road appears to date from the mid-twentieth century. It has six square wooden posts as supports and a flat roof, covered with standing seam metal (Figure 2.1.18). The northern wall of the structure is enclosed with sheet metal, but the remainder of the structure is open. To the northeast, set back from the farm road, is an older open storage building (Figure 2.1.19). The structure has a flat roof, with visible rafters, which is supported by rough-hewn wooden timbers used as posts; the roof is covered with standing-seam metal. The rear bay of the structure has been partially enclosed, with sheet metal in the front and plywood in the rear. A small, shed-roofed extension off of the rear of the structure appears to be used for firewood storage, while the remainder of the structure stores various mechanical farm equipment.

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Figure 2.1.16. View of circa-1930 shed, Underwood Farm, facing north.



Figure 2.1.17. View of circa-1930 shed, Underwood Farm, facing southeast.

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Figure 2.1.18. View of circa-1950 open storage, Underwood Farm, facing north.



Figure 2.1.19. View of circa-1930 open storage, Underwood Farm, facing northwest.

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Also north of the gravel farm road is a barn and poultry house complex that has been connected through multiple building periods (Figures 2.1.3 and 2.1.20). The barn comprises the western section of this complex; it is a large, frame, gabled structure that sits on a stacked stone foundation that has been augmented with bricks and concrete block (Figure 2.1.21). The barn appears to be the oldest structure in the complex and dates to around 1900. The tall central gabled section has a shed-roofed extension on either side, creating a three-bay barn (Figure 2.1.22). A shed-roofed front extension, supported by rough-hewn timber posts, spans the front elevation of the barn. The exterior of the barn is covered with sheet metal panels, primarily in the front and on portions of the sides, and horizontal wooden siding, mostly on the back and on the remaining portions of the sides. The roof of the entire structure is covered with standing-seam metal.

To the northeast of the barn, set slightly back from the farm road, is a flat-roofed, frame poultry house, which rests on a clay block foundation (Figure 2.1.23). This poultry house likely dates to around the 1920s. There are six-pane, wooden sash windows on each elevation of the building (Figure 2.1.24); on the east and west elevations there is a central doorway. The roof of the poultry house has exposed rafter tails and is covered with standing-seam metal. Attached to the front (south) elevation of the poultry house, along the farm road, is an open wooden structure that may have been used as an animal corral (Figure 2.1.25). This structure, which likely dates to the 1950s, has a pent roof that follows the slope of the land to attach to the poultry house, which sits on a lower elevation. The roof, which is standing-seam metal, has exposed rafters and is supported by rough-hewn timber posts. This mid-twentieth-century structure also connects the poultry house to the barn, creating a single complex. East of the poultry house is a circa-1920 tile silo, which was probably built at the same time as the poultry house (Figures 2.1.26 and 2.1.27).



Figure 2.1.20. View of early to mid-twentieth-century barn complex, Underwood Farm, facing west.



Figure 2.1.21. View of circa-1900 barn, Underwood Farm, facing northwest.



Figure 2.1.22. View of circa-1900 barn, Underwood Farm, facing southeast.

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Figure 2.1.23. View of circa-1920 poultry house, Underwood Farm, facing east.



Figure 2.1.24. View of circa-1920 poultry house, Underwood Farm, facing south.

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Figure 2.1.25. View of circa-1940 animal corral, Underwood Farm, facing west.



Figure 2.1.26. View of circa-1920 silo, Underwood Farm, facing northwest.

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Figure 2.1.27. View of circa-1920 silo, Underwood Farm, facing north.

South of the gravel farm road are two early-to-mid-twentieth-century storage buildings and three late-twentieth-century metal structures (Figure 2.1.3). The westernmost of these structures is a circa-1930 wooden frame shed, which has been added to multiple times (Figure 2.1.28). The central portion is a front-gabled shed, which sits on a mixed material foundation that appears to be primarily piers of stacked stone and brick (Figure 2.1.29). This portion of the shed has horizontal wooden siding and the central doorway may have originally been larger, as there is evidence of patched-in siding to the west of the door. West of the gabled shed portion, there are two shed-roofed projections that were added separately to the original structure, as they are different depths (Figure 2.1.30). The front of the addition connected to the original structure is partially covered with vertical wooden siding, although it is mostly open, while the westernmost addition has a plywood front exterior and a central door; the rear of both additions is covered with plywood siding. Another shed-roofed addition has also been appended to the east of the original shed structure. This addition has a sheet metal exterior covering on its front and side, but an open back (Figure 2.1.31). The shed has visible rafter tails and roof beams on each of its multiple parts and the roof is covered with standing-seam metal.

East of the circa-1930 shed building is a circa-1950 storage structure. This building sits on a mixed stone, brick, and concrete foundation and has two distinct parts (Figure 2.1.32). A large, flat-roofed section to the east is covered with sheet metal panels and has visible rafters at its eaves. To the west, a steeply-angled, shed-roofed addition has a barred entry door and is covered with plywood (Figure 2.1.33). Further east, south of the farm road, are three late-twentieth-century metal storage structures, dating from the late 1990s to early 2000s (Figures 2.1.34–2.1.36). Although the construction of the three structures is identical, with metal framing, sheet metal exterior, and a shed-roof with an overhang over the open front, each of the structures is a different height and depth, suggesting that they may not have been built at the same time. The three structures are currently used for equipment and hay storage.

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Figure 2.1.28. View of circa-1930 shed, Underwood Farm, facing south.



Figure 2.1.29. View of circa-1930 shed, Underwood Farm, facing southeast.

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Figure 2.1.30. View of circa-1930 shed, Underwood Farm, facing northeast.



Figure 2.1.31. View of circa-1930 shed, Underwood Farm, facing west.



Figure 2.1.32. View of circa-1950 shed, Underwood Farm, facing southwest.



Figure 2.1.33. View of circa-1950 shed, Underwood Farm, facing south.



Figure 2.1.34. View of circa-1990s metal storage, Underwood Farm, facing east.



Figure 2.1.35. View of circa-1990s metal storage, Underwood Farm, facing east.

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Figure 2.1.36. View of circa-2000s metal storage, Underwood Farm, facing southwest.

The structures on the Underwood farm are divided into two separate sections, with the western portion including the structures along Finch Farm Road and the associated outbuildings along the gravel farm road; the eastern portion consists of mid-to-late-twentieth-century buildings, located at the eastern terminus of the farm road. The two sections are connected by the private, gravel farm road, but are separated by cultivated fields that follow historic field patterns (Figures 2.1.37–2.1.40).



Figure 2.1.37. View of private gravel farm road, Underwood Farm, facing northeast.



Figure 2.1.38. View of cultivated field, Underwood Farm, facing east.



Figure 2.1.39. View of cultivated field, Underwood Farm, facing north.

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Figure 2.1.40. View of cultivated field, Underwood Farm, facing south.

At the eastern terminus of the gravel farm road is a circa-1955 rental house, along with other associated structures (Figure 2.1.4). The circa-1955 rental house is a frame structure, with a side-gabled roof, built on a dry-stacked brick and block foundation that has been covered with metal underpinning in some locations (Figure 2.1.41). The front of the house has an off-center door, with a 16-pane picture window to the north and a single six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash window to the south. There is a small, rectangular attic vent centered in the gable ends, which also have visible roof beams and a narrow band of trim along the raking edge (Figure 2.1.42). A shed-roofed addition, with visible rafter tails, rests on a concrete block foundation at the rear of the structure (Figure 2.1.43). The northern half of this addition appears to be an open porch that may have once been enclosed by screening (Figure 2.1.44). The fenestration on the remainder of the house is the remnants of six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sashes, although many of them are missing panes, stiles, or both. The house is covered with horizontal wooden siding and the roof is sheathed in standing-seam metal; there is an interior, block chimney visible behind the roof ridge on the northern portion of the house.

Southeast of the circa-1955 rental house is a wooden storage building that dates to around the same period as the house (Figure 2.1.45). Although the roof may have originally been flat, the building has some structural issues and the roof currently appears bent on one side and bowed on the other (Figure 2.1.46). The building has six sections. The northern section is open, as are the three southern sections; the two sections adjacent to the northernmost section have been enclosed with a combination of horizontal wooden siding and sheet metal. The roof, which has visible rafters, is covered with standing-seam metal, and is supported by rough-hewn timber posts.

Behind the circa-1955 rental house, to the east, is a circa-2000 metal storage building that resembles the metal storage buildings south of the farm road, although it is partially enclosed and has some rough-hewn timber support posts (Figure 2.1.47). Southwest of the circa-1950 rental house are three circa-2000 metal silos and a side-

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gabled, wooden storage shed (Figure 2.1.48 and 2.1.49). West of the circa-1955 rental house and north of the metal silos is a circa-1990 prefabricated residence (Figure 2.1.50).



Figure 2.1.41. View of circa-1955 rental house, Underwood Farm, facing north.



Figure 2.1.42. View of circa-1955 rental house, Underwood Farm, facing northeast.

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Figure 2.1.43. View of circa-1955 rental house, Underwood Farm, facing northwest.



Figure 2.1.44. View of circa-1955 rental house, Underwood Farm, facing southwest.

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Figure 2.1.45. View of circa-1960 shed/storage building, Underwood Farm, facing southeast.



Figure 2.1.46. View of circa-1960 shed/storage building, Underwood Farm, facing east.

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Figure 2.1.47. View of circa-2000 metal storage, Underwood Farm, facing northeast.



Figure 2.1.48. View of circa-2000 silos and storage building, Underwood Farm, facing south.

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Figure 2.1.49. View of circa-2000 silos, Underwood Farm, facing northwest.



Figure 2.1.50. View of circa-1990 prefabricated home, Underwood Farm, facing south.

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2.1.1 *History*

The Underwood Farm is comprised of three tax parcels, totaling over 51 acres of land, which are currently owned by David Sidney Underwood; of the three houses on the property, the owner lives in the circa-1950 Ranch House (4736 Finch Farm Road) and the other two dwellings are used as rental properties. The three parcels have been owned by David Sidney Underwood and his wife Eva, at least in part, since 1949, although interest in the properties was transferred between D. S. Underwood and his parents from 1949 through 1970 (Randolph County Register of Deeds 2002 DB1754:1814; 1970 DB1004:98; 1953 DB509:360; 1949 DB351:298). The land containing the circa-1880 Underwood House (4760 Finch Farm Road) has been owned by the Underwood family since at least the 1880s, possibly earlier, and the surrounding farmland acreage came into possession of the Underwood family in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries (Randolph County Register of Deeds 1902 DB108:114; 1886 DB55:378; 1882 DB53:230).

A brief oral history from the family of the property's owner indicated that the Underwood House was constructed in the 1820s; however, the I-house form and rear ell likely date to around the 1880s, when the surrounding property was purchased by Millard Fillmore Underwood from S. B. Shipplett, P. J. Kiser, and S. G. Fairbanks (Randolph County Register of Deeds 1886 DB55:378). The property was part of a large parcel in the northwestern portion of Randolph County that was purchased by the three men from the heirs of General Alexander Gray in 1882 and it is unlikely that there was a house on the parcel under the Gray ownership, unless it was being used as a rental or tenant property (Randolph County Register of Deeds 1882 DB53:230). In 1902, M. F. Underwood purchased an additional 21 acres, adjoining the property of T. J. Finch and Doak Welborn, and added it to his landholdings (Randolph County Register of Deeds 1902 DB108:114); this land, approximately 130 acres, made up the Randolph County land holdings owned by M. F. Underwood until his death. The house had been constructed by 1915, when it was depicted on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) soil survey map (Figure 2.1.51), as well as the 1919 United States Post Office Rural Delivery Route map.

Millard Fillmore Underwood (1856-1939) was the son of Sidney Green Underwood, a well-known and successful farmer in southeastern Davidson County. Upon leaving his parents household, M. F. Underwood moved to Randolph County, where he was living in Tabernacle Township with his wife and infant daughter in 1880 (United States Census Bureau 1880). In 1886, Underwood purchased 109 acres of property from Shipplett, Kiser, and Fairbanks, bordering lands owned by T. A. Finch and Thomas Arnold, likely a portion of the current Underwood Farm property (Randolph County Register of Deeds 1886 DB55:378). In the 1890s, he served as a magistrate in the Wheatmore district (Branson 1894). By 1900, M. F. Underwood, his wife Georgianna, and their eight children were living on a farm in Trinity Township, which Underwood owned (United States Census Bureau 1900). Millard Fillmore Underwood continued to live in Trinity Township and work on a farm that he owned into the 1920s (United States Census Bureau 1910, 1920). By 1927, M. F. Underwood had moved with his wife to a home in High Point, although he continued to list his occupation as farmer, where he lived until his death in 1939 (Miller 1927:381; United States Census Bureau 1930; North Carolina Death Certificates 1939, Guilford County 289). Millard Fillmore Underwood's will divided his property in Randolph County into four tracts, which were inherited by four of his five sons; his daughters and remaining son inherited property in Guilford County (Randolph County Probate Records 1939 Will Book 21:219). A map showing the division of the M. F. Underwood estate, totaling approximately 130.3 acres was recorded in the Randolph County plat records and shows the boundaries of the four tracts (Figure 2.1.52). The current Underwood Farm property is comprised of a portion of Tract 1, all of Tract 2, and the northeast corner of Tract 4; Raymond Welborn Underwood inherited Tract 1, which contains the circa-1880 Underwood House, in his father's will and purchased Tract 2 from the estate of his brother Robert and Tract 4 from his brother Charlie (Randolph County Register of Deeds 1948 DB401:390).

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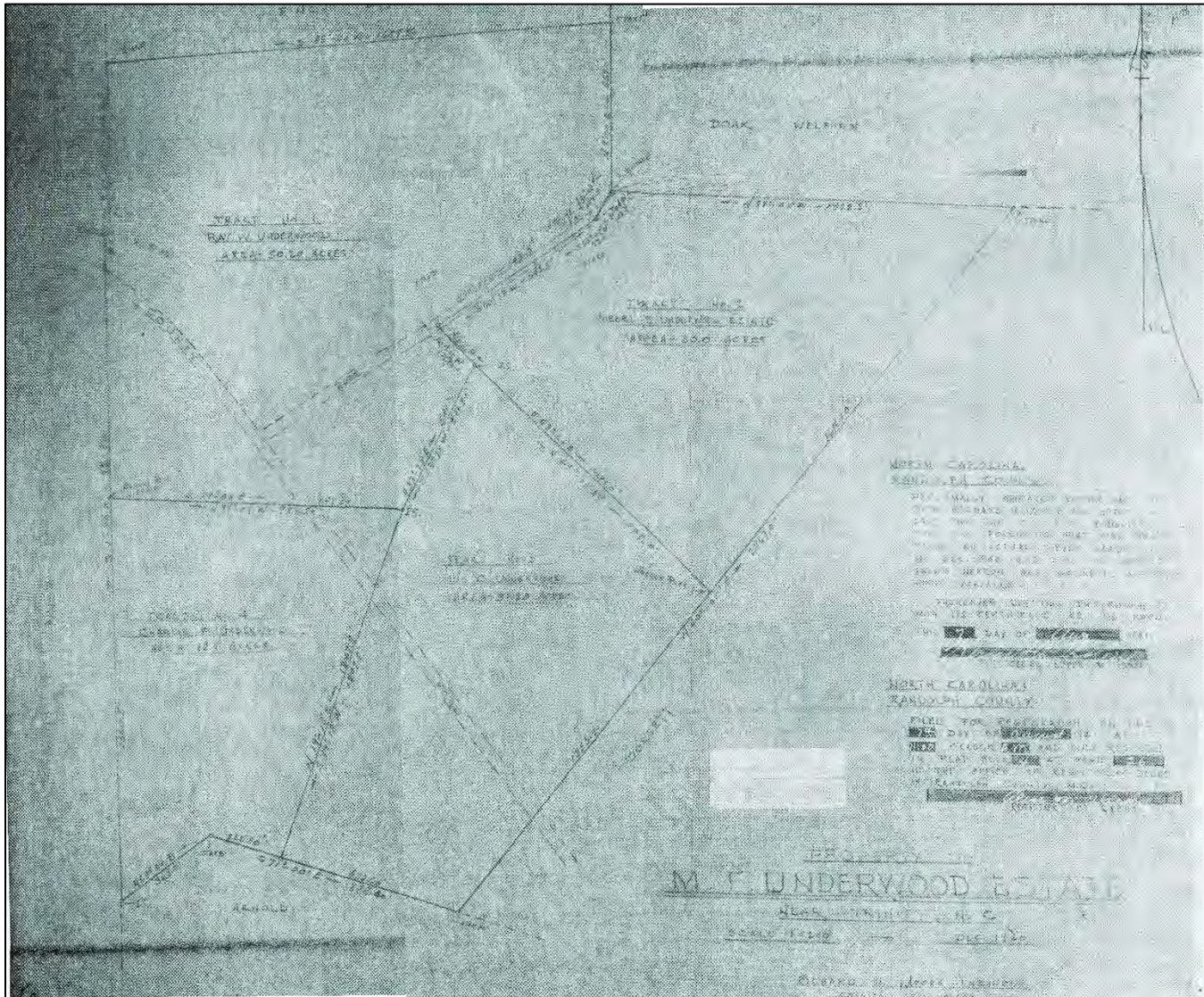


Figure 2.1.52. Plat of the division of the M. F. Underwood Estate (Randolph County Register of Deeds 1940 Plat Book 4:26).

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In 1949, Raymond W. Underwood and his wife Shellie conveyed 5.22 acres of land, a portion of Tracts 1 and 4 from the M. F. Underwood estate, to their son, David Sidney Underwood and his wife Eva (Randolph County Register of Deeds 1949 DB351:298). This property comprises the tax parcel which holds the D. S. Underwood House and David Sidney Underwood and his wife likely constructed the circa-1950 brick Ranch residence on the property shortly after they acquired the tract. In 1953, R. W. and Shellie Underwood conveyed Tract 2 of the M. F. Underwood estate to D. S. Underwood and his wife (Randolph County Register of Deeds 1953 DB509:360). David Sidney Underwood was a schoolteacher at Trinity High School and it is unlikely that he farmed the property full time; it is possible that this portion of the farm was turned into rental property around this time and the circa-1955 rental house in the eastern portion of the farm was constructed. D. S. and Eva Underwood acquired the remaining property from Raymond W. and Shellie Underwood in 1970 (Randolph County Register of Deeds 1970 DB1004:98). David Sidney and Eva Underwood are the current owners of the three tracts that make up the Underwood Farm.

Historic aerial photographs from the 1940s through the 1960s show the evolution of the farm property during the mid-twentieth century. The 1948 photograph indicates that only the circa-1880 Underwood house, the barn and poultry house, and the circa-1930s sheds were standing on the property, although the private farm road and cultivated fields are clearly visible (Figure 2.1.53). By 1951, the circa-1950 D. S. Underwood House had been constructed, as had the mid-century storage areas (Figure 2.1.54); both houses and an outbuilding are shown on the 1951 USGS topographic quadrangle. By 1964, the rental house at the eastern edge of the property had been constructed (Figure 2.1.55). Aerial imagery from the 1990s and 2000s provides construction dates for the late-twentieth-century structures on the property.



Figure 2.1.53. USGS aerial photograph (1948) showing Underwood Farm property and vicinity.



Figure 2.1.54. USGS aerial photograph (1951) showing Underwood Farm property and vicinity.



Figure 2.1.55. USGS aerial photograph (1964) showing Underwood Farm property and vicinity.

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2.1.2 *Architectural Context*

In rural Randolph County during the mid-to-late-nineteenth century, two-story, vernacular residences were commonly constructed, with the I-house form being the most popular. With the addition of rear kitchen wings, many of these I-houses became homes with L- or T-shaped plans. Houses differed little in form, but often had architectural details, such as porch supports and windows, that reflected the period in which they were built. These homes were once common throughout western Randolph County, where farming was the major economic pursuit (Bishir and Southern 2003:42–43; Whatley et al. 1985). Within the rural portions of the county, “the primary unit of social organization was the self-sufficient extended family, scattered thinly around the countryside” (Whatley et al. 1985:11). This network of small to medium sized farms resulted in the construction of many vernacular farmhouses and associated agricultural outbuildings along the primary thoroughfares of the county. When the Randolph County architectural survey was conducted in the early 1980s, the I-house form was ubiquitous throughout the county and only examples with unique architectural details or specific historical associations were surveyed (Personal communication with Lowell Whatley, September 2017).

Randolph County has experienced increased growth during recent decades, resulting in a decrease in historic housing stock. The northeastern portion of the county retains some areas of rural, agricultural character, but have been subjected to suburban growth, as the nearby towns of Thomasville and High Point expand their populations; the proximity of this area to Interstate 85 also makes transportation to nearby larger cities easy, allowing new residential developments to occur on the surrounding lands. A windshield survey of the areas surrounding the Underwood Farm, guided by previously identified structures identified on HPOWEB, determined that a number of previously recorded structures in the area are no longer extant. These include the T. F. Finch House (RD0202) and the T. A. Finch House (RD0532), which were located across Finch Farm Road from the Underwood Farm.

The Dempsey Brown House (RD0170), an unnamed Farm Complex (RD0197), the Welborn House (RD0361), and Bramblewood Farm (RD0038) are examples of previously recorded structures of the same I-house form as the circa-1880 Underwood House; the Welborn House (RD0361) and Bramblewood Farm (RD0038) also have associated agricultural outbuildings, as the Underwood Farm does (Figures 2.1.56 through 2.1.61). None of the structures have been evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places. The Dempsey Brown House (RD0170) is a brick I-house that dates to around 1836 (Figure 2.1.56); although it has the same basic form as the circa-1880 Underwood House, including symmetrical exterior chimneys, the Dempsey Brown House has a steeper gable, creating an attic story, and it features six-over-nine, double-hung windows. Overall, the Dempsey Brown House, while an I-house form, is much grander in appearance and detail than the Underwood House. These differences indicate the houses were not likely built around the same time, suggesting that the Underwood House is of late-nineteenth-century construction, rather than from an earlier period. More similar in form, and likely construction period, is the house associated with an unnamed Farm Complex (RD0197), which was reportedly constructed around 1860 (Whatley et al. 1985:65). Although currently in a significantly deteriorated state, the Farm Complex house exhibits similar proportions to the circa-1880 Underwood House, in terms of height and roof pitch; it also features symmetrical exterior end chimneys and the same panel and arched glass front door as the Underwood House and the front porch is likely similar to the original porch of the Underwood House (Figure 2.1.57). When it was originally surveyed in the early 1980s, this Farm Complex House had an associated barn and corn crib, but neither of the outbuildings remain extant.

The Welborn House, which may date to the mid-nineteenth century, is another I-house (Whatley et al. 1985:64). The height and roof-pitch proportion on the Welborn House is similar to the circa-1880 Underwood House and it has four-over-four windows in its upper story, although the lower story windows are six-over-six (Figure 2.1.58). The Welborn House, however, only has a single exterior chimney, its rear addition is only a single story, it does not have

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windows flanking its chimney, and its main house is only a single bay deep. Associated with the Welborn House, however, are a number of early-twentieth-century agricultural outbuildings and at least one cultivated field, similar to the Underwood Farm (Figure 2.1.59). Bramblewood Farm (RD0038) is also an I-house form, with a two-story rear addition (Figure 2.1.60). The height and proportion of the house are similar to the circa-1880 Underwood House, there are exposed roof beams in the gable ends, and the house has symmetrical exterior end chimneys with flanking windows on the side elevations; however, the windows are six-over-six, double hung sashes and the exterior of the house has been covered with aluminum siding. East of the Bramblewood Farm house is a grouping of associated agricultural outbuildings, including an early-twentieth-century barn and two silos; however, there are no cultivated fields associated with Bramblewood farm and it appears to have been converted to a horse farm (Figure 2.1.61)

A previously unrecorded home, the Albertson House, located at 4924 Meadowbrook Road, has the basic three-bay wide form as the circa-1880 Underwood House, although the unrecorded home is one bay deep, with no exterior end chimneys, and does not have a rear ell (Figure 2.1.62). However, the Albertson House, which dates to around the mid-nineteenth century, does have a similar roof pitch and eave overhang, with exposed roof beams, as the Underwood House. No farmland and only one early-twentieth-century shed remain on the property of the Albertson House. Another previously unrecorded house, at 6219 Welborn Road, identified in county tax records as dating to 1866, appears to be another example of this vernacular form is similar to the circa-1880 Underwood House (Figure 2.1.63). The house at 6219 Welborn Road, which has symmetrical exterior end chimneys and a two-story rear ell, has two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash windows as opposed to the four-over-four windows of the Underwood House; it also has a more elaborate, Greek Revival, door surround. Similar to the Underwood House, the unidentified house has a mid-twentieth-century porch which likely replaced an original porch; unlike the Underwood House. The house at 6219 Welborn Road sits on a large parcel with domestic and agricultural outbuildings, similar to the Underwood Farm (Figure 2.1.64); it also has a newer family home associated with it, although this house dates to the late-twentieth century and is set back significantly from the road, unlike the mid-twentieth-century D. S. Underwood House.



Figure 2.1.56 Dempsey Brown House (RD0170), facing northeast.

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Figure 2.1.57. Farm Complex (RD0197), facing west.



Figure 2.1.58. Welborn House (RD0361), facing south.

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Figure 2.1.59. Outbuildings associated with the Welborn House (RD0361), facing west.



Figure 2.1.60. Bramblewood Farm (RD0038), facing southwest.

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Figure 2.1.61. Bramblewood Farm (RD0038), outbuildings, facing east.



Figure 2.1.62. Albertson House, 4924 Meadowbrook Drive, facing east.

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Figure 2.1.63. House and outbuildings, 6219 Welborn Road, facing south.



Figure 2.1.64. House and outbuildings, 6219 Welborn Road, facing south.

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2.1.3 *Integrity*

Evaluation of the seven aspects of integrity required for National Register eligibility for the Underwood Farm are as follows:

- Location: High

The Underwood Farm, including the three residential structures and the associated domestic and agricultural outbuildings, remains at its original location.

- Design: Medium

The Underwood Farm retains its historic design. The circa-1880 Underwood House retains its original two-story, single pile, I-house form and symmetrical brick chimneys at the gable ends. Although the house has undergone some changes to design, with the rear-ell and single story rear additions, these occurred relatively early in the history of the house and have not altered the overall plan of the structure. The main exterior alteration to the structure is the mid-twentieth-century porch. Interior access was not granted and a conversation with the owner's daughter did not provide information on interior changes, so alterations to the interior layout of the house are unknown. The circa-1950 D. S. Underwood House retains its historic form, including its integration with the surround landscape, with little alteration. Overall, the farm retains much of the historic design, including placement of outbuildings and the pattern of historic fields.

- Setting: Medium

When the Underwood House was constructed, and the farmland came into the ownership of the Underwood family, in the late-nineteenth-century, the area around Finch Farm Road was rural, with medium sized farm tracts and homes spread out along main roads. As the Underwood Farm grew during the early to mid-twentieth century, the area remained primarily rural and agricultural, although some farms were divided and newer residences were constructed as infill along the main roads. During the late-twentieth century, increased suburban residential development has occurred to the north, near Interstate 85, but the area immediately surrounding the Underwood Farm has remained primarily agricultural land, with some mid-century residential infill.

- Materials: Medium

The Underwood Farm and its associated structures retain much of their original material. The circa-1880 Underwood House retains its original framing and foundation materials, windows, front door, and wooden weatherboard. The circa-1950 D. S. Underwood House retains its original materials, including exterior brick, front door, and windows. The circa-1955 rental house, although in disrepair, retains much of the original material, including exterior siding, foundation, doors, and windows. The outbuildings have undergone some changes since their original construction, including patching of exterior walls with modern building materials, such as sheet metal, but overall they retain much of their original material. The interiors of the structures were not assessed.

- Workmanship: Medium

The original workmanship on the Underwood House's exterior has been somewhat altered by changes to the front porch; however, since the Underwood Farm is a late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth-century family farm complex, this major alteration was completed during the period of significance and contributes to the building's representation of twentieth century farm life, making it part of the home's historic

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character. The workmanship on the D. S. Underwood House and the circa-1955 rental house, as well as that on the outbuildings, remains unchanged. The interiors of the structures were not assessed.

- Feeling: Medium

The Underwood Farm is a late-nineteenth-century to mid-twentieth-century family farmstead, which represents the growth and development of small farms in northwestern Randolph County during this period. The presence of three residences from different time periods, the Underwood House (circa-1880), the D. S. Underwood House (circa-1950), and the rental house (circa-1955), as well as outbuildings from the same periods, are physical examples of the changes that occurred on family farms during the late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth centuries, including the division of farmland to allow for children to construct new homes near their parents. Overall, the Underwood Farm retains the feeling of a rural farmstead that developed and was modified to contemporary needs, from around 1880 through 1960.

- Association: High

The Underwood Farm retains its association with the Underwood Family, who have owned the property since the mid-1880s. The mid-twentieth-century alterations to the Underwood House, and the construction of additional structures and outbuildings on the property during the 1950s, have not compromised the integrity of association, since they were carried out during the period of significance, during the Underwood ownership.

2.1.4 *Eligibility*

The Underwood Farm is recommended as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A, as an example of a late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth-century family farmstead that has developed and been adapted to contemporary needs under the ownership of a single family. Although there have been alterations to the property, the majority of them date to the mid-twentieth-century, representing how buildings change and are adapted over time, and contribute to the history of the property as the home of a growing, interconnected family. Although farms such as the Underwood Farm, including late-nineteenth-century I-homes, were once common in the northwestern part of Randolph County, they have begun disappearing as increased residential development in the area occurs. There are several vernacular I-house-form farmhouses in the area, but none retains the collection of early-to-mid-twentieth-century outbuildings and the historic field patterns that exist at the Underwood Farm, nor do they have an associated mid-twentieth-century residence that represents the younger generation of the family seeking to retain family ties by building a contemporary residence near the family farm. The Underwood Farm is recommended ineligible under Criterion B, as it does not have an association with a prominent person; the Underwood family settled in this portion of Randolph County during the late-nineteenth century, after living in nearby Davidson County since the early part of the century, but none of the residents of the Underwood Farm achieved a level of prominence to elevate them above the other nearby residents. The circa-1880 Underwood House is an example of a late-nineteenth-century, vernacular residence and the circa-1950 D. S. Underwood House is an example of a mid-twentieth-century Ranch home; neither exhibits significant stylistic markers that distinguish them as architecturally unique. Similarly, the outbuildings and circa-1955 rental house are common types of rural, vernacular structures with no stylistic elements. Therefore, the Underwood Farm is not recommended eligible under Criterion C. The houses and outbuildings are unlikely to yield important historical information, so it is considered ineligible under Criterion D, for building technology.

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2.1.5 *Boundary Justification*

The NRHP boundaries for the Underwood Farm encompass three parcels totaling approximately 51 acres and corresponds to tax parcels on which the circa-1880 Underwood House, circa-1950 D. S. Underwood House, circa-1955 rental house, and the outbuildings stand, as well as including two cultivated fields that have historically been part of the Underwood Farm (Figure 2.10.65). The boundary begins along Finch Farm Road and includes the property east of the drainage ditch that runs along the road; the drainage ditch is a late-twentieth-century construction and is outside of the NRHP eligible property. This property was historically part of the late-nineteenth-century M. F. Underwood farm property, which was divided among his children; it makes up nearly half of the M. F. Underwood farm property and corresponds to the two full tracts and portion of a third tract that were acquired by Raymond W. Underwood and passed to his son David Sidney Underwood, who is the current owner. The houses, farm buildings, and surrounding fields are integral parts of the landscape of the late-nineteenth to early-twentieth-century farmstead. Of the structures on the property, the three metal storage buildings south of the farm road, the circa-1990s silos and storage building, the late-1990s metal storage building behind the rental house, and the 1990s prefabricated home would not be contributing structures to the complex; the remaining structures and landscape elements, including the farm road and the fields, would contribute to the significance to the Underwood Farm.

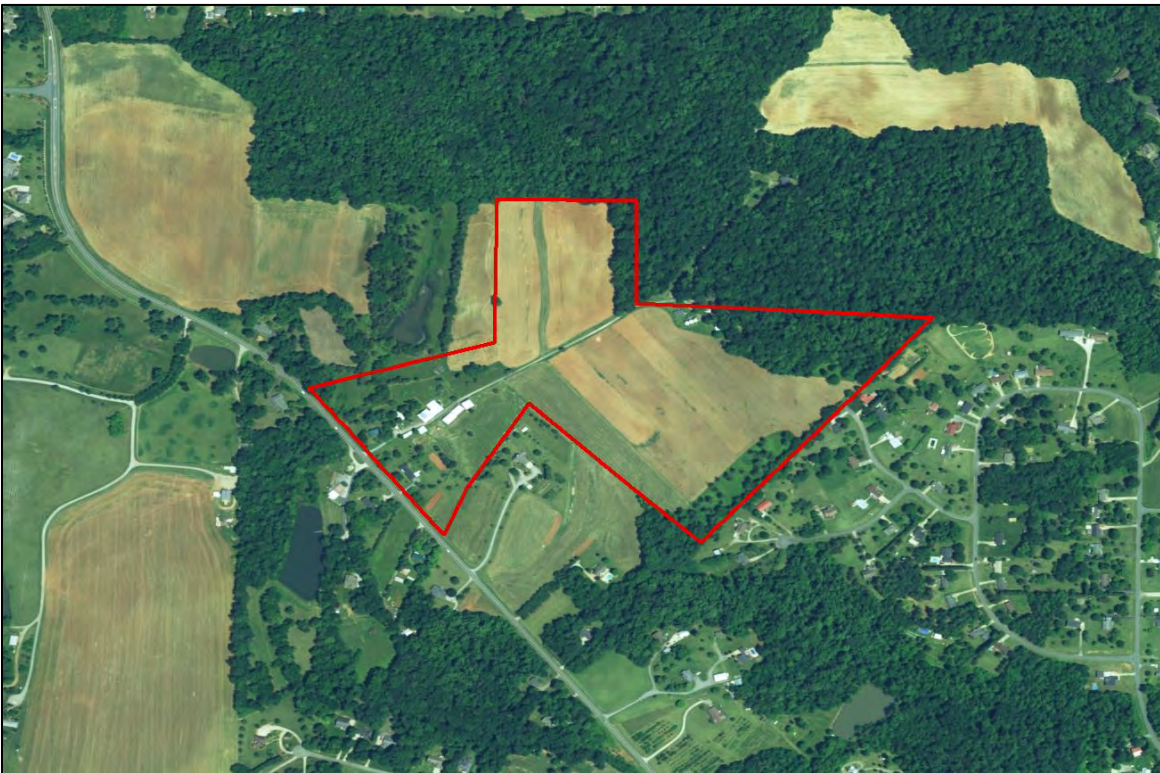


Figure 2.10.65. NRHP boundary for the Underwood Farm (RD0930).

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