

**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

February 4, 2019

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, Upgrade NC 11 to Interstate Standards from Proposed Greenville SW Bypass to Proposed Harvey Parkway Extension, R-5815, Lenoir and Pitt Counties, ER 19-0079

Thank you for your December 19, 2018, memorandum transmitting the report for the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the report and concur that the following properties are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the reasons outlined in the report.

- Rountree-Smith House (LR0717)
- Jesse Franklin Hart House (PT2737)
- Claudius Jackson House (PT0136)
- Robert Francis Hart House (PT2738)
- Marion Edward Hart House (PT2739)
- Martha Deal House (PT0135)

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 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

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

Received: 01/11/2019

State Historic Preservation Office



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

ER 19-0079

To: Renee Gledhill-Earley, NCHPO

From: Vanessa E. Patrick, NCDOT

Due -- 2/5/19

Date: December 19, 2018

Subject: *Historic Structures Survey Report. Upgrade NC 11 to Interstate Standards from Proposed Greenville SW Bypass to Proposed Harvey Parkway Extension, Lenoir and Pitt Counties, North Carolina. TIP No. R-5815. WBS No. 46987.1.1. PA No. 18-04-0024.*

H- RJE
2/1/19

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 R-5815, Lenoir and Pitt Counties project area (one hard copy and one CD-ROM). Survey photographs, GIS data, and site forms are included on the CD-ROM, and hard copies of the site forms are also provided.

The report considers six resources – the Jesse Franklin Hart House (PT2737), the Claudius Jackson House (PT0136), the Rountree-Smith House (LR0717), the Robert Francis Hart House (PT2738), the Marion Edward Hart House (PT2739), and the Martha Deal House (PT0135). All six resources are recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Initial screening of the project area by NCDOT Historic Architecture identified which resources warranted additional study. Lenoir County Bridge Numbers 76 and 77 are not eligible for the National Register.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "V.E.P.", written over a horizontal line.

V.E.P.

Attachments

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HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT

**Upgrade NC 11 to Interstate Standards from Proposed Greenville SW
Bypass to Proposed Harvey Parkway Extension
Lenoir and Pitt Counties, North Carolina**

**TIP # R-5815
WBS # 46987.1.1
PA # 18-04-0024**

Prepared For:

**Environmental Analysis Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation**

**Prepared By:
AECOM Technical Services of North Carolina, Inc.
701 Corporate Center Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607**

**Marvin A. Brown, Principal Investigator
Sarah Potere**

October 2018

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT

Upgrade NC 11 to Interstate Standards from Proposed Greenville SW Bypass to Proposed Harvey Parkway Extension Lenoir and Pitt Counties, North Carolina

**TIP #: R-5815
WBS #: 46987.1.1
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Sarah Potere

October 2018



**Marvin A. Brown, Principal Investigator
AECOM Corporation - North Carolina**

Date

**Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor
Environmental Analysis Unit, Historic Architecture Team
North Carolina Department of Transportation**

Date

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects between the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (NCHPO), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the United States Forest Service (USFS) of 2015. An NCDOT architectural historian defined an Area of Potential Effects (APE) and conducted preliminary research and a reconnaissance-level survey to identify and assess all resources of approximately 50 years of age or more within the APE. Following this initial survey, NCDOT staff determined that five resources warranted an intensive evaluation of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A sixth was subsequently added and these six resources are the subject of this report. NCDOT architectural historians determined that all other resources and districts are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity.

The project involved the evaluation of the six resources located within the APE in support of NCDOT's proposed upgrade of NC 11 to Interstate Standards from Proposed Greenville SW Bypass to Proposed Harvey Parkway Extension in Lenoir and Pitt Counties (TIP No. R-5815; WBS No. 46987.1.1; PA No. 18-04-0024) (Figure 1). As part of this project, AECOM intensively evaluated the resources and provided a written report that included photographs of the resources and landscapes; historic and architectural contexts (as needed); evaluations of NRHP eligibility; comparisons to similar types of resources; and carefully delineated and justified NRHP boundaries, as appropriate.

AECOM prepared this report in September and October 2018. As a result of its analyses, AECOM recommends none of the evaluated resources merit NRHP eligibility. The following table identifies the resources requiring evaluation and summarizes the recommendations regarding their eligibility.

Resource Name	NCDOT Resource #	NC HPO Survey Site #	NRHP Eligibility Recommendation and Criteria
Jesse Franklin Hart House	01	PT2737	Recommended not eligible for NRHP listing
Claudius Jackson House	02	PT0136	Recommended not eligible for NRHP listing
Rountree-Smith House	03	LR0717	Recommended not eligible for NRHP listing
Robert Francis Hart House	04	PT2738	Recommended not eligible for NRHP listing
Marion Edward Hart House	05	PT2739	Recommended not eligible for NRHP listing
Martha Deal House	06	PT0135	Recommended not eligible for NRHP listing

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I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND METHODOLOGY

This project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects between the NCDOT, the NCHPO, the FHWA, and the USFS of 2015. An NCDOT architectural historian defined an APE and conducted preliminary research and a reconnaissance-level survey to identify and assess all resources of approximately 50 years of age or more within the APE. Following this initial survey, NCDOT staff determined that five resources warranted an intensive evaluation of eligibility for the NRHP. A sixth was subsequently added and these six resources are the subject of this report. NCDOT architectural historians determined that all other resources and districts are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity.

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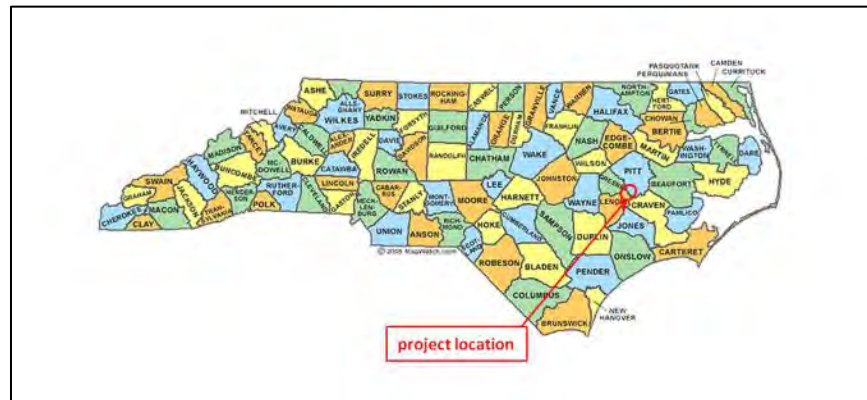


Figure 1: Project location map

In September and October 2018 AECOM evaluated the resources as required, in compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, other state and federal regulations, and NCDOT's current Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products and the NCHPO Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina. AECOM prepared this report in October 2018. As a result of its analyses, AECOM recommends that none of the evaluated resources are eligible for NRHP listing.

AECOM senior architectural historian Marvin A. Brown and AECOM architectural historian Sarah Potere, both of whom meet the Secretary of Interior's qualifications for architectural history (CFR 36 CFR Part 61), conducted fieldwork, research and analyzed the resources, and drafted this report. As part of this effort, they visited, documented, and photographed the resources and conducted supplementary research. This effort included reviewing Pitt and Lenoir County deeds, GIS data, plat maps, property and tax records; conducting research at the State Library of North Carolina; speaking with knowledgeable local residents including, notably, local informant and HPO eastern regional office

staffer Stan Little; studying the Pitt and Lenoir County files of the North Carolina HPO; reviewing architectural histories and reports, and partially surveying Pitt and Lenoir counties for comparable resources; and conducting online historical and genealogical research.

The project's APE is located within Pitt and Lenoir County (Figure 2). The locations of the six inventoried resources are identified on Figure 3 and Figure 4.

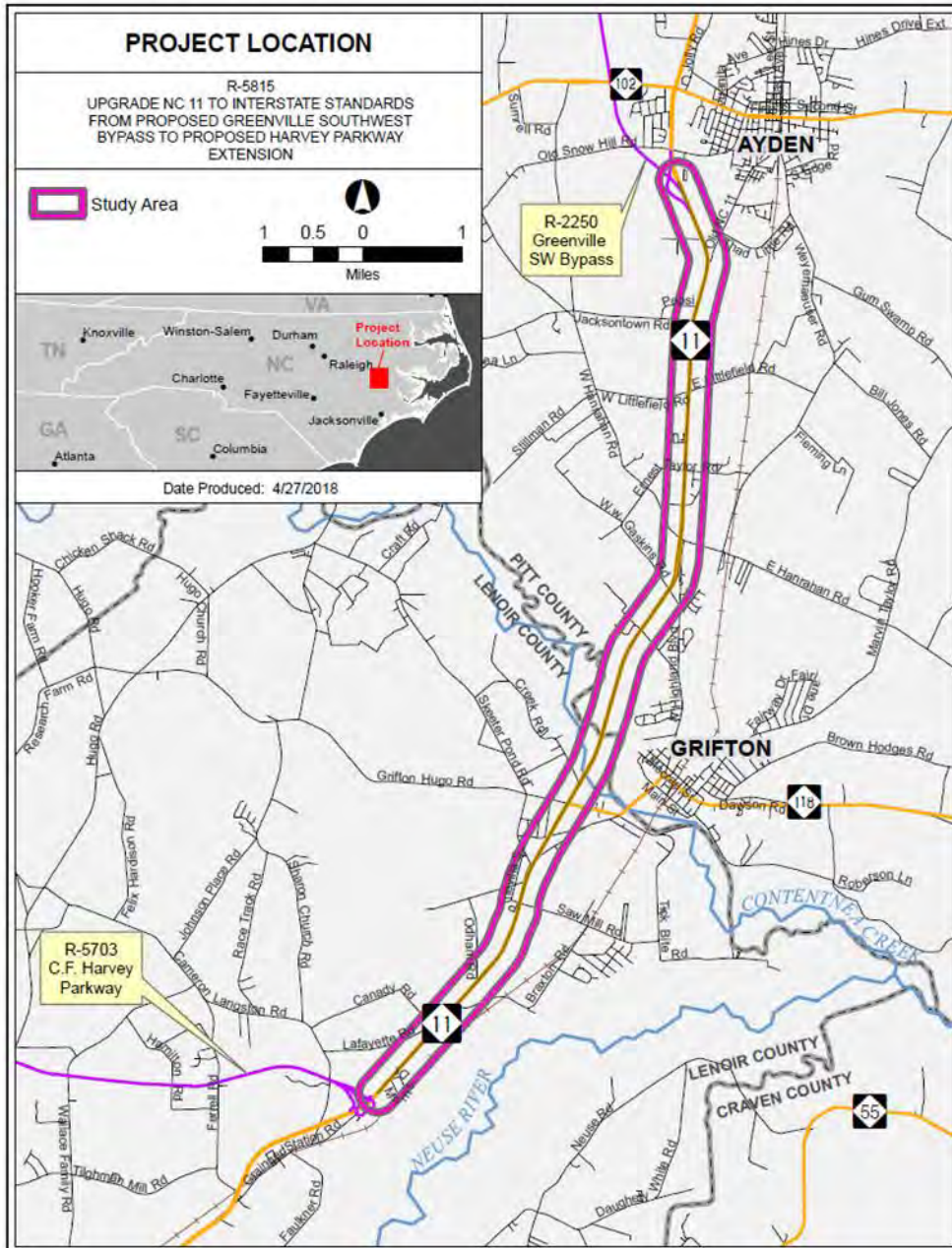


Figure 2: Project Study Area Map (source: NCDOT)



Figure 3: Location of Lenoir County resources (source: NCDOT)

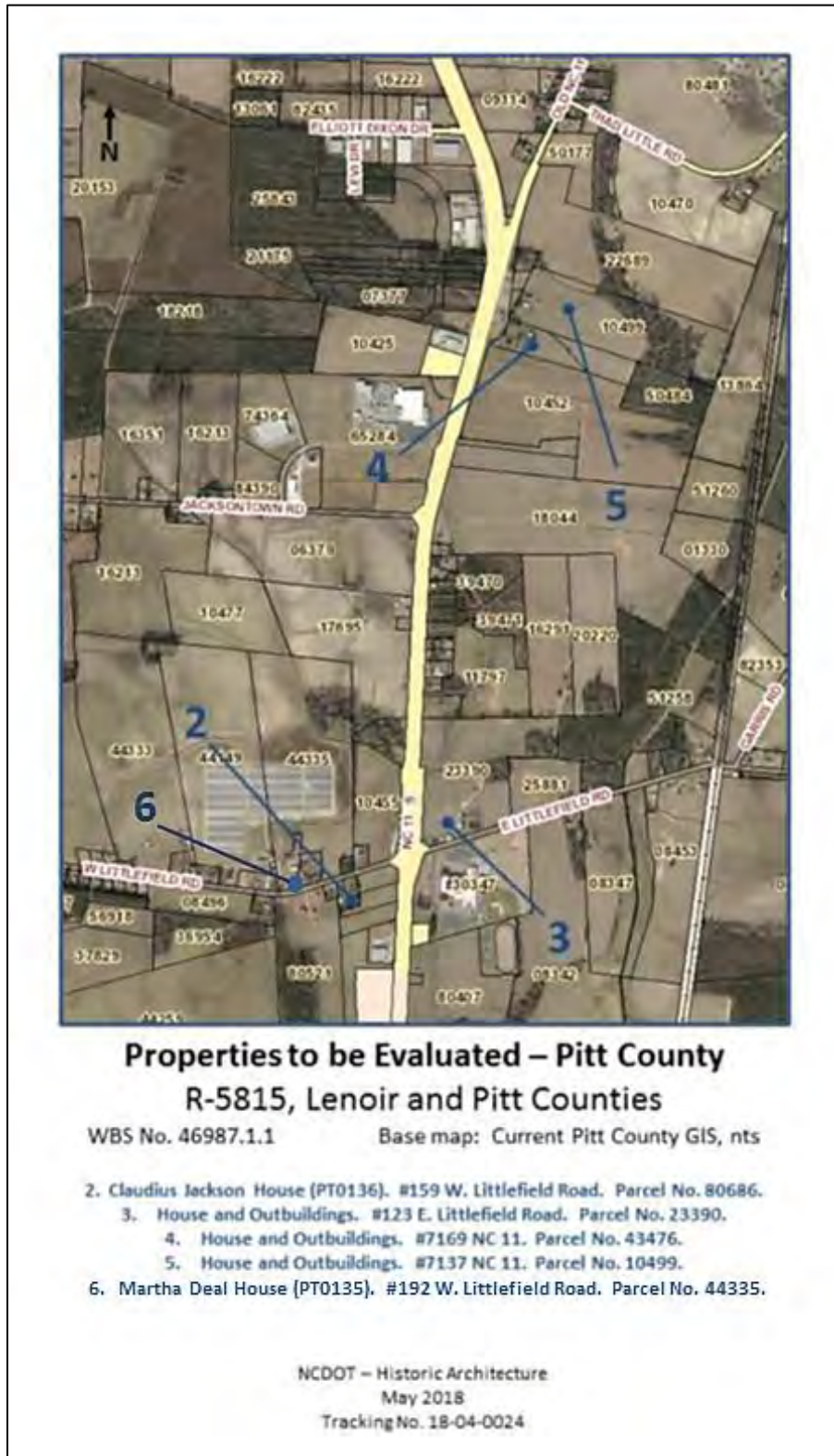


Figure 4: Location of Pitt County resources (source: NCDOT (with resource 6 added))

II. ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The body of this report assesses the NRHP eligibility of six frame houses within the project's APE. Four are one-story-tall with gable-end roofs, a common form found well beyond the bounds of the APE. A fifth is similarly fashioned, but expanded to one-and-a-half stories by front and rear dormers. The sixth house is two stories tall, but formally related to the other houses in ways beyond its height. As the houses are interrelated in form and finish, the following context provides comparisons to assist in determining if any are potentially eligible for NRHP listing.

ONE-STORY HOUSES

One-story, gable-end, frame houses dating from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries are ubiquitous throughout Pitt County, Lenoir County, and elsewhere in eastern North Carolina. Additionally, a small number survive from the early nineteenth and even the late eighteenth centuries, including one extremely altered dwelling—the hall-parlor plan Martha Deal House (PT0135)—within the APE that is assessed below.

In his history of Pitt County's architecture, Scott Power (1991:28) noted that the Georgian period between about 1750 and 1810 “produced a wide variety of houses ranging from modest one-and two-room, one-story homes with simple decorative elements to well-adorned, near academic examples with skillfully rendered woodwork of the latest fashion.” Of the following period, between about 1810 and 1840-1850, he wrote (Power 1991:33):

The architectural trends occurring during the early nineteenth century were primarily distinguished by the transformation of the style of woodwork and often decorative elements were applied to traditional eighteenth-century forms. The basic form of the braced-frame house of the substantial planter class that emerged over the second half of the eighteenth century (with the exception of the coastal cottage form) changed little until the mid-nineteenth century. Floor plans also illustrate a continuation of patterns established in the last decade of the eighteenth century. The hall-and-parlor plan became the standard, and forty-six of the approximately seventy houses remaining from this period [as of the ca.1991] are constructed with this plan.

In his late 1980s Pitt County inventory, Power recorded a small number of one-story, end-gabled, frame houses from the late-eighteenth and early/mid-nineteenth centuries that had hall-parlor plans like that of the Deal House. Some, such as the late-eighteenth-century Edwards-Elks-Adams House (PT0214) near Schelmerdine and the 1832 Guilford Murphy House (PT0034) near St. Johns, no longer stand (Power 1991:23-24, 41-42, 237-238, 277) (Figure 5). Others—including the Jesse Shivers House (PT0042), built between 1781 and 1803, and the ca.1857 Thomas Adrian Savage House (PT0316), built near Bell's Fork but now standing in Greenville (Power 1991:23-25, 54-56, 359, 475; East Carolina Village and Farm Museum website)—survive, apparently little altered since their recordation (Figure 6).



Figure 5: Jesse Shivers House in late 1980s (Power 1991:475), at left, and ca.2016 (Google image), at right



Figure 6: Thomas Adrian Savage House in late 1980s (Power 1991:56), at left, and ca.2016 (<http://www.eastcarolinavillage.org/buildings>), at right

The Shivers and Savage houses retain far more integrity than the Deal House, which has lost its doors, windows, partition wall, chimney, and even much of its cladding. Its most notable surviving components are its wood roof shingles, visible in part beneath a taller and wider, later-added roof.

Of the more numerous one-story, gable-end, frame houses built from the mid-nineteenth into the twentieth century, the smallest cohort date from the latter part of the nineteenth century. Two largely intact examples are the three-bay-wide Noah Forbes, Sr. House (PT0047) in the Greenville area and the Robert J. Lang, Jr. House (PT0457) near Fountain. The ca.1850 Forbes House, which retains modest Greek Revival-style details, was determined eligible for NRHP listing in 2016. The more vigorously Greek Revival-style Lang House, built ca.1870, was listed in the NRHP in 1990 (van den Hurk 2016; Black 1990) (Figure 7 and Figure 8).



Figure 7: Noah Forbes, Sr. House in late 1980s (Power 1991:370), at left, and in 2016 (photographer: Jeroen van de Hurk), at right



Figure 8: Robert J. Lang, Jr. House, 1990 (<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/PT0457.pdf>, photograph: David Black), at left, and ca. 2016 (Pitt County tax records), at right

During the final part of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth, the form continued to be popular—and very common—at both plainly finished and modestly decorated rural dwellings. Power (1991:118) writes that the “most widely constructed dwellings throughout the late nineteenth century were one- and two-story, single-pile, center-hall plan houses...[that] were usually plain unadorned farmhouses.”

The ca. 1889 Claudius Jackson House (PT0136) within the APE near Littlefield, for example, is a straightforward representative of the form. Although its front bays have been altered, their asymmetric placement conforms with a late nineteenth-century date of construction. The symmetrically placed bays of the similarly fashioned house at 4715 NC 43 near Ayden suggest a slightly later construction date (Figure 9). These two houses are akin to four, no-longer-extant, late-nineteenth- or early-twentieth-century tenant houses erected on the edge of the Ichabod H. Little Farmstead (PT0018) near Bethel (Figure 10). While the NC 43 house may well have been a tenant house, the Claudius Jackson House was erected and lived in by its owners



Figure 9: Left, Claudius Jackson House; right, house at 4715 NC 43 near Ayden



Figure 10: Tenant house near the Ichabod H. Little Farmstead, late 1980s (Power 1991:161)

The builders of the ca.1870 Mumford-Jolly House (PT0161) near Ayden added to the basic form of their home such Italianate-style ornament as pointed-arch surrounds, deep cornice returns, brackets, and floriated sawnwork. The turn-of-the-century house at 1037 Forlines Road (PT2763) near Winterville is unadorned (though what its original porch looked like is not known). The well-detailed and intact Mumford-Jolly House was placed on the North Carolina Study List in 1989. The plain Forlines Road house, which retains early weatherboards and sash, was determined not NRHP-eligible in 2014 (van den Hurk) (Figure 11).



Figure 11: Left, Mumford-Jolly House; right, house at 1037 Forlines Road

The basic three-bay, frame, gable-end form continued into the twentieth century at such houses as 173 Main Street in Winterville, erected ca.1923, and the Edwards House (PT3321) on East 14th Street in Greenville, which dates from 1930. Both are commonplace examples of the form. The Edwards House, which includes a shallow front dormer, an altered front porch and siding, and extensions to either side, was determined not eligible for NRHP listing in 2017 (Funk) (Figure 12).



Figure 12: Left, House at 173 Main Street and, right, Edwards House (PT3321), Greenville (photographer of both: Megan Funk 2017)

By the turn of the twentieth century, the form at many houses had been extended to the front, giving it an L-shaped footprint, and sometimes to the rear as well, creating a T- or stepped-back-shape. (These houses, as did the more straightforward ones discussed above, are generally extended to the rear by one-story, gable-end ells as well.) Power (1991:122-123) says of the form (Figure 13):

In contrast to the [ornately finished, two-story, no-longer-extant] Sumrell House is the William Amos Shivers House (c. 1900) [PT0377] located near the town of Winterville and built as a one-story, center-hall plan dwelling with a front ell. This example, more modest in its expression of ornament, is also more representative of the type. Plain turned balusters and delicate brackets distinguish the three-quarter front porch. An early-twentieth-century photograph shows the house much as it is today [ca.1991]; the exception is a replacement pressed-tin shingle roof. The original roof was wood shingle.



Figure 13: William Amos Shivers House in the early twentieth century (Power 1991:124), at left, and currently, at right

An even more plainly finished house at 332 East Littlefield Road in the railroad hamlet of Littlefield is typical of the form. It looks much like the ca.1900 Jesse Franklin Hart House (PT2737)—just west down the road within the APE (and assessed below)—and carries essentially the same tax date of 1901 (Figure 14).



Figure 14: Left, house at 332 East Littlefield Road

Additional front gables began to appear regularly in the late nineteenth century, often with Italianate and/or Queen Anne-style flourishes. The 1905 L.S. Hardee House (PT3322) on East 14th Street in Greenville is a good and intact example that was determined NRHP eligible in 2017 (Funk). The eligibility of the even more ornate and apparently equally intact ca.1890 Dr. Beriah Thaddeus Cox House (PT0173) near Ayden has not been addressed (Figure 15). The houses at 4769 NC 43 and 5554 NC 43 near Ayden make use of the same form (Figure 16).



Figure 15: Left, L.S. Hardee House (photographer: Megan Funk 2017); right, Dr. Beriah Thaddeus Cox House



Figure 16: Left, 4769 NC 43; right, 5554 NC 43

The multi-façade-gable variant of the form is expressed at one-story houses with L- and T-shaped footprints or flush front gables. The gables can be plainly finished or accented with cornice returns. Full-façade porches span the front of the better and more intact survivors. Turned posts and balusters mark the porches at late-nineteenth- and some early-twentieth-century houses. As the twentieth century advanced through its first three decades, square or round posts became more common, as did Craftsman-style porches, that were sometimes later additions. The ca. 1914 Felix Hills House (LR0746) and ca. 1908-09 Stephen Nathan Gilbert House (LR0757)—both in Lenoir County near the Pitt County town of Grifton—have façades that step forward. Flush façades mark the ca. 1917 Poole-Smith House (LR0883) and the ca. 1920 Enzel Sullivan House (LR0889), both also in Lenoir, near Kinston (Figure 17 and Figure 18).



Figure 17: Left, Felix Hills House, and right, Poole-Smith House (photographer: Heather Carpini 2016)



Figure 18: Left, Stephen Nathan Gilbert House (LR0757); right, Enzel Sullivan House (photographer: Heather Carpini 2016)

One feature found at some of these houses appears to be a holdover from the mid-nineteenth-century—the trabeated entry. A number of one-story, gable-end, frame houses in Pitt County, and also Lenoir, retain front entries framed by sidelights and topped by transoms (see for example Figure 14, Figure 17 at right, and Figure 18 at right). This relatively expensive treatment is absent from the more basic representatives of the form.

ONE-AND-A-HALF- AND TWO-STORY HOUSES

While the one-story, gable-end form appears to be the most common at late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century houses within the APE and throughout rural Pitt and Lenoir counties, many houses stand one-and-a-half or two stories tall. Most of these are effectively taller versions of their one-story companions. The ca. 1923 house at the Henry Garris Farm (PT0127) at 242 East Littlefield Road (just to the east of the APE) is three bays wide and has gable ends, albeit clipped ones. A hipped-roof front dormer gives it an additional half story. Its multi-light-over-one sash windows and paired porch posts on tall brick piers are suggestive of the Craftsman style. The Marion Edward Hart House (PT2739) nearby within the APE (assessed below) makes use of the same form. It retains Craftsman-style triangular kneebraces, tall brick porch piers, and exposed rafter ends that were likely added within a few decades of its initial construction (Figure 19).



Figure 19: Left, Henry Garris Farm (PT0123); right, Marion Edward Hart House

The use of dormers and Craftsman-style features—such as wide overhanging roofs, kneebraces, multi-pane-over-one windows, tapered posts on brick piers—is most often found at houses in Pitt County’s towns and in Greenville. Among the many town examples are the houses at 670 East Third Street and 4331 East Street (as currently numbered) within the Ayden Historic District (PT0620) (Figure 20). As can be seen at the Garris and M.E. Hart houses (Figure 19, above), and the R.H. and Janie Tyson McLawhorn House within the Renston Rural Historic District (PT1792) (Figure 21), such features were found in the countryside as well.



Figure 20: Left, 670 East Third Street and, right, 4331 East Street, both in Ayden



Figure 21: R.H. and J.T. McLawhorn House

The 1880s Rountree-Smith House (LR0717), within the APE and assessed below, is the sole house under study here located in Lenoir County. Although a full two stories tall, it has a stepped-back façade reminiscent of the one-story Lenoir County houses (pictured at Figure 17 and Figure 18, above) and the ca. 1923 two-story house at the Nehemiah Garris Farm (PT0127) at 401 East Littlefield Road, which is located a few miles away northeast of Grifton in Pitt County (Figure 22). The Jesse Franklin Hart House (PT2737) within the APE near Littlefield, with its stepped-back front elevation, multiple gables, and long rear ells, is also quite similar to the Rountree-Smith House, although it is only one-story tall (Figure 23).



Figure 22: Left, Nehemiah Garris Farm (PT0127); right, Rountree-Smith House (LR0717)



Figure 23: Jesse Franklin Hart House within the APE (PT2737)

Many large, two-story, frame houses from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries still stand in rural Lenoir County (Brown and Potere 2017). Around 1910 William Parker Gilbert erected a farmhouse (LR0725) in the Hugo community that is similar to the Rountree-Smith House (Little et al. 1998:350). (The two houses stand about three miles apart.) Two stories tall with a T-shaped footprint and one-story rear ell, the Gilbert House features a two-story front bay, pedimented gables, and a long porch supported by delicate columns. A number of outbuildings continue to stand to its rear. The turn-of-the-century Tom Worthington House (LR0721) near Grifton is two stories tall with a two-story ell that gives it a T-plan footprint (Little et al. 1998:351). It retains cornice returns at its end gables, sidelights and a transom at its centered entry, six-over-six sash, and three heavily corbeled interior chimney stacks similar to those found at the Rountree-Smith House (Figure 24).



Figure 24: Left, William Parker Gilbert House (LR-0725); right, Tom Worthington House (LR-0721) (photographer: Marvin Brown 2017)

Other similar large, two-story farmhouses in Lenoir County include the late-nineteenth-century H. William Davis House (LR1018) in the Strabane community and the mid-1910s Joseph Williams House (LR1204) in the Southwood community (Figure 25). Original features retained at the Davis House include a tripartite entry and door with round-headed panels, weatherboard siding, cornice returns, diamond-shaped ventilators, and corbeled brick chimney stacks. A second-story sunroom, placed atop the front porch, is original or an early addition. The Williams House (Little et al. 1998:418) retains a Victorian porch with turned posts and jigsaw brackets, along with heavily corbeled chimney stacks similar in form and placement to those at the Rountree-Smith House.



Figure 25: Left, H. William Davis House (LR1018); right, Joseph Williams House (LR1204) (photographer: Marvin Brown 2017)

III. INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS

01. Jesse Franklin Hart House

	Resource Name	Jesse Franklin Hart House
	HPO Survey Site #	PT2737
	Location	123 E. Littlefield Road, Littlefield vicinity
	Parcel No.	23390
	Date of Construction	ca. 1900
	Recommendation	Recommended not eligible for NRHP listing

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Jesse Franklin Hart House sits on the southern edge of a 34.59-acre agricultural parcel, approximately two miles south of the town of Ayden. At the north and east, the parcel is bounded by farmland. It is bounded to the west by NC 11 and to the south by Littlefield Road. Save for the resources along Littlefield Road, and a small wooded patch found in the northeast corner of the lot, the parcel largely comprises active agricultural fields.

The house is located about 60 feet back from the road and is accessed by a paved, forked drive on its western side (Figure 26). The eastern fork of the drive runs along the side of the house until it reaches the small farm complex situated alongside of and to the north of the residence. From there, it loops to the south and runs back to Littlefield Road where it joins the eastern fork to form a singular driveway entrance. The house’s supporting farm complex is comprised of a variety of small barns and sheds, which appear to date from the early/late-twentieth century.

A secondary residence that looks like a manufactured house stands on the southwest corner of the parcel. An interview with the current property owner, Sandra Peede (2018), suggests that a portion of this one-story residence dates to the early twentieth century, but has undergone significant alterations which have removed all original materials and masked its original form. It is therefore not addressed further in this discussion. The house is accompanied by a large collection of modern bulk barns and two mid-twentieth century packhouses, also not recorded here.



Figure 26: Site plan

Jesse Franklin Hart House

The one-story, frame, J.F. Hart House is comprised of a single-pile, four-bay, front block with a long, centrally placed, enclosed rear-ell. Although simple in finish, the residence presents a multi-gable, stepped-back façade, with two façade gables (Figure 27). The house rests on a continuous brick foundation that has been covered with modern stucco. Replacement seam-metal roofing covers the building's multiple gabled roofs, which retain their wide cornice returns. Vinyl siding covers the entire house, replacing original weatherboards.



Figure 27: Left, front (southern) elevation; right, view of southwestern corner

A modern, exterior-end, shouldered chimney rises on the building's western gable end. A four-bay porch, which embraces the house's front elevation and mirrors its stepped-back design, appears to have replaced the original porch. Six square, vinyl columns support a replacement cornice and hipped-roof with deep eaves, at the porch, that is capped with the same replacement seamed metal as the rest of the house's roofs. New brick stairs lead up to the porch. Porches that once flanked the long elevations of the rear ell are now fully enclosed (Figure 28)



Figure 28: Left, western elevation; right; eastern elevation

Replacement windows and surrounds are found on all elevations of the house. Two early windows mark both of the building's front gable peaks and are comprised of a large, colored, square light surrounded by a border of smaller, colored, square lights. The building's primary entrance, placed off-center on the front elevation, holds a replacement, multi-light door. The door is flanked on either side by what appear to be original sidelights, composed of rectangular wooden panels topped by rectangular one-over-one lights. A simple two-light transom tops the door (Figure 29).



Figure 29: Left, detail of gable window; right, detail of front door

Frame Shed I (Figure 30, left, and Figure 31)

This small frame shed stands to the west of the house, just south of the packhouse/barn, and likely dates from the early twentieth century. The side-gabled building is clad in weatherboards and topped

with a standing-seam-metal roof and exposed rafter tails. A boarded-over opening marks the building's southern elevation. A door and two windows open at its eastern gable end, facing the house.



Figure 30: Left, shed I in foreground; right, late-twentieth-century barn/packhouse

Late-20th-Century Barn/Packhouse (Figure 30, right)

A large, late-twentieth-century barn/packhouse stands at the northern end of the farm complex. The gabled building is constructed of concrete-masonry-block and its roof is topped with metal sheathing. Two windows and a door pierce its south-facing gable.

Packhouse/Barn (Figure 31)

The early-twentieth-century packhouse/barn is located to the west of the house and is oriented to the east. The main body of the frame, gabled building has a traditional packhouse form with large doors for loading cured tobacco set above each other at its front gable. A two-story, shed-roofed, frame addition extends off its southern side. Its large openings, front and rear, suggest it too held tobacco or, perhaps, hay. The addition appears to be early and, like the packhouse block, is clad in weatherboards. A large, single-bay doorway at the first floor of the addition would have opened for equipment storage.



Figure 31: Left, east elevations of packhouse/barn and shed II; right, west elevations of (left to right) shed II, packhouse/barn, and shed I

Frame Shed II (Figure 31)

This frame shed, also appearing to date to the early-twentieth century, stands on brick piers to the direct north of the packhouse/barn. A central, front-gabled block is flanked on its northern and southern sides by single-bay, shed-roofed blocks. The building is clad in weatherboards and topped with a standing-seam-metal roof.

Frame Shed III (Figure 32, left)

Another early-twentieth century frame shed stands to the northeast of the house. The front-gabled building is oriented to the west and stands on brick piers. An enclosed frame, shed-roof addition extends off the shed's northern elevation. Both the original shed and its addition are clad in weatherboards and topped with metal sheathing.



Figure 32: Left, frame shed III and single-bay garage; right, view of garage rear (eastern) elevation and modern metal shed

Garage (Figure 32)

The frame garage stands near the northeast corner of the house. The front-gabled building has a double-wide bay to accommodate two vehicles. The late-twentieth century garage is clad in vinyl siding and rests on a continuous concrete foundation.

Metal Shed (Figure 32, right)

The semi-circular frame shed stands to the northeast of the house, directly north of the garage. The building is entirely metal in composition and dates to the late-twentieth century.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Jesse Franklin (J.F.) Hart (1876-1936) erected this one-story frame house (Little 2018), likely following his 1898 marriage to Nancy Elizabeth “Nannie” McLawhorn (1881-1967) (North Carolina, Marriage Records, 1741-2011). By 1900 J.F. and Nannie had established a household in Contentnea

Township, the predecessor to Ayden, with their infant daughter, Essie Lee. They owned their own farm, mortgage free (United States Federal Census 1900).

Deed records provide limited information on the property, due to the many land transactions its owners engaged in and the lack of detail in many deeds. J.F. Hart owned large tracts of land in the area, as did his parents, William Franklin (1847-1930) and Harriet Jemima Cannon Hart (1846-1936). From whom J.F. and Nannie received the property and to whom it was passed could not be determined. Attempts to trace the deeds back from the present were also unsuccessful, as by the early 1970s the property was one of many Ayden Township parcels owned by prolific local businessman and landholder Charlie L. Hardee (1928-2005) and his C.L. Hardee and Pitt-Greene Fertilizer & Fuel companies. However, when current owners William C. and Sandra M. Peede acquired the property in 1973 (Deed Book P-41/Page 264), the deed referenced an unrecorded map captioned “C.L. Hardee Property, Hart Farm—Home Place.” According to local informant and Hart family genealogist Stan Little, the Hart Farm home place referred to in the deed was that of J.F. and Nannie Hart.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION


Historic, Association, Architectural, and Information Potential Significance (Criteria A, B, C, and D)

The Jesse Franklin Hart House is recommended as not NRHP eligible under Criteria A or B, as it has no known connection with any significant historic events or notable persons. The house additionally is not believed to merit listing under Criterion C. While it retains its original form, trabeated entry, and two colored glass windows, it is vinyl sided, its front porch, windows, and exterior-end chimney have been replaced, and porches that flanked either side of its ell have been enclosed. As noted at the architectural context in the preceding section, numerous other similar houses with higher degrees of integrity survive in Pitt County. Finally, the house is not believed to merit NRHP eligibility under Criterion D, as it is unlikely to yield important information based on its appearance or construction.

JESSE FRANKLIN HART HOUSE		
Element of Integrity	Level of Integrity	Assessment
Location	High	Stands on location where it was built
Design	Low	Retains basic form, but greatly altered through addition of vinyl siding, modern porch, windows, and chimney, and enclosure of ell porches
Setting	Medium	Retains some outbuildings within a largely agricultural setting, but modern campus of Ayden Grifton High School stands immediately across Littlefield Road
Materials	Low	Retains frame, but materials removed or hidden through addition of vinyl

		siding, modern porch, windows, and chimney, and enclosure of ell porches
Workmanship	Low	Retains frame, but workmanship hidden by addition of vinyl siding, modern porch, windows, and chimney, and enclosure of ell porches
Feeling	Low/ medium	Low integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, medium integrity of setting, and high integrity of location give house low/medium integrity of feeling
Association	Low/ medium	Low integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, medium integrity of setting, and high integrity of location give house low/medium integrity of association

02. Claudius Jackson House

	Resource Name	Claudius Jackson House
	HPO Survey Site #	PT0136
	Location	159 W. Littlefield Road, Ayden vicinity
	Parcel No.	80686
	Date of Construction	ca. 1889
	Recommendation	Recommended not eligible for NRHP listing

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Claudius Jackson House

The one-story, single-pile, gable-end, frame Claudius Jackson House is clad in weatherboard siding and edged with simple wooden cornerboards (Figure 33 through Figure 35). Three bays wide, the north-facing front elevation holds an off-centered door and two windows. A 1987 survey by Scott Power notes that a second door once existed on the front elevation but was later filled in. A semi-detached rear kitchen ell was attached to the house by the enclosure of its breezeway, according to Power (1987a). Early-twentieth-century, single-pile, shed-roofed additions extend from both the eastern and western sides of the rear ell. The ell is partly covered in asphalt shingles that are peeling away from its original weatherboards. The building stands on a brick pier foundation, which was later filled in with brick. A three-bay, shed-roofed porch supported by four later-added, metal posts embraces the building's front elevation.

A centrally placed, interior, brick chimney rises from ridgeline of the house's side-gabled roof, which is topped with seamed metal. The chimney placement suggests a two-room interior plan. The roof has wide overhanging eaves and a flush returning friezeboard. Six-over-six double-hung windows remain at the building's original sections. The front door is modern. The rear-ell shed additions retain original two-over-two sash windows. An exterior concrete-block flue stack edges the east side of the rear ell.



Figure 33: Left, north front and east side elevations; right, front elevation



Figure 34: Left, west side elevation; right, east side and south rear elevations



Figure 35: Left, south rear elevation with Clinton Hart ranch house in distance; right, east side and north front elevations with packhouse/barn at far right and tobacco barn at center distance

Views to the building's interior, as seen through the front door, reveal slightly more decorative finishes than suggested by the building's exterior. The large central firebox is enclosed with flushboard and fronted by a carved wooden mantle. A molded chair rail runs the perimeter of the front room, and simple beaded baseboards edge both the wall's tops and bottoms. A classically styled entablature complete with a molded cornice and frieze with raised panel tops a doorway on the far wall, which leads to the enclosed breezeway (Figure 36). With the exception of deferred maintenance, the house appears little changed since it was surveyed in 1987.



Figure 36: View through front door of house into front room (looking to south)

Packhouse/Barn (Figure 37)

The early/mid-twentieth-century packhouse/barn stands to the west of the Claudius Jackson House and is oriented to the east. The central block of the building displays the typical packhouse design, with two doors centered on its primary elevation. A large, double-pile, shed-roof addition extends from the building's northern elevation. A smaller two-story shed-roof addition extends to the south. Both the main block and the two additions rest on continuous concrete-block foundations and are clad in metal sheathing (the bottom portion of the northern addition is faced in asbestos siding). The size of the building, and barn doors at the left, suggest it was used not only as a packhouse, but also for equipment storage and, perhaps, other agricultural activities. The large size of the fixed-window on the right (framed by the asbestos shingles) suggests that this lower portion of the building may have been utilized as a strip-house.



Figure 37: Packhouse/barn east elevation, at left, and east and north elevations, at right

Tobacco barns (Figure 38, left)

Located to the south of the packhouse are two tobacco barns. Both are clad in metal sheathing and retain their original form with first floor openings on their eastern elevations. File photos from 1987 depict a long, open, equipment shed connecting them. It is no longer extant.



Figure 38: Looking southwest at tobacco barns, at left, and outbuilding, at right

Outbuilding (Figure 38, right)

A small outbuilding stands behind (south of) the house. It is built of concrete block with a seam-metal gabled roof. A door opens in the north gable toward the house. File photos from 1987 depict another concrete-block outbuilding that stood between it and the house. The size of the packhouse, tobacco barns, and lost equipment shed suggest that the farm once included a number of additional outbuildings.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

William Claudius (or Claudious) Jackson (1849-1937) reportedly erected this house in 1889, after his second marriage, to Louise Sumrell (1844-1936) (Power 1987a). Claudius Jackson was born in Contentnea (now Ayden) Township. The federal census places him in his own household in the township in 1900 with Louise (or Louisa) and four children from his first marriage (United States Federal Census 1900).

Claudius and Louisa deeded their homeplace to Claudius' oldest son, David C. Jackson—reserving a life estate—in 1923 (Deed Book S-14/Page 347). In 1924 David (1878-1940) and his third wife, the former Mary E. Hart (1891-1983), transferred it to David's son, Clifton T. Jackson (1901-1966), preserving Claudius and Louisa's life estate. (Deed Book V-14/Page 247). Clifton and his wife, Mary, sold the property to Thaddeus Fernando Hart, Sr. (1888-1976) in 1931 (Deed Book A-19/Page 428). (Thad, as he was known, was the brother of Mary E. Hart Jackson.) As Claudius and Louisa Jackson lived into the mid-1930s, neither David C. nor Clifton T. Jackson occupied the property, but rather its occupancy jumped from the Jacksons to Thad Hart (Figure 39) and his wife, the former Lottie Sumrell.



Figure 39: Thaddeus Fernando “Thad” Hart, Sr., no date (source: <https://www.findagrave.com/>)

In 1961 Thad and Lottie transferred the property to son Thaddeus Fernando Hart, Jr. (1917-1967) and his wife, the former Bernie Dean (or Bernadine) Jackson (1916-2005) (Deed Book E-32/Page 128). The property’s final transfer occurred in 1964, when Bernie Dean and Thad Hart, Jr. deeded the house and one acre to son Clinton Ray Hart and wife, Jo Ann (Deed Book F-34/Page 85). According to Clinton Hart (2018), his parents lived and raised him in the Claudius Jackson House. He and his wife now live in a brick residence standing immediately northeast of his parents’ house, which according to Hart has stood empty for many years.


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION

Historic, Association, Architectural, and Information Potential Significance (Criteria A, B, C, and D)

The Claudius Jackson House is recommended as not NRHP eligible under Criteria A or B, as it has no known connection with any significant historic events or notable persons. It is also not believed to merit listing under Criterion C. It retains its original form in large part, as well as much of its weatherboard siding and sash. However, its porch and entry are altered, its former breezeway enclosed, asbestos covers some of its weatherboards, and later shed rooms extend off the sides of its ell. As noted at the architectural context in the preceding section, numerous other similar houses with higher degrees of integrity survive in Pitt County. Finally, the house is not believed to merit NRHP eligibility under Criterion D, as it is unlikely to yield important information based on its appearance or construction.

CLAUDIUS JACKSON HOUSE		
Element of Integrity	Level of Integrity	Assessment
Location	High	Stands on location where it was built
Design	Low/medium	Retains much of basic form, but altered through changes to front porch and entry, enclosure of breezeway, and addition of shed rooms and asbestos at ell
Setting	Medium	Retains some outbuildings within a largely agricultural setting now dotted with ranch houses and a large solar-panel farm across Littlefield Rd
Materials	Low/medium	Retains much of original weatherboarding and sash, but materials altered through changes to front porch and entry, enclosure of breezeway, and addition of shed rooms and asbestos at ell
Workmanship	Low/medium	Retains much of original weatherboarding and sash and some interior finish, but workmanship altered through changes to front porch and entry, enclosure of breezeway, and addition of shed rooms and asbestos at ell
Feeling	Medium	Low/medium integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, medium integrity of setting, and high integrity of location give house medium integrity of feeling
Association	Medium	Low/medium integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, medium integrity of setting, and high integrity of location give house medium integrity of association

03. Rountree-Smith House

	Resource Name	Rountree-Smith House
	HPO Survey Site #	LR0717
	Location	5779 NC 11, Grifton vicinity
	PIN	455800991144
	Date of Construction	1880s
	Recommendation	Recommended not eligible for NRHP listing

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Rountree-Smith House stands near the western edge of a 220-acre parcel of agricultural land approximately one-and-a-half miles southwest of Grifton. Bounded on its western edge by NC 11, the house and its numerous secondary structures stand less than 100 yards from the road in a lightly wooded clearing. Actively cultivated fields surround the group of buildings on their northern, southern, and western sides. A gravel drive runs to the south of the house and provides access to the property from NC 11. A second gravel drive located just to the north services a late-twentieth-century house, which sits on its own parcel of land formerly belonging to the Rountree-Smith House. Despite the construction of this newer house, the immediate area surrounding the Rountree-Smith House and its outbuildings remains rural in its feeling and appearance.¹

Numerous outbuildings, remnants of a thriving late-nineteenth and twentieth-century tobacco operation, are scattered about the Rountree-Smith parcel. While aerial imagery of the property reveals the farm once contained over two dozen outbuildings, only a small percentage remain extant and were accessible for evaluation at the time of the survey. (Some of the buildings are heavily overgrown.) These secondary structures include an early/mid-twentieth-century equipment shed, a chicken house, a tobacco barn, a brick smokehouse, and a barn; an early-twenty-first-century mausoleum; a 1950s house and garage; and a modern mobile home (Figure 40).

¹ Due to misinformation provided to the NC HPO, its online GIS map as of October 2018 identified the Rountree-Smith House and Farm as “gone by 2010.” This entry was obviously incorrect.



Figure 40: Site plan of Rountree-Smith House with north at top and NC 11 visible to west, at upper left

Rountree-Smith House (A)

The frame Rountree-Smith House is a two-story, L-plan residence (Figure 41). It was originally oriented to the north, but its west façade fronts on NC 11, the path of which postdates the farmstead. An original, single-story, formerly detached kitchen is attached to the building’s eastern gable end by an enclosed breezeway (Figure 42). Vinyl siding covers all sections of the house, although original weatherboards are visible underneath where the synthetic material has fallen away. Pedimented gables sit atop the house’s cross-gable roof, which is topped with standing-seam metal.



Figure 41: Left, south elevation; right, south and west elevations

Two interior brick chimneys centrally placed on the north-facing block’s ridgeline are topped with corbelled caps. Two more chimneys of the same style rise from the building’s roof, one from the center ridgeline of the south block and one from the center ridgeline of the kitchen ell (Figure 42).



Figure 42: Left, north elevation with porch fallen away; right, north elevation detail with kitchen ell to rear— windows at center of image mark location of once-open breezeway

A two-story porch wraps around the house’s west and south elevations, facing NC 11. A pedimented gable tops the porch where it meets the rear ell, as seen at Figure 43, left. The porch’s low sloped roof is supported by original turned wooden posts, which are connected by original turned balustrades (Figure 43). Vinyl replaces both the porch’s original unadorned cornice and flushboard ceiling. At the time of Robbie Jones’ 1993 survey of the house, a second porch, one-story tall, crossed the house’s north elevation. It fell sometime after 2016, according to aerial photographs (Figure 42, left). Many original two-over-two, double-hung, sash windows fill the house’s bays, enframed by replacement vinyl surrounds. A mid-twentieth-century paneled door centrally placed on the north elevation retains a single-light transom.

Since 1993, the house has deteriorated significantly as a result of deferred maintenance and accompanying decay. Jones noted that the interior of the building had undergone numerous remodels and that by 1993 retained only two original mantels and its original main stair with newel post and rail. Interior access at the time of the current survey was not possible due to the building’s heavy deterioration.



Figure 43: Left, west and south elevations; right, west and north elevations

Equipment Shed/Garage (B) (Figure 44 and , left)

According to Jones (1993), this linear, frame, shed-roofed building was built in the 1930s as a garage. Standing southeast of the house, it is clad in weatherboards and features multiple large bays on its northern elevation to allow for the storage of cars or farm equipment. An open, pole-supported structure, also used for equipment storage, was later appended to its southeast side.



Figure 44: Equipment shed/garage

Smith Mausoleum (C) (Figure 45)

The Smith Mausoleum, which stands to the south of the equipment shed/garage, is a six-drawer crypt built solidly of granite. It is unadorned save for the surname “Smith” engraved on a stone pediment crossing its front, which faces west toward NC 11. No inscriptions have been carved into, nor plaques placed upon, any of its drawers. A small, temporary, metal marker placed in the ground at its base by Farmer Funeral Service of Ayden identifies “Wilson H. Smith 1918-2000” as resting within. The date of Smith’s death and the singular marker suggests that he is the only individual interred in the mausoleum and that it was built at his behest. It was not in place in 1993.



Figure 45: Left, Smith Mausoleum west front elevation of Smith Mausoleum; right, south side elevation

1950s House (D) (Figure 46)

Jones identified this vacant, one-story, side-gabled, frame house as dating to the 1950s. The building is clad in vinyl and the two windows on its northern gable end are snap-in sash. The house is located to the south of the Rountree-Smith House and is heavily covered by vegetative matter making it difficult to discern any other architectural features.



Figure 46: Left, view of house looking to southeast; right, northern elevation

Garage (E) (Figure 47, left)

The frame, side-gabled garage sits to the east of the 1950s house and is likely its contemporary. The building is oriented to the east, clad in vinyl siding, and topped with metal sheathing.



Figure 47: Left, garage; right, chicken coop

Chicken House (F) (Figure 47, right)

The chicken house stands about 50 yards southeast of the Rountree-Smith House. The frame building has a shed roof clad with metal sheathing and displays exposed rafter tails. Two metal sliding-track doors are centered at its north front elevation. They are framed on either side by two eight-light fixed windows resting atop three raised wooden panels. The building appears to date from the early/mid-twentieth century.

Collapsed Outbuilding (G) (Figure 48, left)

At its height of agricultural success in the mid-twentieth century, the Rountree-Smith House was supported by well over two dozen secondary structures. In recent years many of these buildings have suffered from neglect and have collapsed as result. Figure 48 depicts one of the many collapsed buildings near the eastern bounds of the farm complex. Its original use could not be determined



Figure 48: Left, collapsed outbuilding; right, tobacco barn

Tobacco Barn (H) (Figure 48, right)

This early/mid-twentieth century tobacco barn stands at the eastern edge of the farm complex and displays the typical boxy tobacco-barn design. The building is of frame construction and clad in large horizontal boards. A side-gabled roof with metal sheathing tops it. A collapsed building or shed roof lays on the ground beneath vines adjacent to it.

Sheds (I) (Figure 49, left)

A grouping of mid-twentieth-century sheds (in various states of decay) stand in a line to the north of the tobacco barn. The front-gabled buildings are clad in metal sheathing and capped with metal roofs.



Figure 49: Left, sheds; right, shed

Shed (J) (Figure 49, right)

The side-gabled frame shed stands at the northern end of the row of former tobacco barns and sheds. It is clad in metal sheathing. Dating from the mid/late-twentieth century, the building stands atop a concrete block foundation and is topped by a metal roof that features exposed rafter tails.

Packhouse (K) (Figure 50, left)

This early-twentieth century packhouse is located less than 20 yards to the east of the Rountree-Smith House and is oriented to the north. The frame building is covered in metal sheathing and like the rest of the property's farm buildings, suffers significantly from deterioration.



Figure 50: Left, packhouse; right, smokehouse

Smokehouse (L) (Figure 50, right)

According to Jones (1993), the small brick building that stands to the direct north of the packhouse dates to the early-twentieth century and was historically utilized as a smokehouse. The walls of the building are brick and a seam-metal roof tops it. Jones noted this now greatly deteriorated building was one of the few brick smokehouses in the county. A carbide house that stood to its southwest in 1993, also a county rarity, is no longer extant.

Trailer (M) (Figure 51, left)

This late-twentieth-century mobile home sits to the northeast of the Rountree-Smith House and is oriented to west. A broken low-sloped roof tops the building, which appears to be clad in vinyl. A door is off-centered on the building's primary elevation and is flanked on either side by a set of fixed, three-light, paired windows. The building is uninhabited and heavily overgrown.

Barn (N) (Figure 51, right)

This early/mid-twentieth-century, frame barn stands west of the modern mobile home and north of the Rountree-Smith House. The front-gabled building is composed of a central two-story block flanked on either side by one-story, shed-roofed blocks. A large centrally placed bay is found on both the first

floor of the central block and the eastern shed roof block. Smaller doors are found on the second floor of each of the three blocks and two on the first floor of the western block, suggesting the barn's original use for hay and other crop storage. The building is clad in weatherboards and topped with metal sheathing. A late-twentieth-century, shed-roof addition clad in vinyl extends off the building's western end.



Figure 51: Left, modern trailer; right, barn

“Modern” House (O) (Figure 52)

This late-twentieth-century house, referred to as the “modern” house by Jones (1993), stands to the direct north of the Rountree-Smith House on a separate parcel, which historically belonged to the Rountree-Smith property. According to Lenoir County tax records, the frame, two-story, three-bay house was built in 1981.



Figure 52: Left, barn with modern house in background; right, view of modern house from NC 11

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

According to Jones (1993; see also Little 1998:352):

During the 1880s, Samuel H. Rountree (1825-?) had a dwelling [the current house] built on this farm in the Bethel community and moved his family there from Kinston....

The 400 acre farmstead features [in 1993] many outbuildings including a large hay barn, a packhouse w/ sheds, a brick smokehouse, a carbide house, a 1930s garage, a chicken coop, a stable, and various tobacco barns. The smokehouse—one of only a few documented brick smokehouses in the county—is constructed of two different color bricks in common bond. The carbide, or delco, house is a rare, surviving outbuilding in Lenoir County, where they were once common on early twentieth century farms.

It is thought that the Rountrees sold the farm around the turn of the twentieth century. During the Depression, the Smith family acquired the farm and has owned it since.

The loss of Lenoir County records makes it impossible to track the property's early history through deeds. Federal censuses provide some information about Samuel Rountree, though. He was born in Pitt County, but by 1850 had moved to Lenoir County, where he boarded, unmarried, with a family. The 1860 census places him in the Kinston district and the 1870, 1880, and 1900 censuses identify him as living in Kinston Township. His occupation in each census is farmer. He married the former Martha Ann Dunn (1829-1898) in 1850, after the taking of the census. Martha's obituary in 1898 noted she was survived by her husband and four children, S.H. Rountree, Jr., W.R. Rountree, Mrs. Wright Saunders, and Miss Mattie W. Rountree ((Kinston) *Daily Free Press* 1898). The obituary notes that she died at her home "about four miles from Kinston." As the Rountree House is located 10 miles northeast of the town, it appears that the Rountrees had already sold the farm prior to the end of the nineteenth century.

Findagrave.com includes additional information on Samuel Rountree's life and death. He died in 1906 at the age of 81 and is buried in Kinston's Maplewood Cemetery. The site quotes the September 13, 1906 issue of Greensboro's *Daily Industrial News*: "A telegram was received here this afternoon by John C. Drewry conveying news of the death of S.H. Rountree at Kinston. He was a prominent Mason and past Grand Junior Warden of the North Carolina Grand Lodge." A review of newspapers at newspapers.com depicts a well-established man who, along with farming, was a secretary of the Lenoir County Whig party in 1852 (*Weekly Raleigh Register and North Carolina Gazette*) and held many posts in the Masons and in Lenoir County government (see, for example, *Wilmington Post* 1868, and (Raleigh) *Observer* 1877).

The *Goldsboro Messenger* in 1878 noted that Rountree—along with more than 20 other men in six eastern North Carolina counties—availed themselves of a just-expired bankruptcy law. This apparently left him with sufficient funds to establish his considerable farmstead the following decade. It also did not prevent him from serving as the chairman of the Lenoir County Magistrates in 1889 (*Goldsboro Messenger*) or from having his death noted with other prominent masons in at least three North Carolina newspapers. The *Wilmington Messenger* (1907) noted, for example, that at the Grand Lodge of Masons meeting in Raleigh, Rountree was the "most noted North Carolina Mason" who had died in 1906.

Samuel H. Rountree's lofty status as a Lenoir County Mason is recorded in a remarkable entry in the history of the St. John's Lodge by physician C.L. Pridgen (1907:32, 34), a portion of which follows:

On Wednesday morning at 3:25 o'clock, September 12th, 1906, St. John's Lodge No. 4 and the Masonic world sustained a severe loss. Past Grand Junior Warden S. H. Rountree finished his earthly temple and submitted it to the Great Overseer's square. His life for fifty-four years was one of continuous service to Masonry. He was present at every meeting of the Grand Lodge and Blue Lodge and this history of old St. John's since 1852, is practically a history of his life. A living monument to his memory. As I sit here in the Lodge room compiling these notes I glance up at his portrait placed there on the wall and I remember his last words. He had finished the arrangement of his other affairs and only masonry troubled his mind. He hated to give that up. Finally he commended his soul to the God who gave it, the God of the masons and with a long, deep sigh he exclaimed: "I shall leave that with Dr. Pridgen and S. R. Dunn" and he passed into unconsciousness. The portrait seems to smile encouragement as I sit here alone and labor over these dusty records.... May the Supreme Architect of the Universe reward you in the Glorious Temple of the Grand Lodge above for your work in the Temple here below. St. Johns shall keep your memory ever bright before her and transmit your record faithfully with our teachings to her future sons. Again farewell! my brother and my friend, we leave you in the hands of Him who doeth all things well.

A photograph of Rountree—perhaps the portrait referred to by Pridgen—is included in the volume (Pridgen 1907:33) (Figure 53).

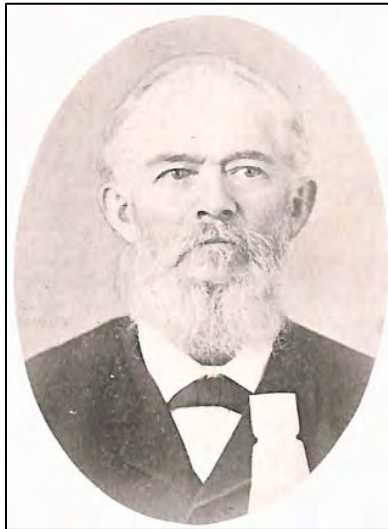


Figure 53: Samuel H. Rountree late in life (source: Pridgen 1907:33)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION

Historic, Association, Architectural, and Information Potential Significance (Criteria A, B, C, and D)

The Rountree-Smith House is recommended as not NRHP eligible under Criterion A, as it has no known connection with any significant historic events. It is also recommended as not eligible under Criterion B due to a lack of association with any notable persons. Samuel H. Rountree was a notable local figure, particularly in the realm of Lenoir County Masonry, but does not rise to the level required by Criterion B as a “person significant with our past.” The house is further not believed to merit listing under Criterion C. It retains its original form in large part, as well as much of its sash, four corbelled chimneys, and many original porch posts. However, it has lost its north porch entirely; its west-facing porch has lost almost all of its balustrades and its ceiling is vinyl sided; sash has been replaced; and it is completely clad in vinyl. In 1993 it was reported to retain little of its early interior finish. As noted at the architectural context in the preceding section, numerous other similar houses with higher degrees of integrity survive in Pitt County. Finally, the house is not believed to merit NRHP eligibility under Criterion D, as it is unlikely to yield important information based on its appearance or construction.

ROUNTREE-SMITH HOUSE		
Element of Integrity	Level of Integrity	Assessment
Location	High	Stands on location where it was built
Design	Medium	Retains much of basic form, but altered by loss of north porch, alterations to and loss of elements of west porch, loss of some original sash, and addition of vinyl siding
Setting	Medium	Retains some outbuildings within a largely agricultural setting, but many outbuildings have been lost; numerous ranch and later houses stand opposite it across NC 11
Materials	Medium	Retains some materials including some original sash and porch elements, but altered by loss of north porch, alterations to and loss of elements of west porch, loss of original sash, and covering with vinyl siding
Workmanship	Medium	Retains some workmanship including some original sash and turned porch elements, but altered by loss of north porch, alterations to and loss of elements of west porch, loss of original sash, and covering with vinyl siding
Feeling	Medium	Medium integrity of design, setting, materials, and workmanship, and high integrity of location, combine to give house medium integrity of feeling
Association	Medium	Medium integrity of design, setting, materials, and workmanship, and high integrity of location, combine to give house medium integrity of association

04. Robert Francis Hart House

	Resource Name	Robert Francis Hart House
	HPO Survey Site #	PT2738
	Location	7137 NC 11, Ayden vicinity
	Parcel No.	10499
	Date of Construction	ca. 1908
	Recommendation	Recommended not eligible for NRHP listing

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Robert Francis Hart House sits at the western edge of a rectangular, 35-acre lot approximately one mile south of downtown Ayden. The house is landlocked roughly 100 yards back from intersection of NC 11 and Old NC 11. According to Pitt County tax records, the land which stands between the house and the road (including the house’s gravel driveway) is no longer associated with the Hart House parcel, but rather has been divided into two separate parcels. The Hart House land is composed largely of active agricultural fields and woods, which span the parcel’s western end. Open fields bound the parcel to the north and east, and a single-family residential lot borders to the south. With the exception of a barn, which appears contemporary with the house, no supporting outbuildings survive.

Robert Francis Hart House

The Robert Francis Hart House is a one-and-a-half story, frame, Craftsman-style house likely built ca. 1908. It has a three-bay-wide, two-pile-deep, front block with an early long, one-story, rear-ell extending from its northeastern corner. The ell’s original shed-roof porch has been enclosed, and a small, one-pile, shed-roof addition extends from the ell’s south elevation. The latter addition appears to be early and may have originally been an open porch (Figure 54). The house is clad in weatherboards and edged with wooden cornerboards. It rests on a brick-piered foundation that was later filled in with concrete block.



Figure 54: Left, view of south side elevation; right, view of east rear elevation

A low-pitched, side-gabled roof capped with standing-seam-metal tops the house. Craftsman-style triangular knee braces and exposed rafter ends adorn the roof's overhanging eaves (Figure 55). Front-gabled dormers are centered on the building's front and rear elevations and are also ornamented with triangular knee braces. The front dormer additionally features a small balcony surrounded by a rail with turned balusters. A centrally placed replacement door provides access to the balcony and is flanked on either side by original two-over-one sash in disrepair. The rear dormer, as seen in Figure 54, is smaller in size and originally featured two window openings which have since been covered. Two stuccoed interior chimneys project from main block of the house—one on the western slope and one on the eastern slope. Both are centrally placed between the dormers and the roof's end on their respective sides. No evidence exists of a chimney on the building's rear-ell.



Figure 55: Left, west front and south side elevations; right, west front elevation

An engaged, recessed, front porch crosses the house's front (western) elevation. It is supported by four brick columns which are connected by a low brick balustrade (Figure 56, left). The ceiling of the porch is covered by flushboards. The building's primary entrance is centrally placed and flanked on either side by original three-over-one sash. This window type is found in all first floor bays of the house that have not been boarded up, with the exception of three six-over-six double-hung sash found on the eastern elevation of the house's rear shed-roof addition (Figure 56, right). Interior access was not available. The house has been sealed and vacant for a number of years.



Figure 56: Interior view of porch, looking north; right, view of southern elevation

Barn (Figure 57)

Located to the northeast of the house is a two-story, frame building clad in weatherboards and topped with a pyramidal roof. It is the house’s only surviving outbuilding. The building is oriented south toward the house and features a large, two-bay opening on the left side of its front elevation that once held farm equipment. Doorways filled with simple wood-batten doors are found on the southern and eastern elevations, and a door of the same style is centered on the second floor of the building’s primary elevation. This suggests an original use as a packhouse or for other crop storage, although this could not be confirmed as the building was not safe to access for further investigation.



Figure 57: Frame garage

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Robert Francis “Bob” Hart (Figure 58) received the approximately 35-acre parcel upon which his house continues to stand in 1897 from his father, Jesse Tedock (J.T.) Hart (1854-1923) and J.T.’s second wife, Pennie Garris Hart (1867-1947) (Deed Book S-8/Page 63). J.T. Hart was a prosperous farmer whose landholdings in the Ayden area encompassed about 600 acres. According to Stan Little (2018), he gave each of his children a “two-horse-” (or “two-mule-”) farm—a holding of about 35-to-45 acres—around the time they came of age or married. In 1897 Bob Hart (1883-1966) was only 16. In

all likelihood he did not build this house until 1907 or 1908, for he waited until 1907 to file the deed and married Nettie Jemima Beddard (1892-1984) the following year (North Carolina, Marriage Records, 1741-2011). (Nettie was only 17 when she married Bob; her father had to provide written consent for her to do so.) By 1910 Bob and Nettie lived on their own mortgage-free farm in Contentnea (now Ayden) Township, with their first-born, infant Eugene Francis Hart (United States Federal Census 1900).

In 1923 Bob Hart's father, J.T., died in an accident near Ayden, while driving his cattle along and across the tracks of the Atlantic Coast Line, which crossed his property. A train struck one of J.T.'s cows on the tracks, hurling her into and instantly killing him (Hodges and Little 1984). After this tragedy, Bob would have come into some money from the estate. The Craftsman-style features of the house may well have been added around this time.



Figure 58: Robert Francis "Bob" Hart, no date (source: <https://www.findagrave.com/>)

In 1963 Bob and Nettie deeded the 35-acre parcel, including the house, to Bob's youngest child, Lill Marcellus Hart (1919-2002), although they retained a life estate in the property (Deed Book R-33/Page 147). Lill died in 2002, but the house, which has stood vacant for years, continues to be owned by his wife, Dixie Sugg Hart (born 1925) (Little 2018).

The farm produced tobacco, as indicated by the 1963 deed, which refers to packhouses and tobacco barns on the property (Deed Book R-33/Page 147). Other crops were raised there as well. In 1941 (*Rocky Mount Telegram*) the farm was one of 15 in the county producing "certified sweet potatoes."

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION

Historic, Association, Architectural, and Information Potential Significance (Criteria A, B, C, and D)

The Robert Francis Hart House is recommended as not NRHP eligible under Criteria A or B, as it has no known connection with any significant historic events or notable persons. The house additionally is not believed to merit listing under Criterion C. It retains original or early fabric, including weatherboards, a brick-piered porch, four-over-one windows, dormers, and triangular kneebraces,

although its Craftsman-style features were probably appended to it in the 1920s. As noted at the architectural context in the preceding section, however, numerous other similar houses with higher degrees of integrity that are better representative of its form and Craftsman-style finish survive in Pitt County. Finally, the house is not believed to merit NRHP eligibility under Criterion D, as it is unlikely to yield important information based on its appearance or construction.

ROBERT FRANCIS HART HOUSE		
Element of Integrity	Level of Integrity	Assessment
Location	High	Stands on location where it was built
Design	Medium	Largely retains original form and cladding; Craftsman-style features likely added in the 1920s, supplanting original design at porch and eaves
Setting	Medium	Remains within a largely agricultural setting, but various modern enterprises stand nearby along the western side of NC 11, including a plastic fabrication plant, a Pepsi-Cola bottling plant, a power substation, a fresh catfish filet wholesaler, and a fabricator of wooden building trusses
Materials	Medium	Largely retains original form and cladding; Craftsman-style features likely added in the 1920s, supplanting original materials at porch and eaves
Workmanship	Medium	Largely retains original form and cladding; Craftsman-style features likely added in the 1920s, supplanting original workmanship at porch and eaves
Feeling	Medium	Medium integrity of design, setting, materials, and workmanship, and high integrity of location, combine to give house medium integrity of feeling
Association	Medium	Medium integrity of design, setting, materials, and workmanship, and high integrity of location, combine to give house medium integrity of association

05. Marion Edward Hart House



Resource Name	Marion Edward Hart House
HPO Survey Site #	PT2739
Location	7169 NC 11, Ayden vicinity
Parcel No.	43476
Date of Construction	ca.1905
Recommendation	Recommended not eligible for NRHP listing

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Marion Edward Hart House occupies a 5.76-acre agricultural parcel, approximately one mile south of Ayden. The property is bounded on its east by NC 11 and open fields on all other sides. The Hart House is placed near the center of the lot and is surrounded by a scattering of mature trees. An open grassy yard composes the eastern portion of the lot (the area in front of the house) and an actively cultivated field comprises the western (or rear) part of the lot. Several mid-twentieth-century outbuildings accompany the house. These include a barn, a shed, and a mid/late-twentieth-century secondary residence. The house and its associated buildings are oriented west toward NC 11 and are accessed by a gravel drive which runs to the north of the house, terminating at the outbuildings.

The central block of the Hart House stands one story tall, three bays wide, and one pile deep. The frame residence rests on a continuous brick foundation and features an original, rear, single-story kitchen ell, which has been attached to the building's northeastern corner through the enclosure of an original breezeway. The east rear and south elevations of the house are wrapped by a later-added shed-roofed porch. A façade gable rises at the rear elevation behind the porch, where the front block extends a room to the rear. A shed-roofed addition on the ell's south elevation was likely originally an open porch (Figure 59 and Figure 60).

Modern vinyl siding covers all of the building's elevations and its corners are edged with replacement vinyl cornerboards. The building's gabled roof is capped with metal sheathing. A simple, single-stack, brick chimney rises from the ridgeline of the rear ell where the appendage meets the center block. A second brick chimney of a similar simple design rises on the exterior of the enclosed breezeway's eastern side (Figure 59). All of the building's windows, doors, and surrounds are replacements.

A three-bay front porch supported by battered wood columns resting on brick piers crosses the house's west-facing front elevation. A pedimented gable sits atop the porch's low-sloped hipped-roof, which is clad in metal sheathing. The porch's original flushboard ceiling has been replaced with vinyl. It rests on a continuous brick foundation and is accessed by centrally placed cement stairs. A modern carport supported by metal poles, extends off the northern elevation of the kitchen ell. Interior access to the building was not granted by the homeowner.



Figure 59: Left, north side elevation; right, east rear and north side elevations



Figure 60: Left, east rear elevation; right, east rear and south side elevations



Figure 61: Left, west front elevation; right, north side and west front elevations

Barn (Figure 62, left)

The early-twentieth-century barn stands to the north of the house. It is clad in metal sheathing, but original weatherboards are visible where the metal has fallen away. The building is comprised of a two-story, front-gabled block with a two-story, shed-roofed block attached to its western side. Multiple openings are found on the building's front (southern) elevation and hold a variety of different

twentieth-century doors composed of differing materials. The barn once held farm equipment and likely also served as a packhouse.

Shed (Figure 62, right)

This side-gabled, frame shed is located to the house's northeast. The building is clad on all sides by standing-seam metal and displays numerous window and door openings, which are haphazard in their placement. The building likely dates from the mid/late-twentieth century. It may have been used by its current owners, the Stricklands (Little 2018), for the manufacture of the concrete lawn ornaments that and are still displayed on the property).



Figure 62: Left, barn; right, shed



Figure 63: West front and north side elevations of secondary residence

Secondary Residence (Figure 63)

The single-pile, side-gabled, frame building stands to the east of the Strickland House is composed of a two-story, main block with a single-story, rear ell attached to its eastern elevation. The building is clad in vinyl and displays an irregular fenestration pattern. A centrally located door is found on its (front)

western elevation, which is framed by a two-bay shed-roof porch. The building rests on a continuous brick foundation.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The origin story and development of the house built by Marion Edward (M.E.) Hart (1879-1975) largely mirrors that of the Robert Francis Hart House, which occupies the adjacent parcel to its north. This is not surprising, as the two men shared the same generous father. In 1904 J.T. Hart and his second wife, Pennie Garris Hart, deeded an approximately 35-acre parcel to M.E. (Figure 64), just as they had to Bob Hart (Deed Book Z-8/Page 4). M.E. (or Ed or Eddie, as he was also known) built this house on the parcel (Little 2018) either in 1904 or 1905, when he married Esther Eliza Cannon (1883-1984). The 1910 federal census places the two in Contentnea (now Ayden) Township with their two toddlers, Blanche and Durwood. They owned their farm outright with no outstanding mortgage (United States Federal Census 1910). M.E. and Esther likely added the house's Craftsman-style porch after J.T. Hart's death in 1923.



Figure 64: Marion Edward Hart, no date (source: <https://www.findagrave.com/>)

In 1984, Esther Hart deeded the property and its house to son Durwood G. Hart, and to Marie Hart Owens and Raymond C. Hart (Deed Book M-49/Page 602). They in turn sold it that same year to Charlie W. and Anne G. Lee (Deed Book X-53/Page 234). In 1986 the Lees sold the property to its current owners, Agnes N. and Marvin L. Strickland, Sr. (Deed Book 70/Page 766).

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION

Historic, Association, Architectural, and Information Potential Significance (Criteria A, B, C, and D)

The Marion Edward Hart House is recommended as not NRHP eligible under Criteria A or B, as it has no known connection with any significant historic events or notable persons. The house additionally is not believed to merit listing under Criterion C. It retains few if any original features other than its front block and kitchen ell form. Its surviving early features are limited to its Craftsman-style porch. Its windows, doors, surrounds, cladding, and carport are all much later additions. As noted at the architectural context in the preceding section, numerous other similar houses with higher degrees of integrity survive in Pitt County. Finally, the house is not believed to merit NRHP eligibility under Criterion D, as it is unlikely to yield important information based on its appearance or construction.

MARION EDWARD HART HOUSE		
Element of Integrity	Level of Integrity	Assessment
Location	High	Stands on location where it was built
Design	Low	Retains original form and early Craftsman-style porch, but much altered by addition of vinyl siding and replacement of windows, doors, and surrounds
Setting	Medium	Remains within a largely agricultural setting, but various modern enterprises stand nearby along the western side of NC 11, including a plastic fabrication plant, a Pepsi-Cola bottling plant, a power substation, a fresh catfish filet wholesaler, and a fabricator of wooden building trusses
Materials	Low	Retains original form and early Craftsman-style porch but materials much altered or hidden by addition of vinyl siding and replacement of windows, doors, and surrounds
Workmanship	Low	Retains original form and early Craftsman-style porch, but workmanship much altered or hidden by addition of vinyl siding and replacement of windows, doors, and surrounds
Feeling	Low/ medium	Low integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, medium integrity of setting, and high integrity of location give house low/medium integrity of feeling
Association	Low/ medium	Low integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, medium integrity of setting, and high integrity of location give house low/medium integrity of association

06. Martha Deal House

	Resource Name	Martha Deal House
	HPO Survey Site #	PT0135
	Location	192 W. Littlefield Road, Ayden vicinity
	Parcel No.	Small portion of 44335
	Date of Construction	ca. 1800-1850
	Recommendation	Recommended not eligible for NRHP listing

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The former Martha Deal House sits on the north side of NC 11, a short distance from the road's right-of-way. According to the earlier survey work of Scott Power (1987b) and research by Stan Little (2018), the Deal House was originally located further north on its current lot and was moved to its present location around 1920, when it was converted from a residence to an outbuilding. Sometime during the early twentieth century, a much larger outbuilding was built to the house's south and west, and connected by shed roofs that largely gave the two resources the appearance of a single building (Figure 65 through Figure 68). Today the former house stands at the southern edge of a 58-acre parcel and is part of a large collection of early/mid-twentieth century tobacco farm buildings, which appear to be no longer in use. The rear (northern) third of the parcel is composed of actively farmed fields, the center third of the parcel houses a solar panel farm, and the bottom (southern) third of the parcel is composed of the tobacco farm complex in addition to active fields.

The one-story, timber-frame Martha Deal House had an original hall-and-parlor plan with a sleeping loft. It is modest in its size and finish and in the proportions of its surviving framing members. The building was originally divided into two rooms, with an off-center partition wall along which was likely located the original loft stair (Figure 65). (No evidence of the stair survives; it disappeared when the partition was removed and a hole was cut in the ceiling where it stood.) The house features a side-gabled roof, with a shed addition on the north (Figure 66). Vertical metal sheathing and weatherboards cover the building's exterior elevations. The original chimney(s) and fireplace is absent and was likely not moved with the house, given the building's change in function and the difficulty of moving one.

The metal-clad, east-facing, gable end features a large metal sliding track door and a second door that enters the north shed addition. The long north side of the addition was not metal-clad, as it was shaded and protected by an open shed. This shed extension has fallen, revealing weatherboards (Figure 67, right, and Figure 68).

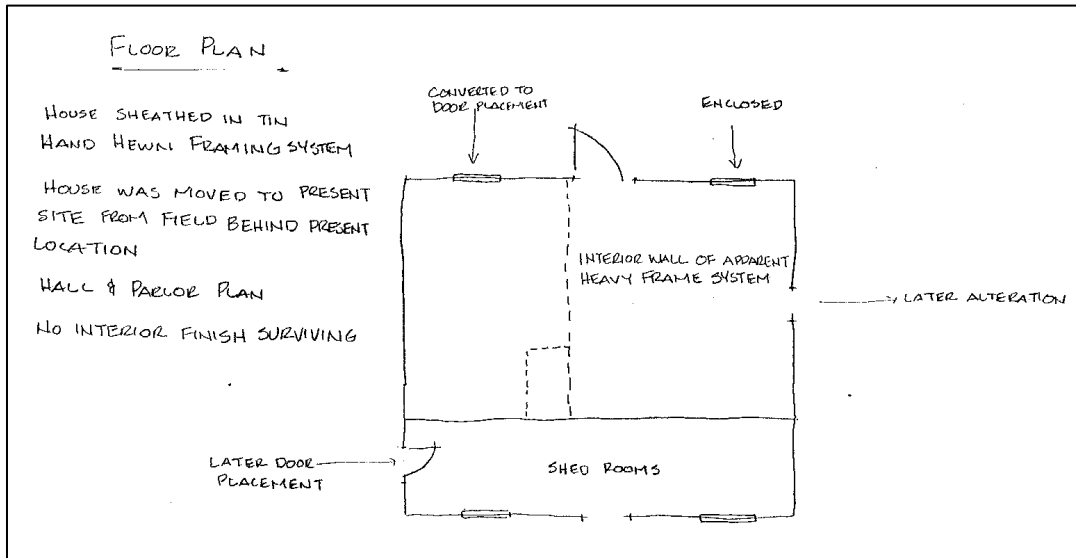


Figure 65: Floor plan of former house oriented with south at top (source: Power 1987b)

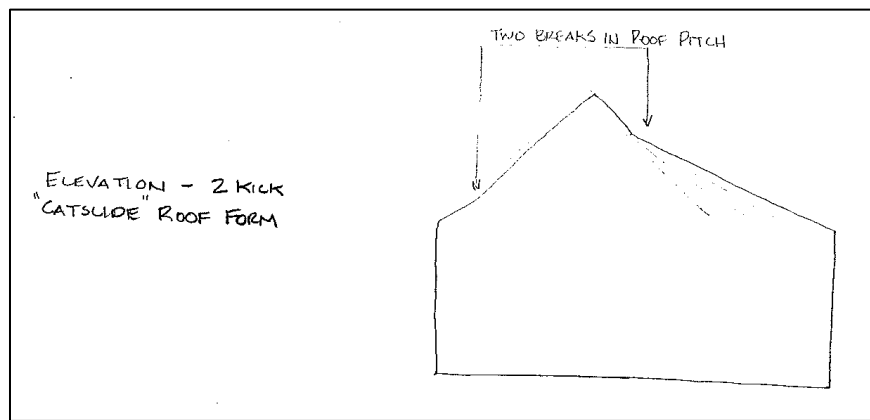


Figure 66: East-facing side elevation of house (source: Power 1987b)



Figure 67: Left, east elevation of house with outbuilding to which it was attached by shed roof at left; right, view of east and north elevations of house with outbuilding wrapping around two sides to rear



Figure 68: Left, east elevation with later sliding door and door to shed room; right, north elevation of shed

Encapsulated within the shed-roofed north addition is one of the house's original elevations. It has a centered vertical-batten wood door with a window to either side. (A turned porch pilaster still clings to the weatherboards to the door's south.) The windows have been removed and their bays weatherboarded over. The elevation's most notable feature is an original (or very early) wood-shingled roof. The house's entire shingled roof was encapsulated by a new roof added when it was moved. The exterior faces of the shingles are visible at this elevation where the new roof extends out over the shed addition (Figure 69).



Figure 69: Left, view of house's original eastern exterior wall (now enclosed by shed roof addition); right and bottom, view of original wood shingle roof (now covered by roof of addition)

The house's gabled south elevation has two bays. The eastern one holds a vertical-board, battened door that is not original. The window or door of the western bay is no longer extant; in its place is a foreshortened door. The west gable-end of the house is now supported by exterior rather than interior framing and was likely entirely rebuilt when the house was moved (Figure 70 and Figure 71).



Figure 70: Views of south elevation



Figure 71: Left, west exterior gable end, now enclosed by later barn addition; right, view of west side and south gable-end of barn that wraps around house, which is hidden from this vantage point

Given the low amount of interior finish remaining in the house, a clear view of the building's framing system is visible (Figure 72 and Figure 73). In his 1987 survey of the building Power described the house's exposed framing system:

The house has a large braced-frame, hewn structural system with pegged, mortise and tenon construction. The interior of the house appears to have never had any type of finish as evidenced by the unmarred exposed structural system. The framing system conforms to a common type of one-to-one construction where each horizontal and vertical timber correspond to the connecting timber to form rigidity in the system. The exposed ceiling joists project through the top plate to form nailing surface for a boxed cornice...

While essentially no interior finish remains, the house does retain its original wooden floor boards on the first floor, in addition to its sleeping loft. The original (or early) wood shingles are visible at the underside of the common rafter roof, which does not include a ridge pole.



Figure 72: Left, view of building’s interior framing with ghost mortises of original partition wall; right, view looking up into loft, with common rafters and undersides of shingles visible



Figure 73: Left, interior looking toward northern wall; right, interior looking toward eastern wall

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

According to Power (1987b) and Little (2018), this former dwelling is the Martha Deal house shown on the Koerner map of 1863. It likely also appears on the 1910 county soil map (Figure 74). Thad Hart moved the building south, from within his farm, to the side of Littlefield Road about 1920. There he converted it to an outbuilding, which it remains. Nothing else is known about the house’s history. The Deal or Dail family lived near Back Swamp in the nineteenth century. The section of Koerner’s map below, for example, depicts a Theo. Dail to the east, on the other side of Back Swamp. Genealogical and census searches, however, failed to provide information on Martha (or Theo) Deal or Dail.

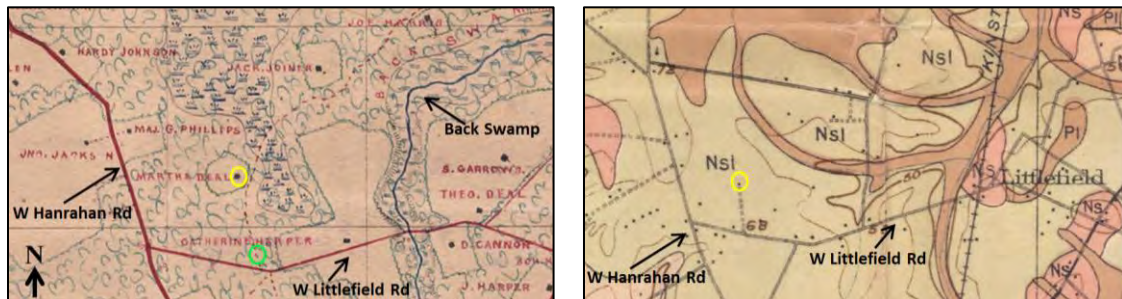


Figure 74: Left, 1863 Koerner map with yellow circle indicating original location of house and green circle the approximate current location; right, 1910 county soil map, with likely original location circled in yellow

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION

Historic, Association, Architectural, and Information Potential Significance (Criteria A, B, C, and D)

The Martha Deal House is recommended as not NRHP eligible under Criteria A or B, as it has no known connection with any significant historic events or notable persons. The house additionally is not believed to merit listing under Criterion C. It retains its original hall-parlor plan body, but has lost its doors, windows, partition wall, chimney, and even much of its cladding. As noted at the architectural context in the preceding section, other similar houses with higher degrees of integrity survive in Pitt County. Further, the house does not stand on its original site. Finally, the house is not believed to merit NRHP eligibility under Criterion D, as it is unlikely to yield important information based on its appearance or construction. (However, a careful study of its relatively light framing might provide information that—questions of NRHP integrity and eligibility aside—could aid our understanding of timber framing in eastern North Carolina during the first half of the nineteenth century.)

MARTHA DEAL HOUSE		
Element of Integrity	Level of Integrity	Assessment
Location	Low/medium	Does not stand on location where it was built, but moved a relatively short distance ca. 1920
Design	Low	Retains original hall-parlor plan body and original or early shingled roof, but heavily altered by loss of doors, windows, partition wall, chimney, and much of its cladding
Setting	Medium	Remains within largely agricultural setting, with scattered ranch houses in vicinity
Materials	Low	Retains original hall-parlor plan body and original or early shingled roof, but materials heavily altered by loss of doors, windows, partition wall, chimney, and much of its cladding
Workmanship	Low	Retains original hall-parlor plan body and original or early shingled roof, but workmanship heavily altered by loss of doors, windows, partition wall, chimney, and much of its cladding
Feeling	Low	Low integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, coupled with low/medium integrity of location and medium integrity of setting, give house low integrity of feeling
Association	Low	Low integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, coupled with low/medium integrity of location and medium integrity of setting, give house low integrity of association

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