



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

David L. S. Brook, Administrator

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Lisbeth C. Evans, Secretary

Division of Archives and History
Jeffrey J. Crow, Director

January 7, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: William D. Gilmore, Manager
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch
Division of Highways
Department of Transportation

FROM: David Brook *for David Brook*

SUBJECT: Replace Bridge No. 77 on SR 1105 (Sandpit Road) over Tributary of Deep Creek, B-4134, Halifax County, ER 02-8275

Thank you for your letter of November 26, 2001, transmitting the survey report by Vanessa Patrick for the above project.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the criterion cited:

James Alfred White Farm is eligible under Criteria A and C as a rural landscape with architectural features that resulted from and still reflect agricultural practice of the region as it evolved in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The proposed boundaries are appropriate.

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 919/733-4763. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above-referenced tracking number.

DB:kgc

cc: Mary Pope Furr

bc: Brown/Montgomery ✓
106

County

RF

Location

Mailing Address

Telephone/Fax

Administration	507 N. Blount St, Raleigh, NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh 27699-4617	(919) 733-4763 • 733-8653
Restoration	515 N. Blount St, Raleigh, NC	4613 Mail Service Center, Raleigh 27699-4613	(919) 733-6547 • 715-4801
Survey & Planning	515 N. Blount St, Raleigh, NC	4618 Mail Service Center, Raleigh 27699-4618	(919) 733-4763 • 715-4801

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES FINAL IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

Replace Bridge No. 77
on SR 1105 (Sandpit Road)
over Tributary of Deep Creek

HALIFAX COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

B-4134
STATE PROJECT No. 8.2301501
FEDERAL AID PROJECT No. BRZ-1105(8)



The
HISTORIC
ARCHITECTURE
Section

NCDOT
Historic Architecture
PDEA Branch
1548 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1548
CS # 51-31-00
T 919-733-7844
F 919-733-9794
www.dot.state.nc.us

Report Prepared By:
Vanessa E. Patrick
Architectural Historian

November 2001

T 919-733-7844 x296
F 919-733-9794
vepatrick@dot.state.nc.us

**HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES
FINAL IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION**

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HALIFAX COUNTY
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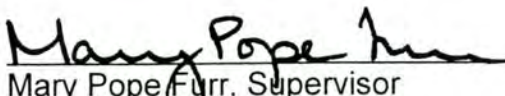
VANESSA E. PATRICK
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NOVEMBER 2001



Vanessa E. Patrick, Principal Investigator
Historic Architecture Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

11-26-01

Date



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

11/26/2001

Date

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Project Description

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 77 on SR 1105 (Sandpit Road) over a tributary of Deep Creek in Halifax County (Figure 1). The existing bridge, a 52-foot long timber structure built in 1948, has a sufficiency rating of 22.9 out of a possible 100. Plans call for a new bridge at approximately the same location and roadway elevation as the existing bridge. The new bridge will be 26 feet in width, composed of a 22-foot travel way with two-foot offsets on each side. The project length, encompassing the bridge (130 feet) and approach roadways (300 feet to the east and 300 feet to the west), is 730 feet. The right-of-way will be expanded to an 80-foot corridor and design speed increased to 60 m.p.h. Traffic will be maintained off-site on existing roads during construction. The project is both federally (Project No. BRZ-1105 (8)) and state (Project No. 8.2301501) funded.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for historic architectural resources was delineated by a NCDOT staff architectural historian and reviewed in the field on April 26, 2001 (Figure 2). It surrounds both the bridge site and its approaches to include those areas that may be affected either physically or visually by new construction. Land use in the vicinity of the proposed project is agricultural and single-family residential.

Purpose of Survey and Report

NCDOT conducted a survey and compiled this report in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the APE as part of the environmental studies performed by NCDOT for the proposed project B-4134, Replacement of Bridge No. 77, Halifax County, and documented by a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (PCE). This report is prepared as a technical addendum to the PCE and as part of the documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended, 16 U.S.C. Section 470f, requires Federal agencies to take into account the effect of their undertakings on properties included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. This report is on file at NCDOT and is available for review by the general public.

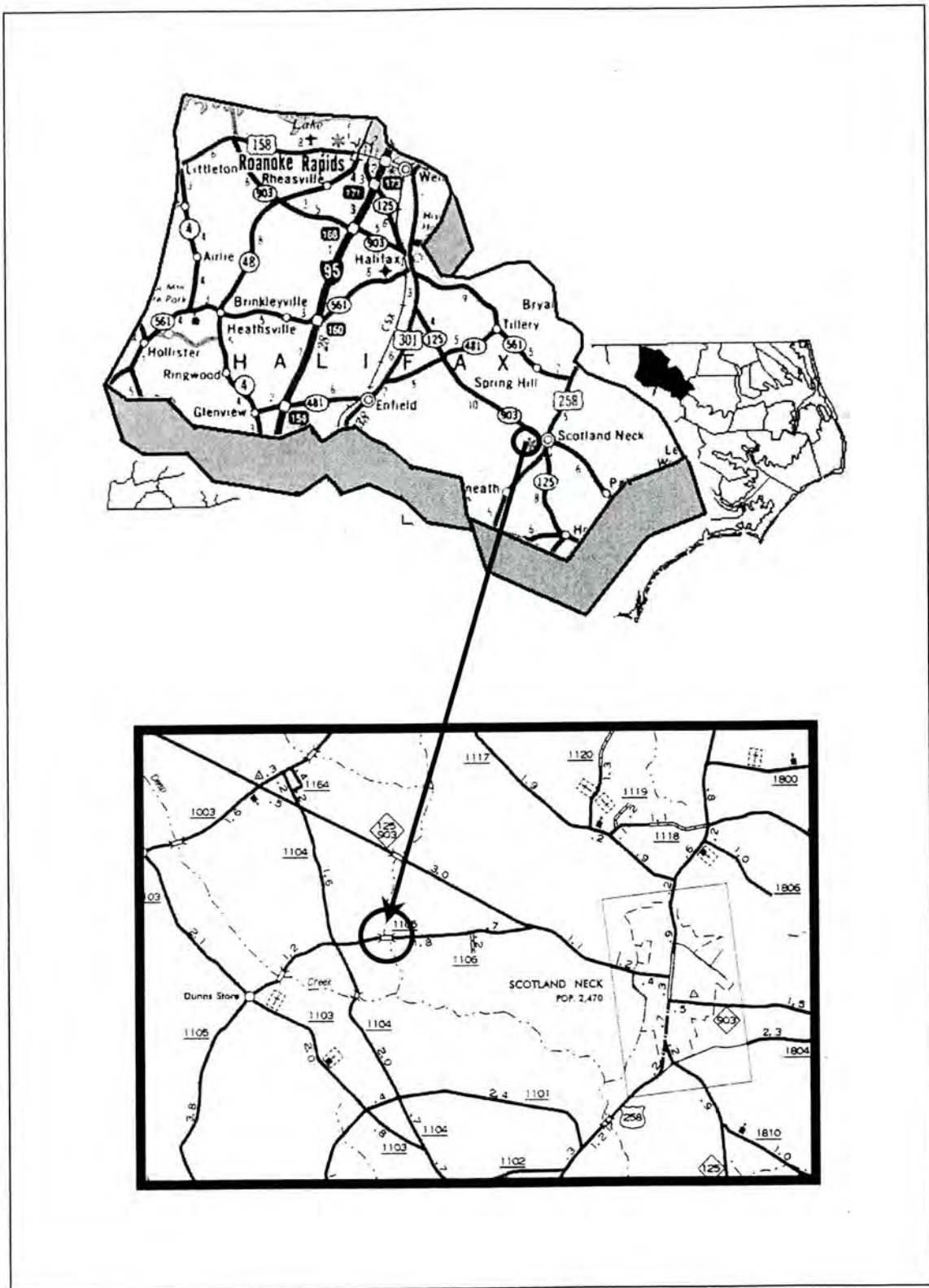
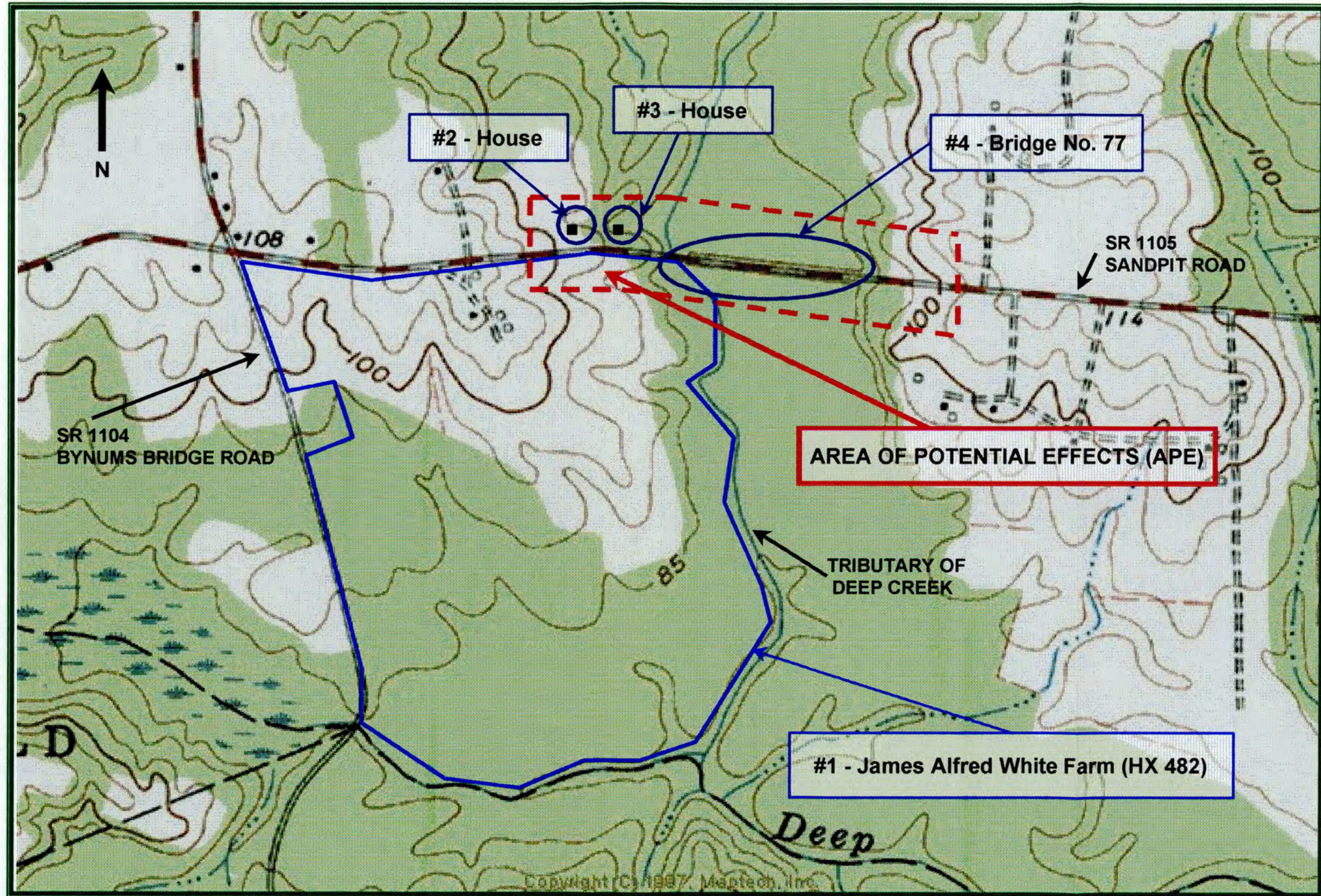


Figure 1. Project Location. Not to Scale



**Figure 2. Historic Architectural Resources B-4134, Replacement of Bridge No. 77
Scotland Neck (1962) 7.5' quadrangle - Not to Scale**

**Halifax County
May 2001**

Methodology

NCDOT conducted the survey and prepared this report in accordance with the provisions of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Technical Advisory T6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4 (f) Documents); the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 60; and Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines for Historic Architectural Resources by NCDOT. This survey and report meet the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service. In addition, this report conforms to the expanded requirements for architectural survey reports developed by NCDOT and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NCHPO) dated February 2, 1996.

An intensive survey was undertaken with the following goals: (1) to determine the APE, defined as the geographic area or areas within which a project may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist; (2) to identify and record all significant resources within the APE; and (3) to evaluate these resources according to the National Register of Historic Places criteria.

The APE, as illustrated in Figure 2, was delineated to allow for flexibility in the design of avoidance alternatives.

An NCDOT architectural historian conducted a field survey on April 26, 2001, covering 100% of the APE by automobile and on foot. All structures over fifty years of age in the APE were identified, evaluated, photographed, and recorded on the appropriate United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps (Figure 2).

An NCDOT architectural historian pursued preliminary documentary research to establish historical and architectural contexts for the project area, as well as the development of individual buildings and structures. The principal resources consulted included survey and National Register files at the NCHPO in Raleigh and public records at the Halifax County Courthouse in Halifax. Both primary and secondary sources held in the North Carolina State Library and Archives in Raleigh yielded additional information.

Summary Findings of the Survey

The project proposes to replace Bridge No. 77 on SR 1105 over a tributary of Deep Creek in Halifax County with a new structure. In a memorandum dated February 16, 2001, the project development engineer requested architectural analysis of the project area. No properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are located within the APE. Four properties were identified as greater than fifty years of age (Figure 2). Of the four, three were determined not eligible for the National Register and not worthy of further evaluation in a consultation meeting between the NCHPO and NCDOT held on May 17, 2001 (see Appendix). This report includes photographs and brief statements of their ineligibility. Additional investigation of the remaining property, the James Alfred White Farm, suggests that it should be considered eligible for the National Register and it is treated accordingly in this report. The property is represented in the NCHPO survey files as Halifax (HX) County site 482.

Criterion Consideration G, for properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years, states that properties less than fifty years of age may be listed on the National Register only if they are of exceptional importance or if they are integral parts of districts eligible for the National Register. There are no properties in the APE that qualify for the National Register under Criterion Consideration G.

Historic Architectural Resources in the APE

Properties Listed on the National Register:

None

Properties Listed on the North Carolina State Study List:

None

Properties Evaluated and Determined Not Eligible for the National Register:

Properties 2, 3, and 4

Properties Evaluated and Considered Eligible for the National Register:

Property 1 - the James Alfred White Farm (HX 482)

**PROPERTIES EVALUATED
AND
CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE
FOR THE
NATIONAL REGISTER
OF
HISTORIC PLACES**

James Alfred White Farm

Description. Identified as Property 1 in the NCDOT survey, the James Alfred White Farm is located approximately 3.4 miles west of the center of Scotland Neck in the southeast quadrant of the intersection formed by SR 1105 (Sandpit Road) and SR 1104 (Bynum's Bridge Road) (Figures 1 and 2). The farm occupies 192 acres dominated by cultivated fields and woodland. The property is bound on the south and east by Deep Creek and its tributary and on the north and west by the public roads (see especially Figures 8 and 9 for the site features noted in these pages).

At the northern end of the farm, near the mid-point of the SR 1105 boundary (about 1387 feet west of Bridge No. 77) and approximately 370 feet south of the road, stand the dwelling house and its attendant outbuildings. An unpaved drive leads into the property perpendicularly from SR 1105 and branches into an oval embracing the house and most of the large trees clustered nearby. The land rises steadily from SR 1105 to the house and reaches its height (at approximately 100 feet) just beyond the buildings. It descends in a more gradual manner to the south and east, reaching its lowest point (at approximately 80 feet) at Deep Creek and the tributary. The area immediately in front (north) of the house is an uncultivated swath of meadow grasses and wildflowers. Currently about one-third of the remaining land, from SR 1104 to the tributary and SR 1105 southward, is divided into fields served by access roads and drainage/irrigation ditches. A narrow strip of land along the tributary and a broader expanse to the south and west are wooded. Vestiges of ditches in the present woodlands suggest that all but the lowest areas nearest the creek and tributary have been under cultivation in the past.

Immediately behind the dwelling house and just south of the oval drive is a domestic workspace until recently defined by an east-west oriented row of wash house, smokehouse, cotton house, and woodshed.¹ The eastern branch of the oval drive opens into a large agricultural workspace and continues into the fields beyond. A framed, gable-roofed pack house with open, shed-roofed extensions to both long sides and built around 1940 is located adjacent to the drive and directly east of the house (Figure 3). Behind it and somewhat further east formerly stood a north-south row of mule barn, chicken house, generic shed, and two corn barns. Behind the erstwhile domestic row is a modern peanut drying shed. Near the peanut shed the drive turns sharply eastward, and along its south side were placed three bulk barns, now absent, and two circular, metal feed bins with conical roofs (Figures 3 and 5).

¹ The identities, locations, and a few relative construction dates for the outbuildings discussed in this paragraph are recorded in "James Alfred White Farm" (HX 482), Survey Files, NCHPO, Raleigh. The metal-clad woodshed still stands. Locations and survival are confirmed by recent field survey and the USGS aerial view, flown March 15, 1993, shown in Figure 8.

The James Alfred White house is a plain, two-story, single-pile, framed structure with a central-hall plan of traditional I-house form (Figures 3 and 5). The house was built during the last three decades of the nineteenth century, probably in the 1870s (see page 12). It is gable-roofed, has a boxed cornice, rests on a continuous brick foundation, and has one simply shouldered, exterior brick chimney centered in each gable end. The three-bay façade features a central entry with rectangular side-lights and a one-story, five-bay, hip-roofed porch. The slender, unornamented posts on square brick piers that support the porch roof and the doubling of the six-over-six sash windows are likely later modifications. A long, gable-roofed ell with an interior, ridge-set, brick flue stack was added to the western end of the rear (south) elevation in the 1930s. Two single-bay units, one shed-roofed and the other hipped with a small, exterior, brick flue stack, occupy the angle created by the ell and the original house. The house is sheathed in weatherboards and composition roofing and is painted white. It appears to be in good condition.



Figure 3. James Alfred White Farm (Property 1). Looking south from SR 1105 (Sandpit Road) towards farmstead. The pack house and feed bins are visible to the left (east) of the dwelling house. Photographed April 26, 2001.

History. In 1849 William White, a farmer in southeastern Halifax County, died intestate. William's heirs successfully petitioned for a public sale of his lands, and Alfred White (ca.1821-1891), one of his sons, emerged as the highest bidder in the 1851 proceedings.² Alfred White thus acquired the largest of his father's real estate purchases, a tract of 355 acres "situated on the waters of Deep Creek and on the Halifax road [the present NC 125/903]," as well as a smaller, related tract of 60 acres. These lands became increasingly central to the prosperity of Alfred White's family in both his and later generations. The property also helped define the physical and economic landscape of the area eventually known as "White's Crossroads," approximately four miles west of the town of Scotland Neck.

The agricultural richness of Halifax County, particularly in its eastern parts nearest the Roanoke River, became evident in the colonial era and continued to be demonstrated during the antebellum years.³ Plantations, always rare in North Carolina, had appeared early in the settlement of the region, and the successful introduction of short staple cotton cultivation in the first several decades of the nineteenth century perpetuated and encouraged their development. While the plantation contributed to the distinctive character of the Roanoke River valley, farms of varying sizes and ambitions provided a more representative expression of its economy and culture, as in the state as a whole. During the 1840s and 1850s the small family farms and large commercial undertakings all benefited significantly from improvements in transportation and agricultural method. The arrival of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad in Halifax County and of steam navigation on the Roanoke vastly expanded possibilities for marketing crops, provisioning farms, and communication in general. Informed application of fertilizers and the use of more effective plows and other implements were but two of the new techniques that increased the efficiency and yield of Halifax County farms. Alfred White acquired and shaped his holdings in this progressive climate.

Around the turn of the eighteenth century, many Halifax County residents had begun to distance themselves from the frequent flooding and inevitable malaria generated by the Roanoke River. In the section of the county known as Scotland Neck, roughly its southeasternmost quarter,

² Halifax County Deed Book 33, pp. 121 (January 4, 1851) and 360 (October 24, 1853). All public records cited subsequently may be assumed to originate in Halifax County, unless otherwise noted.

³ Observations about Halifax County and regional agriculture set forth in these pages are drawn from William Cicero Allen's *History of Halifax County* (1918), especially Chapters 3, 4, 21, and 29; *A New Geography of North Carolina* (1954) by Bill Sharpe, pp. 148-174; *North Carolina Through Four Centuries* (1989) by William S. Powell, pp. 308-310, 416-418, 422, and 496; "The Rural Architectural Heritage of Halifax County, North Carolina" (1989) by Henry V. Taves, pp. 12-14, 23-27, 40-50, 65-67, and 85-89; and Cornelius Oliver Cathey's *Agricultural Developments in North Carolina 1783-1860* (1956).

"inland" locations like the area around Deep Creek experienced intensified clearing, building, and cultivation.⁴ A framed dwelling house (HX 481) constructed around 1790 stood on the land that William White acquired some thirty years or so later.⁵ Testament to the early development of the Deep Creek area, it also indicates that both William and Alfred White continued a process of settlement started approximately half a century before their ownerships.

By 1860 the White farm ranked among the largest and most valuable holdings in Scotland Neck; it contained 1150 acres (of which 350 were improved) and was valued at \$9000.⁶ Compared with 34 nearby farms, Alfred White's property did not occupy the very top six or seven positions, but placed solidly within the uppermost quarter of the group for both improved acreage and cash value (see Figure 4). In 1860 Alfred White owned twelve slaves when approximately 70% of free North Carolinians owned none.⁷ Again he figured among the more prosperous, yet not in the ranks of those twelve Halifax County slave-owners whose workforces exceeded 100 individuals. Alfred White grew cotton -- 20 bales (@ 400 pounds) in 1859-60 -- the principle cash crop of the region. Like his neighbors, from the smallest farmer to the largest planter, he also produced a variety of foodstuffs -- Indian corn, peas and beans, Irish and sweet potatoes, butter, honey -- largely for home consumption. This diversification sustained the agricultural vitality of Halifax County through the difficult war years and beyond and made possible the continued existence of the White farm.

During the years immediately following the Civil War, Alfred White ceased to grow the quantities of crops, especially cotton, that had once been typical for his farm.⁸ Nevertheless, he modestly increased his acreage, planted his Indian corn, and also embarked on the cultivation of wheat, an unusual choice in the region. Alfred's energies, however, soon were diverted from farming by the commercial opportunities he perceived in the fledgling town of Scotland Neck, incorporated in 1867. By 1877 the list of Halifax County merchants in *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory*

⁴ Claiborne Thweatt Smith, *Smith of Scotland Neck - Planters on the Roanoke* (1976), p. 234.

⁵ "White House" (HX 481), Survey Files, NCHPO, Raleigh and Taves, p. 9.

William White purchased 361 acres on Deep Creek from Brinkley Bishop on November 16, 1829 (Deed Book 28, p. 145).

⁶ United States Bureau of the Census, Eighth Census 1860, Schedule 4 - Agriculture, North Carolina, Halifax County, p. 13. Subsequent references to crops grown in the county are drawn from this record.

⁷ United States Bureau of the Census, Eighth Census 1860, Slave Schedule, North Carolina, Halifax County, p. 38.

⁸ United States Bureau of the Census, Ninth Census 1870, Agriculture Schedule, North Carolina, Halifax County, p. 3. Greater attention to diversified farming and less reliance on staple crops, economic inflation, and the end of slave labor no doubt contributed to such changes. Cornelius O. Cathey, "The Impact of the Civil War on Agriculture in North Carolina" in *Studies in Southern History* (1957), pp. 97-110.

Figure 4
1860 Federal Census - Schedule 4, Agriculture. North Carolina
Halifax County, Eastern Division, Scotland Neck P.O., p. 13
Farms (including that of Alfred White) near Deep Creek
(N=35)

ACRES IMPROVED	# OF FARMS	% OF FARMS	CUM. # OF FARMS	CUM. % OF FARMS
0-99	12	34.3	12	34.3
100-199	12	34.3	24	68.6
200-299	2	5.7	26	74.3
300-399	5	14.3	31	88.6
400-499	2	5.7	33	94.3
500-599				
600-699				
700-799				
800-899	1	2.9	34	97.2
900-999				
1000+	1	2.9	35	100.1
TOTALS	35	100.1	35	100.1

VALUE (\$) OF FARM	# OF FARMS	% OF FARMS	CUM. # OF FARMS	CUM. % OF FARMS
0-999	4	11.4	4	11.4
1000-1999	4	11.4	8	22.8
2000-2999	5	14.3	13	37.1
3000-3999	6	17.1	19	54.2
4000-4999	3	8.6	22	62.8
5000-5999	2	5.7	24	68.5
6000-6999	2	5.7	26	74.2
7000-7999	1	2.9	27	77.1
8000-8999				
9000-9999	1	2.9	28	80.0
10000+	7	20.0	35	100.0
TOTALS	35	100.0	35	100.0

Alfred White owned 350 improved acres (and an additional 800 unimproved acres) at a total farm value of \$9000, placing him in the uppermost quarter of the sample (25.7% for improved acres and 22.9% for farm value).

included Alfred White, proprietor of a "bar" and general store in the new town.⁹ By 1880 Alfred, his wife Martha, and three of their youngest children had taken up permanent residence in the "village of Scotland Neck."¹⁰

Alfred and Martha's son, James Alfred White (ca. 1845-1903), assumed the management of the family farm and specifically developed that part of it closest to the current project area. The two-story, framed dwelling house (HX 482) standing near Bridge No. 77 dates to J. A. White's tenure (Figure 5). The structure is a basic, gable-roofed, center-hall-plan I-house with end chimneys like many built in Halifax County during the late nineteenth century.¹¹ While it lacks the central façade gable of the James Clanton house (HX 39) and the paired brackets of the Hackett-Johnston house (HX 125), its placement on a prominent rise and setback from the public road express its owner's identity and aspirations at least as eloquently as such ornamental features. J. A. White also may be responsible for moving the early dwelling (HX481) to a new location a quarter of a mile west of his new house to accommodate his tenants.¹²



Figure 5. James Alfred White House (Property 1). In both form and placement the dwelling exemplifies typical design choices made by the more prosperous farmers in the Halifax County region during the late nineteenth century. Photographed April 26, 2001.

⁹ *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory* (1877-8), p. 146. By the late 1800s the Scotland Neck newspaper *The Democrat* routinely included advertisements for White, Paull & Co., general merchants. Alfred White also served as a magistrate for Scotland Neck, as recorded in *Chataigne's North Carolina Directory and Gazetteer* (1883-4), p. 368.

¹⁰ United States Bureau of the Census, Tenth Census 1880, Schedule 1- Population, North Carolina, Halifax County, p. 39.

¹¹ Taves, p. 53 and Halifax County survey files, NCHPO, Raleigh.

¹² "White House" (HX 481), Survey Files, NCHPO, Raleigh. The building was demolished in January 1999. It stood at the northeast corner of the intersection of SR 1104 and SR 1105.

That the I-house was favored by farmers of better than average success is confirmed by the agricultural efforts of J. A. White. Of the 133 farms in Caledonia Township recorded in the agricultural schedule of the 1880 federal census, the White farm ranked among the top 29 (21.7%) in total value and top 25 (18.7%) in improved acreage (Figure 6 - A and B).¹³ J. A. White cultivated 100 of his 280 acres, producing not only Indian corn, peas, and sweet potatoes, but 17 bales of cotton, still a prime cash crop in the region. Like his father and only 14 of his neighbors, he also grew wheat. Agriculture in the later years of the nineteenth century was characterized by high production costs and a consequent dependence upon local credit. J. A. White did not escape these problems, as an 1883 advance of cash and supplies from his merchant father indicates.¹⁴ Unlike many farmers, White could and did offer land as security for his debt, land he ultimately inherited.¹⁵ By contrast, tenants, who cultivated approximately 60% of the farms in the county, had only their crops with which to pay their debts, crops they otherwise might have sold for profit.¹⁶ Though faced with very different economic circumstances, J. A. White succeeded his father as one of the prominent farmers in Scotland Neck and Halifax County.¹⁷

The socio-economic character of Halifax County during the closing decades of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century remained fundamentally agricultural, though it was somewhat tempered by new enterprise. Improved roads and rail lines -- a branch of the Wilmington and Weldon reached the growing town of Scotland Neck in 1882 -- expanded the markets for farm produce and also encouraged industrial investment. Textile mills and lumber processing operations appeared in Roanoke Rapids and Weldon, and also in Scotland Neck. Industrial and mercantile growth in the county, however, occurred not only in the towns, but also in the countryside, in small "crossroads communities."

Strategically located at the intersections of locally important roads, commercial sawmills, cotton gins and oil mills, as well as general stores, served the needs of farmers in the immediately surrounding areas. These crossroads communities derived their typically possessive names from a prominent individual or family in the vicinity, often from those who owned the commercial ventures. Such was White's Cross Roads. A map of

¹³ United States Bureau of the Census, Tenth Census 1880, Schedule 2 - Agriculture, North Carolina, Halifax County. As a comparison of Figures 4 and 6-A illustrates, average farm size in Halifax County decreased in the post-war era, a regional trend.

¹⁴ Deed Book 70A, pp. 292-293 (March 10, 1883).

¹⁵ Ibid. and Will Book 6, pp. 585-586 (July 22, 1890), will of Alfred White, probated March 11, 1891.

¹⁶ Taves, pp. 27 and 50; Sharpe, pp. 151-152.

¹⁷ J. A. White is identified as one of the "principal farmers" of Halifax County in *Branson's North Carolina Directory* (1884), p. 363 and *Chataigne's North Carolina State Directory and Gazetteer* (1883-4), p. 372.

Figure 6 -A
1880 Federal Census - Schedule 2, Agriculture. North Carolina
Halifax County, Caledonia Township
Farms (including that of James Alfred White)
(N-133)

ACRES IMPROVED	# OF FARMS	% OF FARMS	CUM. # OF FARMS	CUM % OF FARMS
0-9	2	1.5	2	1.5
10-19	16	12.0	18	13.5
20-29	29	21.8	47	35.3
30-39	18	13.5	65	48.8
40-49	17	12.8	82	61.6
50-59	7	5.3	89	66.9
60-69	5	3.8	94	70.7
70-79	7	5.3	101	76.0
80-89	3	2.3	104	78.3
90-99	4	3.0	108	81.3
100-149	14	10.5	122	91.8
150-199	3	2.3	125	94.1
200-249	1	0.7	126	94.8
250-299	1	0.7	127	95.5
300-399	3	2.3	130	97.8
400-499	0	0.0	130	97.8
500-599	1	0.7	131	98.5
600-699	1	0.7	132	99.2
700+	1	0.7	133	99.9
TOTALS	133	99.9	133	99.9

James Alfred White owned 100 improved acres (and an additional 180 uncultivated acres), placing him in the uppermost fifth/sixth (18.7%) of the sample.

Figure 6 -B
1880 Federal Census - Schedule 2, Agriculture. North Carolina
Halifax County, Caledonia Township
Farms (including that of James Alfred White)
(N=133)

VALUE OF FARM (\$)	# FARMS	% FARMS	CUM. # OF FARMS	CUM. % OF FARMS
0-99	4	3.0	4	3.0
100-199	32	24.1	36	27.1
200-299	11	8.3	47	35.4
300-399	10	7.6	57	43.0
400-499	4	3.0	61	46.0
500-599	7	5.3	68	51.3
600-699	2	1.5	70	52.8
700-799	5	3.7	75	56.5
800-899	9	6.8	84	63.3
900-999	0	0.0	84	63.3
1000-1999	20	15.0	104	78.3
2000-2999	8	6.0	112	84.3
3000-3999	12	9.0	124	93.3
4000-4999	1	0.7	125	94.0
5000-9999	7	5.3	132	99.3
10000+	1	0.7	133	100.0
TOTALS	133	100.0	133	100.0

**James Alfred White's farm was valued at \$2500,
placing him in the uppermost fifth (21.7%) of the sample.**

Halifax County published in 1914 reveals the community as a cluster of buildings near and including J. A. White's house, just west of the sixteen-foot-wide predecessor of Bridge No. 77 (Figure 7).¹⁸ Next to the house, occupied by James' widow Patience Eugenia (Gena) White since his death in 1903, is a cotton gin.¹⁹ Directly across the road is their son Charles F. White's sawmill. The remaining structures in the community include a handful of dwellings and two schoolhouses (at least one of which was built on land purchased from the Whites for the purpose).²⁰

The cotton gin and sawmill, the schools and many of the houses at White's Cross Roads no longer stand. Patience White's 190-acre dower parcel, however, remains essentially unchanged in size (Figure 8). Generally identified in the recent record as the "Jim A. White Home Place," the land continued to sustain the farming ventures of the White family in the twentieth century. In the outbuildings constructed to the south and east of the main house and in the surrounding fields one may read of the uninterrupted cultivation of traditional crops like corn and cotton, as well as the progressive adoption of tobacco and peanuts, the latter particularly significant in twentieth-century Halifax County.²¹ The addition of a kitchen ell to the main house during the 1930s and the later disappearance of wash house and smokehouse, mule barn and chicken house express the profound technological changes in domestic and farm life of the just concluded century.²²

Until recently the James Alfred White Farm contained one of the best surviving assemblages of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century outbuildings in Halifax County (Figure 9).²³ As at the larger, but contemporary Whitehead-Douglass Farm (HX 428), buildings devoted to specific purposes define distinct, functionally located areas of domestic and agricultural work, conforming to the organizational principles of the quintessential southern farmstead. Despite the loss of many outbuildings

¹⁸ "Map of the County of Halifax, North Carolina 1914-1915," Map Collection, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

¹⁹ No will appears to exist for James A. White. His widow petitioned for dower rights in his lands and was allotted the 190 acres "whereon is located the dwelling house and out houses of the late J.A. White," plus a small tract of about five acres on the opposite side of the road (SR 1105), "just opposite where the gin house now stands." Special Proceedings 8, pp. 23-24 (February 12, 1904). Ownership of the cotton gin is not specified on the 1914-1915 map of White's Cross Roads (Figure 7), but the structure clearly sits on the J.A. White land.

²⁰ Deed Book 70-A, p. 307 (February 21, 1883). The Halifax County Public School Commission purchased one acre from James A. and Gena White on "the Scotland Neck Road" (SR 1105).

²¹ "James Alfred White Farm" (HX 482), Survey Files, NCHPO, Raleigh. The sketch plan included in the file records a cotton house, pack house, peanut drying shed, two corn barns, and three bulk barns, as well as two feed bins and a generic shed on site in the late 1980s. Only the peanut shed, pack house, and feed bins stand today. Sharpe, p.152 and Taves, p. 49.

²² The sketch plan referenced in footnote 21 also notes the now absent domestic outbuildings and the construction date for the ell.

²³ Taves, pp. 59-60 and Halifax County survey files, NCHPO, Raleigh.

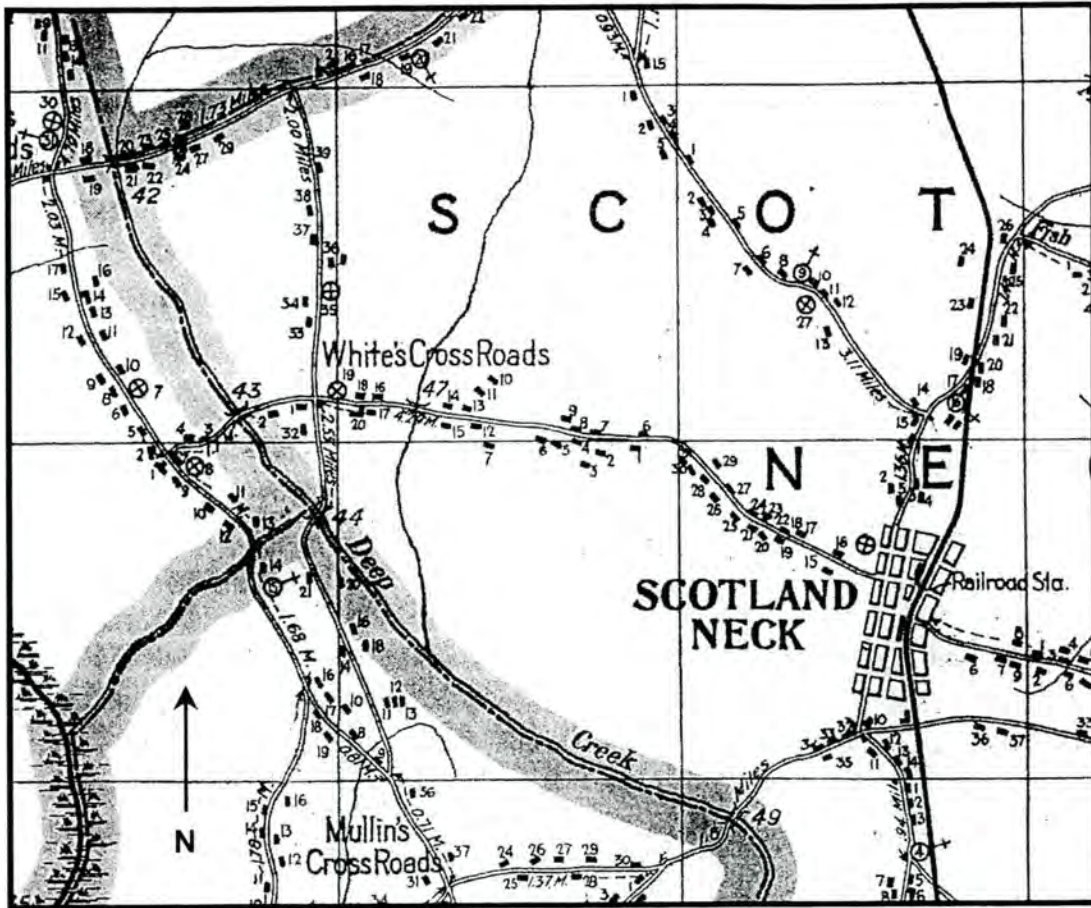


Figure 7. White's Cross Roads. Detail from "Map of the County of Halifax North Carolina 1914-1915," compiled for the Good Roads Commission, Board of Education and Board of Commissioners of Halifax County (New York and Chicago: Rand McNally, 1914). 1"=5000'. North Carolina State Archives.

Key to Structures: **16** - C.F. White sawmill, **17**- Mrs. P.E. White residence, **19** - "Scotland Neck No. 1 white" schoolhouse, **20** - cotton gin, **35** - "Scotland Neck No. 2 colored" schoolhouse, **47** - Deep Creek Bridge. All other buildings shown in the immediate vicinity of the crossroads are residences. Detail not to scale.

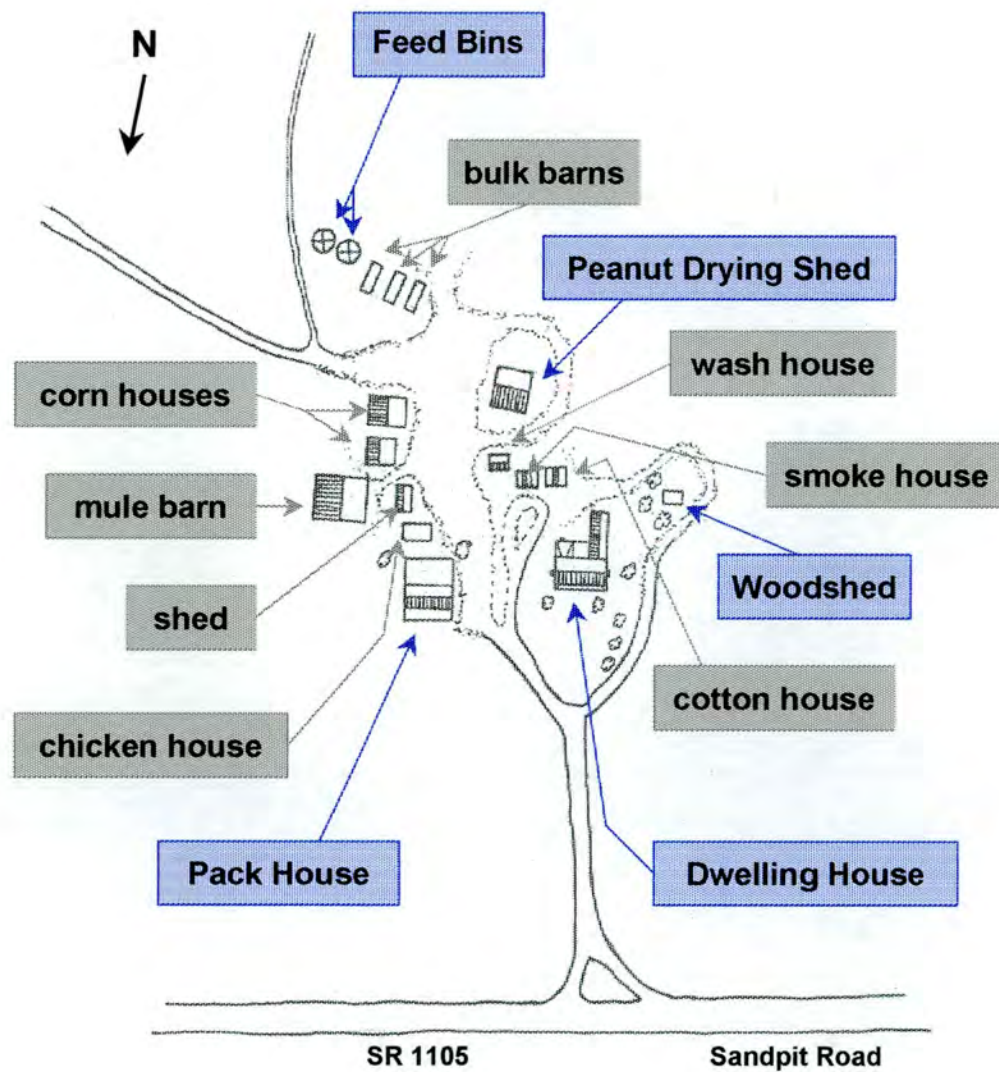


Figure 9. James Alfred White Farm - Site Plan of Farmstead.

Surviving buildings are indicated by blue text boxes. Paths and trees exist as shown. Based on a circa 1988 sketch included in Halifax County survey file, HX 482, NCHPO, Raleigh and USGS aerial photograph, 1993. Not to scale.

over the last eight years or so, the White property displays a number of other features that perfectly characterize the traditional southern farm.²⁴ The "hilltop" siting of the dwelling house and the relative placement of outbuildings and workyards, the facing of the house towards the main way of approach and its shading by trees, and the irregular arrangement of fields whose shapes are dictated by the topography of the site are all key elements shared throughout the region.

The James Alfred White Farm always has been occupied and managed by members of the White family.²⁵ It is currently owned by Frank H. and Lydia K. Moore. Mr. Moore is a great-great grandson of James Alfred and Patience Eugenia White and the seventh generation of his family to own the property. This continuity of ownership is matched by a continuity of landscape, patterns of fields, buildings, and boundaries set in place well over a century ago.

²⁴ The attributes of traditional southern farmsteads are well summarized in J.W. Joseph, "Building to Grow: Agrarian Adaptations to South Carolina's Historical Landscapes" in *Carolina's Historical Landscapes - Archaeological Perspectives* (1977), p. 51.

²⁵ Transfers of the property subsequent to the ownership of Patience E. White are recorded in: Special Proceedings 8, pp. 20-23 (February 12, 1904); Will Book 13, pp. 269-270 (February 8, 1944); Deed Book 610, pp. 193-194 (December 3, 1954); Deed Book 1546, pp. 14-16 (September 23, 1992); Deed Book 1622, pp. 242-245 (July 26, 1994); and Deed Book 1682, pp. 555-556 (August 14, 1996). See also United States Bureau of the Census, Thirteenth Census 1910 and Fourteenth Census 1920, Population Schedules, Halifax County, North Carolina, Scotland Neck Township, Sheet 2 and p. 7B respectively. Halifax County Tax Records 2001, Property 11-01509.

Evaluation. For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the James Alfred White Farm is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. As it contains a variety of elements reflecting historic land use -- including field patterns, buildings, vegetation, and natural features -- the property qualifies as a rural historic landscape.²⁶ Its large acreage and multiple, related features define it as a district. The White farm is eligible under Criteria A and C as significant both locally and regionally in the area of agriculture.

The James Alfred White Farm is **eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A (event)**. *To be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American pre-history or history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or the nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.*²⁷ Initially as a component of a small plantation and ultimately, for the greater part of its existence, as a prosperous farm, the White property has contributed unceasingly to the economic development and regional identity of the Scotland Neck area of Halifax County. The farm achieved local prominence for successful production of cotton and later tobacco and peanuts. With its associated rural services (cotton gin, sawmill), it defined and sustained the small agricultural community known as White's Cross Roads. The key architectural and landscape features of the farm resulted from and still reflect agricultural practice in the region as it evolved in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The James Alfred White Farm is **not eligible** for the National Register under **Criterion B (person)**. *For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e. individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.* While Alfred White achieved local distinction as a farmer,

²⁶ Linda Flint McClelland, et al. *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes* (1999), pp. 1-6.

²⁷ U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (1998), p. 12. All subsequent definitions of the criteria are drawn from this source.

merchant, and office-holder, his son James Alfred White is more directly associated with the property in its later and present configuration. J.A. White, though one of the more successful farmers in the Scotland Neck area, derived his identity chiefly from an association with his occupational group and does not therefore meet the provisions of Criterion B.

The James Alfred White Farm is **eligible** for the National Register under **Criterion C (design/construction)** for its rural landscape significance. *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.* A pattern of land use characteristic of the Halifax County region since at least the early nineteenth century is clearly evident in the White farm. The spatial organization of the property -- arrangement of fields, open areas, internal circulation routes and the placement of the farmstead and its component workyards and structures -- is typical of traditional southern farms. Not only functional concerns, but a responsiveness to the natural environment have shaped the site -- the planting of shade trees in the farmstead, adoption of creeks as property boundaries, and conforming of cultivated fields to the elevation and contour of the land. The dwelling house and outbuildings, while individually undistinguished, reflect a design vocabulary and construction technology firmly based in local needs and resources.

The James Alfred White Farm is **not eligible** for the National Register under **Criterion D (potential to yield information)**. *For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or pre-history, and 2) the information must be considered important.* The conventional siting, land-use patterning, and construction of the farm are not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of agricultural or building design and technology.

The James Alfred White Farm retains the qualities of location, design, and setting that constitute its historical identity. The organization of its component spaces, the placement of its buildings, and incorporation of topographical and other natural features were all attained during its earliest existence and have remained the key elements of a cohesive agricultural landscape. Surviving structures have experienced minimal modification, but the farm has lost most of its historic outbuildings and gained several new ones. The latter, while considered non-contributing features, are traditionally sited and illustrate the continuing use of the land. The majority of characteristics that have defined the property from its inception are present and essentially unchanged. Collectively they convey a sense of agricultural life in nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century

Halifax County. The White farm thus possesses sufficient integrity to be judged a notable representative of the Scotland Neck area, an "important social and architectural unit of the landscape during the zenith of the Roanoke Valley planter culture," and of the later perpetuation of the area's agricultural vitality.²⁸

Boundary. The National Register boundary for the James Alfred White Farm is determined by the present-day parcel containing the historic features that directly contribute to its significance. The use of existing legal boundaries is appropriate because they are consistent with the historical partition and ownership of the property, as well as its remaining integrity. The farm is bound by SR 1105 (Sandpit Road) at the north, a tributary of Deep Creek at the east, Deep Creek to the south and SR 1104 (Bynums Bridge Road) and the north, east and south boundaries of a smaller property at the west. The boundary is more precisely defined in Figure 7. The legal boundaries are recorded as current tax parcel number 11-01509, map held at the Halifax County Office of the Tax Supervisor. The farm contains 192 acres.

²⁸ Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina* (1996), p. 299.

**PROPERTIES EVALUATED
AND
DETERMINED NOT ELIGIBLE
FOR THE
NATIONAL REGISTER
OF
HISTORIC PLACES**



Figure 10. Property 2 - House. The property has been determined not eligible for the National Register because it is neither historically nor architecturally significant. Photographed April 26, 2001.



Figure 11. Property 3 - House. The property has been determined not eligible for the National Register because it is neither historically nor architecturally significant. Photographed April 26, 2001.



Figure 12 A and B. Property 4 - Bridge No. 77. In A (above) the bridge is viewed from SR 1105 (Sandpit Road) looking west towards the James Alfred White Farm. B (below) shows the south elevation of the bridge, again looking west. The property has been determined not eligible for the National Register because it is neither historically nor architecturally significant. Photographed April 26, 2001.



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APPENDIX

**CONCURRENCE FORM
FOR
PROPERTIES NOT ELIGIBLE
FOR THE
NATIONAL REGISTER
OF
HISTORIC PLACES**

Federal Aid # BRZ-1105(8) TIP # B-4134

County: HALIFAX

CONCURRENCE FORM FOR PROPERTIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Project Description: REPLACE BRIDGE NO. 77 WITH NEW STRUCTURE OVER TRIBUTARY OF DEEPCREEK (ON SR 1105)

On ^{MAY} 17, 2001, representatives of the

- North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO)
- Other

Reviewed the subject project at

- Scoping meeting
- Historic architectural resources photograph review session/consultation
- Other

All parties present agreed

- There are no properties over fifty years old within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are no properties less than fifty years old which are considered to meet Criteria Consideration G within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are properties over fifty years old within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE), but based on the historical information available and the photographs of each property, the property identified as (List Attached) is considered not eligible for the National Register and no further evaluation of it is necessary. # 2, 3, 4
- There are no National Register-listed or Study Listed properties within the project's area of potential effects.
- All properties greater than 50 years of age located in the APE have been considered at this consultation, and based upon the above concurrence, all compliance for historic architecture with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and GS 121-12(a) has been completed for this project.
- There are no historic properties affected by this project. (Attach any notes or documents as needed)

Signed:

Vanessa E. Patrick
Representative, NCDOT

5-17-01
Date

Richard C. Damm
FHWA, for the Division Administrator, or other Federal Agency

6/4/01
Date

Ann Swallow
Representative, HPO

5/17/01
Date

David Brook
State Historic Preservation Officer

5/17/01
Date