



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Peter B. Sandbeck, Administrator

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Lisbeth C. Evans, Secretary
Jeffrey J. Crow, Deputy Secretary

Office of Archives and History
Division of Historical Resources
David Brook, Director

January 4, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gregory Thorpe, Ph.D., Director
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Peter Sandbeck *for Peter Sandbeck*

SUBJECT: Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, NC 32 Connector From US 64 to the
Intersection of NC 32 and NC 94, R-3620, Washington County, ER 02-7257

Thank you for your letter of November 14, 2006, transmitting the survey report by Sarah Woodward David, for the above project.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places:

- WH 0003* • Rehoboth Methodist Church, south side of NC 94, 0.4 mile west of SR 1317.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following properties were previously determined eligible and remain eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

- WH 0457* • Farm, south side of NC 94, 0.3 mile east of junction with SR 1136.

- WH 0456* • Pritchard Farm, south side of NC 94, approximately 0.4 mile east of NC 32.

- WH 0455* • Washington County Prison Camp, north side of NC 94 approximately 2 miles east of Jones White Road.

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

	Location	Mailing Address	Telephone/Fax
ADMINISTRATION	507 N. Blount Street, Raleigh NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617	(919)733-4763/733-8653
RESTORATION	515 N. Blount Street, Raleigh NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617	(919)733-6547/715-4801
SURVEY & PLANNING	515 N. Blount Street, Raleigh, NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617	(919)733-6545/715-4801

- W40467 • William L. and Nancy Hopkins House, 2299 Holly Neck Road, west side of SR 1136, 0.2 mile north of SR 1139, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, architecture, as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of Reconstruction-era coastal plain cottages; the exterior is nearly unaltered, and the interior has reportedly undergone few changes. The house retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

We concur with the proposed historic boundary as described, justified, and delineated in the report. The proposed historic boundary includes the yard immediately surrounding the Hopkins House and excludes the nearby mobile home and outbuildings.

- W40466 • Albemarle Grill, northwest side of NC 32, 0.1 mile northeast of NC 94, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the areas of commerce, entertainment/recreation, and social history. The Grill is associated with changes in commerce in Washington County as a result of transportation improvements. It is associated with the entrance of women in the workforce through roadside businesses, and, as it was once a dance hall, it is associated with the history of entertainment in Washington County.

The Grill is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for architecture, as probably the largest and most notable historic commercial building in rural Washington County. Furthermore, it is one of a few rural commercial buildings in the county that expresses an architectural style.

The Grill retains good integrity of workmanship, design, materials, setting, and location. It appears that the asbestos shingle siding was original to the building. We concur with the proposed National Register boundary as described, justified, and illustrated in the report.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following properties are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

- W40468 Holly Neck Church of Christ
- W40469 Scuppernong Tower

And the properties listed in Appendix D of the report.

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, ext. 246. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr

bc: Brown/McBride
County

Power



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

November 14, 2006

Mr. Peter B. Sandbeck
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4617

ER 02-7257

Sarah - see LTR
12/14/06
SDM

Dear Mr. Sandbeck:

RE: TIP No. R-3620, NC Highway 32 Connector, Washington County, North Carolina ^{due 12/8/06}

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project. Please find attached two copies of the Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, which meets the guidelines for survey procedures for NCDOT and the National Park Service.

This report evaluates the William and Nancy Hopkins House, Holly Neck Church of Christ, Albemarle Grill, the Forest Service's Scuppernong Tower and the area comprising the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The report also evaluates Rehoboth Methodist Church, which was listed in the National Register in 1976, and the following properties that were determined eligible for the National Register in 1997: an unnamed farm, the Pritchard Farm, and the Washington County Prison Camp.

Please review the attached survey report and provide us with your comments. If you have any questions concerning the accompanying information, please contact me at 715-1361.

Sincerely,

Sarah Woodard David
Historic Architecture

RECEIVED

NOV 16 2006

Attachment

cc (w/attachment): John F. Sullivan, Federal Highway Administration
Scott Gentry, Project Engineer, PDEA

MAILING ADDRESS:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF HUMAN ENVIRONMENT
1583 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH NC 27699-1583

TELEPHONE: 919-715-1500
FAX: 919-715-1522
WEBSITE: WWW.NCDOT.ORG

LOCATION:
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2728 CAPITAL BOULEVARD, SUITE 168
RALEIGH, NC 27604

Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report

Proposed NC 32 Connector
From US 64 to the Intersection of NC 32 and NC 94
Washington County, North Carolina

TIP No. R-3620
WBS No. 34548.1.1



Sarah Woodard David
Architectural Historian
North Carolina Department of Transportation

November 2006

Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report

Proposed NC 32 Connector
From US 64 to the Intersection of NC 32 and NC 94
Washington County, North Carolina

TIP No. R-3620
WBS No. 34548.1.1

Sarah Woodard David
Architectural Historian
North Carolina Department of Transportation

November 2006



Principal Investigator
Historic Architecture Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

November 13, 2006

date



Supervisor
Historic Architecture Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

11/13/2006

date

Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to create a connector linking NC Highway 32 from its intersection with NC Highway 94 to US Highway 64. Four alternatives are under consideration: Alternatives 1 and 6 connect the intersection of NC 32 and NC 94 to US 64 via new location; Alternatives 2 and 5 propose improvements primarily along existing facilities. Proposed cross sections for all alternatives are two twelve-foot lanes with eight-foot grassed shoulders. Proposed right-of-way for all alternatives is 80 feet. Improvements include widening SR 1139 from its existing 20-foot width to 24 feet and widening SR 1136 from its existing 18-foot width to 24 feet. This project has state funding (WBS Project No. 34548.1.1) and federal funding (Federal Aid No. STP-000S(252)).

The purpose and need of this undertaking is to alleviate the increasing daily volume of traffic on NC Highway 32 and to provide an upgraded, direct roadway connection from NC 32 to US Highway 64.

NCDOT initiated this project in 2000. On December 3, 2002, NCDOT and the State Historic Preservation Office (NC HPO) reviewed an architectural survey of the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). All parties agreed that all properties greater than fifty years of age located in the APE were considered and that compliance for historic architecture with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and GS 121-12(a) was complete for the project.

Since that time, NCDOT engineers developed additional alternatives and submitted four alternatives (Alternatives 1, 2, 5, and 6) for detailed environmental study. Accordingly, NCDOT historians created an APE encompassing all four alternatives. The APE includes part of the APE evaluated in 1994, 1996, and 1997 during the environmental review for TIP No. R-2548. On August 15, 2006, NC DOT historians surveyed the entire APE in a vehicle and on foot. Every property in the APE greater than fifty years of age was photographed and documented. On August 30, 2006, historians submitted the survey results to NC HPO. At that meeting, NC HPO representatives Renee Gledhill-Earley and Sarah McBride requested a survey report to study and evaluate four properties: Holly Neck Church of Christ, the William L. and Nancy Hopkins House, the Albemarle Grill, and the Washington County Scuppernon Fire Tower.

This report recommends that the William L. and Nancy Hopkins House and the Albemarle Grill are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Three other properties (a farm, the Pritchard Farm, and the Washington County Prison Camp) in the APE were determined eligible in 1997 and a fourth (Rehoboth Methodist Church) is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Project Description

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes creating a connector linking NC Highway 32 from its intersection with NC Highway 94 to US Highway 64. Four alternatives (see Figure 2) are under consideration: Alternatives 1 and 6 connect the intersection of NC 32 and NC 94 to US 64 via new location; Alternatives 2 and 5 propose improvements primarily along existing facilities. Proposed cross sections for all alternatives are two twelve-foot lanes with eight-foot grassed shoulders. Proposed right-of-way for all alternatives is 80 feet. Improvements include widening SR 1139 from its existing 20-foot width to 24 feet and widening SR 1136 from its existing 18-foot width to 24 feet. This project has state funding (WBS Project No. 34548.1.1) and federal funding (Federal Aid No. STP-000S(252)).

Purpose of Survey and Report

The purpose and need of this undertaking is to alleviate the increasing daily volume of traffic on NC Highway 32 and to provide an upgraded, direct roadway connection from NC 32 to US Highway 64.

NCDOT conducted a survey and compiled this report in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE) as part of the environmental studies performed by NCDOT and documented by an Environmental Assessment (EA). This report is prepared as a technical appendix to the EA and as part of the documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Section 106 of the NHPA requires that if a federally funded, licensed, or permitted project has an effect on a property listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given an opportunity to comment. This report is on file at NCDOT and is available for review by the public.

Methodology

NCDOT conducted the survey and prepared this report in accordance with the provisions of FHWA Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (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 800; 36 CFR Part 60; and Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines for Historic Architectural Resources by NCDOT. This survey and report meet NCDOT and the National Park Service guidelines.

NCDOT conducted a Final Identification and Evaluation survey 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 all significant resources within the APE; and 3) to evaluate these resources according to the National Register of Historic Places criteria. The APE boundary is shown in Figures 1 and 2.

NCDOT initiated this project in 2000. On December 3, 2002, NCDOT and the State Historic Preservation Office (NC HPO) reviewed an architectural survey of the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). All parties agreed that all properties greater than fifty years of age located in the APE were considered and that compliance for historic architecture with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and GS 121-12(a) was complete for the project.

Since that time, NCDOT engineers developed additional alternatives and submitted four alternatives (Alternatives 1, 2, 5, and 6) for detailed environmental study. Accordingly, NCDOT historians created an APE encompassing all four alternatives. The APE includes part of the APE evaluated in 1994, 1996, and 1997 during the environmental review for TIP No. R-2548. On August 15, 2006, NC DOT historians surveyed the entire APE by vehicle and on foot. Historians photographed and documented every property in the APE greater than fifty years of age. On August 30, 2006, historians submitted the survey results to NC HPO. At that meeting, NC HPO representatives Renee Gledhill-Earley and Sarah McBride requested a survey report to study and evaluate four properties: Holly Neck Church of Christ, the William L. and Nancy Hopkins House, Albemarle Grill, and the Scuppernon Fire Tower.

Background research was conducted at the following archival repositories: the State Library of North Carolina and the North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina; the Washington County Tax Office and Register of Deeds, Plymouth, North Carolina; and the North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Individuals who contributed guidance and helpful information include local historian Betsy Modlin, local residents Fred B. Davenport, Jimmy Goodman, and James Phelps, and North Carolina Forest Service's Washington County Ranger, Jimmy Davenport.

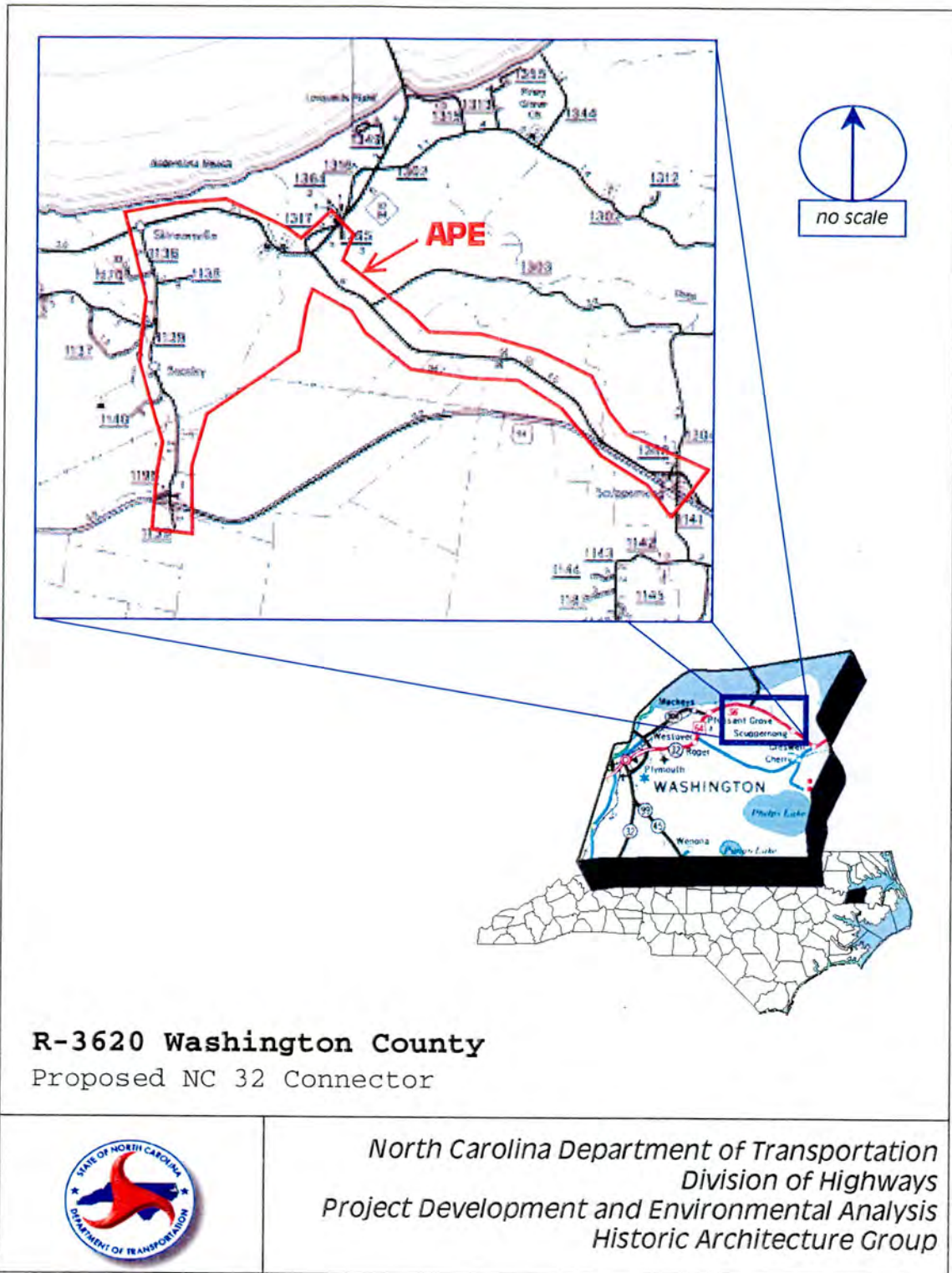


Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map and Area of Potential Effects

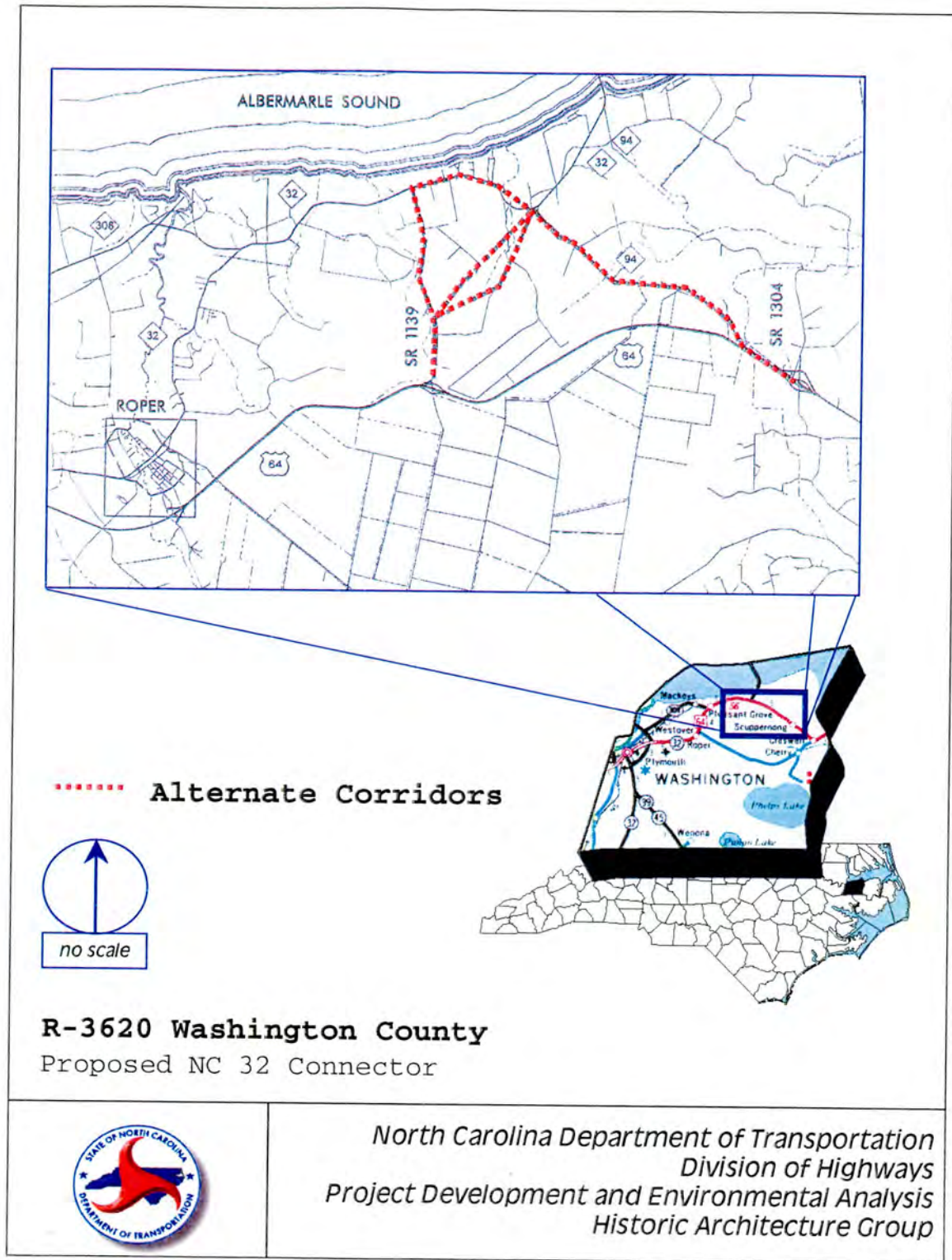


Figure 2: Alternate Corridors

Evaluated and determined not eligible in 1997

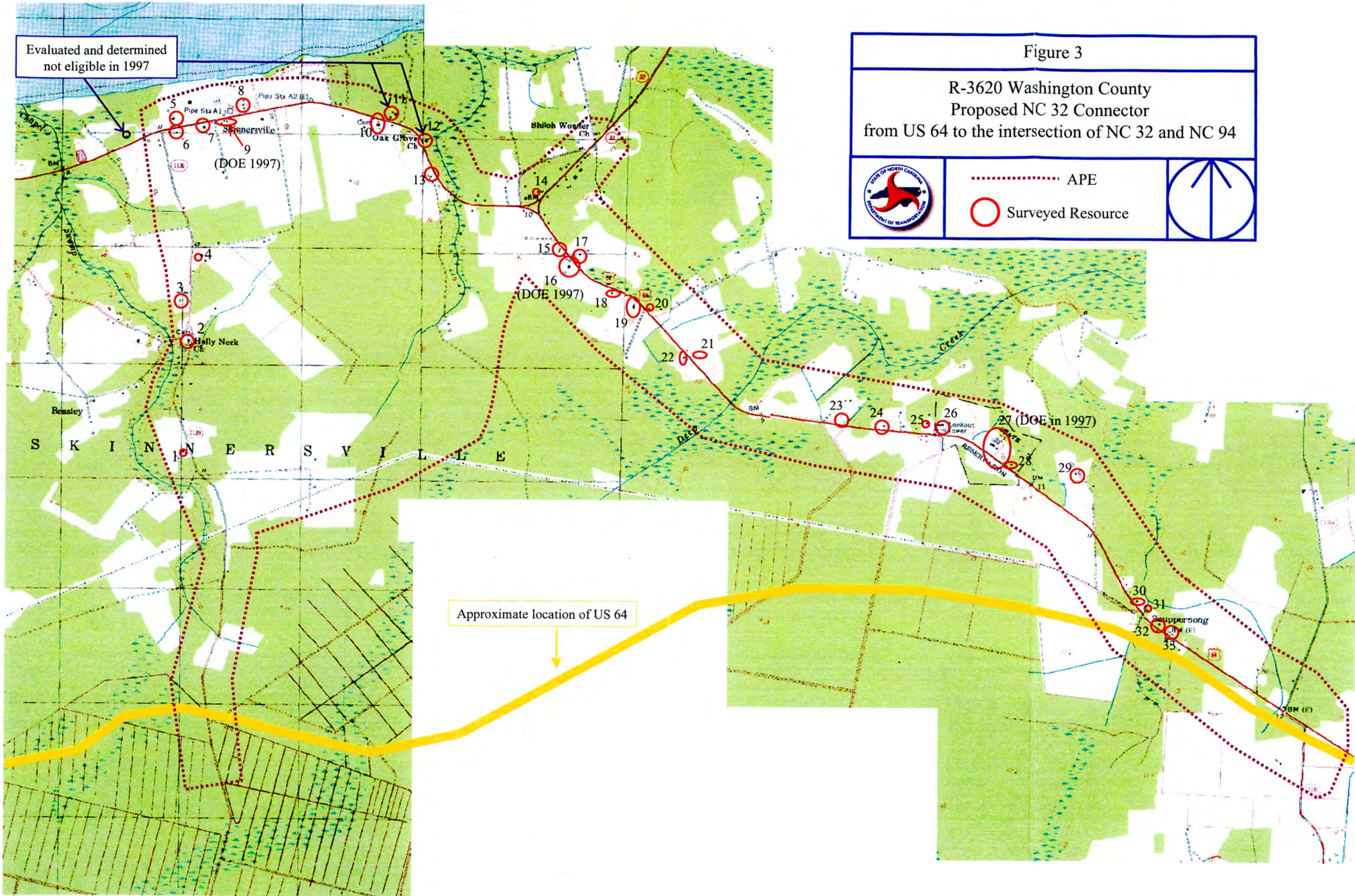
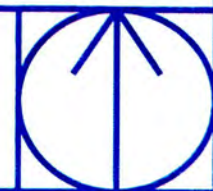


Figure 3

R-3620 Washington County
Proposed NC 32 Connector
from US 64 to the intersection of NC 32 and NC 94



..... APE
○ Surveyed Resource



Approximate location of US 64

Summary of Survey Findings

Properties Determined Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (DOE)

Farm (DOE 1997, property # 9 on Figure 3)

Pritchard Farm (DOE 1997, property # 16 on Figure 3)

Washington County Prison Camp (DOE 1997, property #27 on Figure 3)

Properties Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

Rehoboth Methodist Church (NR 1976, property # 10 on Figure 3)

Properties Listed on the North Carolina State Study List

None

Locally Designated Properties

None

Properties Evaluated and Recommended Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

William L. and Nancy Hopkins House (property # 3 on Figure 3)

Albemarle Grill (property #14 on Figure 3)

Properties Evaluated and Recommended not Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

Holly Neck Church of Christ (property #2 on Figure 3)

Scuppernong Tower (property #26 on Figure 3)

Location and Description

R-3620's project area, located in northern Washington County just east of Roper, varies in length from 3.9 to 5.7 miles. The area is rural and the terrain is flat. Timberland, swamps and wetlands, one named creek (Deep Creek), and a few cultivated fields comprise the APE. The northernmost edge of the APE skirts the southern shore of Albemarle Sound. Although regions bordering North Carolina's sounds and tidal creeks and rivers are experiencing rapid development, the APE remains rural, populated by small farms, tenant houses, larger turn-of-the-twentieth-century I-houses, churches, and cross-road stores. Skinnersville and Scuppernong are marked on topographic maps and are situated within the APE, but building density at those locations is no greater than that found elsewhere in the APE. Local traffic is minimal, but transfer trucks use NC 94 and NC 32 to travel between US 64 and points north, including Edenton, which is located across Albemarle Sound from the APE.



Figure 4: detail of *North Carolina*, by Joseph Meyer, 1845. From the David Rumsey Map Collection, www.davidrumsey.com.

Historic Context: A Brief History of Washington County

Washington County is located in eastern North Carolina on the southern edge of Albemarle Sound. The flat terrain achieves its greatest elevation of fifty feet above sea level in the county's southwestern corner near the crossroads of Hoke. The East Dismal Swamp covers most of the county's interior and confined settlement to the higher ground in the northern and western sections. Rice and corn were the earliest profitable crops while thick forests fed sawmills as early as the eighteenth century. Today, more diversified farming also produces soybeans and peanuts, and logging remains profitable. Generally, however, the county's waterlogged soil stymied agricultural development and population growth.

Like other parts of North Carolina, Washington County's earliest human inhabitants were Native Americans who lived in the area as early as 11,000 years ago. The most well-documented were Algonquin tribes who still occupied the region in the 1580s when English explorers probed North Carolina's coast and eventually attempted settling Roanoke Island. By the 1600s, however, successful European settlement in Virginia had weakened Native Americans, including those of North Carolina's Albemarle region (the northeast corner of the state) so that native populations posed few obstacles when the Lords Proprietors advertised Albemarle as fertile and healthy.¹

¹ Betsy Burgess Lucas Modlin et al, eds., *Washington County, NC: A Tapestry* (Winston-Salem, NC: Josten Printing Company, 1998), 19 and 28; William S. Powell, *North Carolina Through Four Centuries* (Chapel

Local historians believe the earliest Europeans in Washington County settled along Kendrick's Creek (later known as Mackey's Creek) during the late 1600s. In 1702, Thomas Blount and Mary Scott Blount, who had moved from Virginia to Durant's Neck on the north side of Albemarle Sound, came to Kendrick's Creek and built a saw and grist mill. After Thomas' death, Mary Blount married Thomas Lee, another Kendrick's Creek settler, and they operated a mill at the site of the Blounts' original mill. The surrounding settlement became known as Lee's Mill, which officials named as the county seat of Tyrrell County at that county's formation in 1729. When legislators created Washington County in 1799, the courthouse remained at Lee's Mill.²

Other early eighteenth-century settlers established themselves in the vicinity of Chapel Swamp in the Holly Neck area. Several decades later, in 1770, members of the Skinner family purchased land in the Holly Neck community. Eventually, in 1808, the Skinner name was applied to a post office called Skinnersville, probably to the east of the Holly Neck neighborhood.³

In 1800, one year after the formation of Washington County, the population stood at 2,422 (making it North Carolina's least populous county). In 1820, an additional 1,500 people called Washington County home, and in 1823, officials moved the county seat from Lee's Mill to the flourishing town of Plymouth. By 1850, despite a forty-two percent increase, the county's population of just over fifty-five hundred made it one of the state's least populous counties. Residents produced corn, wheat, and hay and operated three gristmills. The county's six saw mills, five shingle mills, and one ship yard, however, reveal that timber resources rather than agriculture formed the backbone of the area's cash economy. Washington's citizens supported one newspaper and nine churches, and the county's white children could attend public schools or private academies.⁴

In the early 1850s, local citizens constructed Rehoboth Methodist Church to replace an older building that had housed a nondenominational congregation with eighteenth-century roots. That congregation affiliated itself with the Methodists in 1828.⁵ The 1850s building shares attributes with many across the state dating from the same era: a small, gable-front, finely crafted building with modest Greek Revival details and large airy windows.

Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 60-61 and 68-69; and Thomas C. Parramore, "The 'Lost Colony' Found: A Documentary Perspective," *North Carolina Historical Review* LXXVII (January 2001): 79.

² Federal Writers' Project of the Federal Works Agency Work Projects Administration, *North Carolina: A Guide to the Old North State* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1939), 495, and Modlin et al., 59, 73.

³ Modlin et al., 76.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau website, Washington County, North Carolina, Historical Population Counts, accessed on September 7, 2006 via <http://www.census.gov/population/cencounts/nc190090.txt>, and Modlin et al., 179.

⁵ Robert Tompkins and Janet K. Seapker, "Rehoboth Methodist Church," National Register Nomination, 1977, 8-1.

During the Civil War, Plymouth's shipbuilding and strategic situation on the Roanoke River made it a target for Union forces. The town endured two battles and some of the fiercest fighting on North Carolina soil before being nearly destroyed during an 1864 bombardment.⁶

Immediately following the war, the state struggled to recover economically. In rural Washington County, despite tough times, some farmers such as William L. and Nancy Hopkins, managed to build modest homes.

After the Civil War, the state's economic recovery arrived on the rails. Railroads and the industries that accompanied them turned towns into cities and crossroads into boomtowns. In 1887 the John L. Roper Lumber Company built the Albemarle and Pantego Railroad⁷ between Bellhaven and Mackey's Ferry (where rail cars were loaded onto a ferry to continue to Edenton). The new route passed through the former county seat of Lee's Mill, where the old water-powered mill was still churning out lumber used in construction throughout the region. With a railroad, Lee's Mill became an ideal place for the John L. Roper Lumber Company to produce large quantities of lath, shingles, and other cedar, cypress, and pine products. At one point the company owned much of the county's swamp land, and with business booming, Lee's Mill took the name Roper.⁸

In 1889, two rail lines arrived in Plymouth when workers completed both the Albemarle and Raleigh Railroad⁹ and the Washington and Plymouth Railroad, which connected those two towns. In 1904, Norfolk and Southern Railroad purchased the Washington and Plymouth and pushed the line east, arriving in Creswell, formerly known as Cool Springs, in 1905.¹⁰

Along the rail lines, sawmills hummed and businesses started. Plymouth, Creswell, and Roper teemed with the arrival and departure of trains and boats. Wharves, warehouses, banks, shops, and offices bustled.¹¹

⁶ Modlin et al., 332, and North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, *Historic and Architectural Resources of the Tar-Neuse River Basin, Appendix for Region Q and R* (Raleigh, NC: North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, 1977), 27-3.

⁷ Norfolk Southern Railway absorbed the Albemarle and Pantego to form Norfolk and Southern Railroad in 1891. Norfolk and Southern later dropped "and" from its name and in 1974, Southern Railway absorbed it to become, confusingly, Norfolk Southern. "A Brief History of the Norfolk and Southern" website, accessed September 7, 2006 via <http://users.inna.net/~jaydeet/timeline.htm>, and "Our History," Norfolk Southern Corporation website, accessed September 7, 2006 via http://www.nscorp.com/nscorp/application?pageid=About%20NS&category=About%20NS&contentId=english/nscorp/about_ns/ns_history.html.

⁸ Modlin et al., 16.

⁹ The Wilmington and Weldon Railroad absorbed the Albemarle and Raleigh Railroad; Atlantic Coast Line Railroad (ACL) then bought the Wilmington and Weldon. ACL merged with Seaboard Air Line Railroad to form the Seaboard Coastline Railroad, which eventually joined Chessie Systems to create CSX in 1986.

"List of Atlantic Coast Line Railroad precursors," Wikipedia website, accessed September 7, 2006 via <http://www.answers.com/topic/list-of-atlantic-coast-line-railroad-precursors>.

¹⁰ Modlin et al., 245

¹¹ Modlin et al., 73-74, 244-245, John W. Darden, *The Story of Washington County*, unpublished typescript in the North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, 1950, no page numbers, and Levi Branson, *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory* (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1884), 627.

In the countryside, rail access provided the county's farmers with cheaper farm implements, more timely information about progressive farming practices, and greater profits through faster delivery of raw materials to markets. Local historian John W. Darden observed that around the turn of the twentieth century, farmers were cultivating nearly every piece of arable land.¹² That, however, did not constitute a tremendous acreage because much of Washington County's land is classified as unproductive muck or peat. Nevertheless, during the late 1800s and early 1900s, farmers grew enough corn, cotton, and peanuts so that rural Washington County also experienced a building boom as new houses and new institutions such as schools and churches went up.¹³

Among those were the Pritchard Farm, an unnamed farm on Highway 94, and the Holly Neck Church of Christ. The Pritchard family, like other farm owners in the county, organized their operation around an I-house finished with modest Queen Anne touches. The I-house, a two-story, single-pile dwelling with a center passage, symbolizes the prosperity of North Carolina's late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century farmers who, through new farming techniques and better transportation participated in a cash economy for the first time. The simple plan had been used since the early nineteenth century, but in the late nineteenth century, its wide façade, to which a builder or owner could add as much decoration as he or she could afford, made a particularly appealing statement about a rural family's achievements.



Figure 5: detail of Scarborough's *Map of North and South Carolina*, 1906. From the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, <http://nrec.dcr.state.nc.us/Cat/CatServer.ASP?WCI=Maps&WCE=Long>.

The same cash that allowed farmers to build new houses also helped them build churches such as Holly Neck Church of Christ, which organized in the 1870s¹⁴ and built its sanctuary in 1902.¹⁵ Like the I-house, the gable-front building that Holly Neck's congregation constructed was a tried-and-true form to which the builder added up-to-date Queen Anne stained glass windows featuring square panes that formed a border around a larger rectangular light in each sash.

¹² Darden, no page numbers.

¹³ W. A. Davis, *Soil Survey of Washington County, North Carolina* (Washington, DC: United States Department of Agriculture, 1932), 3.

¹⁴ One account indicates that Holly Neck organized as Holly Grove in 1874; the sign on the church building gives the date 1882. Modlin, 411.

¹⁵ Modlin et al., 412, and T.W. Blount to Holly Neck Disciples of Christ, 1901, Washington County Deed Book 39, page 356.



Figure 6: Norfolk and Southern ferry, the *John W. Garrett*; until a bridge was completed in 1910, trains crossed the sound via ferry, one or two cars at a time. Reproduced from a reproduction in *Washington County, NC: A Tapestry*.

By 1920, logging had depleted Washington County's tree supply to a point that forced the John L. Roper Lumber Company to close its doors after thirty years. The following year, an explosion destroyed Lee's Mill. Allegedly, neighbors weary of destructive flooding caused by the mill's pond used dynamite to blow up the dam and mill, and because steam had long-since superceded water as the industrial power source of choice, the mill was not rebuilt.¹⁶

Roads languished literally mired in muck and mud throughout much of the county's history. Boats served as the most effective transport method, but as car ownership grew, overland transportation gained importance. In 1913, Washington County, like most other counties, began using prison labor to improve and build roads. The State Highway Commission took control of the county's main roads in 1921 and straightened and graded the Plymouth-Columbia Road two years later. In 1926, the state paved the corridor, and in 1927, the federal government designated the route as US Highway 64. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, Washington County's roads steadily improved, particularly after 1937 when the Works Progress Administration assisted the state with local improvements.¹⁷

Another infrastructure improvement of the 1930s was the construction of fire lookout towers in Plymouth and at the crossroads of Wenona in the south-southwest section of the county. One historian recorded that "a group of CCC men came to the area . . . they were to dig holes and set poles to help construct communication for the county's fire warden on Long Ridge Road."¹⁸ The county's current forest service ranger confirmed that the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) raised both of the county's towers.¹⁹

A few years later, the state and county finally tackled construction of a long-awaited bridge across the Albemarle Sound. Residents on both sides of the sound had been calling for such a bridge since the legislature created the State Highway Commission in 1921. On the south side, Plymouth and Columbia vied for the connection, but after much debate and years of delays, the state chose Leonard's Point (between the two towns) as the southern terminus and set aside one million dollars for the project in 1935. On August 14,

¹⁶ Modlin et al., 75.

¹⁷ Darden, no page numbers.

¹⁸ Modlin et al., 544.

¹⁹ Jimmy Davenport, Washington County Ranger, North Carolina Forest Service, interview with the author, October 12, 2006.

1938, traffic started crossing the bridge and officials held a formal dedication on August 25. At the time, the bridge was the longest and most expensive in the state's history.²⁰

The improving roads of the 1920s and 1930s and the recovering economy of the pre-World War II period sparked the construction of hundreds of roadside businesses. Small stores, gas stations, and vegetable stands popped up all along the county's main roads. At the intersection of US 64 (present-day NC 32/94) and the new road (present-day NC 32) leading out to the Albemarle Sound Bridge, local entrepreneurs, either Annah and B.W. Norman or Connie Alexander, built the Albemarle Grill. The two-story, gambrel-roof restaurant and dance hall was one of the largest pre-World War II commercial buildings constructed in the county.

In addition to new commercial activity, road building across the state also fostered the construction of prisons. In 1931, North Carolina combined the State Highway Commission with the newly-formed state prison system to create the State Highway and Public Works Commission. To lawmakers and good-roads advocates who viewed inmates as inexpensive laborers and to prison reformers agitating for better conditions in county jails combining the two agencies was a logical step. Between 1932 and 1939, the Commission built or renovated sixty-one prison camps across North Carolina.²¹ Among those was the Washington County Prison Camp, which the Commission built after 1936, when the state bought the property and before 1938 when the facility was illustrated on a state highway map.²² Following the prison's construction, sometime in the 1940s, the North Carolina Forest Service dismantled its Plymouth lookout tower and relocated the tower and accompanying frame office building to the prison property. The new lookout was called Scuppernon Tower.²³

During the mid-twentieth century, the county continued making modest population gains so that by 1950, 13,180 people called Washington County home. In 1957, Weyerhaeuser acquired Kieckhefer, a paper pulp mill that established itself in Washington County in 1938.²⁴ Although Weyerhaeuser became the largest private landowner in the state in 1987 and, following an expansion in the early 1990s, emerged as the county's largest employer, opportunities for better education and jobs lured residents away. In 1980, the county's population peaked at just under fifteen thousand persons. The railroad's importance declined, and in 1987, Norfolk Southern dismantled their Albemarle Sound bridge. Since the 1980s, the population has declined steadily at a rate of about two or three percent every decade, leaving 13,282 Washington County residents in 2005.²⁵

²⁰ Darden, no page numbers, *The Roanoke Beacon and Washington County News*, August 12, 1938, and *The Roanoke Beacon and Washington County News*, special commemorative edition, August 1938.

²¹ Courtney Foley, "Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report: TIP No. R-4060" (Raleigh: NC DOT Historic Architecture Group, 2006), 27-28; this report provides a full history of the relationship between road improvements and the prison system.

²² E.S. and Alice S. Woodely to State Highway and Public Works Commission, July 27, 1936, Washington County Deed Book 114, page 321.

²³ Jimmy Davenport interview.

²⁴ Modlin et al., 549.

²⁵ Modlin et al., 545 and 550, and US Census Bureau website, State and County Quick Facts, accessed September 11, 2006 via <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/37/37187.html>.

Properties Determined Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (DOE)

Property Evaluation: Farm

Property no. 9 on the APE Map, Figure 3

This farm was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1997 during the environmental review of R-2548. No changes to the property or to the site have occurred since that time. Thus, the following description and evaluation are taken from the 1997 Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, TIP No. R-2548, written by NCDOT historian Scott Owen. Underlining indicates alterations or additions to the 1997 text.

Location

South side of NC 94, .3 mile east of its junction with SR 1136

Description and Background

This late-nineteenth-century farmstead, consisting of a farmhouse and multiple outbuildings, is located in the Skinnersville vicinity of Washington County on the south side of NC 94 about 0.3 mile east of the junction with SR 1136. Large oak trees define the dirt drive entry and the front yard of the house, and two rows of cedars screen the outbuildings from the house and road. Open fields stretch from the house to the south and west.

The two-story, single-pile farmhouse has a center-hall plan, a one-story front porch, and overhanging, bracketed eaves with a molded cornice and gable returns. Six-over-six windows light the house, and the front door has a transom and sidelights. A two-story ell with an enclosed porch and a one-story gable addition projects from the rear. The bracketed eaves and sawn spandrels and balustrade on the porch recall the Queen Anne style. A single-shoulder exterior chimney featuring brick tumbling rises on the west side of the house, and another chimney rises between the main block and the rear ell. Both chimneys have corbelled caps above recessed, one-brick-wide, vertical panels.

Several frame and metal outbuildings are located on the south and east sides of the farmhouse. These include a frame garage, a privy, a metal-covered vehicle shed, a frame pig house, and several frame and metal-covered, gable-roof sheds. The original function of most of these buildings is not known, but they appear today to serve as equipment sheds. The outbuildings sit in an area defined by two rows of cedar trees, which screen them from the house and the road. This area also includes a grape arbor and vegetable garden.

National Register Evaluation

This farm is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (event) for agriculture. *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 History or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. 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. This farm is not eligible for significance in local agriculture. Most of the surviving outbuildings do not appear to be related to agricultural practices, but instead seem to be used for equipment storage. Also, the property cannot be demonstrated to have been involved in important agricultural events or themes in Washington County.

This 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.*

This farm is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *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.* With its center-hall plan and simple Queen Anne detailing, the farmhouse embodies the distinctive characteristics of the popular single-pile house of the nineteenth century and is a good example of the style. The farm retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Because the farm is not eligible for the National Register because of its association with a significant person or event, integrity of association is not relative.

This 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 contributing to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*

Boundary Description and Justification

This farm was determined eligible for the National Register in 1997 during the environmental review of R-2548. The farm and the boundary as described in 1997 remain eligible for the National Register. The proposed National Register boundary for this farm encompasses a portion of the parcel on which it is located (Washington County Tax Parcel map, PIN # 7830-03-9792), and has been drawn to include the farmhouse, outbuildings, and landscaped yard that are essential to preserving this property's integrity of location and setting. The boundary follows the edge of the field on the east, west, and south sides of the yard around the house, and the back of the ditch on the south side of NC 94. The bounded area measures approximately three acres. As the edge of right-of-

way extends well into the yard of the farmhouse, the back of the ditch has been chosen as the boundary in order to include all of the landscape elements (including the large oak tree at the head of the dirt drive, and the row of cedars along the road).

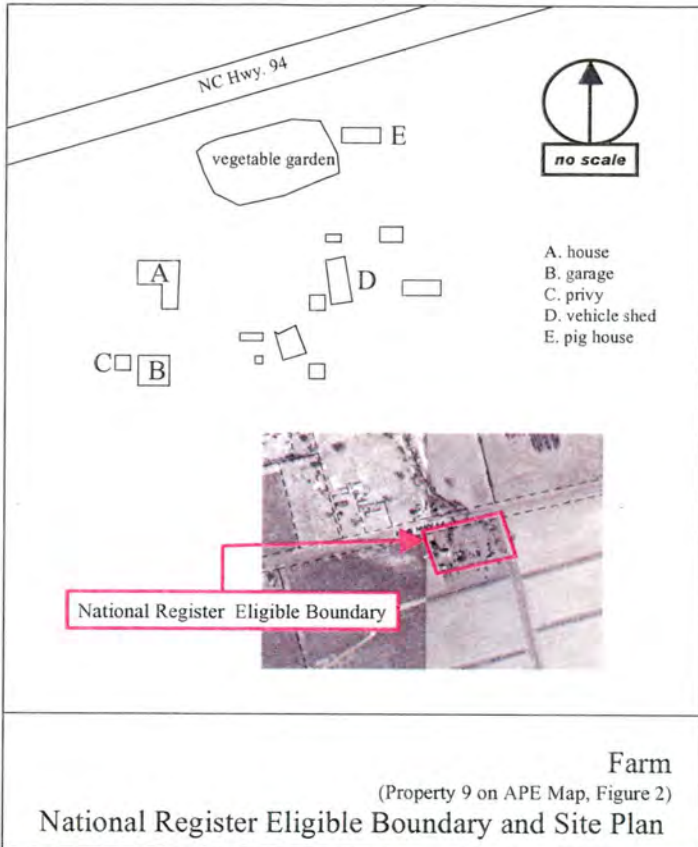


Figure 7: Farm, National Register Boundary and Site Plan.

Figure 8: Farm, main house, north elevation.



Properties Determined Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (DOE)

Property Evaluation: Pritchard Farm

Property no. 16 on the APE Map, Figure 3

The Pritchard Farm was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1997 during the environmental review of R-2548. No changes to the property or to the site have occurred since that time. Thus, the following description and evaluation are taken from the 1997 Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, TIP No. R-2548, written by NCDOT historian Scott Owen. Underlining indicates alterations or additions to the 1997 text.

Location

South side of NC 94, approximately 0.4 mile east of NC 32

Description and Background

This nineteenth-century farm is located between the Skinnersville and Scuppernong communities on the south side of NC 94, approximately 0.4 mile east of NC 32. The farm complex consists of a two-story house, several outbuildings, a family cemetery, and an early-twentieth-century general store. (The store has been demolished.) Cultivated fields surround the complex. The house sits back from the road, and the outbuildings are arranged behind it. The family cemetery is located on the west side of the house, and the store (now demolished), which is flanked by two open sheds, stands directly on the road in front of the house. Two modern trailers sit east of the house on NC 94, and are screened from the house by a row of trees.

The two-story, frame farmhouse has a single-pile, center-hall plan and a one-story rear ell, and appears to date to the second half of the nineteenth century. The three-bay, single-pile section of the house has extended eaves, a box cornice, and cornice returns in the gable ends. Each gable has rakeboards, and two plain vertical boards define each corner. A single-shoulder exterior brick chimney rises on the east elevation. A one-story attached porch shelters the front door, which is framed by sidelights and a transom. The porch has battered wooden posts and simple rectilinear woodwork under the eaves. Six-over-six sash windows light the house; the west elevation has one window on both floors, while two windows flank the chimney on each floor in the east elevation. Three windows still survive in the second floor of the south (rear) elevation. The rear ell covers two of the windows on the first floor; the third first-floor window has been removed, and what appears to be the base of a brick stove flue has been built in its place. The front door and all of the windows have simple wooden architraves. The rear ell has a later brick chimney in its center, several windows, and an exterior door on its west and south elevations.

Several frame outbuildings are arranged behind the farmhouse. These include a smokehouse with side additions; a larger, gable roof equipment building; a chicken coop; a small storage shed; and a large gambrel roof barn. The family cemetery is located west of the house. The oldest marker dates to 1906.

[Description of the store building deleted.]

Mr. Howard Ange, the owner of this farm, said that his mother, Mattie Pritchard, was born in the farmhouse about 1903. The 1910 census lists Henry F. Pritchard, Mattie's father, as the head of a household of five children. Pritchard was a merchant (working in either the surviving store or its predecessor), and his wife Mary was a farmer. Mr. Ange's grandmother (Mary Pritchard) built the store (now demolished) eighty or ninety years ago to replace an earlier store that burned. Both stores served as a general store for the local area for many years. Mr. Ange currently rents the land associated with this farm, which grows peanuts, cotton, soybeans, and corn.

National Register Evaluation

The Pritchard Farm is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (event) for agriculture. *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 History or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. 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.* This farm is important for the thematic role it played in the agricultural development of Washington County in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and is a representative of Washington County's small and middling farms. The Pritchard Farm retains integrity of its association with agriculture in Washington County.

The Pritchard 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.*

The Pritchard Farm is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *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.* The Pritchard Farm, consisting of the farmhouse, agricultural outbuildings, and general store (now demolished), also make this property eligible for the National Register for its significance in Washington County architecture. With its center-hall plan and simple vernacular detailing, the farmhouse embodies the distinctive characteristics of the popular single-pile house of the nineteenth century and is a good example of the style.

Overall, the Pritchard Farm retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. While the store building has been removed from the group, the complex retains the other buildings and although the store was a significant member of the collection, its loss does not detract from the complex's overall architectural integrity.

The Pritchard 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 contributing to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*

Boundary Description and Justification

The Pritchard Farm was determined eligible for the National Register in 1997 during the environmental review of R-2548. The farm and the boundary as described in 1997 remain eligible for the National Register. The removal of the store building does not affect the location of the boundary. The proposed National Register boundary for the Pritchard Farm encompasses the entire parcel on which it is located (Washington County Tax Parcel map, PIN # 7830-81-8600). The boundary includes the farmhouse, outbuildings, cemetery, and cultivated fields that are essential to this property's identity as a small to middling nineteenth- and twentieth-century farm. The bounded area measures 45.23 acres. As the edge of right-of-way comes very close to some of the farm's eligible buildings, the back of the ditch along the south side of NC 94 has been chosen as the northern boundary in order to include all of the contributing elements.

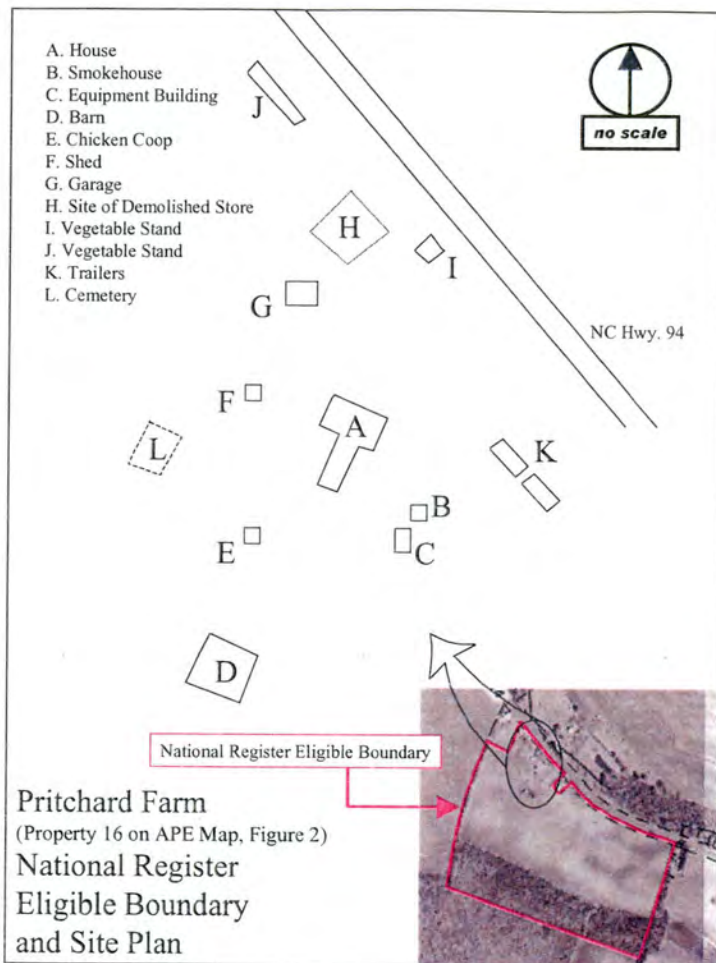


Figure 9: Pritchard Farm, National Register Boundary and Site plan.



Figure 10: Pritchard Farm, main house,



Properties Determined Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (DOE)

Property Evaluation: Washington County Prison Camp

Property no. 27 on the APE Map, Figure 3

The Washington County Prison Camp was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1997 during the environmental review of R-2548. No changes to the property or to the site have occurred since that time. However, NCDOT historian Courtney Foley has collected additional information about the history of prisons in North Carolina. Thus, corrections have been made to the background provided in the 1997 report. Underlining indicates where changes or additions have been made to the text from Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, TIP No. R-2548, written by NCDOT historian Scott Owen.

Location

North side of NC 94 approximately 2 miles east of Jones White Road (SR 1303)

Description and Background

The Washington County Prison Camp, a subsidiary prison of the North Carolina Department of Corrections, is a medium security facility for adult males located three miles west of Creswell in a clearing on the north side of NC 94. The prison consists of dormitories, work buildings, an education building, and a recreational building bounded by a wire fence with guard towers at the corners. A one-story, frame bungalow on the east side of the complex housed the prison office.

In 1931, North Carolina created the State Highway and Public Works Commission by combining the State Highway Commission with the newly-formed state prison system. To lawmakers and good-roads advocates who viewed inmates as inexpensive laborers and prison reformers agitating for better conditions in the counties' jails combining the two agencies was a logical step. Between 1932 and 1939, the Commission built or renovated sixty-one prison camps across the state.²⁶

On July 27, 1936, E.S. and Alice S. Woodley sold thirty-three acres to the State Highway and Public Works Commission for the construction of a prison camp. The Commission built the Washington County Prison Camp after 1936, when the state bought the property and before 1938 when the facility is illustrated on a state highway map. Of the extant buildings, those built during the first construction phase in the late 1930s include the Main Prison Block (A on the accompanying site plan), a building that was probably a laundry (B on the site plan), a building that was probably a kitchen (C on the site plan), the prison office (G on the site plan), and a solitary confinement building (K on the site plan).

²⁶ Foley, 27-28.

Over time, other buildings were constructed at the complex. In the 1970s, officials added an education building and inmates constructed a twenty-eight-cell unit for administrative or disciplinary segregation. In 1988, the prison built a recreation building.

National Register Evaluation

The Washington County Prison Camp is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (event) for its significance in the categories of transportation and other for its association with the history and development of the NCDOT and the North Carolina Department of Corrections. *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 History or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. 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. This resource represents the relationship between county prison consolidation and improvements, the use of incarcerated labor for road work crews, and the county road building movement during 1931-1957, the time period in which the prison system and the highway department were one state agency. The prison camp retains its integrity of association with these events.*

The Washington County Prison Camp 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.*

The Washington County Prison Camp is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *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.* The Washington County Prison Camp is an intact example of the standard fireproof county prison camp complex that was constructed throughout the state in the 1930s. The main prison block is particularly intact, and the prison retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

The Washington County Prison Camp 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 contributing to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*

Boundary Description and Justification

The Washington County Prison Camp was determined eligible for the National Register in 1997 during the environmental review of R-2548. The complex and the boundary as described in 1997 remain eligible for the National Register. The proposed National Register boundary for the Washington County Prison Camp encompasses part of the parcel on which it is located (Washington County Tax Parcel map, PIN # 7759-07-5648), and includes the prison complex, the ball field, parking lot, and the surrounding open area. The tree line on the north, east, and west sides of the prison define the proposed boundary. As right-of-way along NC 94 extends into the grassy area in front of the prison, the back of the ditch on the south side of the road has been chosen as the southern boundary in order to include all of the yard in front of the facility.

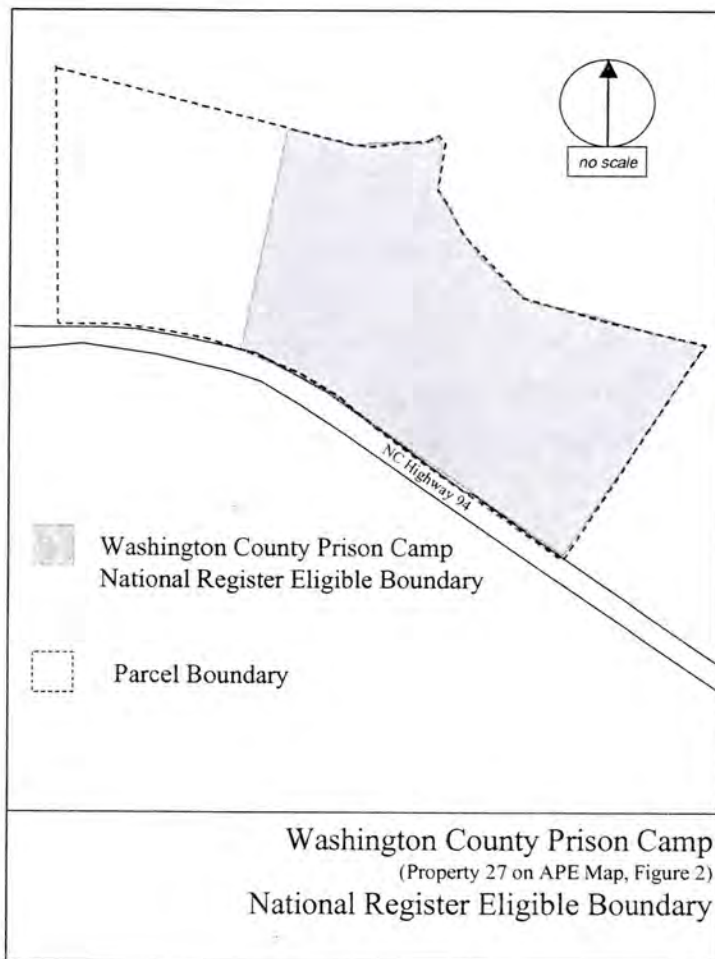


Figure 10



- Washington County Prison Camp**
(Property 27 on APE Map, Figure 2)
Site Detail
- A. Main Prison Block
 - B. Laundry/Wash House
 - C. Kitchen/Mess Hall
 - D. Education Building (1973)
 - E. Segregated Unit (1970s)
 - F. Recreational Building (1988)
 - G. Prison Office
 - H. Trailer
 - I. Guard Tower
 - J. Guard Tower
 - K. Solitary Confinement



Figure 12: Washington County Prison Camp, Site Plan.

Figure 13: Washington County Prison Camp, main prison block, southwest elevation.



Properties Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

Property Evaluation: Rehoboth Methodist Church

Property no. 10 on the APE Map, Figure 3

Rehoboth Methodist Church was listed in the National Register in 1976. No changes to the property or to the site have occurred since that time. Thus, the following abridged description and evaluation was extracted from that nomination, which Janet K. Seapker wrote.

Location

South side of NC 94, 0.4 mile west of SR 1317

Property Description

Rehoboth Methodist Church, situated amid a small graveyard, is a modest, carefully finished Greek Revival temple-form structure. The road formerly ran in front of the building, but now passes behind it. The area is shaded with large trees draped with Spanish moss.

The wooden frame of the rectangular structure is covered with weatherboards and surmounted by a gable roof. The front (southwest) end of the building is pedimented. A delicate dentil course outlines the weatherboarded pediment and carries around the sides of the building, returning slightly on the rear gable end. Two bays wide and three deep, the church is bounded by cornerposts treated as symmetrically molded pilasters, has a plain board water table, and rests on low brick piers.

The front façade has a pair of entrances, each containing a double door framed by a vernacular version of a symmetrically molded architrave with paneled corner blocks that employ simple wooden strips in lieu of molding. Each leaf of the double doors is composed of six horizontal raised panels vertically aligned; the panels are outlined by the traditional flat, broad Greek Revival molding. Six-over-six sash windows above the front entrances provide light for the gallery. Architraves like those of the entrances frame the gallery windows as well as the sixteen-over-sixteen sash windows on the sides and rear; simple molded sills and louvered blinds are used on all windows. Located on the southeast side of the church, near the south corner is a single door identical to one leaf of the front doors. Its position, immediately adjacent to the gallery stair and on the side of the building, indicates that it was the entrance for enslaved congregates.

The interior, retaining its original finish and furnishings, has a spacious quality about it. Walls plastered above a simple chair rail and a flush sheathed dado are interrupted by the large windows framed by symmetrically molded architraves and paneled corner blocks. Functional wooden pews with simple curvilinear sides are arranged along the sides and down the middle of the auditorium; the middle section of pews is divided down the center. Two additional sections of pews face the pulpit, which is centered in a dais along the northeast wall. Narrow ceiling set diagonally forms a triangular background focal point for the pulpit. The dais is outlined by a communion rail composed of chamfered

posts capped by applied necking, and balusters square in section which support a wide molded rail. A small communion table and a reed organ are also on the dais.

The gallery is supported on chamfered posts finished like those of the communion rail. A solid balustrade paneled with flat panels outlined with Greek Revival molding encloses the gallery. Access to the gallery is gained from an enclosed winding stair adjacent to the side entrance. Pews, which are rather crude versions of those on the main level, are arranged on the sloping floor of the gallery.

Historic and Architectural Context

Rehoboth Methodist Church was built between 1850 and 1853 on a 1 7/8-acre tract of land deeded to the church's board of trustees by Joseph H. Norman. The census of 1850 shows that Norman was at that time the owner of fifty slaves and was Washington County's fourth largest slaveholder. Local tradition has it that these slaves built the church.

Aside from providing the land and possibly the labor to construct the church, the Norman family appears to have taken an active interest in the early affairs of Rehoboth. In 1850, two of the five members of the church's board of trustees were of the Norman family. William J. Norman was the congregation's "class leader" in 1861.

According to local tradition, Rehoboth Church had its beginnings at Skinnersville Chapel, a nondenominational house of worship that served the community from about 1735 to 1805, when it was replaced with a new building. The second chapel is believed to have been completed around 1805 on land donated by Esther Davenport and the Reverend Swain Swift. The new sanctuary, called Swain's Chapel, continued housing a nondenominational congregation until the group affiliated itself with the Methodist church. Swain's Chapel, as a Methodist church, served the Skinnersville community until Rehoboth replaced it in the early 1850s.

Called the mother church of Methodism in Washington County, Rehoboth's congregation achieved its greatest membership in the 1860s with numbers hovering around 150 whites and 35 African Americans. A century later, the church's membership had dwindled. By the 1970s, regular services were no longer held and the Washington County Historical Society was maintaining the building.

National Register Evaluation

Rehoboth Methodist Church is **not eligible** for the National Register 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 History or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. 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.*

Rehoboth Methodist Church 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.*

Rehoboth Methodist Church is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *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.* With the exception of concrete steps and metal handrails added at the front entrances, Rehoboth Methodist Church has not been altered since its completion. As a result, it is an outstanding example of a rural, mid-nineteenth-century sanctuary displaying restrained Greek Revival elements constructed at a time when that style was reaching its zenith in North Carolina. The church retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Because the church is not eligible for the National Register because of its association with a significant person or event, integrity of association is not relative.

Rehoboth Methodist Church 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 contributing to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*

Rehoboth Methodist Church also meets Criteria Consideration A, which states that a *religious property is eligible if it derives its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance.* Because Rehoboth's significance stems from its architectural design and integrity, this criteria consideration is satisfied.

Boundary Description and Justification

The National Register boundary for Rehoboth Methodist Church follows the boundary for the Washington County tax parcel on which the building stands. The northern side of the boundary follows the existing right-of-way. The parcel's PIN is 7830362042 and the boundary contains about one-and-a-half acres. This is most of the land historically associated with the church and it is sufficient to illustrate the building's architectural significance. Figure 14 illustrates the boundary.



— National Register Boundary

Figure 14: Rehoboth Methodist Church, National Register Boundary.

Rehoboth Methodist Church
 (Property 10 on APE Map, Figure 2)
 National Register Listed Boundary

Figure 15: Rehoboth Methodist Church, north elevation.



Properties Evaluated and Recommended Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

Property Evaluation: William L. and Nancy Hopkins House

Property no. 3 on the APE Map, Figure 3

Location

2299 Holly Neck Road; west side of SR 1136, 0.2 mile north of SR 1139

Property Description

Please note that the investigator mailed a letter to the owner (whose phone number is unlisted) and visited the owner's house twice, leaving a note on one occasion. The owner's son responded, and provided useful information including an interior description, but the investigator did not receive the owner's permission to enter the dwelling. An electrified barbed wire fence confining a horse (as well as the house) limited exterior investigations.

The William L. and Nancy Hopkins House is a one-story dwelling with a full-width porch engaged beneath a side-gable roof with two pitches. The steeper pitch extends down from the ridge for about three feet before it breaks slightly to form a less steep slope. A single-leaf front door and two double-hung, six-over-six sash windows punctuate the symmetrical, three-bay façade (east elevation). The front door is probably a replacement with a four-light window above horizontal panels. Simply molded flat boards frame the windows and door. On the porch, molding applied about two feet above the porch floor accents tapered square posts. It is unclear if the porch posts are original or historic replacements. Corner boards are located only on the façade and probably on the west elevation; corner boards were not applied to either gable end of the main block.

A single-shoulder brick chimney with a replacement stack rises on the center of the north gable end. Narrow windows closely flank the chimney. Towards the rear of the main block, a third window pierces the north gable end, while a fourth, located in the space between the stack and the rake of the gable, illuminates the attic.

The south gable end does not feature a chimney, no physical evidence suggests that a chimney ever stood on this elevation, and the owner's son stated that no fireplace exists inside the house at this location. The south side's fenestration is a mirror of the north end with three windows lighting the main level and an attic window in the peak. Both gable ends feature overhanging eaves and gable returns.

A long gabled ell is attached to the rear (west) side of the main block by an open breezeway. The ell was probably added in the early twentieth century. It could not be fully documented, but a full-length, inset porch with replacement posts, two-over-two-sash windows, at least three four-panel doors, and flush sheathing compose the south elevation. Weatherboards trimmed with plain corner boards cover the north, east, and, likely, the west elevations. Four windows and one door opening punctuate the north

elevation. A small addition appears to have been made to the ell's west elevation. Ghost marks indicate that a chimney flue once served the ell.

Standing-seam metal covers the main block's roof. Five-v metal roofing covers the rear ell's roof. Both sections retain lightening rods with glass spheres and both sections stand on open brick pier foundations; the brick used under the ell appears to be newer than that under the main block. With the exception of the windows and doors sheltered by the house's two porches, all windows and doors are covered with panels of five-v metal roofing.

The investigator could document neither the west (rear) elevation of the ell, the west (rear) elevation of the main block, nor the interior. The owner's son reported that the house has a double-pile plan with a center hall. The rear rooms are smaller than those at the front and plank sheathing covers the interior. At the back of the hall, between the rear rooms, an enclosed winder stair leads to a finished attic. The rear ell's interior is simply finished with beaded board.²⁷

The house stands in a flat, grassy yard. Mature cedar trees stand along the front edge of the property and a few shrubs dot the front yard. A large, deceased cedar tree stands just to the north of the ell.

Outbuildings and a mobile home stand immediately south of the Hopkins House. The mobile home appears to date from the late twentieth century. Contemporary with the mobile home is a two-bay garage created from a modified prefabricated metal storage building to which a shed roof garage bay was added. Two earlier frame outbuildings stand behind this garage. One is a gable-front, weatherboarded barn standing on concrete block piers with a metal shed addition on the south elevation. The second is a smaller, gable-front building with shed wings on both sides. This building also stands on concrete block piers. Three batten doors on the façade are centered on each of the three sections: the gable-front portion in the middle and the shed wings on either side. Both of these frame outbuildings predate the mobile home, but likely date from the mid-twentieth century.

Although the outbuildings and mobile home stand on the same parcel as the Hopkins House, they are excluded from the proposed National Register boundary.

Historic Background and Architectural Context

According to the 1860 census, Isaac and Mary Ambrose, who married in 1859, lived near Mary's family and owned no real estate. At that time, the census noted their post office as Mackey's Ferry, which was the only other place-name used in the 1860 census besides Plymouth.²⁸ One year later, Isaac and Mary purchased ten acres of land from John Phelps

²⁷ James Phelps (son of current owners), interview with the author, October 18, 2006.

²⁸ Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Population Schedule, accessed via Heritage Quest, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com> and Washington County Marriage Licenses and Marriage Registers transcribed and accessed via <http://patriot.net/~cpbarnes/WASHLIC.HTM>.

for \$50.²⁹ The 1870 census documents the Ambrose family living in Skinnersville Township with three children. Isaac was a farmer, the family owned \$100 worth of real estate, and their post office was listed as Scuppernong.³⁰ At the end of 1873, Isaac and Mary sold the ten acres in Skinnersville Township to William L. Hopkins for \$200.³¹

In 1870, fifty-three-year-old William L. Hopkins and his fifty-five-year-old wife, Nancy lived in Lee's Mill Township, and their post office was Plymouth. William was a farmer who owned \$600 worth of real estate. Their son John was twenty-seven and worked as a laborer. Two daughters and another son also lived at home. In addition, four other people lived with the Hopkins family: five-year old W.M. Phelps was a laborer, forty-year-old Sarah Davenport was a seamstress, and twenty-four-year-old Kirby Phelps was a laborer; the fourth was an infant named D. Bateman. The relationships among these four people and their relationships with the Hopkins family have not been explored.³²

By 1880, seven years after William Hopkins purchased the property, the census lists the family in Skinnersville Township with a much smaller household. William continued to farm and his two nephews, William, and John J. lived with him and Nancy. Their son, John R. Hopkins had married in 1878 and he and his wife, Narcissus Ellen Phelps, lived and farmed nearby with an infant daughter.³³

William L. and Nancy Hopkins died sometime between 1880 and 1900. In 1899 and 1900, John and Narcissus Hopkins acquired, through two transactions, the ten acres William had purchased in 1873. One of the deeds from that sale described the property as being "known as the Wm. L. Hopkins land where said Wm. L. Hopkins lived and died."³⁴

In 1900, John was fifty-seven years old and a farmer. Narcissus (known by a wide variety of spellings) was forty-six and keeping house. They shared their home with two daughters and two sons, ranging in age from twenty-one to seven. Only one daughter, Maggie, could read, write, or speak English, but the 1910 census noted that the three children (Sarah, John J., and Harry) who could not write or speak English were deaf. The 1910 census also documents that the family's one hearing child, Margaret, had married

²⁹ John Phelps Sr. to Isaac Ambrose, May 25, 1861, Washington County Deed Book M, page 535.

³⁰ Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Population Schedule, accessed via Heritage Quest, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com>. Note that Isaac Ambrose is misspelled Isac Ambrius.

³¹ Isaac and Mary Ambrose to William L. Hopkins, December 22, 1873, Washington County Deed Book Y, page 86.

³² Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Population Schedule, accessed via Heritage Quest, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com>.

³³ Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Population Schedule, accessed via Heritage Quest, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com> and Washington County Marriage Licenses and Marriage Registers transcribed and accessed via <http://patriot.net/~cpbarnes/WASHLIC.HTM>.

³⁴ Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Population Schedule, accessed via Heritage Quest, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com>; Louis P. and Florence Hornthal to J.R. Hopkins, March 6, 1899, Washington County Deed Book 41, page 407; and William F. and Josephine Hopkins to John R. Hopkins, November 16, 1900, Washington County Deed Book 42, page 173.

and that her husband, Arthur Phelps, had joined the household. All members of the family farmed or kept house.³⁵

Narcissus Hopkins died in 1915. By 1920, John was also dead and Arthur Phelps headed the household, which included Margaret and her three deaf siblings.³⁶ During the time Arthur and Margaret Phelps headed the household, the family farmed cotton, peanuts, corn, and soybeans.³⁷

In 1953, Margaret Hopkins Phelps died. It is not known when Arthur died, but in 1974, Margaret's brother, Harry Winston Hopkins, sold the property to Benjamin F. and Nancy Spruill Phelps with a life estate for himself. Two years later, Harry Winston Hopkins died. The Phelps never lived in the Hopkins House, and they now live in the mobile home on the property.³⁸

Stylistically, the Hopkins House appears to date from the third quarter of the nineteenth century, which historic and oral records confirm. While Isaac and Mary Ambrose owned the property from 1861 to 1873, the 1870 census indicates that they lived near Mary's family, whose surname was not associated with anyone living on Holly Neck Road by the time the 1880 census was recorded. Additionally, no deed concerning this ten acres mentions Mary's family's name when adjacent property owners are noted. Furthermore, Harry Winston Hopkins told the current owner that his grandfather (William L. Hopkins on his father's side) constructed the house.³⁹ These pieces of information, combined with the 1900 deed reference indicating that William L. Hopkins lived and died on the property and the local identification of the property as the "Hopkins Place"⁴⁰ indicate that William and Nancy Hopkins constructed the dwelling, probably around 1874. At the time, when about sixty-percent of Skinnersville Township residents owned real estate, the Hopkins family appears to have been of average or slightly above-average means among area landowners.⁴¹

³⁵ Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, and Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Population Schedules, accessed via Heritage Quest, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com>.

³⁶ Washington County Death Records Index, transcribed and accessed via <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncwashin/WASHDTH.HTM>, and Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Population Schedule, accessed via Heritage Quest, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com>.

³⁷ Raymond Spruill, interview with the author, October 13, 2006.

³⁸ Washington County Death Records Index, transcribed and accessed via <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncwashin/WASHDTH.HTM>, Harry Winston Hopkins to Benjamin F. and Nancy Spruill Phelps, January 7, 1974, Washington County Deed Book 242, page 264, and Phelps interview.

³⁹ Phelps interview.

⁴⁰ Spruill interview.

⁴¹ A random sampling of seventy-four families in Skinnersville Township in 1870 reveals that forty-six (about 60%) owned real estate. Among those property owners, the average value of real estate was \$583. The per-capita value of real estate among the entire seventy-four households was \$362. The Hopkins family had owned \$600 worth of real estate in Lee's Mill Township in 1870; they purchased this property for \$200 in 1873 and sold the Lee's Mill Township property. They acquired additional tracts later in the 1800s.

The house's long rear ell was probably added during John and Narcissus Hopkins' ownership, based on stylistic references, oral history, and the expansion of the family between 1900 and 1910. Oral history states that a fire destroyed the original detached kitchen, thus necessitating construction of a new ell.⁴² Also, during the first decade of the twentieth century, the three hearing-impaired children became adults and Margaret Hopkins's new husband, Arthur Phelps, expanded the household to six adults, which may explain the ell's unusually lengthy proportions.

The William and Nancy Hopkins House reflects the fact that it was constructed during a period of economic and architectural transition. In Washington County, as in other places in North Carolina, builders and owners absorbed new styles and forms cautiously—holding on to eighteenth- and nineteenth-century patterns such as flush gable ends, hall-parlor plans, and flushboard sheathing well into the late 1800s.⁴³ One of the forms used from the eighteenth century into the twentieth century is the so-called coastal plain cottage, a one- or one-and-a-half-story dwelling with inset or engaged porches. One typical example is an unidentified, early-nineteenth-century house pictured in *My Home is Washington County, North Carolina* (Figure 16).



Figure 16: Unidentified coastal plain cottage in undated picture. Reproduced from reproduction in *My Home is Washington County, North Carolina*.

After the Civil War Washington County residents and builders began combining pre-war building patterns with post-war ideas. At the Hopkins House, the builder used earlier nineteenth-century elements such as the coastal plain cottage form, flushboard sheathing on the porch elevation, multi-light sash windows on the façade, and narrow side-elevation windows situated very close to both sides of the gable end chimney. To this, the builder added simple but fashionable overhanging eaves and gable returns.

On the rear ell, as in the main block, earlier patterns merged with newer concepts. The porch running the length of the ell is inset and flush-board sheathing is used under the porch, but the roof pitch, two-over-two sash windows, and four-panel doors were relatively up-to-date in the early 1900s.

⁴² Phelps interview.

⁴³ Washington County examples include the William Ross Chesson House, built around 1840, the 1838 Smithson House (to which overhanging eaves and gable returns were added around 1900), and the Homestead, dating from the mid-1800s.

Because Washington County's population has remained low throughout its history, a large number of buildings never stood in the county, and today, even fewer remain from any given time period. Investigators noted three one- or one-and-a-half story houses with inset or engaged porches during a windshield survey of the northern half of the county.⁴⁴ Because the fate of the unidentified building in Figure 16 is not known, it is not useful to include it in a discussion of extant examples. Of the three photographed in 2006, the oldest appears to be a small dwelling likely dating from the early nineteenth century in the Pea Ridge community. It features flush gable ends and a double-pitch roof that engages a full-width porch.

A second example is a diminutive, early-twentieth-century house in the Pleasant Grove community. Instead of a broad, expansive roof that shelters a deeper room or double-pile plan plus a one or two porches, this house features a narrow single-pile plan probably three rooms wide with full-width front and back porches of equal depth. Weatherboards cover the building and a narrow chimney flue rises through the ridgeline from a point just off center. Two two-over-two sash windows and three four-panel doors punctuate the façade.

Likely built in the 1920s, the third example is the youngest. The one-and-a-half-story dwelling features an imposing roof with a slight break below the ridge line. The engaged porch extends about halfway across the façade but may have been full-width originally. A brick chimney flue rises from slightly off-center on the roof ridge. Aluminum siding covers the exterior and the windows have been replaced. Early-twentieth-century features include the use of paired windows, exposed raftertails, and a hip-roofed projection on the gable end.

Although the comparable examples are limited in number, the Hopkins House emerges as notable for its intact architectural integrity. The Pea Ridge house suffers from neglect, including a missing portion of its metal roof, which reveals wood shingles but facilitates accelerated deterioration. Wood siding is visible on the exterior, but synthetic siding has been added to the house and a concrete block flue stands in place of the original chimney. Additionally, this house may be significantly older than the Hopkins House, which could make a comparison of the two less instructive.

The Pleasant Grove house appears to retain nearly complete architectural integrity, but it is smaller and less architecturally expressive than the Hopkins House. Unlike the Hopkins House, it does not display gable returns or flush board sheathing under the porch, and its porch posts appear to be non-historic replacements.

Finally, the third example appears to be an early-twentieth-century house, or possibly an altered nineteenth-century house. Assuming it was constructed in the 1920s, it serves as a good example of rural North Carolinians carrying local or regional eighteenth- and nineteenth-century forms well into the twentieth century. However, most of the house's original materials have been lost or covered, and whether this house was built in the early

⁴⁴ Please see Appendix B for photographs.

twentieth century or is an older dwelling altered at that time, aluminum siding, replacement windows, and the possible partial enclosure of the front porch have damaged the house's architectural integrity.

National Register Evaluation

The William L. and Nancy Hopkins House retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. While the general area around the house remains rural, the close proximity of a mobile home and the mobile home's situation between the house and its outbuildings (which are probably not contemporary with the house) detract from the building's integrity of setting. Also, because the Hopkins House is no longer part of a working farm, its association with agriculture has been erased.

William L. and Nancy Hopkins House is **not eligible** for the National Register 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 History or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. 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.* The house is not associated with any broad pattern of history or any specific historic event. Its integrity of association with agriculture has been lost because the house is no longer part of a working farm and because the site retains only two historic outbuildings that are probably not contemporary with the original house and are visually separated from the house by a mobile home. The proposed National Register boundary does not include the mobile home or outbuildings.

William L. and Nancy Hopkins House 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.* No significant person is associated with the house.

William L. and Nancy Hopkins House is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *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.* Based on a windshield survey, the Hopkins House is one of the most architecturally intact coastal plain cottages in Washington County. It embodies the

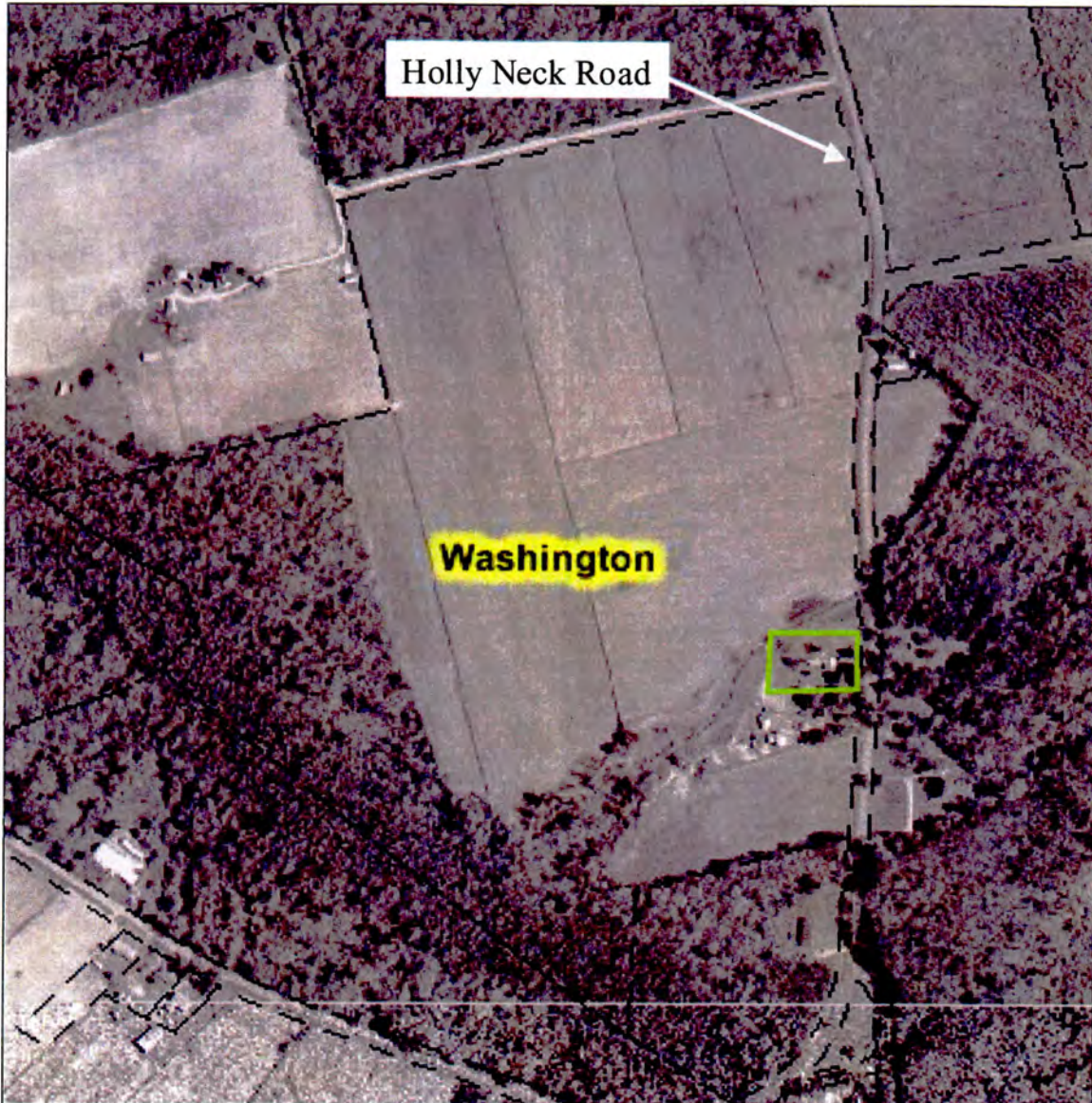
distinctive characteristics of Reconstruction-era coastal plain cottages, the exterior is nearly unaltered, and the interior reportedly has undergone very few changes.

William L. and Nancy Hopkins House 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 contributing to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*

Boundary Description and Justification

The proposed National Register boundary forms a rectangle around the Hopkins House with the eastern boundary extending for approximately 100 feet along the Holly Neck Road (SR 1136) right-of-way. The boundary includes approximately 0.5 acre that is part of a 100-acre parcel identified by Washington County PIN 7820.00-71-4450. The boundary is illustrated in Figure 17.

The boundary includes the yard immediately surrounding the dwelling, which is sufficient to convey its architectural significance. The boundary excludes a twentieth-century mobile home and the outbuildings near it. Two of the outbuildings may have had associations with the Hopkins House, but they probably date from the mid-twentieth century and are separated from the house by the mobile home. Because the house is not significant for its agricultural associations, including additional acreage or outbuildings is not necessary.



William L. and Nancy Hopkins House
 National Register Eligible Boundary



— National Register Boundary

0.5 acre of Washington County Tax Parcel PIN 7820.00-71-4450

Figure 17

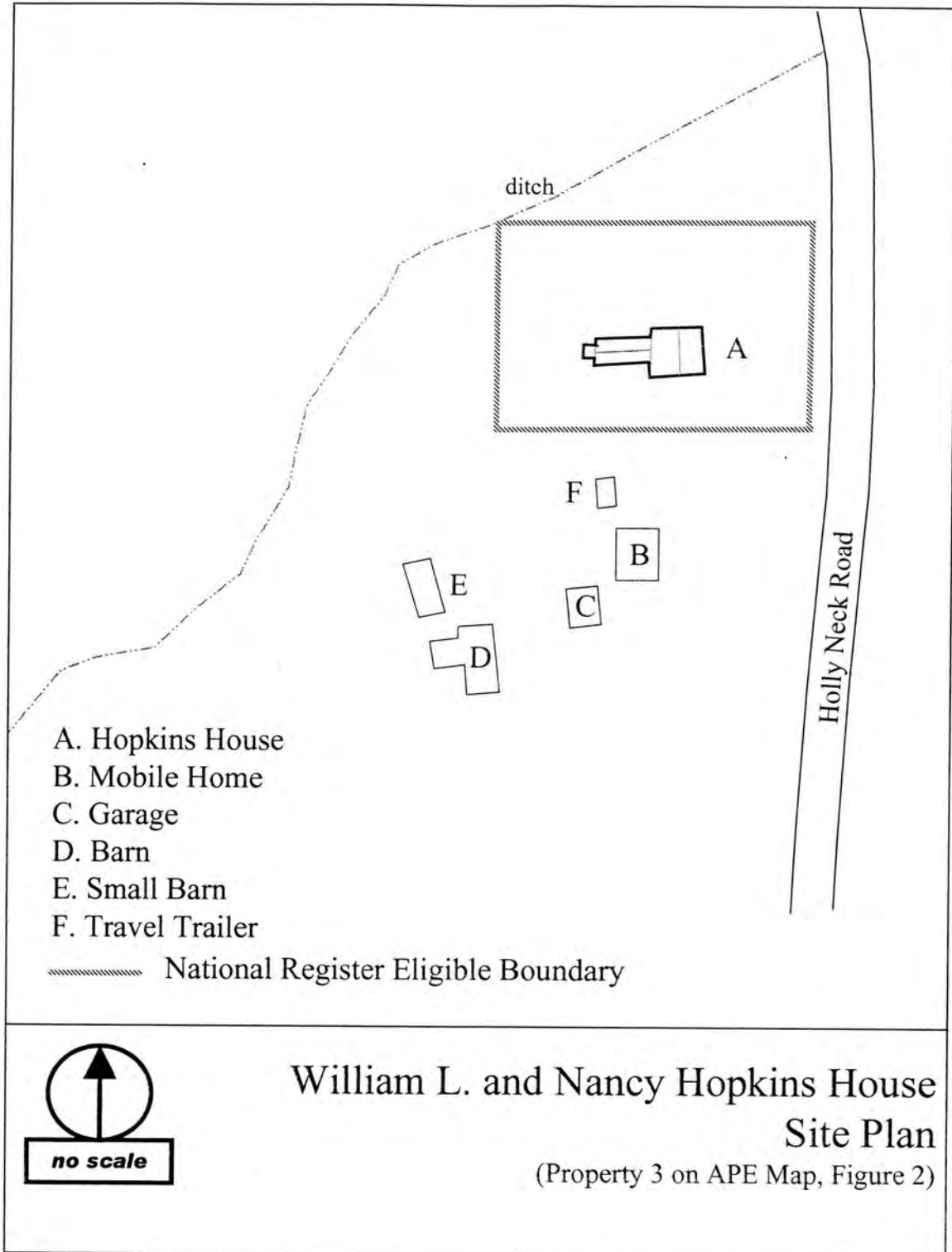


Figure 18



Figure 19, above: Hopkins House, east elevation

Figure 20, below: Hopkins House, north elevation





Figure 21, above: Hopkins House, south elevation

Figure 22, below: Hopkins House, small barn or smokehouse
(this building is not included in the National Register Eligible Boundary)





Figure 23, above: Hopkins House, garage with larger barn in background
(these buildings are not included in the National Register Eligible Boundary)

Properties Evaluated and Recommended Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

Property Evaluation: Albemarle Grill

Property no. 14 on the APE Map, Figure 3

Location

Northwest side of NC 32, 0.1 mile northeast of NC 94

Property Description

The Albemarle Grill is a two-story, gambrel-roof building. On the front and rear roof slopes, a shed dormer extends across the width of the roof. Also on both the front and rear roof slopes, the roof line breaks into a shallower pitch from the base of the shed dormers to engage full-width shed rooms across both elevations. Asphalt shingles cover the roof.

On the front (east) elevation, the lower level is divided into five bays with a single-leaf door situated in the center bay. A shed roof supported by metal posts extends over the front door. Each of the four outer bays contains a pair of single-sash, nine-light windows. The east dormer features three bays, each with a pair of double-sash, eight-over-eight windows. Exposed raftertails trim the dormer's eave. The rear (west) elevation repeats the façade and features a full-width shed dormer, pairs of single-sash, nine-light windows, and exposed raftertails.

The lower level of both the north and south gable ends features a single-leaf door and three pairs of single-sash, nine-light windows. Two pairs of double-sash, eight-over-eight windows light the upper level and a rectangular, louvered vent situated in the gable peak serves the attic.

Asbestos siding with a wavy edge covers the building. Plain, flat wood surrounds trim the windows and doors. A stuccoed concrete block foundation supports the structure.

The investigator could not obtain permission to enter the building, but the first floor contains a kitchen in the southwest corner. Open dining space extends across the front of the building and is sheathed in mid-twentieth-century wood veneer paneling with vertical seams. The original plank ceiling remains exposed.

The Grill stands in a grassy lawn with trees behind it. A gravel and sand parking area occupies the space between the building and the road.

Roadside Commerce and Transportation in Washington County and the History of the Albemarle Grill

Late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth-century maps indicate two primary roads following corridors of higher ground through Washington County. One is an east-west route from Plymouth to Columbia that extends in an arc along the northern edge of the county.

Today this is roughly the path followed by NC Highway 32/94 (formerly US Highway 64) from Plymouth to a point about a mile southeast from the location where NC 32 branches off to the northeast towards the Albemarle Sound Bridge. From this point, the older route takes a more easterly turn from the former US 64 corridor and follows SR 1303, SR 1304 and SR 1308, running parallel to Deep Creek to the north. The second main eighteenth-century artery cuts through the western section of the county to link Plymouth with the town of Washington to the south. This road generally follows NC 32 south from Plymouth.

As in the rest of North Carolina, Washington County's roads languished during the nineteenth century, and residents wishing to travel from the northeastern part of Washington County to Plymouth probably found it easier to go by boat via the Albemarle Sound and the Roanoke River. Across the state, routes became impassible muddy tracks during rainy periods and the ruts created during wet weather froze into deep, hard canyons during the winter. Nineteenth-century farmers regularly lost half or more of their profits to the cost of transportation, and industrialists found it cost-prohibitive to import raw materials or export finished goods.⁴⁵

As a result, most North Carolinians functioned within a nearly cashless economy. Farmers produced nearly everything their families needed with occasional quantities of livestock, wool, flax, corn, or tobacco left over for sale. Most millers were confined to refining locally grown wheat, corn, and timber for their neighbors. Only a few small towns and trade centers emerged, and although the state had taken steps to organize public schools at various points, most notably with the creation of the Literary Fund and the public school law in 1825 and 1839 respectively, poor roads prevented lawmakers from making attendance compulsory.⁴⁶

Meaningful highway legislation and improvements did not come until the 1920s as more and more North Carolinians became car owners who demanded better roads (nationwide, automobile registrations rose from eight thousand to eight million between 1900 and 1920).⁴⁷ In 1921, Cameron Morrison won the governor's office, and he worked with Harriet Berry and the Good Roads Association to quickly create a state highway commission that ultimately produced an extensive statewide system of modern roads.⁴⁸

During the 1920s, the commission also created a route-numbering system that established N.C. Highway 90 along the eighteenth-century route crossing the northern edge of Washington County. Since 1913, Washington County had used convict labor to improve its roads, and in 1923, inmates began grading and straightening the newly-numbered NC 90. This work created the present course of NC 32/94, and three years later the county

⁴⁵ Powell, 249.

⁴⁶ Powell, 258, 290, 416, and Harry L. Watson, "'Old Rip' and a New Era," in *The North Carolina Experience: An Interpretive and Documentary History*, ed. Lindley S. Butler and Alan D. Watson (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1984), 218.

⁴⁷ Mark S. Foster, "The Automobile and the City," in *The Automobile and American Culture*, eds. David L. Lewis and Lawrence Goldstein (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1983), 29.

⁴⁸ North Carolina Museum of History, Twentieth Century History Highlights, accessed on February 9, 2006 via <http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/nchh/twentieth.html>, and Powell, *Four Centuries*, 470.

paved the road. In 1927, when the federal highway system was created, one of the initial routes was Highway 64, which in North Carolina runs the length of the state from Murphy to Manteo. In Washington County, US 64 followed NC 90.⁴⁹

The improvement of these routes provided a much-needed link between the wider world and Washington County citizens. While the county's generations of sawmills, shingle factories, and paper mills gained access to far-flung markets via water travel and, later, railroads, the county's yeomen farmers enjoyed only limited mobility until the county and later the state began improving the region's roads.

In Washington County, better roads and the expansion of car ownership from the 1920s forward opened new markets to local entrepreneurs. Most commonly, based on the surviving stock of buildings, those who wanted to start a roadside business built one of two structures: a gable-front store or a shed-roof vegetable stand.

Residents all along the original US 64 corridor built small and medium-size, frame, gable-front stores in the 1920s and 1930s, and a large number remain standing today. Most often these stores are situated at crossroads such as the store at Pleasant Grove, but sometimes they are simply standing at the edge of the road. Almost all of the extant examples noted during a windshield survey feature false-front parapets and most retain original plain or German weatherboard siding.

Another roadside business common in Washington County was the vegetable stand. The smallest and simplest examples comprise a shed roof supported by posts either tied to concrete block plinths or planted directly in the soil. Larger or more substantial structures include rear walls and the rear halves of the side elevations are frequently sided. Tables or counters under the shed roof display fruits and vegetables.

It appears that white women often ran or helped run these roadside businesses, which is not surprising given that items for sale were often farm products that women had created or helped create. Operators offered vegetables, peanuts, canned foods and, in some cases, ready-to-eat food such as sandwiches. Eggs from the family's chickens, the welfare of which usually fell to the household's females, were another commodity. The 1910 census does not indicate that Mary Pritchard operated the family's store (her husband Henry is described as a farmer and merchant; she as a farmer), but Mrs. Pritchard's grandson stated that not only did she run the store, she built it or oversaw its construction around 1900.⁵⁰

It is also not surprising that women in Washington County engaged in roadside commerce in the early twentieth century because national magazines touted related

⁴⁹ NCroads.com "annex" accessed via <http://members.cox.net/ncroads/>. This website replaced the original NCroads.com website, Modlin et al., 84, and Darden, no page numbers.

⁵⁰ Scott Owen, Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report Phase II (Abridged): US 64, TIP No. R-2548" (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Transportation, 1997), 208, and Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Population Schedule, accessed via Heritage Quest, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com>.

businesses as respectable ventures for women. *Harper's Bazaar*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Ladies Home Journal*, and *Woman's Home Companion* all featured articles in the early 1900s promoting restaurants, tea rooms, and taverns as "promising industries for women." Women were the proprietors of the first restaurants of the automobile age, and they ran a wide variety of businesses that provided travelers with shelter or food.⁵¹ Washington County's low population density and rural nature could not support many such businesses, but local women could easily translate the magazines' suggestions into enterprises better suited to their economic environment.

That both commerce and the role of women in it increased with the advent of improved roads is borne out in the 1920 and 1930 census data for Skinnersville Township.⁵² In 1920, most white men in Skinnersville Township farmed, whether on their own farms, as farm laborers, or as tenants. Some worked in timber-related occupations while others fished or were ministers. A small number held railroad jobs. Only four white men were merchants in Skinnersville Township in 1920. Of those four, one did not own a store and was a boarder with a farm family. Another of the four worked with his wife who was a milliner. White men in Skinnersville Township held only two other occupations: bar keeper and shoemaker.⁵³

Almost all white women in Skinnersville Township in 1920 worked in their own homes as housekeepers. A small number were teachers or seamstresses. Only five white women held other jobs outside their homes: one daughter served as a post mistress, three females worked as nurses, and a fourth woman was the previously-mentioned milliner. No women worked as merchants.⁵⁴

By 1930, few things had changed for white men in Skinnersville Township. Farming followed by fishing and logging were the primary occupations, while a few worked on the railroads. The number of male merchants had grown only from four to five, two of who were assisted by their wives.⁵⁵

For some white women, however, the decade between 1920 and 1930 brought slight but notable employment changes. Most women in Skinnersville Township continued laboring in their own homes as housekeepers. Many still worked as seamstresses or teachers, and one served as a midwife, but one white woman was a sales lady at a drug store and another woman in that same household worked as a nurse at a hospital. Because no drug

⁵¹ Jan Whitaker, "Catering to Romantic Hunger: Roadside Tearooms, 1909-1930," *Journal of American Culture* (December 1992), 17.

⁵² No African American merchants were listed in either 1920 or 1930. Both censuses indicates that African Americans men who were not farmers or farm laborers did odd jobs either for hire or for private families, or they worked as servants in private families. African American women not engaged in housekeeping at their own homes, worked in private home as cooks, nurses and midwives, seamstresses, and as general servants.

⁵³ Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Population Schedule, accessed via Heritage Quest, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com>.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Population Schedule, accessed via Heritage Quest, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com>.

store and no hospital are known to have existed in Skinnersville Township during this time, it is likely these two women used the improved roads to commute to Plymouth or Roper.⁵⁶

The most striking change, however, is that two other avenues for earning income had opened to white women during the preceding decade: operating a general store and raising poultry. In 1930, the census listed “raising poultry” as the occupations for four women (both single and married) in the township. The census does not indicate that anyone in these households were merchants (documented husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons were all farmers), but these women must have been raising poultry specifically to sell. Had they been raising eggs and chickens only for home consumption, they would have been enumerated simply as homemakers. Despite the fact that these women were not specifically called merchants, they were participating in the area’s commerce by selling eggs and chickens either from their homes, at their own roadside stands, which may have doubled as vegetable stands, or at a local general store. And by 1930, chances had increased significantly that the poultry raiser selling her products at a local store was working with a female proprietor.⁵⁷

In 1920, no women worked as merchants (except for the one milliner working with her husband), but in 1930, three women (all married to farmers) ran general stores by themselves. Additionally, two women, as previously noted, helped their husbands run stores. This means that in 1930 women ran or helped run five or sixty-three percent of the township’s eight stores.⁵⁸

These parallel trends of better roads and new roadside businesses run by women culminated in Washington County in the Albemarle Grill. At a time when small stores and vegetable stands appear to have been the county’s only roadside architecture, the Albemarle Grill stands out as unusually large, relatively architecturally sophisticated, and particularly closely tied to the county’s transportation history.

The Albemarle Grill’s history begins with a bridge. Although Washington County profited from road projects in the 1920s and 1930s, the county still lacked one long-sought-after improvement: a bridge connecting the north and south sides of the Albemarle Sound. Residents started clamoring for a bridge as soon as the State Highway Commission coalesced in 1921, but over two decades of negotiations and planning passed before the state moved forward. Finally, in 1938, the State Highway Commission opened the Albemarle Sound Bridge. The new thoroughfare made Mackey’s Ferry obsolete, but it created other commercial opportunities.

Just two weeks before workers opened the bridge to traffic, Annah Norman purchased 6.1 acres of land from Mrs. M.A. White and her husband, W.W. Annah Norman may have constructed the building, but one local historian recalls that the Grill opened at around the same time as the bridge, which would indicate that the Whites built the Grill. In either

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

case, however, a woman played an integral part in establishing the business: Mrs. White was the sole purchaser of the property in 1936, and Annah Norman was the sole grantee in 1938.⁵⁹

The Grill occupied a prime corner where the new road to the bridge forked off what was then US Highway 64. The restaurant gained a reputation for sandwiches and dances that “sometimes got a little rough.”⁶⁰ In December 1938, Norfolk Southern Bus Corporation made the restaurant a stop on its Norfolk to Plymouth and Norfolk to Columbia routes. A schedule published in the *Roanoke Beacon and Washington County News* does not name the Grill, but it does indicate a stop at Pea Ridge and local tradition holds that the Grill served as the Pea Ridge station.⁶¹ About a year after the bridge opened, B.W. and Annah Norman sold two of the 6.1 acres to Connie Alexander.⁶²

While the Grill’s customers may have kicked up their heels, the building’s architecture was far more staid. During the early twentieth century, car owners taking leisurely drives in the country, particularly in New England, sought out historic, colonial villages and buildings. As a result, business owners renovated earlier roadside facilities like eighteenth-century taverns to again serve passersby. Likewise, owners and architects also applied colonial styles to newly-constructed driver-oriented buildings such as hotels, restaurants, and gas stations. Colonial Revival architecture provided desired historic ambience and reassured Americans that although the pace of cars and life might be increasing, they could still plant their feet on the country’s rock-solid foundation.⁶³

At the Albemarle Grill, the builder used a gambrel roof and multi-light windows to make associations with such colonial landmarks as the Wayside Inn, an eighteenth-century tavern in Massachusetts that Henry Ford famously renovated in the 1920s.⁶⁴ The Grill’s long shed-roof dormers and numerous windows also link it to the breezy early-twentieth-century beach houses at Nags Head. The building communicates both the steadfastness of America and a playful beach atmosphere through an interpretation of early American roadside precedents as communicated through popular culture and regionally popular coastal vacation architecture. As a result, the Grill drew local youth looking for a place to jitterbug and shag and charmed road-weary out-of-towners exploring North Carolina’s ancient Albemarle region or heading to the Outer Banks.

This use of specific architectural elements to communicate certain attributes of the business inside is unique in the county to the Albemarle Grill. Roadside buildings constructed in Washington County in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s incorporated very few

⁵⁹ Branch Banking and Trust Co., trustee of the Estate of W.H. Ward to Mrs. M.A. White, December 31, 1938, Washington County Deed Book 114, page 539, Mrs. M.A. White and husband W.W. to Annah Norman, August 1, 1938, Washington County Deed Book 125, page 231, and Modlin et al., 61.

⁶⁰ Jimmy Goodman, interview with the author, October 13, 2006.

⁶¹ Modlin et al., 61.

⁶² B.W. and Annah Norman to Connie Alexander, October 28, 1939, Washington County Deed Book 130, page 6.

⁶³ William B. Rhoads, “Roadside Colonial: Early American Design for the Automobile Age, 1900-1940,” *Winterthur Portfolio* 20 (Summer-Autumn, 1986), 133, 135.

⁶⁴ Rhoads, 136-137.

architectural features and certainly none as sophisticated as that seen at the Albemarle Grill. The Grill stands among nondescript vegetable stands with simple posts supporting shed roofs and gable-front buildings that are repetitions of late-nineteenth-century general stores. When someone wanted to open a new store in the county in the 1930s, that person built the same building his or her grandparents would have constructed. Based on extant examples, he or she would have employed two-over-two sash windows, a false-front parapet, and weatherboard siding. A few owners used more up-to-date German siding, but none employed architecture to make a statement: no massive columns indicated trustworthiness, no double-shouldered chimneys suggested colonial hominess, and no sleek enameled panels invited drivers to stop at a modern, clean, efficient gas station. In that respect, the Grill appears to stand alone in the county's pre-World War II, rural commercial architecture.

In 1944, Mary Gardner bought the building and business from Connie Alexander, and today, she is the proprietor most commonly associated with the Grill. During her ownership, Friday and Saturday nights found the restaurant and dance hall brimming with Marines from a base in Chowan County. Recalling a childhood spent across the road from the Grill, Jimmy Goodman admitted disobeying his parents to surreptitiously visit the "juke joint."⁶⁵

During the 1950s, business seems to have declined at the Albemarle Grill, thanks in large part to cars and roads. During the mid-twentieth century, increasingly comfortable roads and cars meant that people could move faster, which made roadside stores, including the Grill, less enticing and less noticeable to speeding passersby. Drivers could go farther, to other restaurants, dance halls, and brightly lit supermarkets in larger towns. Car owners had no use for buses, and in the mid-1950s bus service at the Albemarle Grill ceased. In short, during the mid-twentieth century, the county's rural roadside businesses and bus service began falling victim to the very cars and roads that had made them profitable originally.

By 1960, Mary Gardner, now married to Leo L. Koenig, sold the Grill to J.R. and Nellie Roughton. It is not clear if the Roughtons continued operating the restaurant or not, but four years later, they transferred the building to the Skinnersville Civic Center for use as the group's headquarters.⁶⁶ Thus, despite the end of the Albemarle Grill, the building continued its life as a community gathering spot.

The Skinnersville Civic Center was organized as a nonprofit corporation by a group of residents of the Skinnersville Township in 1964. The group's charter states that it intended to provide the Skinnersville Township with civic and community betterment programs, opportunities for recreation and athletic activity through parks and recreational areas, and opportunities for social and civic gatherings at a community center.

⁶⁵ Connie Alexander to Mary M. Gardner, May 6, 1944, Washington County Deed Book 140, page 413, and Jimmy Goodman interview.

⁶⁶ Mary M. Koenig and Leo L. Koenig to J.R. Roughton, March 29, 1960, Washington County Deed Book 190, page 367, and J.R. and Nellie Roughton to Skinnersville Civic Center, Inc., December 1, 1964, Washington County Deed Book 203, page 439.

Membership was open to any persons of good character and the original board of directors consisted of both men and women.⁶⁷

Originally, Caucasians composed the group but over time several African Americans joined the association. Eventually, the Civic Center's membership became almost entirely African American. In 1978, Washington County acquired most of the land around the building and constructed now-deteriorated tennis courts and a baseball field, but the Civic Center retained ownership of the building. Today, the building continues to serve the community as a polling place and site of occasional parties or church functions, but the organization is less active than it has been in the past.⁶⁸

In a windshield survey of the county in October 2006, no other similar commercial buildings were observed. In fact, based on the extant stock of commercial buildings built before World War II in Washington County, the Albemarle Grill would have been one of the largest, if not the largest commercial building in rural Washington County. It also appears to be the county's most architecturally expressive rural commercial building.

National Register Evaluation

Because the Grill remains in its original location at what was historically a primary intersection in the county, the Grill retains integrity of location, setting, workmanship, feeling, design, and association. The interior has undergone some alterations with the addition of wood paneling, which has slightly damaged the Grill's integrity of materials. The exterior sheathing of asbestos shingles are probably original to the building.

The Albemarle Grill is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (event) in the areas of commerce, entertainment/recreation, and social history. *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 History or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. 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.* The Grill is associated with changes in commerce that occurred in Washington County as a direct result of transportation improvements. It is also significant in the area of social history because it is associated with the entrance of women into the workforce by way of roadside businesses, such as restaurants and stores. Finally, the Grill is an important example of buildings used for entertainment during the early twentieth century in Washington County. Based on extant buildings, the Albemarle Grill was one of, if not the largest restaurant and dance hall in rural Washington County.

The Albemarle Grill 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*

⁶⁷ Articles of Incorporation of Skinnerville Civic Center, Inc., July 20, 1964, Records of Incorporation, Washington County Register of Deeds, Plymouth, North Carolina.

⁶⁸ Goodman interview, and Skinnerville Civic Center to County of Washington, September 12, 1978, Washington County Deed Book 269, page 353 and June 15, 1979, Washington County Deed Book 273, page 637.

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. No significant person is associated with the Albemarle Grill.

The Albemarle Grill is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *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.* Based on a windshield survey, the Albemarle Grill is the largest and most notable commercial building in rural Washington County. Furthermore, outside the county's towns, it is one of the only commercial buildings in which a specific architectural style is employed.

The Albemarle Grill 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 contributing to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*

Boundary Description and Justification

The proposed National Register boundary for the Albemarle Grill encompasses 0.7 acre, which is the entirety of the parcel with Washington County PIN 7830.00-74-7435. This boundary sufficiently communicates the building's historic surroundings and its relation to the transportation corridors that were crucial to the resource's development. Figure 24 illustrates this boundary.



Albemarle Grill National Register Eligible Boundary

— National Register Eligible Boundary
Washington County Tax Parcel PIN 7830.00-74-7435

Figure 24

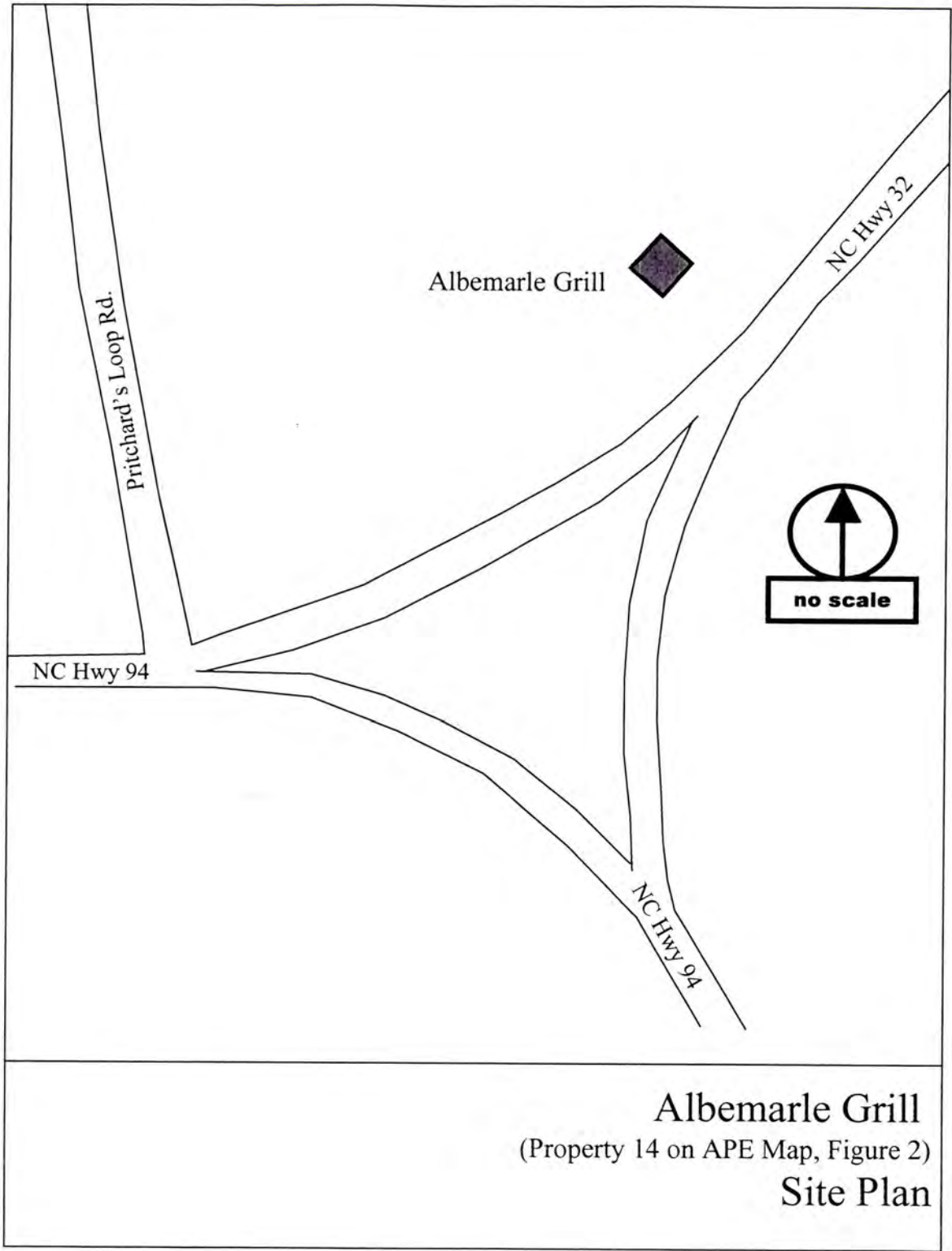


Figure 25



Figure 26: Albemarle Grill, southeast corner



Figure 27, above: Albemarle Grill, south elevation

Figure 28, below: Albemarle Grill, west elevation





Figure 29, above: Albemarle Grill, north elevation

Figure 30, below: Albemarle Grill, northeast corner



Properties Evaluated and Recommended Not Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

Property Evaluation: Holly Neck Church of Christ

Property no. 2 on the APE Map, Figure 3

Location

Holly Neck Church of Christ is located immediately south of the intersection of SR 1139 (Beasley Road) and SR 1136 (Holly Neck Road)

Property Description

Holly Neck Church of Christ is a one-story, gable-front building. It occupies a patch of high ground beside Chapel Swamp and faces north to address the Y-shaped intersection of Beasley Road and Holly Neck Road. To the south, a small cemetery is wedged between the rear of the building and the tree line that identifies a drop in terrain down to Chapel Swamp. To the north, between the church and intersection of Beasley Road and Holly Neck Road, there is a small grassy lawn bisected by a drive that links the two roads to a gravel and sand parking area to the west of the building.

The church's façade is three bays wide with a projecting, gabled vestibule addition occupying the center bay. The vestibule was added in the 1950s and features a double-leaf door with a Gothic-arch transom. Small square lights create a border in the transom. Narrow double-hung sash windows flank the front door. Double-hung sash windows also occupy the façade's outer two bays, flanking the vestibule. A triangular attic vent is situated in the top of the front-facing gable end. The building's side elevations are identical and feature three windows on each side. All windows in the original portion of the building are double-hung sash with small square lights creating a border around each sash. A gabled addition spreads across the rear elevation and projects slightly from both sides. Six-over-six, clear glass sash windows punctuate this addition. The original section stands on brick piers with brick fill between the piers. The vestibule and rear addition rest on concrete block foundations. Vinyl siding covers the entire exterior including the soffits, attic vent, and the additions. A fiberglass steeple stands on the ridgeline at the front of the building. Standing seam metal covers the roof of the main block and the vestibule. Asphalt shingles shelter the rear addition.

The cemetery, where the earliest grave dates from 1908, does not contain significant pieces of funerary art. Markers range from short marble obelisks and plain standing tablets of stone and concrete from the early twentieth century to standard granite monuments installed in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

Historic and Architectural Context

During the early 1800s, three ministers, father and son Thomas and Alexander Campbell of Pennsylvania and Barton W. Stone of Kentucky, preached messages of restoration or reformation by which Christian believers and their churches would drop all human creeds or writings and adhere to the Bible as the only rule of faith and practice. Barton,

originally a Presbyterian, eventually created a group that simply took the name Christians. The Campbells, who were Presbyterians and then Baptists, formed a group called the Disciples of Christ. In 1832, the two movements merged into the Disciples of Christ and began calling their congregations Churches of Christ.⁶⁹

In 1833-1834, Thomas Campbell visited eastern North Carolina and made a stop at the home of Thomas Jordan Latham, a Pantego school teacher who had organized Concord Free Will Baptist Church in 1830. That church was part of the Bethel Conference of Free Will Baptists. After Campbell's visit, during the 1830s, Latham guided his church and the Conference towards the Disciples of Christ so that in 1845, the conference merged with another group, the Union Meeting of the Disciples of Christ, which had formed in 1831 from the Neuse and Kehukee Association (Regular Baptist).⁷⁰

The new organization was called the North Carolina Convention of Disciples of Christ. During the transition, the organization lost some churches and members that wished to remain Baptist, but by 1852, membership had rebounded to 2,600 and churches numbered thirty-seven (all in eastern North Carolina except two in South Carolina). During this antebellum period, Washington County residents organized Christian Hope Church of Christ near Hoke in western Washington County.⁷¹

In North Carolina after the Civil War, newly-freed African Americans began organizing churches as they broke from or were pushed out of the congregations they had joined as slaves with their owners. White denominations regrouped and many embarked on church-building and church-spreading on an unprecedented scale.⁷² North Carolina's Disciples of Christ could count themselves among these active denominations. One historian described the Disciples' post-war period as a time of "sane if fervent evangelism" during which the Disciples planted additional churches in eastern North Carolina and successfully spread the movement west.⁷³ Among these new churches were several in Washington County. Scuppernon Church of Christ officially organized in 1871, but can trace its roots to a nondenominational church called Free Chapel established in the 1820s.⁷⁴ At least six other Churches of Christ followed in the late 1800s in Washington County, some with earlier roots as other denominations.

Washington County residents living in the Holly Neck community organized the Holly Neck Church of Christ as Holly Grove. The group met in a public school building just south of the present church location and was first recognized by the North Carolina Convention of Disciples of Christ at their 1874 meeting. In 1877, the congregation

⁶⁹ "Disciples History," Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) website, accessed September 6, 2006 via <http://www.disciples.org/discover/history.htm>.

⁷⁰ Charles Crossfield Ware, *Tar Heel Disciples, 1841-1852: Proceedings of the North Carolina Convention, Disciples of Christ During its First Twelve Years* (New Bern, NC: Owen G. Dunn, Co., 1942), 5 and 9.

⁷¹ Ware, *Tar Heel Disciples*, 36, 97, and Big Book, 404.

⁷² Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*, portable edition (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2005), 367.

⁷³ Charles Crossfield Ware, *North Carolina Disciples of Christ: A History* (St. Louis, MO: Christian Board of Publication, 1927), 114-115, 223.

⁷⁴ Modlin et al., 404.

changed its name to Holly Neck. By 1887, thirty-five students attended the church's school and as of 1894, the church's roll numbered thirty-four.⁷⁵

In 1901, the church purchased land and began planning its sanctuary. Work commenced in 1902 with carpenter Tom Stockton Swain as the builder. Church members assisted in construction while Stewart Lucas and Tom Swain supplied much of the lumber from their sawmill and shingle mill. W. Butler Brickhouse preached the first sermon in the new building. The earliest burial in the cemetery dates from 1908. The builder, Tom Stockton Swain, was the second person buried there.⁷⁶

During the 1930s, Holly Neck's membership decided that the Church of Christ had strayed from its original principles of reliance only on the Bible. Thus, the church withdrew from the North Carolina Convention of Disciples of Christ and became known as Holly Neck Christian Church. It returned, however, to the Disciples around 1950.⁷⁷

Preachers only visited Holly Neck once a month, but continued growth prompted two additions. In 1954, the congregation funded construction of the vestibule, and in the mid-1950s, several members built the addition across the back of the building. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the church installed carpet, railings along the dais, bathrooms, and new stained glass in the original sash.⁷⁸ Vinyl siding and a fiberglass steeple were added in the late twentieth century.

Holly Neck Church of Christ shares an architectural history with the county's other churches. Most of North Carolina's nineteenth-century church buildings were square or rectangular, gable-roofed buildings with, most commonly, entrances on the gable end. Depending on the church's financial footing, local traditions and preferences, prevailing architectural styles, and the denomination's views about architecture, buildings ranged from plain, functional facilities to elaborate, fashionable and imposing monuments. Regardless, however, of all those factors, most churches, whether urban or rural, carried on the traditional gable-front form despite the introduction of new shapes and floor plans around the turn of the twentieth century.

Washington County's churches reflect that use of the gable-front form. St. David's Episcopal Church, built around 1802, presents a gable-front façade with a square tower. Rehoboth Methodist Church is well-known for its simple gable-front form and modest mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival details. Moratock Primitive Baptist's 1860s building also took a gable-front form.⁷⁹

As the nineteenth century progressed, elaborate Queen Anne designs came into residential use and spread easily to traditional gable-front church buildings. Some congregations expressed their fashion awareness by decorating a tower on the façade with

⁷⁵ Ibid., 411-412.

⁷⁶ Ibid., 412.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid., 413-414.

⁷⁹ Ibid., 151.

ornamental shingles, sawnwork, or brackets. Those that did not apply a tower to their gable-front sanctuaries added elaborate attic vents, stained-glass windows, decorative shingles, and steeples. Scuppernong Church of Christ's 1897 building featured scrollwork in the gable end, arched windows, and a tall steeple. Around 1908, Mackeys United Methodist Church built a gable-front sanctuary with Gothic-arch stained glass windows to which the congregation added a square tower on the front corner in the 1920s.

Holly Neck Church of Christ was finished in 1902, and its design is directly related to numerous other late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century church buildings in the county. Like countless other congregations in Washington County, Holly Neck continued using the tried-and-true gable-front form, but added stained-glass windows with borders of small square lights, overhanging eaves, and a relatively steeply pitched roof.

Throughout its history, however, Holly Neck Church of Christ has undergone numerous alterations that have compromised its architectural integrity. Based on the description of the church presented in *Washington County, NC: A Tapestry*, the interior has been thoroughly remodeled. A vestibule addition and a classroom addition across the rear elevation were constructed in the 1950s. Also in the 1950s, new stained glass was added to the original window sash. In the late twentieth century, the congregation covered the exterior with vinyl siding. Although the siding does not cover the flat, plain window surrounds, it does completely envelop the eaves, any cornice molding, and the attic vent. The congregation has also added a fiberglass steeple to the roof. The intact, original standing-seam metal roof does not indicate that an original steeple preceded the present structure. The absence of steeples on other, similar churches, also suggests that Holly Neck did not have a steeple originally.

In a windshield survey conducted in October 2006, investigators noted several turn-of-the-twentieth-century churches of similar size and design as Holly Neck Church of Christ. Three examples⁸⁰ stood out as more architecturally significant designs than Holly Neck, and two of those three retain a higher degree of architectural integrity than Holly Neck. All three, however, like Holly Neck, are covered in synthetic siding and have early- and mid-twentieth-century rear additions. The oldest of the group, and the one most like Holly Neck Church of Christ, is Pleasant Grove Methodist Church, which was either built around 1859 and altered in the 1890s or was rebuilt entirely in the 1890s.⁸¹ Asbestos siding covers the gable-front sanctuary, but the building features arched stained-glass windows with heavily-molded window hoods, a matching arched attic vent, and a broad fan light over the double-leaf entry. Like many rural churches, including Holly Neck Church of Christ in its original state, Pleasant Grove does not have a steeple.

Scuppernong Church of Christ constructed its present building in 1897. Although vinyl siding covers the building and a substantial vestibule was added to the façade, many of its original features remain. Queen Anne components include arched windows and an octagonal steeple with peaked louvered vents capped with a tall pyramidal roof. Other notable Queen Anne features were carried forward from the original façade to the façade

⁸⁰ See Appendix C for images of these buildings.

⁸¹ Modlin et al., 290.

of the vestibule added in 1962. These relocated elements include delicate scrollwork highlighting the front gable peak, a recessed, arched entry topped with a fanlight, and a slightly projecting pavilion housing a lozenge-shaped attic vent in the center of the front gable. Scuppernong was originally a significant Queen Anne design and many original design elements from the façade were carefully moved to the vestibule, but the addition of the vestibule combined with interior alterations reported in *Washington County, NC: A Tapestry*, have had a negative impact on the building's architectural integrity.

A few years later, around 1908, Mackeys United Methodist Church constructed a sanctuary that still serves the congregation. Gothic-arch, stained-glass windows punctuate the frame, gable-front building. The corner tower with a Gothic-arch fanlight, steeply-pitched bracketed stoop, and Gothic-arch louvered belfry vents was added in 1923. Mackeys United Methodist Church is covered with vinyl siding, but the interior reportedly retains a pressed metal ceiling and original wooden folding chairs.⁸²

Although Pleasant Grove Methodist Church, Scuppernong Church of Christ, Mackeys United Methodist Church, and Holly Neck Church of Christ have all been covered with synthetic siding, Pleasant Grove and Mackeys are better examples of rural Queen Anne-influenced churches in Washington County, and they possess a higher artistic value than Holly Neck Church of Christ. Additionally, Holly Neck's interior has been extensively altered. The interior of Pleasant Grove was not surveyed but as of 1997, it retained original flooring, pews, and wainscoting. Mackeys United Methodist Church apparently retains most of its original interior features. Furthermore, Pleasant Grove Methodist Church is listed on the state's Study List, and it was determined eligible for listing in the National Register in 1997.

National Register Evaluation

Holly Neck Church of Christ retains integrity of location, setting, and association, but alterations have diminished or destroyed its integrity of materials, design, workmanship, and feeling.

Holly Neck Church of Christ is **not eligible** for the National Register 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 History or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. 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.* The church is not associated with any broad pattern of history or any specific historic event.

Holly Neck Church of Christ 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*

⁸² Ibid., 427.

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. No significant person is associated with the church.

Holly Neck Church of Christ is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *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.* Extensive renovations inside the Holly Neck Church of Christ have stripped its interior of architectural integrity. On the exterior, vinyl siding, the introduction of a steeple, and a large rear addition have individually affected the building's integrity, but taken together, these alterations have so severely and negatively reduced the church's integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling that it is not eligible for the National Register. Furthermore, the cemetery does not possess artistic merit sufficient for eligibility for the National Register. Additionally, Pleasant Grove Methodist Church and Mackeys United Methodist Church are better examples of rural Queen Anne-influenced churches; both possess higher artistic value than Holly Neck and both embody more of the distinctive characteristics of their type and period than Holly Neck does.

Holly Neck Church of Christ 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 contributing to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*

Because Holly Neck Church of Christ and its cemetery do not meet any of the National Register Criteria, they cannot meet Criterion Considerations A and D, which address religious properties and cemeteries.

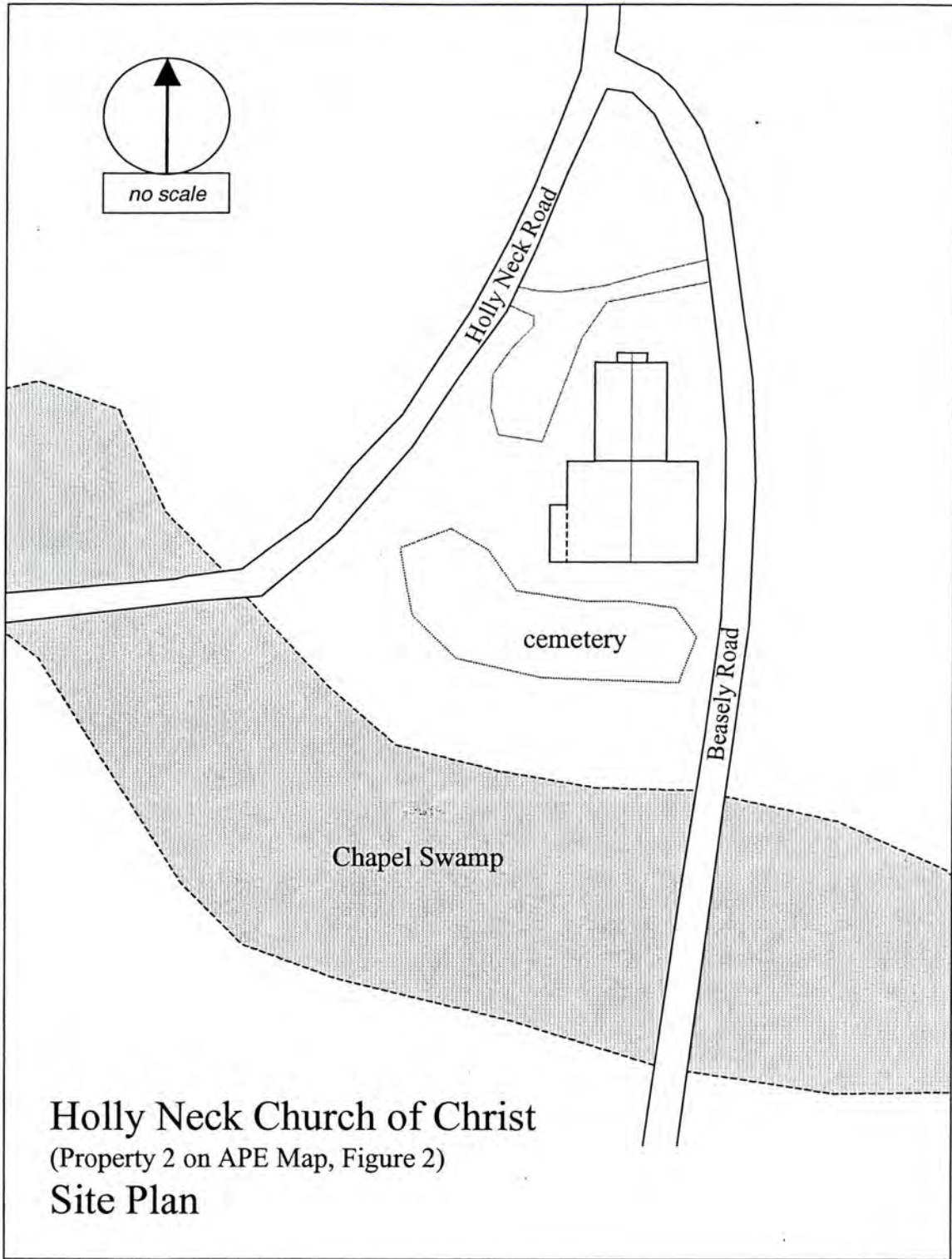


Figure 31

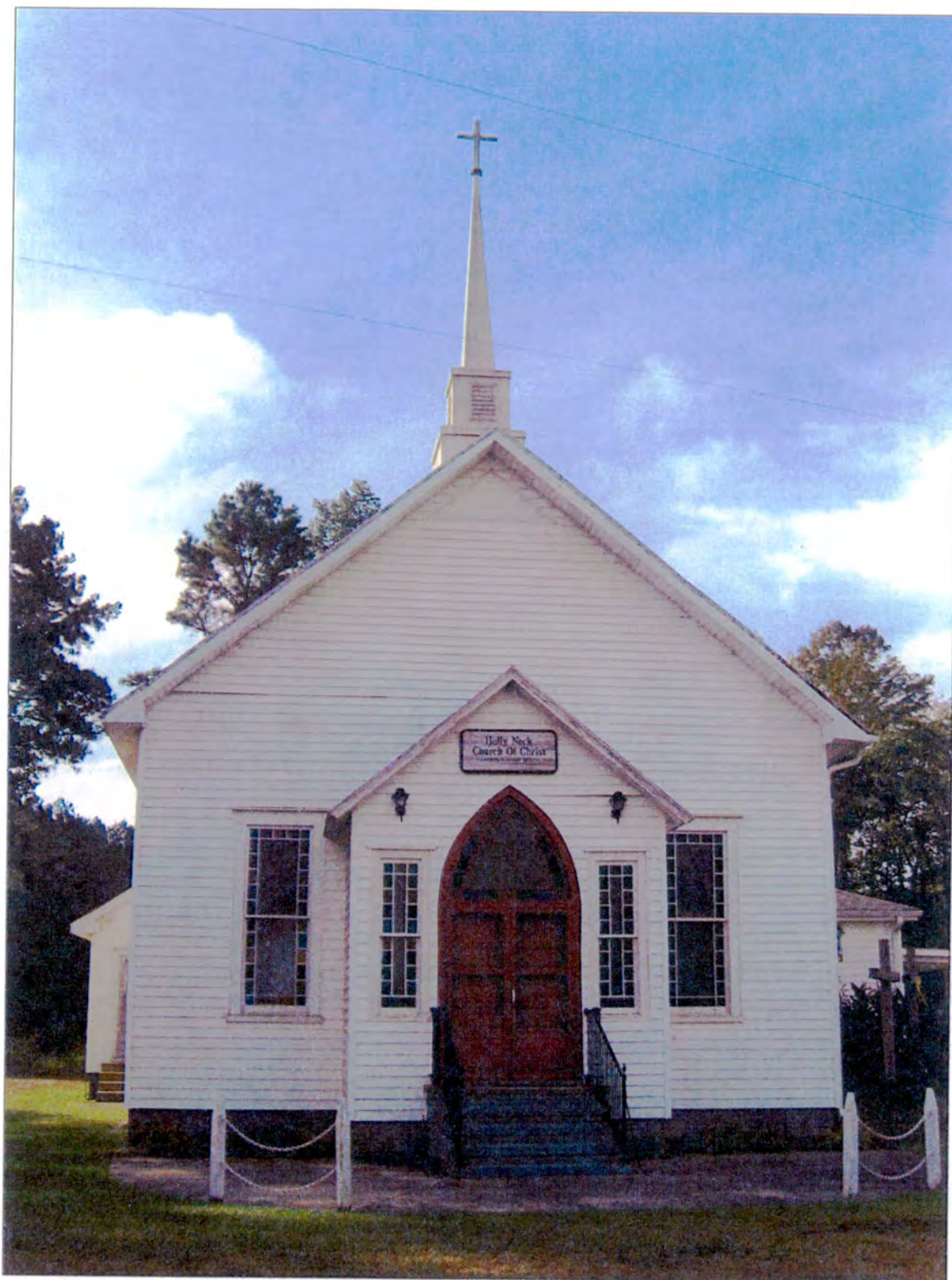


Figure 32, above: Holly Neck Church of Christ, north elevation



Figure 33, above: Holly Neck Church of Christ, east elevation

Figure 34, below: Holly Neck Church of Christ, southeast corner





Figure 35, above: Holly Neck Church of Christ, south elevation

Figure 36, below: Holly Neck Church of Christ, west elevation





Figure 37, left: Holly Neck Church of Christ in miniature

Figure 38, below: Holly Neck Church of Christ, grave marker of Thomas Swain, builder of the church

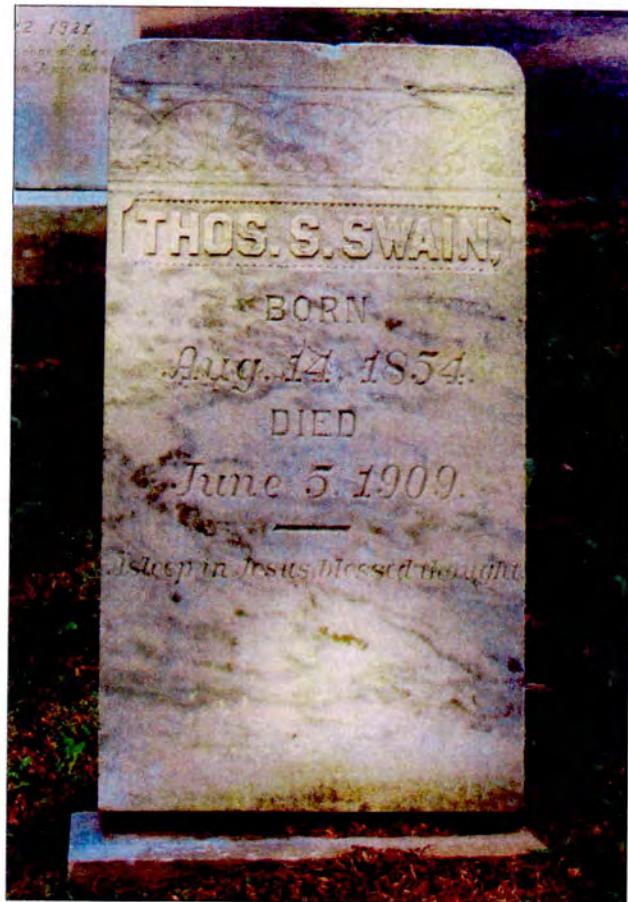




Figure 39, above: Holly Neck Church of Christ, cemetery, facing southwest

Figure 40, below: Holly Neck Church of Christ, cemetery, facing west



Properties Evaluated and Recommended Not Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

Property Evaluation: Scuppernong Tower

Property no. 26 on the APE Map, Figure 3

Location

14082 NC Highway 94 North; north side of NC 94 approximately 1.7 miles east of Jones White Road (SR 1303)

Property Description

The Washington County Scuppernong Tower is a one-hundred-foot-tall fire lookout tower. Built in the early 1930s, probably around 1933, the structure consists of a column of steel members that form a square truss frame that tapers upwards from approximately nineteen feet square at the base to approximately seven feet square at the top. A cab or lookout room tops the structure. The tower rests on four concrete bases. A dogleg stair with wooden treads rises through the middle of the structure.

Safety concerns prevented the investigator from fully examining the cab. Each exterior wall of the cab is identical. From a wooden floor, a sheet metal wall extends up to a pair of metal frame windows. As at other examples, one window of each pair is stationary and the other can pivot open. A pyramidal metal roof caps the structure.

A trailer that functions as the county ranger's office stands immediately north of the tower's base. Two equipment buildings stand to the west and northwest while two other small storage sheds are located to the east and northeast. All of the outbuildings date from the late-twentieth century.

Historic Context: Fire Towers

During the early 1900s, the economic importance of timbering prompted North Carolina's legislature to consider a formal plan for combating forest fires on both publicly and privately owned lands. In 1915, the General Assembly created the position of State Forester and made forest fire suppression the purview of the Geological Board.⁸³ Legislation passed in 1921 seeking the "development of an efficient organization for statewide forest protection" came to fruition in 1925 with the creation of the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development.⁸⁴

In 1927, the U.S. Forest Service built North Carolina's first steel lookout tower in Cumberland County using the LX 25 pattern, a steel tower designed by the Aermotor

⁸³ Fred G. Bates, "New Administrative Agencies," *The American Political Science Review* (August 1916), 562.

⁸⁴ North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey, *Forest Warden's Manual* (Raleigh: by the author, 1922), 3.

Company of Chicago.⁸⁵ The LX 25 was the more common of the two Aermotor plans used in eastern North Carolina. It is a tapered steel tower with a steel cab reached via a dogleg stair that makes its way up the inside of the tower. The LX 24 is the same steel tower but instead of a stair, a ladder ascends the structure's exterior.⁸⁶ Both the federal and state forest services used these plans to construct lookout towers across the state in the 1930s and 1940s.

Nationwide, the Civilian Conservation Corps erected 611 fire lookout towers. Exactly how many they constructed in North Carolina is not known, but by 1936, the North Carolina Forest Service, with or without the help of the CCC, operated seventy-one lookouts. Many counties, like Washington, had two towers.⁸⁷

The fire lookout tower served as the foundation of the state's forest fire fighting plan. A towerman, hired seasonally, lived during "fire weather" either in a cabin at the tower, in the cab itself, or in some other accommodations near the tower. The towerman was considered to be on duty twenty-four hours a day, and when he spotted smoke, he used a "fire finder" to locate its point of origin. The finder was a round map on which the towerman could triangulate the compass azimuth to translate his sighting of smoke into a point on a map. The towerman then contacted a second tower or requested that a dispatcher call a second tower for a reading. The two measurements could pinpoint a fire to which the towerman or dispatcher would send a "smokechaser" or fire crew. The forest service used telephones for most of their communications, although by 1936, the service was slowly switching to radios.⁸⁸

After World War II, improving communications lessened the importance of fire lookout towers. Use of the towers began a steady decline in the 1960s. The state forest service, now part of the Division of Forest Resources, stopped using many of its towers in the eastern part of the state in the early 1990s.⁸⁹

History of the Scuppernong Tower

Two fire lookout towers have protected Washington County's timber since the 1930s. The Civilian Conservation Corps built one of them in or near the town of Plymouth around 1933. A small frame office was located near the base of the Plymouth tower. It is likely that the CCC also built the second tower, situated in the south-southwest section of the county near Wenona. Both were Aermotor Company steel towers that followed the LX 25 design.⁹⁰

⁸⁵ Clay Griffith, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. "National Forests in North Carolina, Nantahala and Pisgah Districts: Lookout Towers Documentation and National Register of Historic Places Evaluation," report prepared for the USDA Forest Service, 2005, 14-15.

⁸⁶ William B. Greeley, *Specifications and Plans for Lookout Towers* (USDA Forest Service, 1924), 1, 7, in Griffith, 13-14.

⁸⁷ Griffith, 18, and W.C. McCormick, *Manual of Instructions for Forest Wardens* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, 1936), 52.

⁸⁸ McCormick, 13-14, and 54.

⁸⁹ Griffith, 19, and Jimmy Davenport interview.

⁹⁰ Jimmy Davenport interview.

In the mid-1940s, the state forest service dismantled the Plymouth tower and reconstructed it at its present location in the northeastern section of the county, northwest of Creswell, on land the state purchased in 1936 to build the Washington County Prison Camp. The service also moved the frame office building. At the new site, the tower was renamed Scuppernong Tower.⁹¹

Around 1991, the Forest Service decommissioned the tower. Today, it serves as the base for the county warden's communication antenna. Also around 1991, the service dismantled the Wenona tower. It is not known if an office stood at that site or not. In 1997, fire destroyed the 1930s office building at the Scuppernong Tower, and the service replaced it with the present trailer.⁹²

The Scuppernong Tower is the only lookout tower remaining in Washington County, but many more stand across eastern North Carolina. Because they were all built from a standardized plan, they are all identical; only levels of deterioration, presence of an office, slight differences in age, and height vary. A large number of towers identical to the Scuppernong Tower remain in the state's coastal plain and many of those such as the Edgecombe County Tower near Tarboro retain original, if altered, offices. Additionally, the Warren County Tower, a LX 25 design, is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Scuppernong Tower remains in stable condition, but given the small number of features that differentiate between the extant towers, the absence of the original office building is problematic.

National Register Evaluation

Because of the existence other examples, the loss of the office has significantly and negatively affected the resource's integrity of feeling, association, and setting. While the tower itself retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, the office does not retain any of these features. Because the tower was moved more than fifty years ago, it does retain its integrity of location.

The Scuppernong Tower is **not eligible** for the National Register 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 History or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. 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.* Because the Scuppernong Tower is one of many similar or identical examples but does not retain all its components (the office no longer stands) the Scuppernong Tower is not a good example of a tower associated with the history of forest fire suppression in North Carolina.

The Scuppernong Tower 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.,*

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Ibid.

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. No significant person is associated with the Scuppernong Tower.

The Scuppernong Tower is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *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.* Because the tower is one of many identical towers and because its associated office does not exist, it does not fully embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. Similarly, it does not represent the work of a master nor does it possess high artistic value.

The Scuppernong Tower **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 contributing to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*

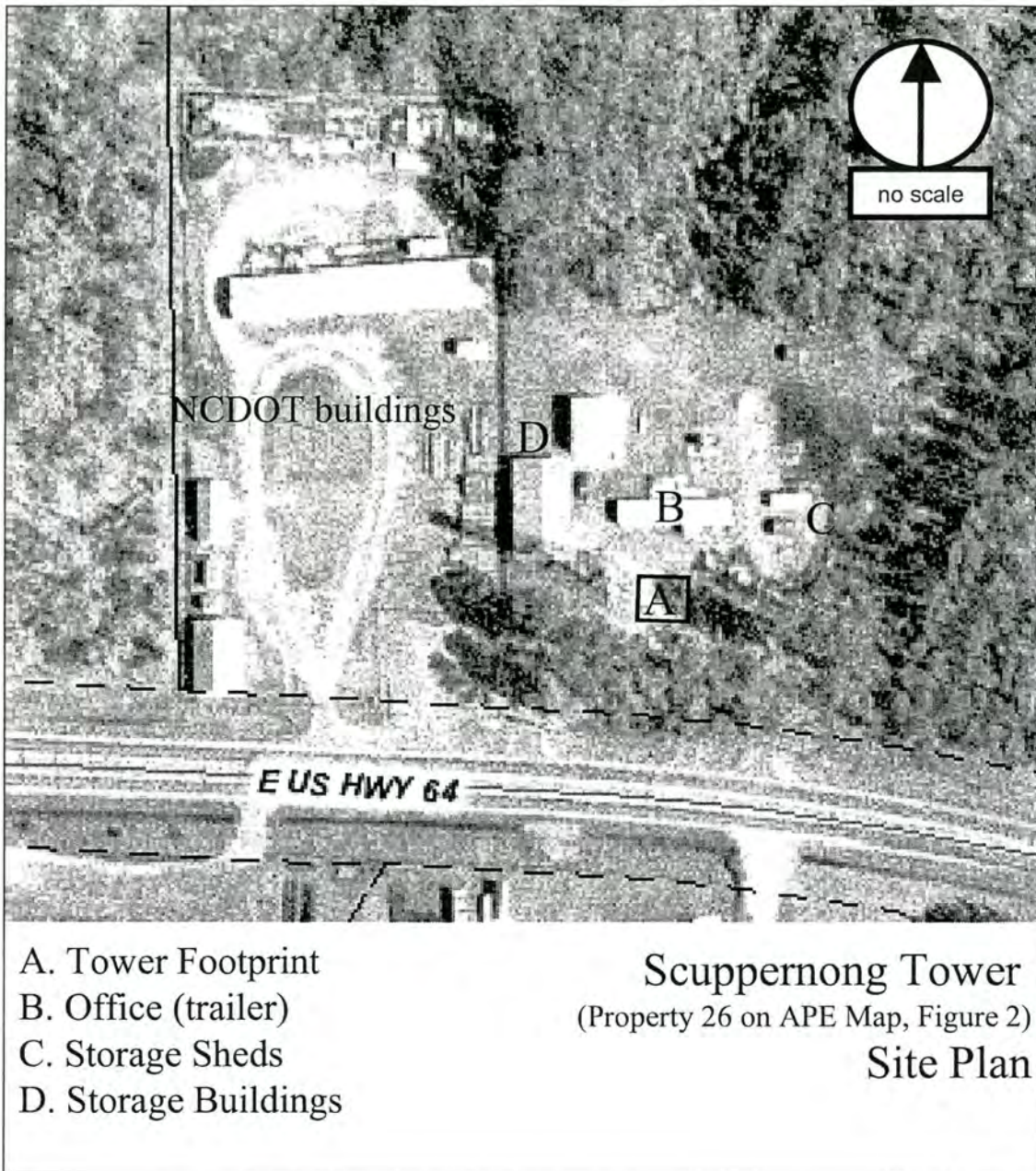


Figure 41



Figure 42, above: Scuppernong Tower, southeast corner



Figure 43, above: Scuppernong Tower, cab detail, southeast corner

Figure 44, at right: Scuppernong Tower, stair detail





Figure 45, above: Scuppernong Tower, detail of maker's mark

Figure 46, below: Scuppernong Tower, office trailer in background



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Appendix A
Concurrence Form for Properties Not Eligible for the
National Register of Historic Places

Federal Aid # STP-000S(252)

TIP# R-3620

County: Washington

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

Project Description: New Location from US 64 to NC 32

On August 30, 2006 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 properties identified as 1, 4, 13, 15-26 are considered not eligible for the National Register and no further evaluation of them is necessary. 27-32
- 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:

Sarah Woodard David
Representative, NCDOT

August 30, 2006
Date

FHWA, for the Division Administrator, or other Federal Agency

Date

[Signature]
Representative, HPO

8/30/06
Date

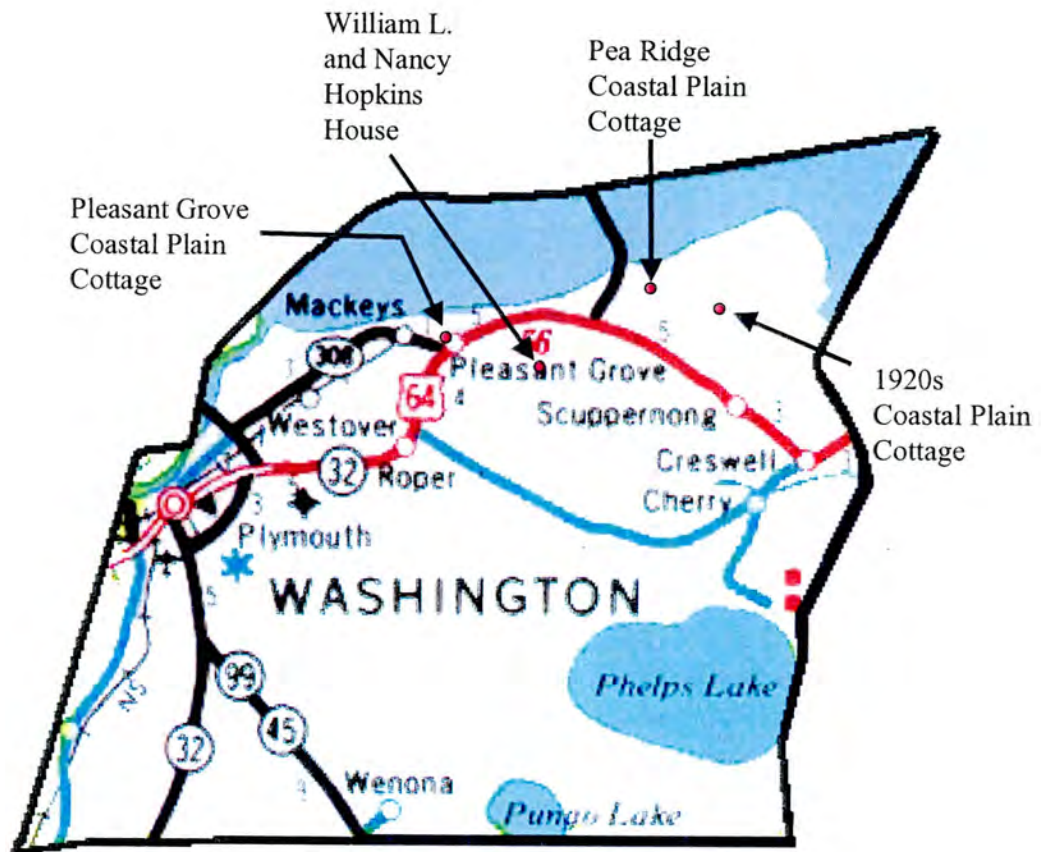
Renee Medhill-Easley
State Historic Preservation Officer

8-30-06
Date

If a survey report is prepared, a final copy of this form and the attached list will be included.

Properties 9+16 - DOE in 1997; property 27 - DOE in 1997
Property 10 - NR listed Further study: properties 2, 3, 14, 26

Appendix B
Photographs of Coastal Plain Cottages in Washington County



Approximate locations of Coastal Plain Cottages in Washington County



Early-nineteenth-century Coastal Plain Cottage, Pea Ridge



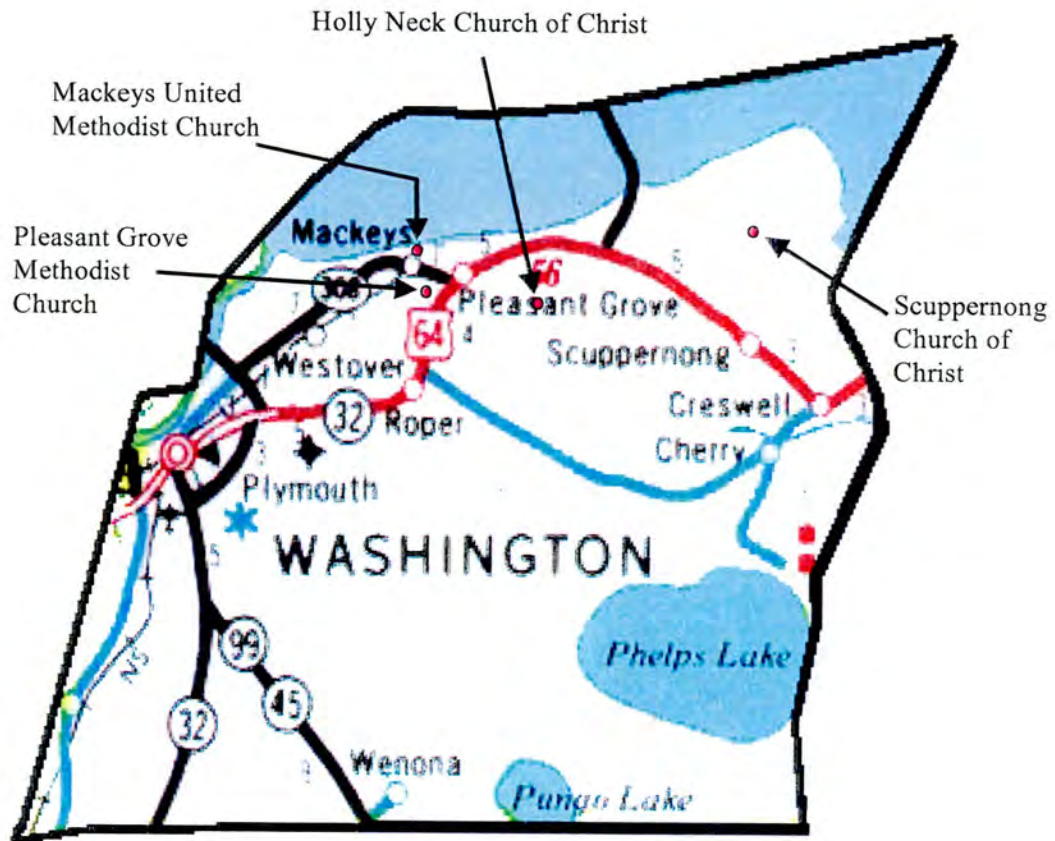
1920s Coastal Plain Cottage, Scuppernong vicinity



Turn-of-the-twentieth-century Coastal Plain Cottage, Pleasant Grove



Appendix C
Photographs of Turn-of-the-Twentieth-Century Churches
in Washington County



Approximate locations of turn-of-the-twentieth-century churches in Washington County



Pleasant Grove Methodist Church, 1890s



Mackeys United Methodist Church, 1908



Scuppernong Church of Christ, 1897



Appendix D
Properties Not Evaluated and Not Eligible
for the National Register

Property numbers correspond to the APE Map, Figure 2



1. House, ca. 1940



4. House, ca. 1940

5. House, ca. 1925



6. House, ca. 1930

7. House, ca. 1950



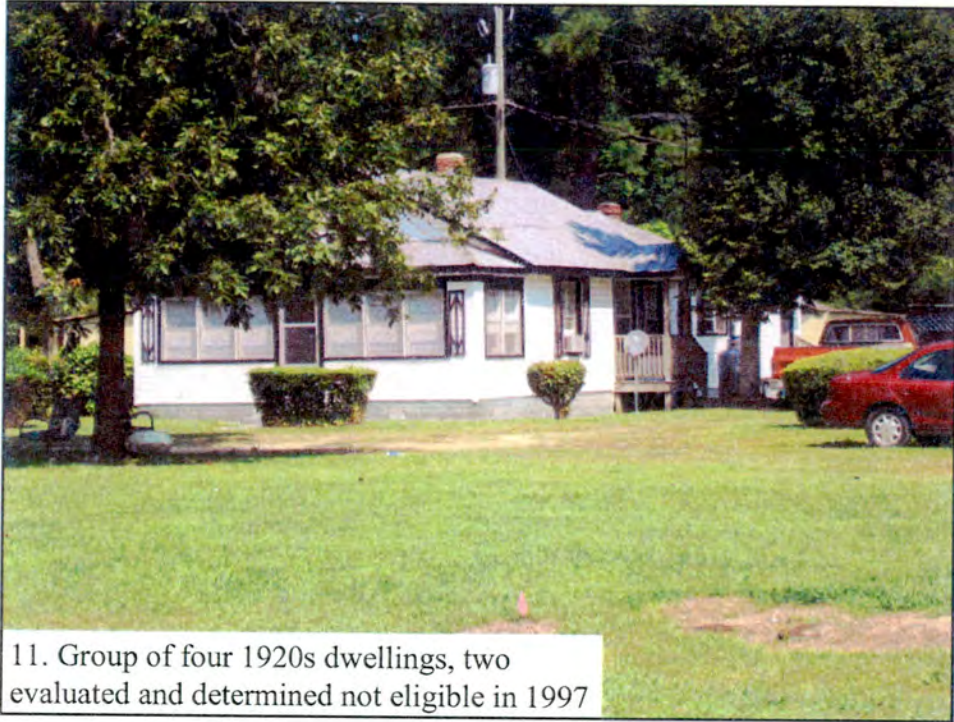
7. House, ca. 1950

8. Simpson's BBQ, building 1, ca. 1960

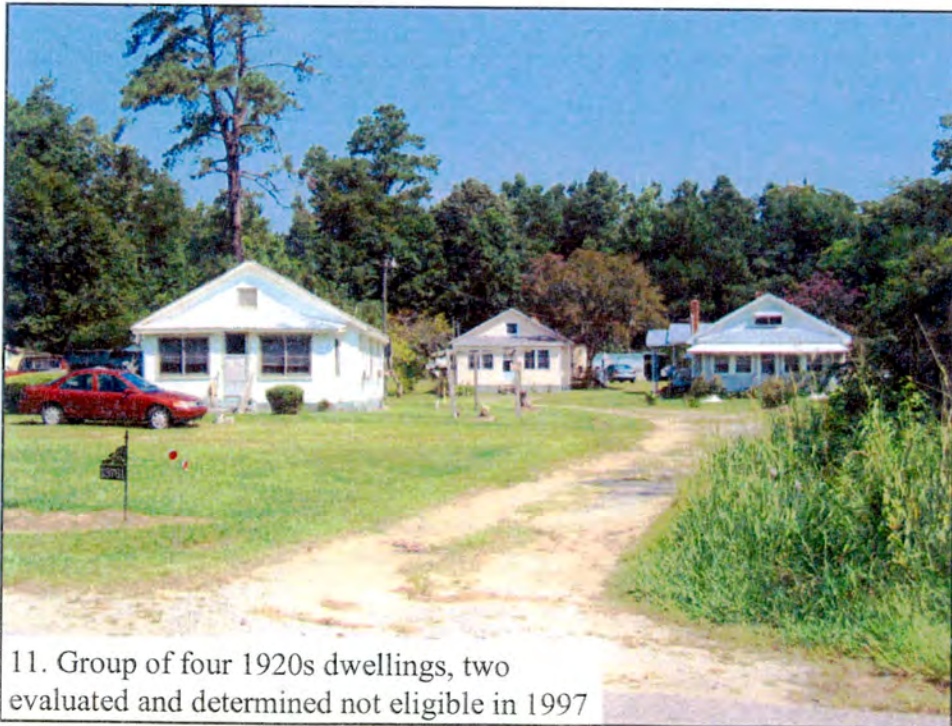


8. Simpson's BBQ
building 2, ca. 1900





11. Group of four 1920s dwellings, two evaluated and determined not eligible in 1997



11. Group of four 1920s dwellings, two evaluated and determined not eligible in 1997



12. Oak Grove Baptist Church, ca. 1950, determined not eligible in 1996



13. House, ca. 1900



15. House, ca. 1925



17. House, ca. 1900



18. House, ca. 1940



19. House, ca. 1930



20. House, ca. 1910



21. House, ca. 1910



22. House, ca. 1925
and House, ca. 1900



23. Store, ca. 1950



24. House, ca. 1925



25. House, ca. 1940



28. House, ca. 1925



29. House, ca. 1925



30. House, ca. 1950



31. House, ca. 1940

*Where is this?
Not where shown on map.*



32. House, ca. 1930



33. House, ca. 1920