



**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 14, 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, Replace Bridge 35 on SR 1143 over Tributary  
To Slades Creek, PA 16-08-0034, Hyde County, ER 17-2451

Thank you for your memorandum of October 31, 2017, transmitting the above-referenced report. We apologize for our delayed response and offer the following comments.

We concur that St. John's Episcopal Church (HY0195) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C.

We also concur with the not eligible determinations for:

- Gratz Credle House (HY0190)
- Jarvis-Elixson House (HY0196)
- Jarvis-Sears House (HY0197)

While somewhat deteriorated on the exterior, our staff recalls that the interior of the Napoleon Sears Store (HY0194) is fairly intact. Thus, we would recommend that an effort be made to ascertain the store's interior condition, to the extent possible, and reconsider its eligibility under Criterion C and perhaps under A for commercial and social history.

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

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

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



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III  
SECRETARY

To: Renee Gledhill-Earley, NCHPO  
From: Vanessa E. Patrick, NCDOT  
Date: October 31, 2017  
Subject: *Historic Structures Survey Report - Replace Bridge No. 35 on SR 1143 (Sladesville-Credle Road) over Tributary to Slades Creek, Hyde County, North Carolina. WBS No. 17BP.1.R.83. PA Tracking No. 16-08-0034*

ER 17-2451  
H Scott  
No 20  
Due 11/14  
EP letters  
12/7/17

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project. Enclosed for your review is a report presenting the evaluation of historic architectural resources in the Bridge Number 35, Hyde County project area (one hard copy and one CD-ROM). Survey photographs, site forms, and GIS data accompany the report on the CD-ROM, and hard copies of the photographs and site forms are also supplied.

The report considers five individual resources. The study recommends one as eligible and the remaining four not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Initial screening of the project area by NCDOT Historic Architecture in September 2016 identified which resources warranted additional study. Bridge No. 35 is not NR-eligible based on the NCDOT Historic Bridge Inventory.

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](mailto:vepatrick@ncdot.gov) or 919-707-6082. Thank you.

V.E.P.

Attachments

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**Historic Structures Survey Report  
Replace Bridge No. 35 on SR 1143  
(Sladesville-Credle Road) over Tributary to  
Slades Creek**

**Hyde County, North Carolina  
WBS# 17BP.1.R.83**



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

Prepared by:  
S&ME, Inc.  
620 Wando Park Boulevard  
Charleston, SC 29464

S&ME Project No. 4213-16-313

November 6, 2017

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HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT  
REPLACE BRIDGE NO. 35 ON SR 1143 (SLADESVILLE-CREDLE  
ROAD) OVER TRIBUTARY TO SLADES CREEK  
HYDE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

**FINAL REPORT**  
**WBS No. 17BP.1.R.83**

Prepared for:

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

Prepared by:

S&ME, Inc.  
620 Wando Park Boulevard  
Charleston, South Carolina 29464

S&ME Project No. 4213-16-313

Author:

Heather Carpini, M.A.

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

Date

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

Date

November 2017

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## Management Summary

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), S&ME, Inc. (S&ME) has completed a historic architectural analysis of seven properties located within the project area for the replacement of Bridge No. 35, in the community of Sladesville, in Hyde County, North Carolina. NCDOT proposes to replace Bridge No. 35 on SR 1143 (Sladesville-Credle Road) over a tributary of Slades Creek (WBS No. 17BP.1.R.83) (Figures 1 and 2).

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. NCDOT defines this project's APE as 200 feet on either side of Bridge No. 35 and 500 feet from each end of that structure. NCDOT Architectural Historians reviewed the resources within the APE and determined that seven properties, five previously recorded and two previously unrecorded, warranted further evaluation. The Gratz Credle House (HY0190) and the Sladesville School House properties are located north of the bridge; the Napoleon Sears Store (HY0194), the study-listed (SL) St. John's Episcopal Church (HY0195), the Jarvis-Elixson House (HY0196), the Jarvis-Sears House (HY0197), and a previously unrecorded house are located south of the bridge. Hyde County Bridge No. 35 is not addressed in this report. Built in 1951, the structure does not exemplify any distinctive engineering or aesthetic type and is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) according to the NCDOT Historic Bridge Inventory. 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 Bridge No. 35 replacement project area.**

Property Name	NC-HPO Survey		
	Site No.	Eligibility Determination	Criteria
Gratz Credle House	HY0190	Not Eligible	N/A
Napoleon Sears Store	HY0194	Not Eligible	N/A
St. John's Episcopal Church	HY0195 (SL)	Eligible	A, C
Jarvis-Elixson House	HY0196	Not Eligible	N/A
Jarvis-Sears House	HY0197	Not Eligible	N/A
Sladesville School House	--	No Longer Extant	N/A
House, Sladesville-Credle Road	--	No Longer Extant	N/A

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## 1.0 Introduction (Methodology)

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), S&ME, Inc. (S&ME) has completed a historic architectural analysis of seven properties located within the APE for the Bridge No. 35 replacement project area, in Sladesville, Hyde County, North Carolina. Work was conducted in general accordance with the agreed-upon scope, terms, and conditions presented in the Proposal No. 42-1601296 Rev. 1, dated October 21, 2016.

As part of the project (WBS No. 17BP.1.R.83), NCDOT proposes to replace Bridge No. 35 on SR 1143 (Sladesville-Credle Road) over a tributary to Slades Creek, in Sladesville, Hyde County (Figures 1 and 2). The APE for the project was defined by NCDOT staff as spanning 500 feet from each end of the bridge and 200 feet to either side of the centerline (Figure 2). As part of preliminary investigations, NCDOT identified the previously recorded Gratz Credle House (HY0190) and the previously unrecorded Sladesville School House property north of the bridge, and the previously recorded Napoleon Sears Store (HY0194), the study-listed (SL) St. John's Episcopal Church (HY0195), the Jarvis-Elixson House (HY0196), and the Jarvis-Sears House (HY0197), as well as a previously unrecorded house south of the bridge (Figures 1 and 2).

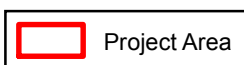
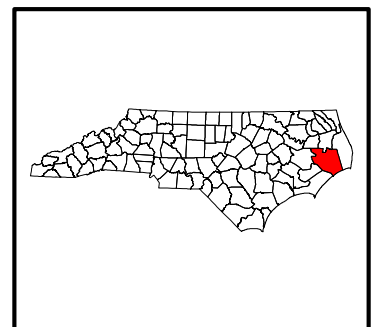
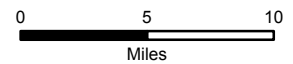
The intensive level survey included identifying, analyzing, and evaluating seven historic resources, five previously recorded and two previously unrecorded, according to National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria. Fieldwork for the project was conducted in December 2016 by Senior Architectural Historian Heather L. Carpini, who completed photography, mapping, and research and authored the report. Research was conducted at the Hyde County Register of Deeds and the library of the Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society in Swan Quarter, North Carolina, the Hyde County Public Library in Engelhard, North Carolina, and the BHM Regional Library Headquarters in Washington, North Carolina. Additional information was compiled from survey records of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC-HPO) survey files. 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 CRF 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).



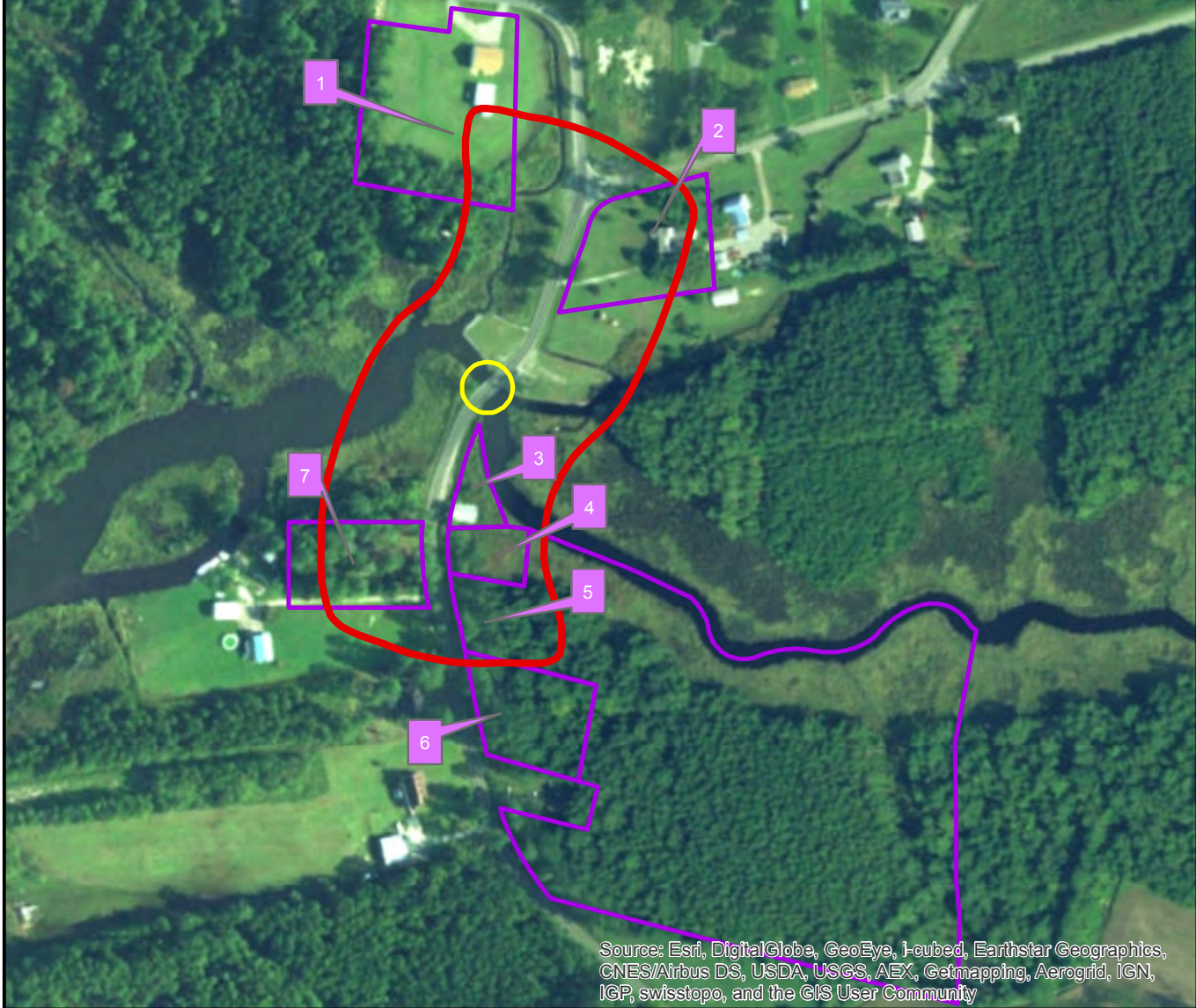
Figure 1. Location of the Bridge No. 35 replacement project, Hyde County, North Carolina.

Base Map: ESRI World Street Maps.





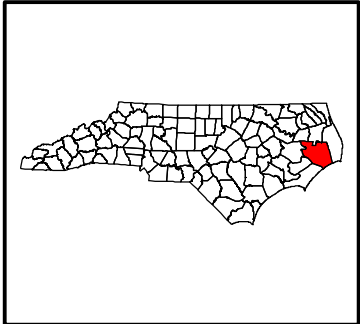
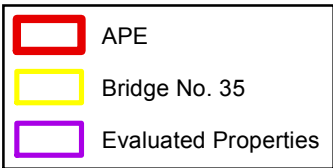
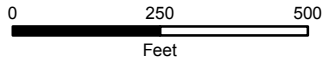
- 1 - Sladesville School House property; PIN: 7643-73-2313; Coordinates: 2747264, 633382
- 2 - Gratz Credle House (HY0190); PIN: 7643-73-5076; Coordinates: 2747616, 633088
- 3 - Napoleon Sears Store (HY0194); PIN: 7643-72-2538; Coordinates: 2747220, 632558
- 4 - Unnamed House property; PIN: 7643-72-2469; Coordinates: 2747231, 632483
- 5 - Jarvis-Elixson House (HY0196); PIN: 7643-72-7090; Coordinates: 2747273, 632362
- 6 - Jarvis-Sears House (HY0197); PIN: 7643-72-3145; Coordinates: 2747281, 632227
- 7 - St. John's Episcopal Church (HY0195); PIN: 7643-72-0425; Coordinates: 2747031, 632488



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, I-cubed, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

Figure 2. Aerial photograph showing the evaluated structures and APE for the Bridge No. 35 replacement project, Hyde County, North Carolina.

Base Map: ESRI Aerial Imagery.



## 2.0 Eligibility Evaluations

### 2.1 Gratz Credle House (HY0190)

Resource Name	Gratz Credle House
HPO Survey Site #	HY0190
Street Address	5331 Sladesville-Credle Road
PIN	7643-73-5076
Construction Date(s)	Circa-1910
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible



**Figure 3. Gratz Credle House and property, facing east.**

The Gratz Credle House (PIN 7643-73-5076) is located at 5331 Sladesville-Credle Road, southeast of the intersection of SR 1143 (Sladesville-Credle Road) and SR 1142 (Lynnsburg Road), north of a tributary of Slades Creek, in the community of Sladesville, in Hyde County (Figure 2). The structure, which is set back from the road, is a two-story, cross-gabled house, built around 1910 (Figure 3). The parcel on which the house sits, which is approximately 1.2 acres, also contains a late-twentieth-century wooden shed, located south of the house. The house was recorded as part of the Hyde County architectural survey in 1980 (Survey File 1980: HY0190).



**Figure 4. Gratz Credle House, facing east.**

The Gratz Credle House is a two-story, frame structure with a T-shaped plan (Figure 4). The building rests on a brick pier foundation that has been infilled with brick, leaving vent openings. The front elevation is three bays wide, with the northern bay being the projecting, front-gabled section. The entry door is in the central bay and is located beneath a hipped roof porch, supported by fluted columns and spanning the façade, wrapping around the projecting bay. The bay has cornice returns and a rectangular vent centered in its attic story. Fenestration on both the front and south elevations of the bay consist of one-over-one, double-hung wooden sashes. Where the corners of the gable project from the corners of the walls, there is a single scrollwork bracket, set on the diagonal on the southern side of the gable projection.

The side-gabled portion of the front elevation contains the entry door and a single one-over-one double-hung wooden sash window on the lower story, with two nine-over-nine, double-hung wooden sash windows on the upper story. Two interior brick chimneys, both with corbelled caps, are visible above the roofline (Figure 5). The south elevation of the house is two bays deep, with cornice returns and a rectangular vent centered in the attic story, similar to the front-projecting gable. The upper story fenestration is two nine-over-nine, double-hung wooden sash windows, while the lower story has one-over-one, double-hung wooden sash windows (Figure 6). The same scrollwork bracket as on the front-projecting elevation is visible on both corners of the south gable end.



Figure 5. Gratz Credle House, facing northeast.



Figure 6. Gratz Credle House, facing north.

The north elevation of the house has two bays, with a central gable with cornice returns projecting above the eaves (Figures 7 and 8). This section of the house projects rearward, past the side-gabled portion of the house, creating a T-shape. The rear-facing gable has no windows, but has cornice returns, a rectangular vent in the attic story, and the decorative corner scrollwork brackets that are evident on the front and side gables. A single story, gabled rear addition projects from the rear gable at the northeastern corner of the house; its north elevation has three small, one-over-one, aluminum sash windows, while its south elevation is a recently enclosed porch with plywood and modern four-over-four, vinyl sash windows. A second porch, hipped roof and supported by fluted columns, spans the portion of the house's rear elevation that is south of the rear-projecting gable (Figure 6). The house is covered with vinyl siding and the roofing is composition shingle. Although it has undergone alterations since its construction, the house retains an early-twentieth-century vernacular form with classical influences that were popular during the period. Interior access to the structure was not possible, as attempts to contact the owners went without response.

Since it was surveyed in 1980, the Gratz Credle House has undergone some alterations. Original survey photographs show that in 1980 the brick pier foundation had yet to be infilled and a portion of the rear single-gable addition was a screened in porch. At the time, the portion of the front porch along the side-gabled section of the house was enclosed by screens and the rectangular attic vents were small windows. The type of fenestration on the house is difficult to decipher in the photographs, as are the details of the columns, but it appears there have been some window replacements and that the porch support columns have been changed to new, metal, fluted versions. The corner scrollwork brackets are not visible in the 1980s photographs, and the wooden weatherboard siding has been covered or replaced with vinyl siding.



**Figure 7. Gratz Credle House, facing southeast.**



**Figure 8. Gratz Credle House, facing south.**

Located south of the Gratz Credle house is a single story, gabled, wooden storage shed that dates to the late-twentieth century. It is set on concrete blocks and has vertical wooden beadboard siding and a composition shingle roof (Figure 9). Other outbuildings photographed during the 1980 survey are no longer extant.



**Figure 9. Twentieth century storage building at the Gratz Credle House, facing east.**

### 2.1.1 History

The Gratz Credle House (HY0190) was recorded as part of the comprehensive architectural survey of Hyde County in 1980s and was included in the subsequent 2007 publication based on the survey (Brown and Lea 2007:82). Information from the survey files and publications provides a basic history of the house, indicating that it was constructed around 1910 for Gratz Credle by John E. Jarvis and Charlie Flowers and that it served as both the residence of the Credle family and as a boardinghouse for students and teachers at Sladesville High School (Brown and Lea 2007:82).

Sladesville is a small community in western Hyde County, which has existed since the early-nineteenth century. In 1849, the town was incorporated under the authority of Edmund Slade, John L. Martin, Charles B. Russell, Joseph E. Blount, and John E. Fortescue (*North Carolina Star* [Raleigh] 25 April 1849; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:41), although the municipal government was disbanded in the mid-twentieth century. Farming was the primary occupation of most of the community's residents, but there were a number of commercial establishments as well (United States Census Bureau 1850–1940; County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:41). The community has experienced significant periods of growth and decline since its original settlement. During the late-nineteenth century, P. H. Welch, who chronicled Hyde County, described Sladesville as a "small village, with many inducements for investment" and indicated that it was "one of the most desirable parts of the county" (Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:21).

During the 1800s, barges and steamboats docked at Sladesville regularly, as the creek was the only viable means of transportation throughout much of the year due to the muddy condition of roads. In 1890, the county commissioners and area farmers petitioned the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the creek to an eight foot depth. At the time, Sladesville had an annual commerce of \$130,000 and was one of the primary shipping points for the area, and the petition argued that the dredged canal would increase the commerce at Sladesville by \$60,000. The project was rejected in 1890 and again in 1914 (Harris 2012:83). In 1914, Sladesville was served by three schooners that made regular, weekly trips up the creek, and a single steamboat, the *Hatteras*, which made three round trips per week from Washington along a route that also included Belhaven and Scranton. The total value of commodities shipped through Sladesville at the time was just under \$500,000 (Harris 2012:84–85; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:42).

Despite the lack of dredging, Sladesville continued to be a thriving community. In 1908, a two-story school was built for the white students in the surrounding communities, and in 1913 Sladesville Graded School, which would become Hyde County Training School in 1916, was opened to educate the area's black students. With two schools, four churches, a number of retail establishments, and small family owned mills, Sladesville was the hub of the western portion of Hyde County through the early-twentieth century. An early-twenty-first-century conceptual map, showing the development of Sladesville during the early-twentieth century, depicts the extent of the well-developed community around Slades Creek (Figure 10).

Gratz Credle, who was the son of John Edward Credle, was born in 1878 in Swan Quarter, North Carolina. In 1900, he was living as a boarder in Swan Quarter and working as a salesman, but during the early-twentieth century, he held a variety of positions, including an oyster inspector (Dixon 1902:260). In 1901, he married Virginia Harris, the daughter of Reuben Donal (R.D.) and Missouri Harris (*The Coastland Times* 11 January 1952). By 1907, he was working as merchant outside of the limits of Sladesville (*News and Observer* 1907:331).



Figure 10. Conceptual map showing structures and owners in Sladesville, North Carolina, in the early-twentieth century (Harris 2012:77).

In 1910, R.D. Harris, on behalf of minors Eloise and R.H. Bell, sold two tracts of land containing approximately 5 and 2/3 acres to Virginia Credle. Lot No. 1 of this property was a parcel bounded on "the south by Slades Creek, on the north and west by the public road leading trough Sladesville, on the north by the public road leading to Swan Quarter, and on the east by lands belonging to G.G. Newman", which corresponds to a portion of the parcel on which the Gratz Credle House now stands (Hyde County Register of Deeds 2010 DB35:164). The house, which is dated in survey records to 1910, was presumably constructed on the parcel after the sale; although it does not appear on earlier maps, it is shown on the 1938 North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission map (Figure 11), as well as subsequent twentieth century topographic maps.





**Figure 11. North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission map, 1938, showing Sladesville area and Gratz Credle House.**

The home of Gratz and Virginia Credle was large enough to also serve as a boardinghouse, often for students and teachers at the Sladesville High School (Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:42). Shortly after it was constructed, the Credles hosted Dr. Walter Lee Swindell and his wife Ethel Craig Swindell. Swindell had recently returned to Hyde County after completing medical school in Baltimore and was beginning his practice in the Sladesville area (Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 2006:23). Contemporary descriptions of the house refer to it as a “big comfortable country home” and describe Virginia as having “a warm homey welcome for one and all” (Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 2006:23). In 1910, Credle and his wife were living in Sladesville, as the proprietors of a hotel, presumably the boarding house they ran out of their home; Dr. Swindell and his wife were two of the boarders in the house at the time (United States Census Bureau 1910). A second conceptual map of the Sladesville area, showing notable landmarks, identifies the property as the “Credle Boarding House” (Figure 12). For the next thirty years, Credle identified his occupation as a farmer and continued to live within the Sladesville community. Although his occupation was usually listed as general farmer in the census records, Gratz Credle focused at least part of his efforts on raising pigs, specifically Poland-China swine; he is listed as a purchaser and breeder of this type pig in the breed record and earned at least three pigs selling subscriptions for *The Progressive Farmer* (*The Progressive Farmer* [Raleigh] 19 June 1920; American Poland-China Record Association 1920)

Gratz Credle died in 1964 and Virginia Credle died two years later. In 1959, they had sold a two acre parcel “being the home site and including the residence whereon the parties of the first part now reside in the Village of Sladesville” to their daughter, Margaret Elizabeth Credle Saunders (Hyde County Register of Deeds 1959 DB73:589). In 1987, Margaret Saunders died and the property passed to her surviving sister, Isabelle Credle Burkhardt, and brothers, Edward D. Credle and Eugene Gratz Credle; in 1988, Isabelle and Edward sold their interest in the property to their brother Eugene, who transferred it to his daughter Hazel Louise Credle Doeter (Hyde County Register of Deeds 1988 DB130:861; 1988 DB130:928) In 2003, the property was sold

to Eric Hagstrom and Kathleen Purdy and a plat of the parcel was recorded (Figure 13). In 2005, it was sold to the current owners, Christopher and Gretchen Chadwick (Hyde County Register of Deeds 2003 DB196:606; 2005 DB210:939).

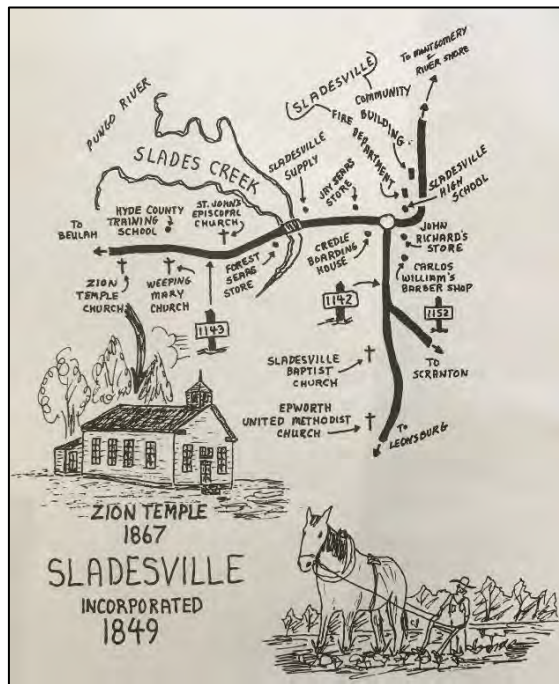


Figure 12. Conceptual map showing structures and owners in Sladesville, North Carolina, in the early-twentieth century (Harris 1995:175).

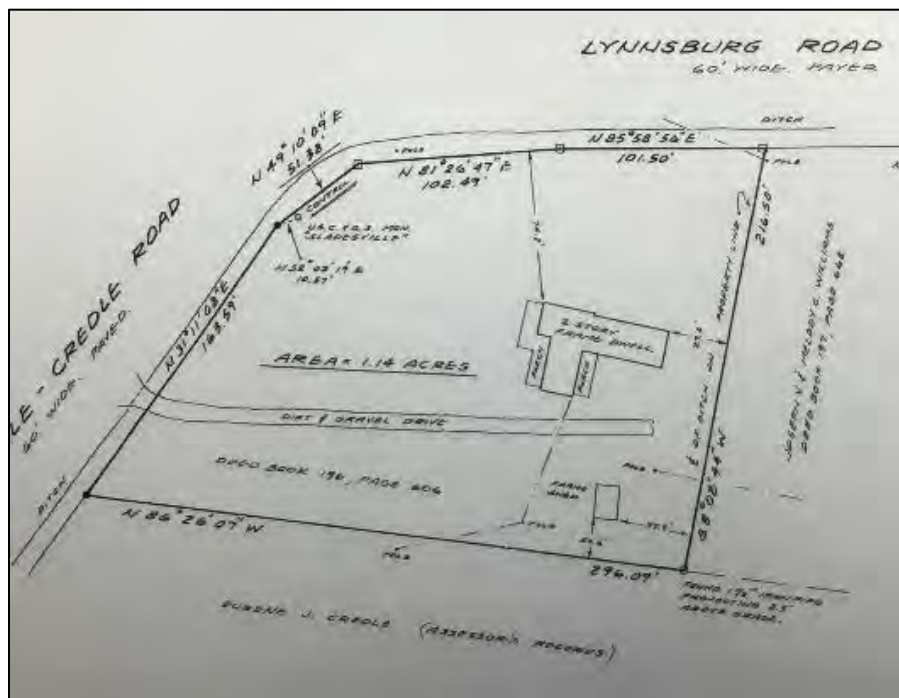


Figure 13. Plat of the property containing the Gratz Credle House (Hyde County Register of Deeds 2005 PBC:91F).

### 2.1.2 *Architectural Context*

Hyde County retains a large amount of housing stock that dates from around the turn of the twentieth century, a period of relative prosperity for the county as both agricultural interests and the lumber industry experienced growth. Relatively untouched by the Civil War and able to easily transport their crops to regional markets, including Norfolk, Virginia, by boat, Hyde County farmers were able to capitalize on the agricultural downturn that occurred in other parts of the state due to devastation from the war, both physical and economic. During the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, farmers in Hyde County prospered. The establishment of saw mills in the western portion of the county, including at Makleyville on the mouth of Slades Creek and at Scranton on Scranton Creek, brought industry and increased economic growth to the area. The success of the farmers and the lumber companies in Hyde County fostered an increase in construction as newly successful families sought to build new homes. Although much of the lumber milled in western Hyde County was shipped to northern cities, particularly Baltimore, it seems likely that expanses of forest being rapidly cleared and nearby lumber mills made for readily available and inexpensive building materials in Hyde County, which could also account for the increased residential construction surrounding the turn of the twentieth century (Bishir and Southern 1996:162; Brown and Lea 2007:22–27; Harris 2012:36–51). The T-shaped plan of the Gratz Credle House, and its cross-gabled roof, were prevalent features among houses constructed during this era. So too were the combination of decorative sawn or turned detailing, usually associated with applied Victorian ornamentation on vernacular forms, and the Colonial Revival influenced classic columns and cornice returns.

Within Currituck Township, which forms the western portion of Hyde County, there are a number of residences dating from the early-twentieth century, and many have a similar plan to that of the Gratz Credle House. The John Ruffin House (HY0148) was built in 1913 and is located along Loop Road, approximately 1.25-mile from the Gratz Credle House. This house has a T-shaped plan and a cross-gabled roof, with its front facing gable centered within its side-gabled portion; its wraparound porch has original carved porch supports, and it retains its original two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash windows (Figure 14). The Fortescue House (no survey number) was built around 1900 and is located along Sladesville Road, approximately one mile from the Gratz Credle House. This house has a similar T-shaped plan and a cross-gabled roof to the Gratz Credle House, although its porch does not wrap around the front-facing gable. The house lacks the cornice returns of the Gratz Credle House, suggesting an earlier construction date that lacks the Colonial Revival influence evident on the Gratz Credle House, and its windows have been replaced with modern six-over-six vinyl sashes, but it appears to retain the original porch supports (Figure 15). The Ben Manning House (HY0183) was also built around 1900 and is located along Sladesville Road, approximately one mile from the Gratz Credle House. This house, although it has rectangular plan, also has a cross-gabled roof and original tuned posts with sawn brackets supporting a hipped roof porch; the house lacks the cornice returns of the Gratz Credle House, and its windows have been replaced with modern six-over-six vinyl sashes, but it appears to retain original porch supports (Figure 16). The Jeff and Sally Credle House (HY0198) is located approximately 0.25-mile south of the Gratz Credle House, along Sladesville-Credle Road, and was built approximately seven years after the Gratz Credle House. Although the form and roofline of the house suggest a heavy Prairie-style influence, the wraparound porch with tapered Tuscan columns exhibits a similar Colonial Revival style to the original porch on the Gratz Credle House, suggesting that the two homes may have used materials from the same source (Figure 17). The Denton Lupton House (HY0207) was built around 1900 and is located along Beulah Road, approximately three miles from the Gratz Credle House. This house has a similar T-shaped plan and a cross-gabled roof to the Gratz Credle House and the Fortescue House, although its porch does not wrap around the front-facing gable; similar to the Fortescue House, the Denton Lupton House lacks cornice returns and its windows have been replaced with modern six-over-six vinyl sashes, but it appears to retain original tapered Tuscan column porch supports, similar to the original supports on the Gratz Credle House (Figure 18).



**Figure 14. John Ruffin House (HY0148) at 1324 Loop Road, facing northeast.**



**Figure 15. Fortescue House (NSN) at 865 Sladesville Road, facing northeast.**



Figure 16. Ben Manning House (HY0183) at 826 Sladesville Road, facing southwest.



Figure 17. Jeff and Sally Credle House (HY0198) at 5500 Sladesville-Credle Road, facing west.



**Figure 18. Denton Lupton House (HY0207), 555 Beulah Road, facing south.**

In other parts of Hyde County, similar styles also prevailed around the turn of the twentieth century. The Benson-Howard House (HY0166), along US 264 in Swan Quarter Township, has a cross-gabled roofline with inset porch. Although the original windows have been removed and replaced with late-twentieth century aluminum frames, the house retains the applied sawn detail and turned porch supports that were original to its circa-1900 construction (Figure 19). The Alonza and Elizabeth O'Neal House (HY0169), also along US 264 in Swan Quarter Township, has a cross-gabled roofline with inset porch. Like the Gratz Credle House, it has classic cornice returns on the gable ends, but features sawn detail and turned porch supports, as well as two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash windows that were original to its 1897 construction (Figure 20). The Alonza and Elizabeth O'Neal House was determined ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP in 2006 (Foley 2006).



Figure 19. Benson-Howard House (HY0166), 22176 US 264, facing south.



Figure 20. Alonza and Elizabeth O'Neal House (HY0169), 23080 US 264, facing south.

### 2.1.3 Integrity

Evaluation of the seven aspects of integrity required for National Register eligibility for the Gratz Credle House are as follows:

◆ Location: High

The Gratz Credle House remains at its original location.

◆ Design: Medium

The Gratz Credle House retains portions of its original form and detail. The house has undergone some changes to design, with an addition and the enclosure of a portion of the rear porch, but overall the exterior design of the house has changed little. The interior design of the structure was not assessed, as interior access was not obtained.

◆ Setting: Medium

When the Gratz Credle House was constructed in the early-twentieth century, the Sladesville area was a thriving community in the western portion of Hyde County. Currently, although structures from the period of Sladesville's prosperity remain extant, many of these have begun to deteriorate, and some others have been demolished. Although the area is recognizable as a small community, Sladesville has lost many of the elements that made it different than other small crossroads settlements in the area, including its school and its commercial establishment. The house does remain at a crossroads within the community and some of its surrounding structures remain, but the loss of building fabric affects the integrity of setting.

◆ Materials: Low

The Gratz Credle House retains its original framing and foundation materials, but many of the original exterior materials have been removed or covered. There have been changes to the original siding, windows, and doors of the house, as well as the porch supports. The interior materials were not assessed, as interior access to the structure was not obtained.

◆ Workmanship: Low

The original workmanship on the structure's exterior has been altered by modern changes to the house, including the addition of vinyl siding and metal columns as porch supports, as well as replacement of original windows and changing attic windows to vents. The addition of scrollwork brackets that may not have originally existed on the house has also altered the workmanship, by giving the house an appearance of specific workmanship that is historically inaccurate. The interior workmanship was not assessed, as interior access to the structure was not obtained.

◆ Feeling: Medium

The Gratz Credle House is an early-twentieth-century residential structure within a small community in western Hyde County. The house remains extant and retains the feeling of an early-twentieth-century residence. However, there have been changes to the area that have compromised integrity of feeling. Many of the residents in the Sladesville area during the early-twentieth century were farmers and, although the surrounding area remains rural, it does not appear to be active farmland; Gratz Credle was a successful local farmer, but no early-twentieth-century agricultural outbuildings are extant on the property, compromising the property's feeling as a farm complex. Additionally, the loss of the nearby school and some of the residences in the Sladesville area have affected the feeling of the area.

◆ Association: Low to Medium



The Gratz Credle House retains its association with the Credle family, who were the original owners of the house and who continued to own the house until the early-2000s; the alterations have compromised the integrity of association with the Credle family, as most of them were carried out after the house left the family's ownership. Additionally, the loss of the Sladesville High School building, across Sladesville-Credle Road from the Gratz Credle House, has compromised the house's association with its period as a boarding house for students and teachers at the school.

#### 2.1.4 *Eligibility*

The Gratz Credle House is recommended as ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A, as it does not have a significant association with a particular event or broad pattern of history. Although it represents an early-twentieth-century residence within a small rural community, the Sladesville area has undergone changes that have compromised the setting and there have been alterations to the house and there are more significant examples of this style of homes from this period in Hyde County. Additionally, the house was used as a boarding house for non-local students and teachers at the Sladesville High School during the early-twentieth century; the loss of the school building across Sladesville-Credle Road has compromised this historic association. The house is recommended ineligible under Criterion B, as it does not have an association with a prominent person; the Credle family was among several well-known families within the area, but did not achieve a level of prominence to elevate them above the other nearby residents. The Gratz Credle House, which was built during the early-twentieth century, has undergone some significant alterations, altering its integrity as an architectural resource and leaving better examples of early-twentieth-century vernacular architecture within the county, making it ineligible under Criterion C. The house is unlikely to yield any information about building technology, so it is considered ineligible under Criterion D.

## 2.2 Napoleon Sears Store (HY0194)

Resource Name	Napoleon Sears Store
HPO Survey Site #	HY0194
Street Address	5441 Sladesville-Credle Road
PIN	7643-72-2538
Construction Date(s)	Circa-1938
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible



**Figure 21. Napoleon Sears Store, facing east.**

The Napoleon Sears Store (PIN 7643-72-2538) is located at 5441 Sladesville-Credle Road, east of SR 1143 (Sladesville-Credle Road) and south of a tributary to Slades Creek, in the community of Sladesville in Hyde County. The structure, which is set close to the road, is a single-story, gable-roofed commercial building with a façade parapet, built around 1937 (Figure 21). The 0.25-acre parcel on which the store sits is a triangular piece of land, situated at a bend in the nearby creek, and consisting of mostly marshland, outside of the store. The store was recorded as part of the Hyde County architectural survey in 1980 (Survey File 1980:HY0194).

The Napoleon Sears Store is a wooden framed building, with a rectangular plan and gabled roofline, although a false, stepped parapet front obscures the primary roofline from the façade (Figure 22). The structure is covered with horizontal wooden weatherboard and the roof is covered with corrugated metal (Figure 23). The north elevation has a small window, near the roof-wall juncture, toward the back of the

store and a vintage "Grocery" sign with Pepsi logos near the front of the building. There is an exterior, end chimney with a corbeled cap at the rear of the structure (Figures 24 and 25).



Figure 22. Napolean Sears Store, facing southeast.



Figure 23. Napolean Sears Store, facing south.



Figure 24. Napolean Sears Store, facing northeast.



Figure 25. Napolean Sears Store, facing northwest.

The front of the store building has a commercial-style display arrangement, with a recessed central entryway (Figure 26). The front display windows each contain six square panes of glass arranged in a three-over-three rectangle, along with a set of two square panes at the north and south corners of the building, creating a large, glass, wraparound display. The display area chamfers inward at the entryway, creating a small, trapezoidal vestibule in front of the door, which is flanked by another set of two square panes; the double entry doors feature three lower panels and tall glass windows in the upper half. The entire storefront is shaded beneath a standing-seam metal awning, which is supported by simple triangular bracing. Directly above the awning, in the central step of the parapet, are two rectangular attic vents. Interior access to the structure was not possible, as attempts to contact the owners went without response. However, the view through the windows revealed that the interior of the store retains shelves to hold merchandise.



**Figure 26. Detail of entryway of the Napoleon Sears Store, facing east.**

Since it was surveyed in 1980, the Napoleon Sears Store has undergone some significant alterations. Original survey photographs show that in 1980 the store was divided into two sections, with much of the front elevation enclosed and the entry door off center (Figure 27). The façade at that time was much more dilapidated than its current appearance, with the stepped parapet only visible on the southern portion. At some point in the past 36 years, the façade has been rebuilt and the store restructured to its current single entry appearance.



**Figure 27. Survey photograph of Napolean Sears Store, 1980 survey of Hyde County.**

### 2.2.1 History

The Napolean Sears Store (HY0194) was recorded as part of the comprehensive architectural survey of Hyde County in 1980s and included in the subsequent 2007 publication based on the survey (Brown and Lea 2007:92). Information from the survey files and publications provides a basic history of the store, but suggests varied construction dates from 1900 to 1937 and attributes the original ownership of the structure to either John and Silas Lupton or to Napolean Sears (Brown and Lea 2007:92).

Sladesville is a small community in western Hyde County, which has existed since the early-nineteenth century. In 1849, the town was incorporated under the authority of Edmund Slade, John L. Martin, Charles B. Russell, Joseph E. Blount, and John E. Fortescue (*North Carolina Star* [Raleigh] 25 April 1849; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:41), although the municipal government was disbanded in the mid-twentieth century. Farming was the primary occupation of most of the community's residents, but there were a number of commercial establishments as well (United States Census Bureau 1850–1940; County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:41). The community has experienced significant periods of growth and decline since its original settlement. During the late-nineteenth century, P. H. Welch, who chronicled Hyde County, described Sladesville as a "small village, with many inducements for investment" and indicated that it was "one of the most desirable parts of the county" (Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:21).

During the 1800s, barges and steamboats docked at Sladesville regularly, as the creek was the only viable means of transportation throughout much of the year due to the muddy condition of roads. In 1890, the county commissioners and area farmers petitioned the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the creek to an eight foot depth. At the time, Sladesville had an annual commerce of \$130,000 and was one of the

primary shipping points for the area, and the petition argued that the dredged canal would increase the commerce at Sladesville by \$60,000. The project was rejected in 1890 and again in 1914 (Harris 2012:83). In 1914, Sladesville was served by three schooners that made regular, weekly trips up the creek, and a single steamboat, the *Hatteras*, which made three round trips per week from Washington along a route that also included Belhaven and Scranton. The total value of commodities shipped through Sladesville at the time was just under \$500,000 (Harris 2012:84–85; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:42).

Despite the lack of dredging, Sladesville continued to be a thriving community. In 1908, a two-story school was built for the white students in the surrounding communities, and in 1913 Sladesville Graded School, which would become Hyde County Training School in 1916, was opened to educate the area's black students. With two schools, four churches, a number of retail establishments, and small family owned mills, Sladesville was the hub of the western portion of Hyde County through the early-twentieth century. An early-twenty-first-century conceptual map, showing the development of Sladesville during the early-twentieth century, depicts the extent of the well-developed community around Slades Creek (Figure 10).

Napolean Forest Sears was the proprietor of the Napolean Sears Store during the early-twentieth century. He was the son of Napolean Bonaparte Sears, a notable area merchant and resident. Born in 1909, census records show him living in the Sladesville community with his parents and siblings until 1930; his father's occupation was listed variously as a salesman or merchant of general merchandise or groceries/dry goods (United States Census Bureau 1910, 1920, 1930). In 1930, Sears married Lucille Glade Lupton, daughter of Albin Brinson and Nancy Lupton (Edwards and Sadler 1980:152). In 1937, A. B. and Nannie (Nancy) Lupton sold to their daughter and son-in-law a triangular parcel of land, bounded by the road from Sladesville to Makleyville to the west, Slades Creek to the east, and the A. B. Lupton Home Place to the south (Hyde County Register of Deeds 1937:57:161). By 1940, Napolean F. and Lucille Sears, along with their three children, were living in Sladesville, with his occupation listed as the proprietor and salesman for a retail store; by 1950, the couple would have four more children (United States Census Bureau 1940; Edwards and Sadler 1980:152).

After some well publicized legal and marital issues, Napolean and Lucille Sears divorced during the 1950s and split their joint property (*Hyde County Herald* 13 August 1953). In 1954, Napolean Sears transferred the retail store property to Lucille Sears, with his sister and brother-in-law serving as an intermediary for the deeds (Hyde County Register of Deeds 1954 DB65:481, DB65:483). Sources note that Napolean's sister, Texas Sears, ran the store for a period of time, but it eventually became the retail establishment of Napolean Forest Sears, Jr. and was known as N. F. Sears Grocery (Brown and Lea 2007:92; *Beaufort-Hyde News* 20 November 1975). In 1965, Lucille Sears transferred the property to her son, Napolean Sears, Jr. (Hyde County Register of Deeds 1965 DB80:532). Napolean Sears, Jr. continued to own and operate the store until his death in 2005 (*The Coastland Times* 12 June 2005). The store remained open until 2009, becoming the final retail establishment in the Sladesville area to close (Harris 2012:12, 78, 81; Figure 10). In October 2009, the property was sold to fulfill a Special Proceedings Court order (09 SP3) to settle the estate of Napolean Sears, Jr.; it was purchased by Madge J. Williams and the sale was finalized in 2010 (Hyde County Register of Deeds 2010 DB242:535).

Based on map evidence, the store was constructed after the 1937 purchase of the property by Napolean Forest Sears Senior; the store does not appear on the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map from 1907 or on the 1938 North Carolina State highway and Public Works Commission map (Figures 28 and 29). It is, however, labeled on the early-twenty-first-century conceptual map of Sladesville (Figure 10), as is a store belonging to John A. and Silas Lupton at the intersection of Sladesville Road and Lynnsburg Road, which was likely the basis for the history of the Lupton ownership information included in the original survey files.



Figure 28. United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map, 1907, showing Sladesville area and Napoleon Sears Store location.

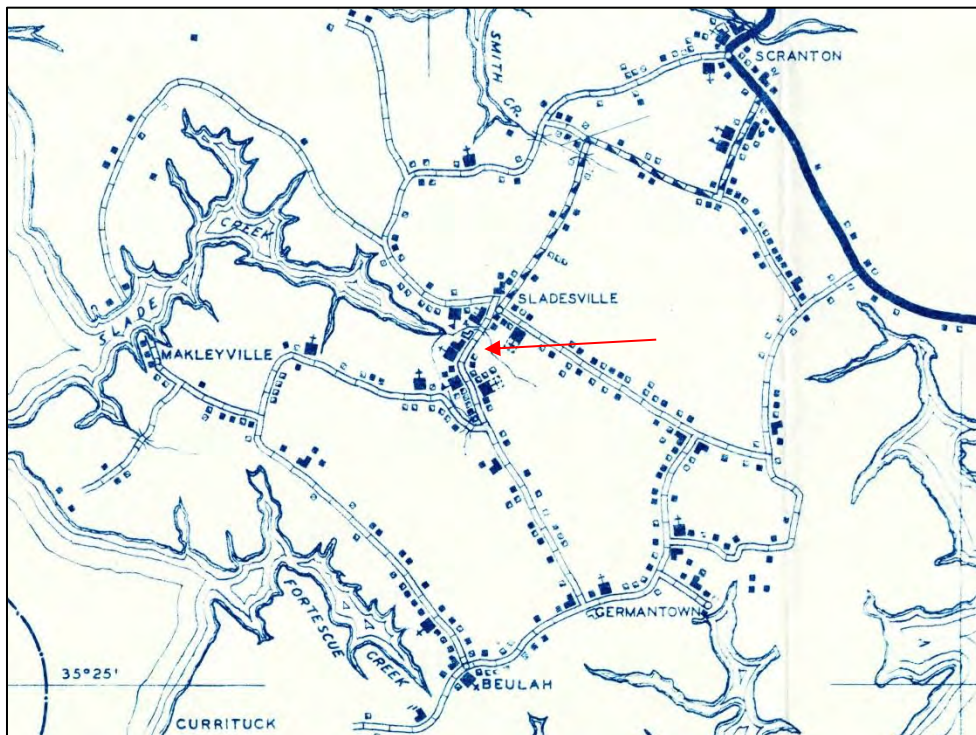


Figure 29. North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission map, 1938, showing Sladesville area and Napoleon Sears Store location.



### 2.2.2 *Architectural Context*

Although Hyde County retains a large amount of housing stock from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, there are significantly fewer commercial structures remain from this time period. The closing decades of the 1800s and the first decades of the 1900s was a period of relative prosperity for the county as both agricultural interests and the lumber industry experienced growth. Relatively untouched by the Civil War and able to easily transport their crops to regional markets, including Norfolk, Virginia, by boat, Hyde County farmers were able to capitalize on the agricultural downturn that occurred in other parts of the state due to devastation from the war, both physical and economic. During the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, farmers in Hyde County prospered. The establishment of saw mills in the western portion of the county, including at Makleyville on the mouth of Slades Creek and at Scranton on Scranton Creek, brought industry and increased economic growth to the area. The success of the farmers and the lumber companies in Hyde County fostered an increase in commercial construction, as merchants sought to take advantage of the growing economic market. A review of HPOWEB indicates that there have been more than 20 commercial structures recorded within Hyde County, although the number may be greater because some structures do not have individual survey numbers. Most of the commercial buildings within the county were small, frame structures located near crossroads in and near the small communities that dotted the landscape of Hyde County.

The most notable comparative example of an early-twentieth-century retail building is the J. Montier Hall Store and Warehouse (no survey number), located near the community of Middletown within the Lake Landing NRHP Historic District. The store was constructed in 1913 by J. Montier Hall using lumber salvaged from a barge that sank in Pamlico Sound (Keller 1983:37). The J. Montier Hall Store and Warehouse is a gable-roofed frame structure that features a stepped-parapet façade, with a shed-roofed awning shading its large-paned display windows, which chamfer in to a double, central entry door (Figure 30). The façade of the J. Montier Hall Store is almost identical to the apparently reconstructed and restructured front of the Napoleon Sears Store. Although there is no visual record of what the Napoleon Sears Store looked like when it was constructed in 1938, the J. Montier Hall Store may have been used as an example for the reconstruction, because it also dates to the first half of the twentieth century. Across Middle Creek, also within the Lake Landing Historic District, are four additional small commercial buildings (HY0508) that also date to the early-twentieth century (Keler 1983:38; Figures 31 and 32). The former Middletown Post Office and Robert Burrus Building (Figure 31) are both small, single story, front-gabled structures, with central doorways and flanking windows. The former post office building was moved across the street to replace a building that was destroyed in a 1919 fire, but the structures have changed little since their original construction. Flanking these two structures are two other former stores. The two-story former commercial building to the east, which was most recently owned by the Gratitude Lodge, formerly had a parapet roof, similar to that of the J. Montier Hall Store; the removal of the parapet has altered the appearance of the structure significantly. The George Lafayette Cox Store, located along the bank of Middle Creek, was built around 1904 and features a front-gabled roof and a shed roofed porch that shades large-paned display windows (Figure 32); this structure has also changed little since its original construction. In Fairfield, two small commercial buildings dating from the late-nineteenth century, the most prosperous period in the history of the community, remain standing; they are both small, single-story, frame structures with central entry doors. The E. S. O'Neal and Sons Store (no survey number; Figure 33) retains decorative sawn brackets along the eaves and above the gable opening, while the Joseph A. Mann Store/Brown-Mann Store (HY0387) (Figure 34) has little detailing, but retains a hip-roofed porch above its entry door. A number of other commercial buildings recorded during the 1980s survey of Hyde County are no longer extant, but the examples that do remain retain significantly more integrity than the Napoleon Sears Store.



Figure 30. J. Montier Hall Store and Warehouse (NSN), 11 White Plains Road, facing east.



Figure 31. Middletown Commercial Buildings (HY0508), former Middletown Post Office and Robert Burrus Building, facing west.



Figure 32. Middletown Commercial Buildings (HY0508), Robert Burrus Building and George Lafayette Cox Store, facing northwest.



Figure 33. E.S. O'Neal and Sons Store, Fairfield Stores, facing northwest.



**Figure 34. Joseph A. Mann Store/Brown-Mann Store (HY0387), Fairfield Stores, facing north.**

### 2.2.3 Integrity

Evaluation of the seven aspects of integrity required for National Register eligibility for the Napolean Sears Store are as follows:

◆ Location: High

The Napolean Sears Store remains at its original location.

◆ Design: Low

The Napolean Sears Store retains its basic form, however it apparently has undergone significant changes to its exterior over the past three decades, including the restructuring of the front façade and the installation of a new storefront.

◆ Setting: Medium

When the Napolean Sears Store was constructed in the early-twentieth century, the Sladesville area was a thriving community in the western portion of Hyde County. Currently, although structures from the period of Sladesville’s prosperity remain extant, many of these have begun to deteriorate and some others have been demolished. Although the area is recognizable as a small community, Sladesville has lost many of the elements that made it different than other small crossroads settlements in the area, including its school, which affects the integrity of the setting.

◆ Materials: Low to Medium

The Napolean Sears Store retains its original framing and foundation materials, as well as original exterior sheathing along its north and south elevations. The front façade, however, seems to have been altered from its original appearance. It is possible that some of the original lumber was used

to rebuild and restructure the façade since it appears as weathered as the other wooden elements of the building. The interior materials were not assessed, as interior access to the structure was not obtained.

◆ Workmanship: Low

Much of the original workmanship on the structure's exterior has been removed or altered. The entire storefront likely has been restructured since 1980, and it is possible that the 1980 storefront also was not the original configuration. The interior workmanship was not assessed, as interior access to the structure was not obtained.

◆ Feeling: Medium

Despite changes to the Napolean Sears Store, the structure continues to evoke the feeling of a small, rural, early-twentieth-century commercial establishment. Its location near the roadway, stepped parapet façade, and large display windows are all elements that are common in early-twentieth-century rural stores. However, there have been changes to the area that have compromised integrity of feeling. Many of the residents in the Sladesville area during the early-twentieth century were farmers, and although the surrounding area remains rural, it does not appear to be active farmland. Additionally, the loss of the nearby school and some of the residences in the Sladesville area have affected the feeling of the area.

◆ Association: Medium to High

The Napolean Sears Store retains its association with the Sears family, who were the original owners of the store. The store continued to be operated by members of the Sears family until its closing in 2009 and continued to be owned by the family until 2010. The ongoing changes to the structure throughout the past three decades were completed during the Sears family ownership and, therefore, would not compromise the store's association with the family.

#### 2.2.4 *Eligibility*

The Napolean Sears Store is recommended as ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A, as it does not bear a significant association with a particular event or broad pattern of history. While it qualified as an early-twentieth-century commercial structure, it has been altered and there exist more significant examples of this structure type in Hyde County. The store is recommended ineligible under Criterion B, as it is not associated with a prominent person. Although it was owned and operated by members of the Sears family, who were well known in the Sladesville community, they did not achieve a level of prominence to elevate them above the other nearby residents. The Napolean Sears Store has undergone alterations that have compromised its original architectural form and detail, as well as materials and workmanship, making it ineligible under Criterion C. The store is unlikely to yield any new information about building technology, so it is considered ineligible under Criterion D.

### 2.3 St. John's Episcopal Church (HY0195)

Resource Name	St. John's Episcopal Church
HPO Survey Site #	HY0195 (SL)
Street Address	5454 Sladesville-Credle Road
PIN	7643-72-0425
Construction Date(s)	1875; 1908
NRHP Recommendation	Eligible, Criteria A and C



**Figure 35. St. John's Episcopal Church, facing west.**

St. John's Episcopal Church (PIN 7643-72-0425) is located at 5454 Sladesville-Credle Road, west of SR 1143 (Sladesville-Credle Road) and south of a tributary to Slades Creek, in the community of Sladesville. The church is a small, framed, Gothic Revival style structure that is set back from the road among a grove of trees; there is a small cemetery to the south of the church (Figure 35). The church building was recorded as part of the Hyde County architectural survey in 1980 and was placed on the North Carolina Study List (Survey File 1980:HY0195).

The church building is a wooden framed structure, with a steep, front-gabled roof resting on a brick pier foundation (Figure 36). The front elevation features a central entryway, with a single, circular window of four panes and a dentiled surround centered above it. The entry is served by a set of double doors, with square lower panels and arched upper panels (Figure 37). The doors are flanked by three-pane sidelights and are topped with a four-pane, segmental-arch transom. The surround for the door has dentiled detail on its

upper molding. Above the front gable is a small, open belfry with a pyramidal roof, which protects the church bell.



Figure 36. St. John's Episcopal Church, facing southwest.



Figure 37. Detail view of front entry doors, St. John's Episcopal Church, facing west.

The church building is four bays deep, and the north elevation features four lancet wooden windows, with four-over-four pane configuration, surrounded by heavy wooden molding, with dentil detailing in the lancet arch (Figures 38 and 39). The rear elevation of the building has a group of three, stepped lancet windows; the upper portion of the windows is stained glass, while the lower portion is covered with metal that has been salvaged from soda advertisement signs (Figure 40); based on the design of the signs, the metal has been part of the windows since the first half of the twentieth century. The south elevation of the church has three windows, identical to the windows on the northern elevation, as its first four bays (Figure 41). The rear bay contains a single, recessed entry door, with arched upper panels and square lower panels, set into a shallow pediment surround. This entry door leads to a preparation room on the south side of the church's altar.



**Figure 38. St. John's Episcopal Church, facing southeast.**





Figure 39. Detail view of north elevation window, St. John's Episcopal Church, facing south.



Figure 40. Detail view of west elevation window, St. John's Episcopal Church, facing east.



**Figure 41. St. John's Episcopal Church, facing north.**

The interior of the church is one large room, with a central altar on the rear wall, flanked by two small open vestries. The church has a barrel-vaulted ceiling and both the ceiling and the walls are sheathed with tongue-and-groove pine. Although the pews in the church are simple, wooden seating, they have subtle elements of decorative carving on their aisle-end pieces (Figure 42). The altar, which is raised slightly from the church floor, has decorative carved seating on the rear wall and a low partition at the front, featuring carved lancet arches. The vestries, which flank the altar, are enclosed with wooden paneling and have carved detailing above the walls; the one to the north of the altar also features a carved archway entrance (Figure 43).

Since it was surveyed in 1980, St. John's Episcopal Church has undergone few alterations. The 1980 survey information indicates that the church originally had a wooden shingled, roof. Sometime before 2007, when the church was photographed for the *Landmarks of Hyde County* book, the wooden shingles had been replaced with a new composition-shingle roof. When the original survey photographs were taken, there was scaffolding on the south side of the church building, probably placed there to complete roof repairs. A large pine tree was removed from the northeast corner of the church between 1980 and 2007. Otherwise, little has been changed on either the interior or exterior of the church for over more than three decades.



Figure 42. Interior view of St. John's Episcopal Church, facing north.



Figure 43. Interior view of St. John's Episcopal Church, altar, facing west.

North of the church building is a small cemetery (Figure 44). The two main burial plots belong to the Sears and Lupton families, which were both prominent families in the Sladesville area; the majority of the stones from these burials date from the early-to-mid-twentieth century. Because of the high water table of the area, some of the graves are enclosed with concrete vaults that extend above the ground (Figure 45).



**Figure 44. St. John’s Episcopal Church cemetery, facing southwest.**



**Figure 45. St. John’s Episcopal Church cemetery, facing north.**

### 2.3.1 History

In 1977, based on information provided by church trustees, St. John's Episcopal Church was placed on the North Carolina Study List (Tise to Sears. Letter, 31 March 1977). Three years later, the church was recorded as part of the comprehensive architectural survey of Hyde County. The church was included in the 2007 publication based on the county survey from the 1980s (Brown and Lea 2007:90–91); it was also featured in a 1996 regional architecture publication (Bishir and Southern 1996:162). Information from the survey files and publications provides a basic history of the church, indicating that it was constructed in 1875 and moved to the current location in 1908 (Brown and Lea 2007:90–91; Bishir and Southern 1996:162).

Sladesville is a small community in western Hyde County, which has existed since the early-nineteenth century. In 1849, the town was incorporated under the authority of Edmund Slade, John L. Martin, Charles B. Russell, Joseph E. Blount, and John E. Fortescue (*North Carolina Star* [Raleigh] 25 April 1849; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:41), although the municipal government was disbanded in the mid-twentieth century. Farming was the primary occupation of most of the community's residents, but there were a number of commercial establishments as well (United States Census Bureau 1850–1940; County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:41). The community has experienced significant periods of growth and decline since its original settlement. During the late-nineteenth century, P. H. Welch, who chronicled Hyde County, described Sladesville as a "small village, with many inducements for investment" and indicated that it was "one of the most desirable parts of the county" (Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:21).

During the 1800s, barges and steamboats docked at Sladesville regularly, as the creek was the only viable means of transportation throughout much of the year due to the muddy condition of roads. In 1890, the county commissioners and area farmers petitioned the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the creek to an eight foot depth. At the time, Sladesville had an annual commerce of \$130,000 and was one of the primary shipping points for the area, and the petition argued that the dredged canal would increase the commerce at Sladesville by \$60,000. The project was rejected in 1890 and again in 1914 (Harris 2012:83). In 1914, Sladesville was served by three schooners that made regular, weekly trips up the creek, and a single steamboat, the *Hatteras*, which made three round trips per week from Washington along a route that also included Belhaven and Scranton. The total value of commodities shipped through Sladesville at the time was just under \$500,000 (Harris 2012:84–85; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:42).

Despite the lack of dredging, Sladesville continued to be thriving community. In 1908, a two-story school was built for the white students in the surrounding communities, and in 1913 Sladesville Graded School, which would become Hyde County Training School in 1916, was opened to educate the area's black students. With two schools, four churches, a number of retail establishments, and small family owned mills, Sladesville was the hub of the western portion of Hyde County through the early-twentieth century.

An Episcopal Church parish has existed in the western portion of Hyde County since 1743, when the earliest records reference a chapel; other references from the late-1700s refer to the Currituck Chapel (Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:20). In May 1875, Metrah Makley and W. H. Fortescue, as trustees of the church, made an agreement with H. B. Fortescue to construct a new church building as a replacement for the old (Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:20; Brown and Lea 2007:90–91). At the time, the old church building was still standing, and the agreement stated that any "sound timber therein is to be used in the new building." In 1877, Asa J. and Sallie B. Smith sold two acres of land near Makleyville to W. H. Fortescue, Metrah Makley, and William M. Credle as the trustees of St. John the Baptist Parish, for twenty-five cents (Hyde County Register of Deeds 1877 DB14:183); it is the only deed recorded in Hyde County that transferred property to the congregation. It is possible that the new church construction may

not have been begun, despite the agreement of two years earlier, and this location may have been the original location of the 1870s church building, which may not have been built in the same location as the 1700s structure. This is supported by the 1870s parochial reports to the Diocese of North Carolina. The 1876 Convention report continues to list the church of St. John the Baptist at Sladesville near its original location. By 1878, however, the Journal of the convention notes that the parish had been transferred from Sladesville to “the thriving little village of Makleyville” and that “the parish formerly reporting under the name of ‘St. John the Baptist, Sladesville,’ is now defunct; and a new parish has been erected in its stead, under the title of ‘St. John’s, Makleyville’” (Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 2012:29). The same report indicates that the newly relocated parish had a “new Gothic Church” that had been recently completed and consecrated by Assistant Bishop Lyman in April of that year (Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 2012:29).

Although the exact date of construction is not completely clear, the 1875 agreement with H. B. Fortiscue presents a detailed description of the new church building that the trustees wished to have constructed. The new church was “to be the same size as the Old one, with the exception addition of a Vestry in the rear...and a Porch in front, of a suitable size, and ten windows Pointed of a suitable size.” Despite the current church building having 11 pointed windows, this description accurately depicts the existing St. John’s Episcopal Church. The contract goes on to stipulate that “there is to be two doors, one to the side of the Vestry and a Double door at the front, and one also leading from the vestry into the Main Building...the said doors are to be paneled doors....There is to be transoms at the front door with a half circle over the door and a full circle in the front and a suitable distance above the door” (Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 2012:39; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:21). These elements are visible in the current structure.

Makleyville was a town located at the mouth of Slades Creek, approximately three miles west of Sladesville. The town grew around the lumber mill of Metrah Makley during the 1870s. Although there was already a settlement at Sladesville at the time, the Makleyville settlement, with its growing industry and easier access by barge and steamboat, soon eclipsed the earlier community in importance in the western part of the county. By 1874, Makley had begun construction of a two-story mill and his enterprise began exporting large amounts of lumber, much of which was shipped north for construction in northern cities (Brown and Lea 2007:25; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 2005:9–10; *Beaufort-Hyde News* 13 March 1980; Harris 1995:142; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:39). By 1883, Makleyville had a population of 105 residents, most of whom had moved to the area for employment in the mills; by 1890, the population had grown to 200. During the 1880s, the Scranton Lumber Company also organized and established a mill in Makleyville, in addition to its enterprise at Scranton, further fueling growth in the area. In 1890, the capacity of the Scranton Lumber Company’s Makleyville mill was approximately seven million board feet annually (Brown and Lea 2007:25; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 2005:8–9; Harris 1995:141). In 1891, Metrah Makley sold his mill and associated structures to the Scranton Lumber Company, which continued to operate two mills in Makleyville for approximately a decade. However, around 1900, both mills were sold to northern companies, and shortly afterward the mills were both relocated: the Scranton mill in Makleyville was moved to Belhaven and the Makley mill was moved to Bath (Brown and Lea 2007:27; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 2005:11, 29; Harris 1995:142; *Beaufort-Hyde News* 13 March 1980; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:39). The closing of the mills was the end of a short period of prosperity in Makleyville, and the settlement soon began to lose population. By the end of the first decade of the twentieth century, Sladesville had overtaken Makleyville as the primary settlement along Slades Creek.

In 1906, Metrah Makley, as the sole surviving original trustee, transferred interest in the land to the Diocese of East Carolina, which had split from the Diocese of North Carolina in 1883 and included Hyde County

(Hyde County Register of Deeds 1906 DB29:501). This suggests that the church was still located in Makleyville at the time. No deed reference could be found for the current church property, but it is likely that the property was donated to the church trustees and the Dioceses of East Carolina. Multiple references indicate that the church was moved to its current location in 1908/1909 (Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:21, 40; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 2012:39; Brown and Lea 2007:91). Various accounts indicate that the church was either dismantled completely and rebuilt exactly as it had been constructed in Makleyville, or that the roof was removed or the building was floated, intact, down the creek to its current location (Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:20, 21; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 2012:39). United States Coast and Geodetic Survey maps from the 1890s until 1907 do not have the church depicted at its current location; the structure shown near the road on the maps is likely the Sladesville Canal Company building shown on the conceptual map of Sladesville (Figures 10, 46, and 47). The church is shown on the 1938 North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission map (Figure 48).



**Figure 46. United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map, 1894, showing Sladesville area.**



Figure 47. United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map, 1907, showing Sladesville area.

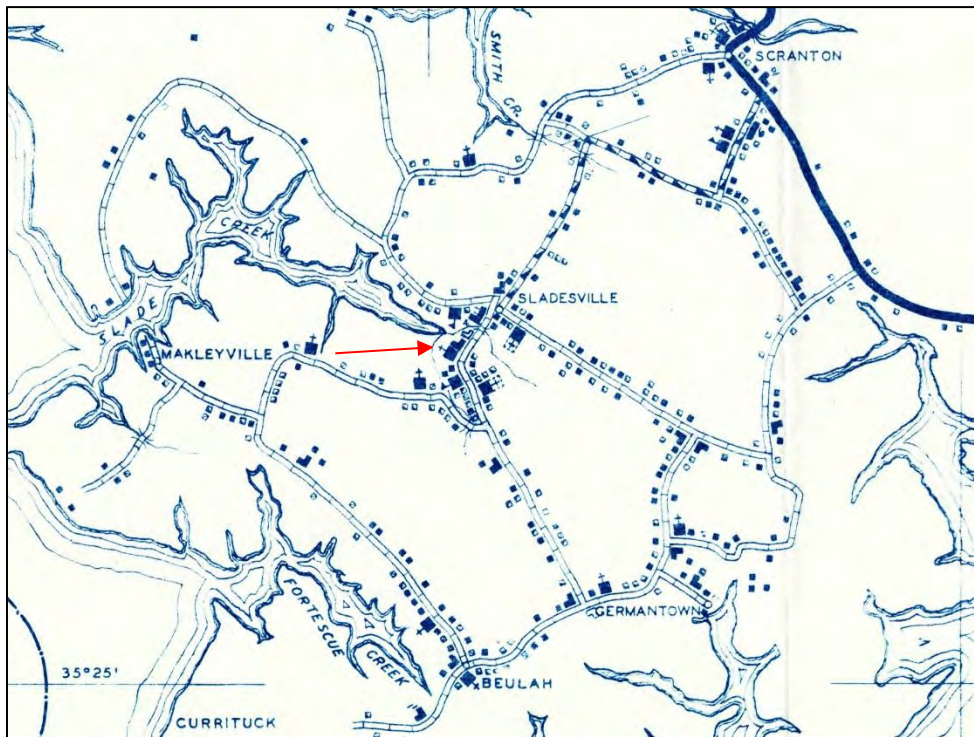


Figure 48. North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission map, 1938, showing Sladesville area and St. John's Episcopal Church.



### 2.3.2 Architectural Context

Churches are relatively common in Hyde County. A review of HPOWEB indicates that there have been 39 churches surveyed in Hyde County, including four on the North Carolina Study List and two of the four within NRHP historic districts. There are three other previously recorded churches, along with multiple unrecorded church structures, within 0.5-mile of St. John’s Episcopal Church.

Architecturally, St. John’s Episcopal Church is an example of a late-nineteenth century, small rural church with Gothic Revival-style detailing, including the form of the church, steeply pitched roof, and ornamentation. Many of the details cited in the 1875 building contract, including the pointed arched windows, the transom over the double entry door, the circular window above the door, and the paneled interior all remain as part of the current church structure and these decorative elements contribute to the Gothic Revival style of the church. Although not specifically spelled out in the contract, the dentil molding surrounding the windows and doors is also a significant decorative element for the church building. Taken together, the woodworking detail on the church is a testament to the skill of the builder, H. B. Fortiscue, and the quality of materials available from the lumber mills in Makleyville.

Although there are many churches in the county, with a number in the immediate vicinity of Sladesville, St. John’s Episcopal Church is unique for the integrity it retains and for the amount of original architectural detail that remains. Epworth Methodist Church (HY0185) is a larger church, with a prominent central bell tower and stained-glass, lancet arches inscribed into rectangular windows (Figure 49). Sladesville Missionary Baptist Church (HY0186) is a simple, front-gabled structure, with rectangular windows and added lancet arches above the rectangular frames (Figure 50). Zion Temple Baptist Church (HY0201) is also a small, front-gabled church with a central, double, entry door and a small bell tower (Figure 51). However, each of these nearby structures has been altered with vinyl siding and the removal of original windows.



**Figure 49. Epworth Methodist Church (HY0185), facing east.**



Figure 50. Sladesville Missionary Baptist Church (HY0186), facing south.



Figure 51. Zion Temple Baptist Church (HY0201), facing east.

Three other Gothic Revival-style churches are located within Hyde County: All Saints Episcopal Church (HY0385), Fairfield Methodist Church (HY0413), and St. George's Episcopal Church (HY0443). All Saints Episcopal Church, near Fairfield, dates to 1885–1890 and is similar in basic form and size to St. John's Episcopal Church. Its main structure features pointed windows as opposed to lancet arches and has a projecting entry portico and tiered belfry; although it retains its wooden shingle roof, the circular window in the second tier of the belfry has been covered with painted wood (Figure 52). Fairfield Methodist Church, which is on the North Carolina Study List and within the boundaries of the Fairfield National Register Historic District, dates from 1877. It is a much more substantial and detailed church than St. John's Episcopal Church, featuring a prominent belfry and steeple, with dual entry doors that flank it, and elaborately carved brackets, finials, and corner trimwork (Figure 53). St. George's Episcopal Church, built in 1874–1875 near the village of Amity, is similar in form to St. John's Episcopal Church, although it features a choir ell and has lancet windows and a circular window above the door. St. George's windows are all stained glass, as opposed to the plain glass panes at St. John's (Figure 54). St. George's also has decorative corner trim and carved vergeboard, which are not part of St. John's architecture. Both St. George's Episcopal Church and Fairfield Methodist Church feature dentil molding, similar to St. John's Episcopal Church, but the molding is only above the doors of the former two churches, while it forms the decorative detail of all exterior openings on St. John's Church. St. John's Episcopal Church is not the only Gothic Revival-style church Hyde County, nor is it the most decorative or high-style example. However, it is unique in the type of interior and exterior detailing that was used, as well as for the integrity it retains, as the only major change to the structure since the early-twentieth century has been the replacement of its wooden shingle roof with one of composition shingles.



**Figure 52. All Saints Episcopal Church (HY0385), facing east.**



Figure 53. Fairfield Methodist Church (HY0413), facing east.



Figure 54. St. George's Episcopal Church (HY0443), facing east.

### 2.3.3 Integrity

Evaluation of the seven aspects of integrity required for National Register eligibility for St. John's Episcopal Church are as follows:

◆ Location: High

St. John's Episcopal Church remains in the location it has occupied since 1908; although not its original location, its current location has been associated with this particular church building for significantly longer than the former Makleyville location, where the building was located for only 33 years.

◆ Design: High

Despite being moved from its original location, St. John's Episcopal Church retains its original form and design.

◆ Setting: Medium to High

St. John's Episcopal Church has historically been located within a small, rural community in western Hyde County. When the church was moved to its current location, the Sladesville area was a thriving community; currently, although structures from the period of Sladesville's prosperity remain extant, many of these have begun to deteriorate, and some others have been demolished. Although the area is recognizable as a small community, Sladesville has lost many of the elements that made it different than other small crossroads settlements in the area, including its school and its commercial establishment, which affects the integrity of setting. The church remains set back from the road, in a grove of trees, and retains its rural setting.

◆ Materials: Medium to High

St. John's Episcopal Church retains its original construction materials; it is likely that the brick pier foundation under the church is not its original 1875 foundation, but set when the church was moved to this location in 1908. The rear windows of the church were altered to include stained glass upper windows and recycled metal lower windows, but this occurred sometime during the early-twentieth century. The original wooden shingled roof on the church was replaced sometime between 1980 and 2007, but otherwise the majority of the original exterior and interior materials of the church remain.

◆ Workmanship: High

St. John's Episcopal Church exhibits exceptional detail and workmanship, both interior and exterior. The dentil moldings around the doors and windows, as well as the pine paneled interior, shaping of the wooden pews, and intricate carving on the altar pieces and vestries demonstrate the ability of the craftsmen associated with the lumber mills in western Hyde County during the late-nineteenth century.

◆ Feeling: High

St. John's Episcopal Church evokes a feeling of a small, secluded, rural church, which is enhanced by its surrounding grove of trees and deep setback from the road. The small cemetery to the north of the church, containing graves of church members, contributes to this feeling.

◆ Association: High

St. John's Episcopal Church has a strong association with the Episcopal congregations of Eastern North Carolina, the community of Sladesville, and the prosperity of western Hyde County.

### 2.3.4 Eligibility

St. John's Episcopal Church is recommended as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A, for its association with the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century prosperity of western Hyde County based in the lumber industry and for its association with the development of Sladesville as a thriving small community in the area. Although there are other small rural churches in Sladesville area, St. John's Episcopal Church is significant because it was a strong congregation that survived the decline of Makleyville after the removal of the lumber mills and was important enough to move to the nearby community of Sladesville. It is ineligible under Criterion B, as it does not have an association with a prominent person; although its founders Metah Makley, W. H. Fortescue, and William Credle, were all well-known farmers and businessmen in the area, none of them achieved a level of prominence above other members of the community. St. John's Episcopal Church is a significant example of rural Episcopal church construction during the late-nineteenth century and a prominent example of Gothic Revival detailing on a small, vernacular church structure; therefore, it is eligible under Criterion C. Although the church structure has the potential to yield important historical information about methods used for building transport and construction during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century, this would not contribute to the knowledge on building technology, making it ineligible under Criterion D.

### 2.3.5 Boundary Justification

The proposed NRHP boundaries for St. John's Episcopal Church encompass the approximately one acre lot on which the church sits (Figure 55). This lot has been the historic location of the church building since around 1908. The cemetery associated with the church and the vegetation on the lot, which consists of a surrounding grove of trees with an open space around the church, contribute to the feeling of a small, rural church landscape.

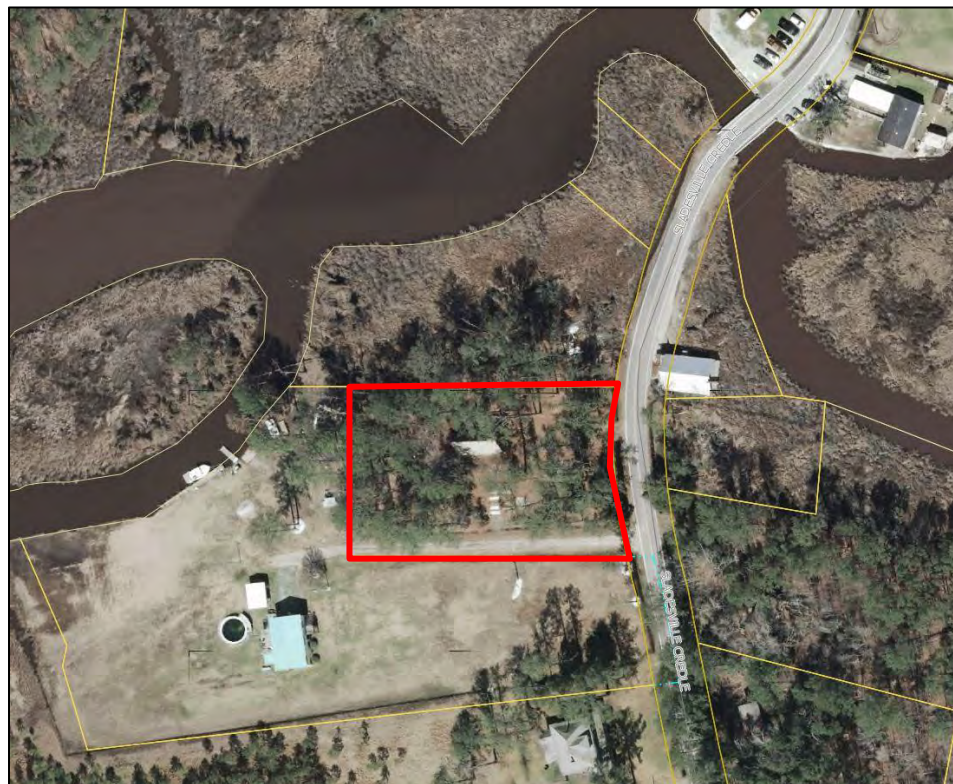


Figure 55. Proposed NRHP boundary for St. John's Episcopal Church (HY0195).

## 2.4 Jarvis-Elixson House (HY0196)

Resource Name	Jarvis-Elixson House
HPO Survey Site #	HY0196
Street Address	5441 Sladesville-Credle Road
PIN	7643-72-7090
Construction Date(s)	Circa-1880
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible



**Figure 56. Jarvis-Elixson House, facing east.**

The Jarvis-Elixson House (PIN 7643-72-7090), which has the same legal address (5441 Sladesville-Credle Road) as the Napoleon Sears Store, is located east of SR 1143 (Sladesville-Credle Road), south of a tributary of Slades Creek, in the community of Sladesville. The house is a two-story, frame structure with a cross-gabled roof that has been vacant for a number of years and has begun to deteriorate (Figure 56). The house was recorded as part of the Hyde County architectural survey in 1980 (Survey File 1980:HY0196).

The front elevation of the house is three bays wide, with a side-gabled section and a projecting front-gabled section. The front-gabled section is a single bay, with a two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash window on the upper story and the remains of a six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash window on the lower story. The two bay wide side-gabled section has the remains of a two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash window on the upper story and an entry door below it, close to the front-gabled section; the northern portion of the front elevation has caved in, leaving a large hole on the upper story and crumbling siding on the lower story (Figure 57). The south elevation shows the intersection of the cross-gables, with two two-over-two, double hung, wooden sash windows unevenly spaced in the gable end. The lower story is beginning to collapse, but shows the remains of a six-over-six, wooden sash window and a door (Figures

58 and 59). Originally, a shed-roofed porch wrapped around the front and south elevations, and the remains of the roof and the plate that attached it to the house are visible on both.



Figure 57. Jarvis-Elixson House, facing southeast.



Figure 58. Jarvis-Elixson House, facing northeast.





**Figure 59. Jarvis-Elixon House, facing north.**

The rear elevation of the house is virtually inaccessible due to tree and brush growth, and much of the northern portion of the rear wall has started to cave in (Figures 60 and 61). The two visible windows on the back side of the house are two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sashes. At the northeast corner of the house, a small, single story addition, which is currently missing a roof, has been joined to the house. The gabled north elevation has six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash windows on the upper and lower stories, with the western bay on the lower story boarded over (Figure 62). An interior end chimney, with a corbelled cap, is visible above the roofline. The house is covered with horizontal wooden weatherboard and the roof is sheathed in composition shingles. The roof has a wide eave overhang and may have once had decorative brackets along the cornice. Interior access to the structure was not possible, as attempts to contact the owners went without response.

Since it was surveyed in 1980, the Jarvis-Elixon House has undergone significant deterioration. When it was originally surveyed, the condition was recorded as "deteriorated", but survey photographs show that the walls of the house were intact and the porch remained attached to the house (Figures 63 and 64). One of the details noted in the original survey was the scrollwork brackets that remained visible on the porch supports; these have either been removed or have been buried under the collapsed porch remains.



Figure 60. Jarvis-Elixson House, facing northwest.



Figure 61. Jarvis-Elixson House, facing southwest.



Figure 62. Jarvis-Elixon House, facing south.



Figure 63. Survey photograph of Jarvis-Elixon House, 1980 survey of Hyde County.



**Figure 64. Survey photograph of Jarvis-Elixson House, 1980 survey of Hyde County.**

#### 2.4.1 *History*

The Jarvis-Elixson House (HY0196) was recorded as part of the comprehensive architectural survey of Hyde County in 1980, but was not included in the subsequent 2007 publication based on the survey (Brown and Lea 2007). Information from the survey file provides a basic history of the house, with an estimated construction date around the turn of the twentieth century (Survey File 1980:HY0196).

Sladesville is a small community in western Hyde County, which has existed since the early-nineteenth century. In 1849, the town was incorporated under the authority of Edmund Slade, John L. Martin, Charles B. Russell, Joseph E. Blount, and John E. Fortescue (*North Carolina Star* [Raleigh] 25 April 1849; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:41), although the municipal government was disbanded in the mid-twentieth century. Farming was the primary occupation of most of the community's residents, but there were a number of commercial establishments as well (United States Census Bureau 1850–1940; County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:41). The community has experienced significant periods of growth and decline since its original settlement. During the late-nineteenth century, P. H. Welch, who chronicled Hyde County, described Sladesville as a "small village, with many inducements for investment" and indicated that it was "one of the most desirable parts of the county" (Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:21).

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1914, Sladesville was served by three schooners that made regular, weekly trips up the creek, and a single steamboat, the *Hatteras*, which made three round trips per week from Washington along a route that also included Belhaven and Scranton. The total value of commodities shipped through Sladesville at the time was just under \$500,000 (Harris 2012:84–85; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:42).

Despite the lack of dredging, Sladesville continued to be thriving community. In 1908, a two-story school was built for the white students in the surrounding communities, and in 1913 Sladesville Graded School, which would become Hyde County Training School in 1916, was opened to educate the area’s black students. With two schools, four churches, a number of retail establishments, and small family owned mills, Sladesville was the hub of the western portion of Hyde County through the early-twentieth century.

The Jarvis-Elixson House was likely constructed in the 1870s or 1880s and is the earliest extant structure along Sladesville-Credle Road within the community of Sladesville. It appears on United States Coast and Geodetic Survey maps from the 1890s (Figure 65; United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1894, 1899), as well as the 1938 North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission map (Figure 66). It is also shown on the conceptual map of Sladesville, labeled as the A.B. and Lucille Lupton House (Figure 10).

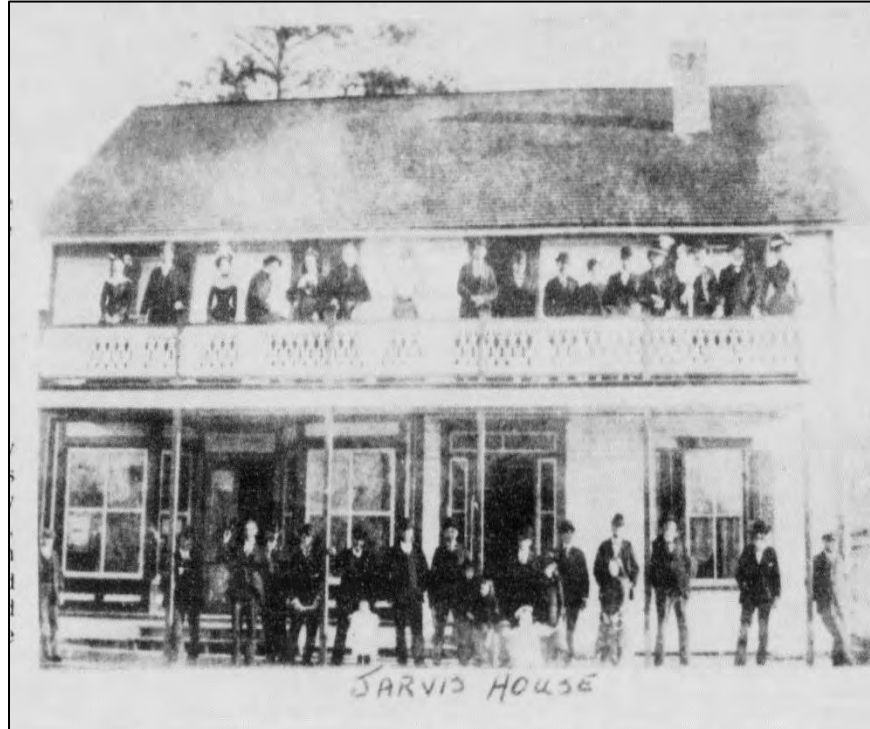


**Figure 65. United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map, 1894, showing Sladesville area and the Jarvis-Elixson House.**



**Figure 66. North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission map, 1938, showing Sladesville area and the Jarvis-Elixson House.**

The house's original owner was likely Thomas Rodman Jarvis, a notable merchant and political insider, who was born in 1835. Thomas R. Jarvis was living in Sladesville by 1870 and was working as a merchant; at the time he had three laborers living in his home along with his family (United States Census Bureau 1870). In 1880, his first wife Louisa had died and he had remarried, to Lucy Selby, and the couple lived in Sladesville, along with their two children and Thomas's daughter from his first marriage; at the time, Thomas R. Jarvis considered himself a farmer (United States Census Bureau 1880). In addition to serving as the local postmaster and running a general merchandise store, Thomas R. Jarvis kept hogs, sheep, cows, chickens, and other poultry, as well as growing corn and cotton, and keeping a vegetable garden and an apple orchard; the family also had at least three black servants working in the household (*The Coastal Observer* [Belhaven] 13 March 1880:7). In 1886, Thomas R. Jarvis was chairman of the county Democratic Executive Committee; in 1888, he was listed as Thomas R. Jarvis, Esquire in the marriage announcement of his daughter Florence (*Goldsboro Messenger* 2 August 1886; *The Falcon* [Elizabeth City] 3 August 1888). Thomas R. Jarvis and his family continued living in the house until the late-1890s; he continued to run a store in Sladesville and was nominated as Chairman of the Democratic Committee, again, in 1896, and also for magistrate, while his daughter, Maybelle, taught school in the area (*The Washington Gazette* 13 August 1896; 2 July 1896; 27 April 1898). A photograph published in an article by Thomas R. and Lucy Jarvis's daughter, Maybelle Jarvis Butt, shows the Jarvis-Elixson House while it was owned by the Jarvis family. It was changed significantly after the Jarvis family left, but the photograph seems to depict the eastern elevation of the house (Figures 60 and 67). By 1900, Thomas R. Jarvis and his family were living in Beaufort County, and he was the proprietor of a hotel (United States Census Bureau 1900).



**Figure 67. Photo of the Jarvis House, provided by Thomas R. Jarvis's daughter, Maybelle Jarvis Butt (*The Coastal Observer* [Belhaven] 13 March 1980:7).**

Around 1899, Thomas R. Jarvis sold the house to William Bryant Elixson; Elixson, who was born in 1847, was a blacksmith who had come to the area from Tarboro, North Carolina before 1870 (United States Census Bureau 1860, 1870). In 1875, he married Lucille F. Jester and the couple settled in Sladesville, where Elixson worked as a farmer and had a small blacksmith shop along Slade Creek (United States Census Bureau 1880, 1900). In both 1910 and 1920, Elixson and his wife were living in Sladesville in a house he owned, and he listed his occupation as a house carpenter in 1910 and a blacksmith in the 1920 census (United States Census Bureau 1910, 1920). William B. Elixson owned the property until his death in 1929, when it passed to his daughter Mary (Maime) Jarvis. In 1944, Mary Jarvis and her husband John E. Jarvis sold all of the property she had inherited from her father, including his blacksmith tools, to Napoleon Forest Sears, Sr. (Hyde County Register of Deeds 1944 DB60:95). The second tract referenced in this deed is the parcel containing the "old Wm. B. Ellison [sic] house" (Hyde County Register of Deeds 1944 DB60:95). Napoleon Sears, Sr., who was the original owner and proprietor of the Napoleon Sears Store (HY0194) retained this parcel and the Jarvis-Elixson House following his 1950s divorce from Lucille Lupton Sears. With the loss of his store property in the divorce (Hyde County Register of Deeds 1954 DB65:481, DB65:483), Napoleon Sears, Sr. operated a store out of the front of the Jarvis-Elixson House and lived in the rear portion (Survey Form 1980). Napoleon Sears, Sr. died in 1985, and his large landholdings around Sladesville were divided into seven tracts, which were sold in 1990 under order of a Special Proceeding (89-SP-24). The 12.1 acre tract containing the Jarvis-Elixson house, the second tract of the estate, and referred to as the W. B. Ellison [sic] Home Tract, was platted at the time and purchased by Napoleon Forest Sears, Junior (Figure 68); upon his death in 2005, the property passed to his heirs (Hyde County Register of Deeds 1990 DB138:621).

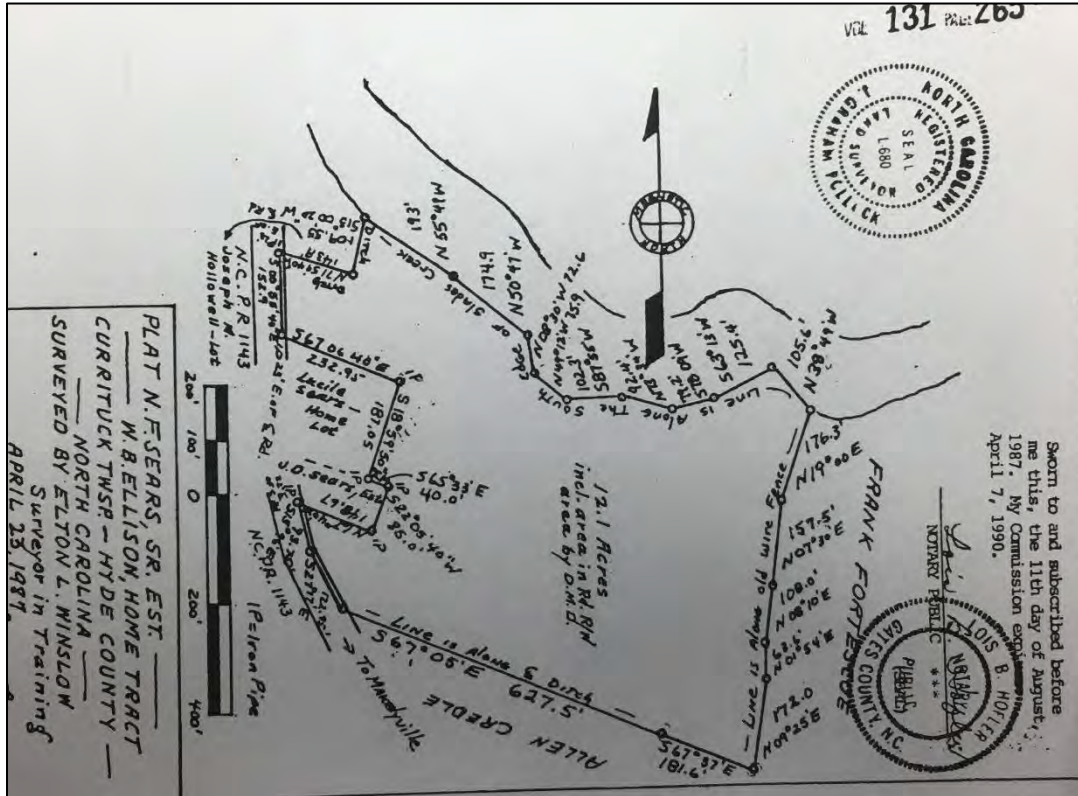


Figure 68. Plat of the property containing the Jarvis-Elixson House (Hyde County Register of Deeds 1987 DB131:265).

#### 2.4.2 Architectural Context

Hyde County retains a large amount of housing stock that dates from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, a period of relative prosperity for the county as both agricultural interests and the lumber industry experienced growth. Relatively untouched by the Civil War and able to easily transport their crops to regional markets, including Norfolk, Virginia, by boat, Hyde County farmers were able to capitalize on the agricultural downturn that occurred in other parts of the state due to devastation from the war, both physical and economic. During the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, farmers in Hyde County prospered. The establishment of saw mills in the western portion of the county, including at Makleyville on the mouth of Slades Creek and at Scranton on Scranton Creek, brought industry and increased economic growth to the area. The success of the farmers and the lumber companies in Hyde County fostered an increase in construction as newly successful families sought to build new homes. Although much of the lumber milled in western Hyde County was shipped to northern cities, particularly Baltimore, it seems likely that expanses of forest being rapidly cleared and nearby lumber mills made for readily available and inexpensive building materials in Hyde County, which could also account for the increased residential construction surrounding the turn of the twentieth century (Bishir and Southern 1996:162; Brown and Lea 2007:22–27; Harris 2012:36–51). The plan of the Jarvis-Elixson House, along with its cross-gabled roof, were prevalent features among houses constructed during this era. Decorative sawn or turned detailing, usually associated with applied Victorian ornamentation on vernacular styles, the remnants of which were recorded during the original survey of the property, was also common throughout the county during this period. If the historic photograph from the newspaper article is reliable (Figure 67), the house originally had an intricately detailed porch balustrade and was a combination of a home and store. Much of this detail was changed by later owners or lost to significant deterioration.



Within Currituck Township, which forms the western portion of Hyde County, there are a number of residences dating from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, and many have a similar plan to that of the Jarvis-Elixson House. Although a later example, dating to 1910, and a T-shaped plan as opposed to the L-shape of the Jarvis-Elixson House, the Gratz Credle House (HY0190) exhibits a similar vernacular form (Figure 3). The Fortescue House (no survey number) was built around 1900 and is located along Sladesville Road, approximately one mile from the Jarvis-Elixson House. This house has a similar plan and a cross-gabled roof to the Jarvis-Elixson House, although its porch does not wrap around the front-facing gable. Its windows have been replaced with modern six-over-six vinyl sashes, but it appears to retain original porch supports, which the Jarvis-Elixson House no longer does (Figure 15). The Denton Lupton House (HY0207) was built around 1900 and is located along Beulah Road, approximately three miles from the Jarvis-Elixson House. This house also has a similar plan and a cross-gabled roof to the Jarvis-Elixson House and the Fortescue House, although its porch does not wrap around the front-facing gable. Similar to the Fortescue House, the Denton Lupton House new contains modern six-over-six vinyl sashes, but appears to retain original porch supports, which are tapered Tuscan columns (Figure 18). Although none of these houses exhibits the large amount of intricate detail visible on the historic photograph of the Jarvis-Elixson House (Figure 67), they are all built in the same architectural tradition and retain greater integrity.

In other parts of Hyde County, similar styles also prevailed around the end of the nineteenth century, many of which were altered to add new details or conform to contemporary architectural styles, as ownership or popular styles changed. The Benson-Howard House (HY0166), along US 264 in Swan Quarter Township, has a cross-gabled roofline with inset porch. Although the original windows have been removed and replaced with late-twentieth century aluminum frames, the house retains the applied sawn detail and turned porch supports that were original to its circa-1900 construction (Figure 19). The Walton-Carter House (HY0365), along North Lake Road in Fairfield Township, has a cross-gabled roofline and full-width, hip-roofed front porch supported by posts with intricate sawn bracket detailing. The non-projecting cross-gable, with its window arrangement, is similar to the south elevation of the Jarvis-Elixson House, although it is the front of the Walton-Carter House (Figure 69). The Jennette Family Farm (HY0422), located along US 264 in Lake Landing Township and within the Lake Landing NRHP Historic District, is an example of how a vernacular form with a cross-gabled roofline could be changed by a later generation of ownership adding sawn, Victorian-style detailing contemporary to the time period. The Jennette Family Farm house retains its original plan, and the applied decorative details of its 1902 renovation (Figure 70). Conversely, the original form of the Jarvis-Elixson House was compromised by later additions, and the stylistic details from both periods have fallen victim to significant deterioration.



Figure 69. Walton-Carter House (HY0365) at 2809 North Lake Road, facing north.



Figure 70. Jennette Family Farm (HY0422), 26570 US 264, facing southeast.

### 2.4.3 Integrity

Evaluation of the seven aspects of integrity required for National Register eligibility for the Jarvis-Elixson House are as follows:

◆ Location: High

The Jarvis-Elixson House remains at its original location.

◆ Design: Low

The Jarvis-Elixson House retains portions of its original form and detail, although it appears that additions and changes during the Elixson and Sears ownership periods have significantly altered the combined store/residence established under the Jarvis ownership. Also, the significant deterioration of the structure, including the loss of the porch and the collapsing wall structure, have either damaged or obscured most of the original design elements.

◆ Setting: Medium

When the Jarvis-Elixson House was constructed in the late-nineteenth century, the Sladesville area was a thriving community in the western portion of Hyde County. Currently, although structures from the period of Sladesville's prosperity remain extant, many of these have begun to deteriorate, and some others have been demolished. Although the area is recognizable as a small community, Sladesville has lost many of the elements that made it different than other small crossroads settlements in the area, including its school and its commercial establishment. The house does remain within the community and some of its surrounding structures remain, but the loss of building fabric affects the integrity of setting.

◆ Materials: Low

The house retains its original construction materials, including foundation and framing, but many exterior materials have been lost due to alteration and deterioration. This includes the changing of some windows from two-over-two, double hung wooden sash to six-over-six double hung wooden sash, although this likely happened during the early-twentieth century. More significant damage to materials has occurred through the continued deterioration of the house, including the collapsing of walls and the front porch. Since interior access was not obtained, no information on original interior materials or details is known.

◆ Workmanship: Low

Most of the original exterior workmanship on the house has been removed or has been obscured or damaged by the deterioration of the house. One of the significant details mentioned in the original 1980 survey was the scrollwork brackets on the front porch, which have now been removed or are buried beneath the remains of the porch. Since interior access was not obtained, there is no information on any craftsmanship or interior detailing that may be extant.

◆ Feeling: Low to Medium

The Jarvis-Elixson House retains the feeling of a late-nineteenth to early-twentieth-century residence. However, the deterioration of the building fabric has begun to compromise that feeling. Additionally, there have been changes to the area that have compromised integrity of feeling in the surrounding Sladesville community. Many of the residents in the Sladesville area during the early-twentieth century, including the Jarvis and Elixson families, were farmers, and, although the surrounding area remains rural, it does not appear to be active farmland. Along with the loss of the nearby school and some of the residences in the Sladesville area, these changes has affected the feeling of the area.

◆ Association: Low to Medium

The house retains its association with the Thomas R. Jarvis, who was the original owner, in name only, as there have been many changes to the house since the Jarvises left the house in the late-1890s. The house does retain its association with the Elixson family, who owned the house for nearly half a century and are responsible for some of its additions and alterations. The more modern alterations and the period of deterioration have occurred during the ownership of the Sears family, who have owned the property since 1944.

#### 2.4.4 *Eligibility*

The Jarvis-Elixson House is recommended as ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A, as it does not have a significant association with a particular event or broad pattern of history. Although it represents a late-nineteenth through early-twentieth-century residence within a small rural community, the Sladesville area has undergone changes that have compromised the setting, there have been alterations to the house, and there are more significant examples of homes from this period in Hyde County. The house is recommended ineligible under Criterion B, as it does not have an association with a prominent person; although Thomas R. Jarvis was a notable local merchant and political insider, the damaged integrity of the house compromises its association with him. William B. Elixson moved to the area in the late-1890s and worked as a local farmer and blacksmith, but was not more prominent than his neighbors. The Jarvis-Elixson House, which was built during the late-nineteenth century, has undergone some significant changes, mostly due to deterioration, altering its integrity as an architectural resource relative to better examples of early-twentieth-century vernacular architecture within the county. It is considered ineligible under Criterion C. The house is unlikely to yield any new information about building technology, so it is considered ineligible under Criterion D.

## 2.5 Jarvis-Sears House (HY0197)

Resource Name	Jarvis-Sears House
HPO Survey Site #	HY0197
Street Address	5505 Sladesville-Credle Road
PIN	7643-72-3145
Construction Date(s)	Circa 1910
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible



**Figure 71. Jarvis-Sears House, facing southeast.**

The Jarvis-Sears House (PIN 7643-72-3145) is located at 5505 Sladesville-Credle Road, east of SR 1143 (Sladesville-Credle Road), south of a tributary of Slades Creek, in the community of Sladesville. The house is a two-story, frame structure with a cross-gabled roof that has been vacant for a number of years and has begun to deteriorate (Figure 71). The house was recorded as part of the Hyde County architectural survey in 1980 (Survey File 1980:HY0197).

The house has a T-shaped plan, created from the intersection of two gabled sections. The front elevation of the house is three bays wide, with a side-gabled section and a projecting front-gabled section. The front-gabled section is a single bay, with a two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash window on the upper story and a second two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash window on its northern side. The lower portion of the front elevation is obscured by an overgrowth of brush and the screened porch enclosure. The two bay wide side-gabled section has the remains of a two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash window on the

upper story. A hip-roof front porch, inset between the two gabled sections of the house, has been enclosed with a screen.

The rear elevation is a mirror image of the front elevation, with a single-bay, gabled section projecting from a two-bay, side-gabled section (Figure 72). The visible windows on the upper story are two-over-two, double hung, wooden sashes. The lower story has a shed-roofed porch, which wraps around the rear ell created by the two gabled sections, and the northern one-third of this porch has been enclosed with walls and siding, while the rest of the porch is screened. A single-story, gabled addition with an interior chimney has been attached to the southeast corner of the house (Figures 73 and 74). The north elevation of the house has one two-over-two, double hung, wooden sash window in each story, centered under the gable.

The house is covered with horizontal wooden weatherboard, and the roof is sheathed in composition shingles; the roof has a wide overhang at the eaves. Above the roofline, at the juncture of the cross gables and roughly central on the side-gabled portion, there are two interior chimneys with corbelled caps. The windows throughout the house are covered with storm windows and have simple, wooden surrounds. Interior access to the structure was not possible, as attempts to contact the owners went without response.

Since it was surveyed in 1980, the Jarvis-Sears House has been vacant for a number of years and has undergone some deterioration. When it was originally surveyed, the condition was recorded as "fair". Survey photographs show that the vegetation around the house was thick, but maintained; currently the vegetation obscures much of the first story of the house and is beginning to damage the roof on the porch (Figures 75 and 76).



**Figure 72. Jarvis-Sears House, facing west.**



Figure 73. Jarvis-Sears House, facing southwest.



Figure 74. Jarvis-Sears House, facing northwest.



Figure 75. Survey photograph of Jarvis-Sears House, 1980 survey of Hyde County.



Figure 76. Survey photograph of Jarvis-Sears House, 1980 survey of Hyde County.



Located east of the Jarvis-Sears House is a single-story, gabled, wooden storage building with a shed roofed addition (Figures 77 and 78). The structure, which rests on a brick pier foundation, has six-over-six, double hung, wooden sash windows and a standing seam metal roof. There are also a small, wooden storage building, privy, and a brick well on the property (Figures 79–81).



**Figure 77. Storage building on the Jarvis-Sears House property, facing southwest.**



**Figure 78. Storage building on the Jarvis-Sears House property, facing northeast.**



**Figure 79. Privy on the Jarvis-Sears House property, facing east.**



**Figure 80. Storage building on the Jarvis-Sears House property, facing northwest.**



**Figure 81. Well on the Jarvis-Sears House property, facing west.**

### 2.5.1 *History*

The Jarvis-Sears House (HY0197) was recorded as part of the comprehensive architectural survey of Hyde County in 1980, but was not included in the subsequent 2007 publication based on the survey (Brown and Lea 2007). Information from the survey file provides a basic history of the house, with an estimated original construction date around the turn of the twentieth century and the house being moved to its current location around 1915 (Survey File 1980:HY0197).

Sladesville is a small community in western Hyde County, which has existed since the early-nineteenth century. In 1849, the town was incorporated under the authority of Edmund Slade, John L. Martin, Charles B. Russell, Joseph E. Blount, and John E. Fortescue (*North Carolina Star* [Raleigh] 25 April 1849; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:41), although the municipal government was disbanded in the mid-twentieth century. Farming was the primary occupation of most of the community's residents, but there were a number of commercial establishments as well (United States Census Bureau 1850–1940; County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:41). The community has experienced significant periods of growth and decline since its original settlement. During the late-nineteenth century, P. H. Welch, who chronicled Hyde County, described Sladesville as a "small village, with many inducements for investment" and indicated that it was "one of the most desirable parts of the county" (Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:21).

During the 1800s, barges and steamboats docked at Sladesville regularly, as the creek was the only viable means of transportation throughout much of the year due to the muddy condition of roads. In 1890, the county commissioners and area farmers petitioned the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the creek to an eight foot depth. At the time, Sladesville had an annual commerce of \$130,000 and was one of the primary shipping points for the area, and the petition argued that the dredged canal would increase the

commerce at Sladesville by \$60,000. The project was rejected in 1890 and again in 1914 (Harris 2012:83). In 1914, Sladesville was served by three schooners that made regular, weekly trips up the creek, and a single steamboat, the *Hatteras*, which made three round trips per week from Washington along a route that also included Belhaven and Scranton. The total value of commodities shipped through Sladesville at the time was just under \$500,000 (Harris 2012:84–85; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:42).

Despite the lack of dredging, Sladesville continued to be thriving community. In 1908, a two-story school was built for the white students in the surrounding communities, and in 1913 Sladesville Graded School, which would become Hyde County Training School in 1916, was opened to educate the area's black students. With two schools, four churches, a number of retail establishments, and small family owned mills, Sladesville was the hub of the western portion of Hyde County through the early-twentieth century.

The Jarvis-Sears House was reportedly moved to its current location by John Ed Jarvis, a local carpenter (Survey File 1980:0197). John E. Jarvis was born in 1874 in Beaufort County, North Carolina (United States Census Bureau 1880). He married Mary Elixson, daughter of William B. and Louisa Elixson, around 1897. In 1900, the couple was living with her parents in Sladesville (United States Census Bureau 1900). Ten years later, they were living in their own home in Sladesville, with their two children, and Jarvis was a farmer (United States Census Bureau 1910). William B. and Louisa Elixson owned the property directly to the north of the Jarvis-Sears House and lived there in the Jarvis-Elixson House (HY0196). Sometime between 1900 and 1910, they gifted an acre of property to their daughter and son-in-law for them to build their own residence, although the lack of deed associated with the transfer suggests that the property did not legally become theirs until Elixson's death in 1929, when Mary inherited it. Also in 1910, John E. Jarvis purchased a five acre parcel from R. D. and Missouri Harris, the parents of Virginia Credle (wife of Gratz Credle), which included multiple houses, at least one of which John E. Jarvis agreed to move by January 1, 1911 (Hyde County Register of Deeds 1910 DB34:104).

By 1920, John E. Jarvis was living in Norfolk, boarding with Edward S. Credle, brother of Gratz Credle, and his family, and working with Credle as a house carpenter. At the same time, Mary Elixson Jarvis, along with the couple's son Leon Jarvis, was living with her parents in Sladesville (United States Census Bureau 1920). It is likely that farm life was not successful for John E. Jarvis, and the market for a carpenter in the Sladesville area, with the declining prosperity that came with the closing of the local lumber mills, was not strong. The post-World War I construction boom in the Norfolk area, associated with the growth of the naval base there, would have provided steady employment and income for a carpenter. By 1930, both his wife and son had joined John E. Jarvis in Norfolk, where he continued to work as a carpenter (United States Census Bureau 1930, 1940). In 1932, John E. and Mary Jarvis sold the one acre parcel, south of the W. B. Elixson lot, containing their home to Napoleon Forest Sears, Sr. (Hyde County Register of Deeds 1932 DB48:559).

Napoleon Forest Sears was the proprietor of the Napoleon Sears Store during the early-twentieth century. He was the son of Napoleon Bonaparte Sears, a notable area merchant and resident. Born in 1909, census records show him living in the Sladesville community with his parents and siblings until 1930. His father's occupation was listed variously as a salesman or merchant of general merchandise or groceries/dry goods (United States Census Bureau 1910, 1920, 1930). In 1930, Sears married Lucille Glade Lupton, daughter of Albin Brinson and Nancy Lupton and presumably moved into the Jarvis-Sears House after purchasing it two years later (Edwards and Sadler 1980:152).

After some well publicized legal and marital issues, Napoleon and Lucille Sears divorced during the 1950s and split their joint property (*Hyde County Herald* 13 August 1953); in 1954, Napoleon Sears transferred the house and one acre parcel to Lucille Sears (Hyde County Register of Deeds 1954 DB65:485). In 1987, the parcel was marked on a plat of the 12.1 acre W. B. Elixson property, which was part of the estate of Napoleon

Forest Sears, Sr. (Figure 68). In 1989, Lucille Sears conveyed the property to her three daughters, presumably reserving the right to live in the home until her death, which occurred in 1994.

The Jarvis-Sears House was likely moved to the property around 1910. Both the daughter and son of Napoleon Sears, Sr. remember hearing of the house being moved to the location, possibly floated along the creek using barrels, and rebuilt piece by piece after the move, which would have been easy for a skilled carpenter, like John E. Jarvis. Sears's daughter noted that it was originally a smaller house, which Napoleon Sears added on to (Harris 2012:91). The house does not appear on United States Coast and Geodetic Survey maps from the 1890s or 1907 (Figure 82; United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1894, 1899, 1907), but it is shown on the 1938 North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission map (Figure 83). It is also shown on the conceptual map of Sladesville, labeled as N. F. Sears, Sr. (Figure 10).



**Figure 82. United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map, 1907, showing Sladesville area and Jarvis-Sears House location.**



**Figure 83. North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission map, 1938, showing Sladesville area and Jarvis-Sears House location.**

### 2.5.2 *Architectural Context*

Hyde County retains a large amount of housing stock that dates from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, a period of relative prosperity for the county as both agricultural interests and the lumber industry experienced growth. Relatively untouched by the Civil War and able to easily transport their crops to regional markets, including Norfolk, Virginia, by boat, Hyde County farmers were able to capitalize on the agricultural downturn that occurred in other parts of the state due to devastation from the war, both physical and economic. During the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, farmers in Hyde County prospered. The establishment of saw mills in the western portion of the county, including at Makleyville on the mouth of Slades Creek and at Scranton on Scranton Creek, brought industry and increased economic growth to the area. The success of the farmers and the lumber companies in Hyde County fostered an increase in construction as newly successful families sought to build new homes. Although much of the lumber milled in western Hyde County was shipped to northern cities, particularly Baltimore, it seems likely that expanses of forest being rapidly cleared and nearby lumber mills made for readily available and inexpensive building materials in Hyde County, which could also account for the increased residential construction surrounding the turn of the twentieth century (Bishir and Southern 1996:162; Brown and Lea 2007:22–27; Harris 2012:36–51). The plan of the Jarvis-Sears House and its cross-gabled roof were prevalent features among houses constructed during this era. Also characteristic is the decorative sawn or turned detailing, usually associated with applied Victorian ornamentation on vernacular forms, likely an original part of the Jarvis-Sears House, based on its ownership by a house carpenter who was at least partially responsible for the construction of the nearby Gratz Credle House.

Within Currituck Township, which forms the western portion of Hyde County, there are a number of residences dating from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries and many have a similar plan to that of the Jarvis-Sears House. Dating to the same time period as the re-location of the Jarvis-Sears House,

around 1910, and featuring a T-shaped plan, the Gratz Credle House (HY0190) exhibits a similar vernacular form to the Jarvis-Sears House, although the Gratz Credle House's porch wraps around the front gable instead of being inset (Figure 3). The similarities between the two houses are not surprising, considering John E. Jarvis was one of two carpenters hired by Gratz Credle to construct his home. The John Ruffin House (HY0148) was built in 1913 and is located along Loop Road, approximately 1.15-mile from the Jarvis-Sears House. This house has a T-shaped plan and a cross-gabled roof, with its front facing gable centered within its side-gabled portion; its wraparound porch has original carved porch supports and it retains its original two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash windows (Figure 14). The Fortescue House (no survey number) was built around 1900 and is located along Sladesville Road, approximately 1.15-mile from the Jarvis-Sears House. This house has a similar T-shaped plan and a cross-gabled roof to the Jarvis-Sears House, with an inset front porch; its windows have been replaced with modern six-over-six vinyl sashes, but it appears to retain its original porch supports (Figure 15). The Denton Lupton House (HY0207) was built around 1900 and is located along Beulah Road, approximately 2.85-mile from the Jarvis-Sears House. This house has a similar T-shaped plan and a cross-gabled roof, with inset front porch, to the Jarvis-Sears House and the Fortescue House. Similar to the Fortescue House, the Denton Lupton House now contains modern six-over-six vinyl sashes, but appears to retain original tapered Tuscan column porch supports (Figure 18). Collectively, these nearby houses from around the same time period have not been left vacant, as the Jarvis-Sears House has, and have not undergone as significant deterioration as the Jarvis-Sears House.

In other parts of Hyde County, similar styles also prevailed around the turn of the twentieth century. The Benson-Howard House (HY0166), along US 264 in Swan Quarter Township, has a cross-gabled roofline with inset porch. Although the original windows have been removed and replaced with late-twentieth century aluminum frames, the house retains the applied sawn detail and turned porch supports that were original to its circa-1900 construction (Figure 19). The Alonza and Elizabeth O'Neal House (HY0169), also along US 264 in Swan Quarter Township, has a cross-gabled roofline with inset porch. Like the Jarvis-Sears House, it has classic cornice returns on the gable ends, but features sawn detail and turned porch supports, as well as two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash windows original to its 1897 construction (Figure 20). The Alonza and Elizabeth O'Neal House was determined ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP in 2006 (Foley 2006).

### 2.5.3 *Integrity*

Evaluation of the seven aspects of integrity required for National Register eligibility for the Jarvis-Sears House are as follows:

- ◆ Location: High

The Jarvis-Sears House remains in the same location where it has been located since the early-twentieth century, when it was moved from approximately one to two miles northwest of Sladesville.

- ◆ Design: Medium to High

The Jarvis-Sears House retains its original form and detail. However, there have been alterations to the structure, including changes to the original porch structure and an addition to the southeast corner of the house. These have obscured some of the original design elements.

- ◆ Setting: Medium

When the Jarvis-Sears House was moved to the property in the early-twentieth century, the Sladesville area was a thriving community in the western portion of Hyde County. Currently, although structures from the period of Sladesville's prosperity remain extant, many of these have begun to deteriorate, and some others have been demolished. Although the area is recognizable

as a small community, Sladesville has lost many of the elements that made it different than other small crossroads settlements in the area, including its school and its commercial establishment. The house does remain within the community and some of its surrounding structures remain, but the loss of building fabric affects the integrity of setting.

◆ Materials: Medium

The Jarvis-Sears House retains its original framing and foundation materials, as well as original windows and siding. The interior materials were not assessed, as interior access to the structure was not obtained.

◆ Workmanship: Medium

Although the house retains its original siding and windows, there are few visible details on the exterior that exhibit the workmanship of the builder. Since the original owner of the home was a local carpenter, it seems unlikely the house would have had no exterior detail, so it is likely that elements displaying such workmanship has been removed. Since interior access was not obtained, there is no information on any craftsmanship or interior detailing that may be extant.

◆ Feeling: Medium to High

The Jarvis-Sears House is an early-twentieth-century residential structure within a small community in western Hyde County. The house remains extant and retains the feeling of an early-twentieth-century residence. However, there have been changes to the area that have compromised integrity of feeling. Many of the residents in the Sladesville area during the early-twentieth century were farmers and, although the surrounding area remains rural, it does not appear to be active farmland. Additionally, the loss of the nearby school and some of the residences in the Sladesville area have affected the feeling of the area.

◆ Association: Medium to High

The Jarvis-Sears House retains its association with John E. Jarvis, who moved the house to this location, and to the Sears family, who has owned the house from 1932 to the present. Any alterations to the house have been undertaken during the ownership of either the Jarvis or the Sears family, so they would not compromise the integrity of association.

#### 2.5.4 *Eligibility*

The Jarvis-Sears House is recommended as ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A, as it does not have a significant association with a particular event or broad pattern of history. Although it represents a late-nineteenth through early-twentieth-century residence within a small rural community, the Sladesville area has undergone changes that have compromised the setting, there have been alterations to the house, and there are more significant examples of this homes from this period in Hyde County. The house is recommended ineligible under Criterion B, as it does not have an association with a prominent person. Although it was owned by John E. Jarvis, a local carpenter, and by the Sears family, who were well known in the Sladesville community, neither owner achieved a level of prominence to elevate them above the other nearby residents. The Jarvis-Sears House, which was built during the early-twentieth century, has undergone some alteration through addition and has begun to exhibit signs of deterioration by neglect, which is altering its integrity as an architectural resource relative to better examples of early-twentieth-century vernacular architecture within the county. It is considered ineligible under Criterion C. The house is unlikely to yield any new information about building technology, so it is considered ineligible under Criterion D.



## 2.6 Sladesville School House property

Resource Name	Sladesville School House property
HPO Survey Site #	--
Street Address	5224 Sladesville-Credle Road
PIN	7643-73-2313
Construction Date(s)	N/A
NRHP Recommendation	No Longer Extant/Not Eligible



**Figure 84. Sladesville School House property, facing southeast.**

The Sladesville School House property (PIN 7643-73-2313) is located at 5224 Sladesville-Credle Road, southwest of a ninety-degree bend in SR 1143 (Sladesville-Credle Road) and north of a Slade Creek tributary, in the community of Sladesville, in Hyde County (Figures 2 and 84). Hyde County tax records for the property include the description “Sladesville School House”; the property was formerly part of an approximately three acre parcel that was owned by the Hyde County Board of Education and contained the Sladesville High School, as well as a gymnasium and lunchroom. The school, which was a two-story frame structure, was constructed in 1909 and in use until 1955; in 1975, the parcel was sold to the Sladesville Civic Club, under authorization of the General Assembly of the state (Harris 2012:52; North Carolina General Assembly, 1975 Session, Chapter 339, House Bill 748; Hyde County Register of Deeds 1975 Book 99:341). The school and gymnasium continued to stand until the 1970s and the small rectangular lunchroom building (HY0193), located on a separate parcel that had once been the northwest corner of the original Sladesville School House property, was used as a community civic center into the 2000s, before being demolished sometime after 2012 (Brown and Lea 2007:92–93; Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society 1976:29). The three structures were extant in aerial photographs of the area from 1964 and 1971 (figures 85 and 86), while the lunchroom building appears on aerial photography as recent as 2012 (Figure 87).



**Figure 85. Aerial photograph, 1964, showing Sladesville area and Sladesville School House property (USGS 1964).**



**Figure 86. Aerial photograph, 1971, showing Sladesville area and Sladesville School House property (USGS 1971).**



**Figure 87. Aerial photograph, 2012, showing Sladesville School House property area (Hyde County GIS 2012).**

In 1982, the western portion of the property, approximately 0.75-acre, was sold to the Scranton Volunteer Fire Department (North Carolina General Assembly, 1981 Session, Chapter 887, House Bill 1378; Hyde County Register of Deeds 1982 Book 117:524). The building currently standing, which is actually on a portion of the remaining 2.3 acres owned by the Sladesville Civic Club, is a concrete block garage built in 1982 for the volunteer fire department and metal storage building behind it that was built in the early-2000s (Figure 84). The remainder of the property is vacant land (Figure 88). Based on the field investigations, S&ME concluded that there are no structures associated with the Sladesville School House extant on the property.



**Figure 88. Sladesville School House property, facing south.**

## 2.7 House property

Resource Name	House property
HPO Survey Site #	--
Street Address	Sladesville-Credle Road, east side
PIN	7643-72-2469
Construction Date(s)	N/A
NRHP Recommendation	No Longer Extant/Not Eligible



**Figure 89. Unnamed House property, facing northeast from HY0196, with HY0194 visible in the background.**

The unnamed House property (PIN 7643-72-2469) is located on the east side Sladesville-Credle Road, between the Napoleon Sears Store (HY0194) and the Jarvis-Elixson House (HY0196), south of a Slade Creek tributary, in the community of Sladesville, in Hyde County (Figure 2). The property is owned by Joseph M. Hollowell; the approximately 0.3-acre property was purchased by Venetia Hollowell from A. B. and Nannie (Nancy) Lupton in 1955 and deeded by Venetia Hollowell to Joseph Hollowell in 1978 (Hyde County Register of Deeds 1955 Deed Book 68:384; 1978 Deed Book 96:837). The parcel had been owned by John M. Credle, who sold it to Minnie Hamilton in 1916. Three years later, Minnie Hamilton and her husband sold the property to Statz Credle, who sold it to A. B. and Nannie (Nancy) Lupton in 1923 (Hyde County Register of Deeds 1916 Deed Book 38:334; 1919 Deed Book 43:283; 1923 Deed Book 46:504). None of the deeds mention a structure on the property. Hyde County tax records note an “old dwelling” on the property and classifies it as a “building site”, but does not give information or list a value for the building. No standing structure was evident during field investigations, although bricks that may have been part of a home foundation were visible on the ground (Figures 89 and 90).



**Figure 90. Brick foundation on unnamed House property, facing east.**

A composite map of structures in the Sladesville community does not show a house located between the Napoleon Sears Store (HY0194) and the Jarvis-Elixson House (HY0196) (Figure 10), nor do photos taken when the area was surveyed in 1980 (Figure 91). However, aerial photos from 1964 and 1971 do show a structure at the location (Figure 92 and 93). Based on the field investigations, S&ME concluded that the unnamed structure that may have formerly been on the property is no longer extant.



**Figure 91. Survey photograph, 1980, showing the Napoleon Sears Store and the former blacksmith shop to the north, but no standing structure to the south.**



**Figure 92. Aerial photograph, 1964, showing Sladesville area and house property (USGS 1964).**



**Figure 93. Aerial photograph, 1971, showing Sladesville area and house property (USGS 1971).**

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