



**North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources**  
**State Historic Preservation Office**

David L. S. Brook, Administrator

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Lisbeth C. Evans, Secretary  
Jeffrey J. Crow, Deputy Secretary  
Office of Archives and History

Division of Historical Resources

September 10, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mary Pope Furr, Historic Architecture Supervisor  
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch  
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: David Brook *for David Brook*

SUBJECT: Historic/Architectural Resources Survey Report, Bridge No. 21 NC 210 over  
Northeast Cape Fear River, B-4223, Pender County, ER02-8581

Thank you for your letter of July 31, 2003, transmitting the survey report by Vanessa E. Patrick, NCDOT.

The following property is determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

Davis-Trask House, NC 210 (Lane's Ferry Road)

Davis-Trask House, NC 210 (Lane's Ferry Road), is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because it is no longer retains its outbuildings and cannot convey its history as a farm or nursery. The house is not associated with persons significant from our past. Further, the house is not architecturally distinguished in form, construction, or design.

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

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919/733-4763. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Greg Thorpe, NCDOT

bc: ✓ Southern/McBride  
County

[www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us](http://www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us)

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



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

RECEIVED  
AUG 1 2003  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT  
SECRETARY

July 31, 2003

Mr. David L. S. Brook  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
109 East Jones Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

RS# ERO2-8581  
S Due 8/22

Re: B-4223, Pender County  
Replace Bridge No. 21, NC 210 over Northeast Cape Fear River  
State Project No. 8.1271001, Federal Aid Project No. BRSTP-0210(4)

Dear Mr. Brook:

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is planning a bridge replacement for the above-referenced project. This letter accompanies two copies of the Historic Architectural Resources Final Identification and Evaluation Report for the project area. The report meets NCDOT and National Park Service guidelines for survey procedures and concludes that one property (the Davis-Trask House) within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Please review the report and provide us with your comments. The project area is within the purview of your Greenville office. Should you have any questions, please contact Vanessa Patrick, Historic Architecture Section, 919-715-1617.

Sincerely,

Mary Pope Furr  
Supervisor, Historic Architecture Section

RECEIVED

AUG 9 2003  
Attachment

copy to: John F. Sullivan, III, FHWA

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:  
PARKER LINCOLN BUILDING  
2728 CAPITAL BOULEVARD, SUITE 168  
RALEIGH, NC 27604

# HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES FINAL IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

## BRIDGE NO. 21 NC 210 OVER NORTHEAST CAPE FEAR RIVER

PENDER COUNTY  
NORTH CAROLINA

T.I.P. No. B-4223  
STATE PROJECT No. 8.1271001  
FEDERAL AID PROJECT No. BRSTP-0210(4)  
Bridge Group 38



*The*  
**HISTORIC  
ARCHITECTURE**  
Section

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Report Prepared By:  
Vanessa E. Patrick  
Architectural Historian

July 2003

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# HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES FINAL IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

## BRIDGE NO. 21 NC 210 OVER NORTHEAST CAPE FEAR RIVER

PENDER COUNTY  
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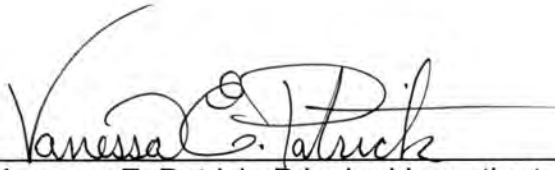
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FINAL IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION**

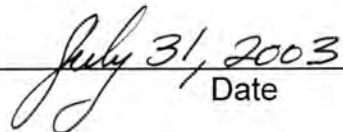
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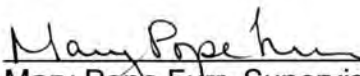
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NORTH CAROLINA**

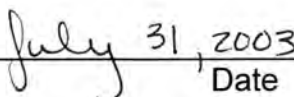
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Bridge Group 38

**VANESSA E. PATRICK  
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN  
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
JULY 2003**

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Table of Contents

Signatory Page .....	i
Purpose and Methodology .....	1
Summary Findings .....	4
Davis-Trask House	
Location and Setting .....	6
Description.....	6
History .....	9
Evaluation .....	14
Principal Sources Consulted .....	17

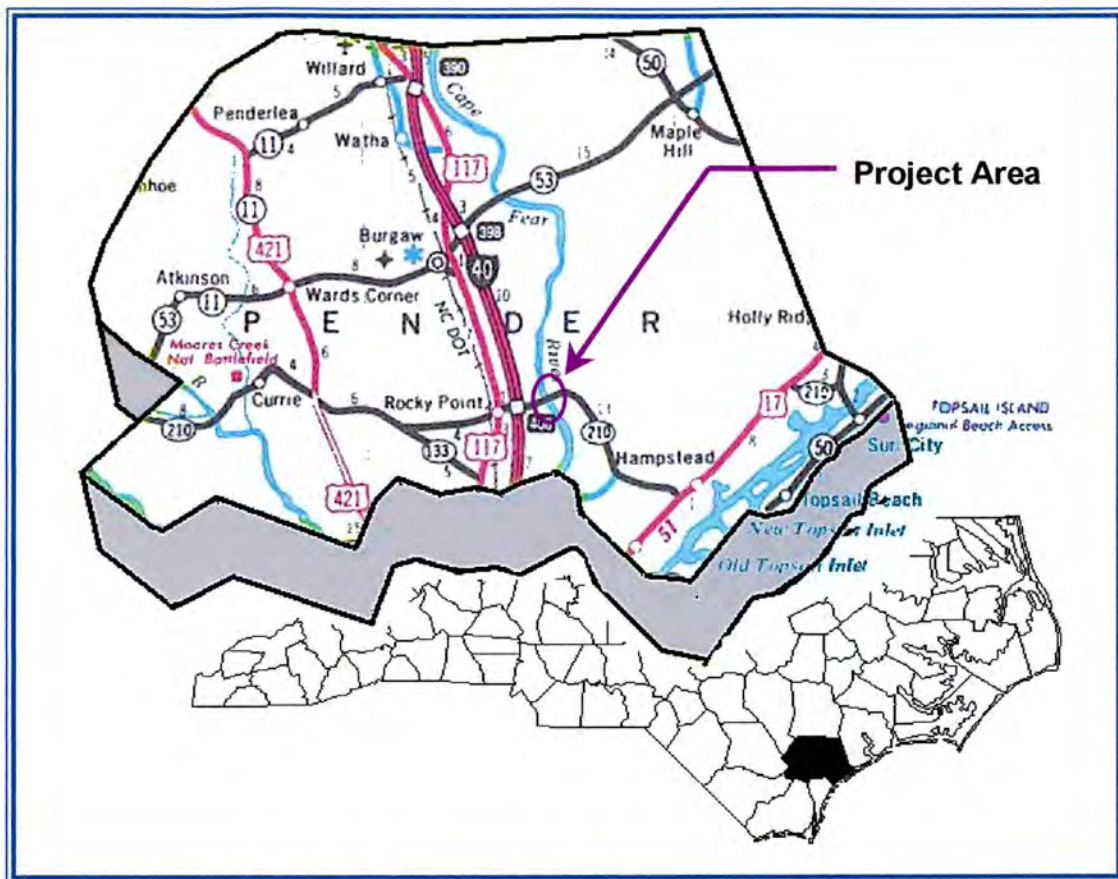
## Purpose and Methodology

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 21 on NC 210 over the Northeast Cape Fear River in Pender County (Figure 1). The existing structure is a two-lane, 13-span, steel stringer bridge built in 1955. Plans call for a new bridge at approximately the same location and roadway elevation as the existing bridge. The project length, encompassing the bridge (590 feet) and approach roadways (300 feet to the northeast and 300 feet to the southwest), is 1190 feet. T.I.P. project number B-4223 is both Federally (BRSTP-0210(4)) and state (8.1271001) funded.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for historic architectural resources was delineated by a NCDOT staff architectural historian and reviewed in the field on October 26, 2002 (Figure 2). It surrounds both the bridge site and its approaches to include those areas that may be affected either physically or visually by new construction. Land use in the vicinity of the proposed project is predominantly agricultural and single-family residential.

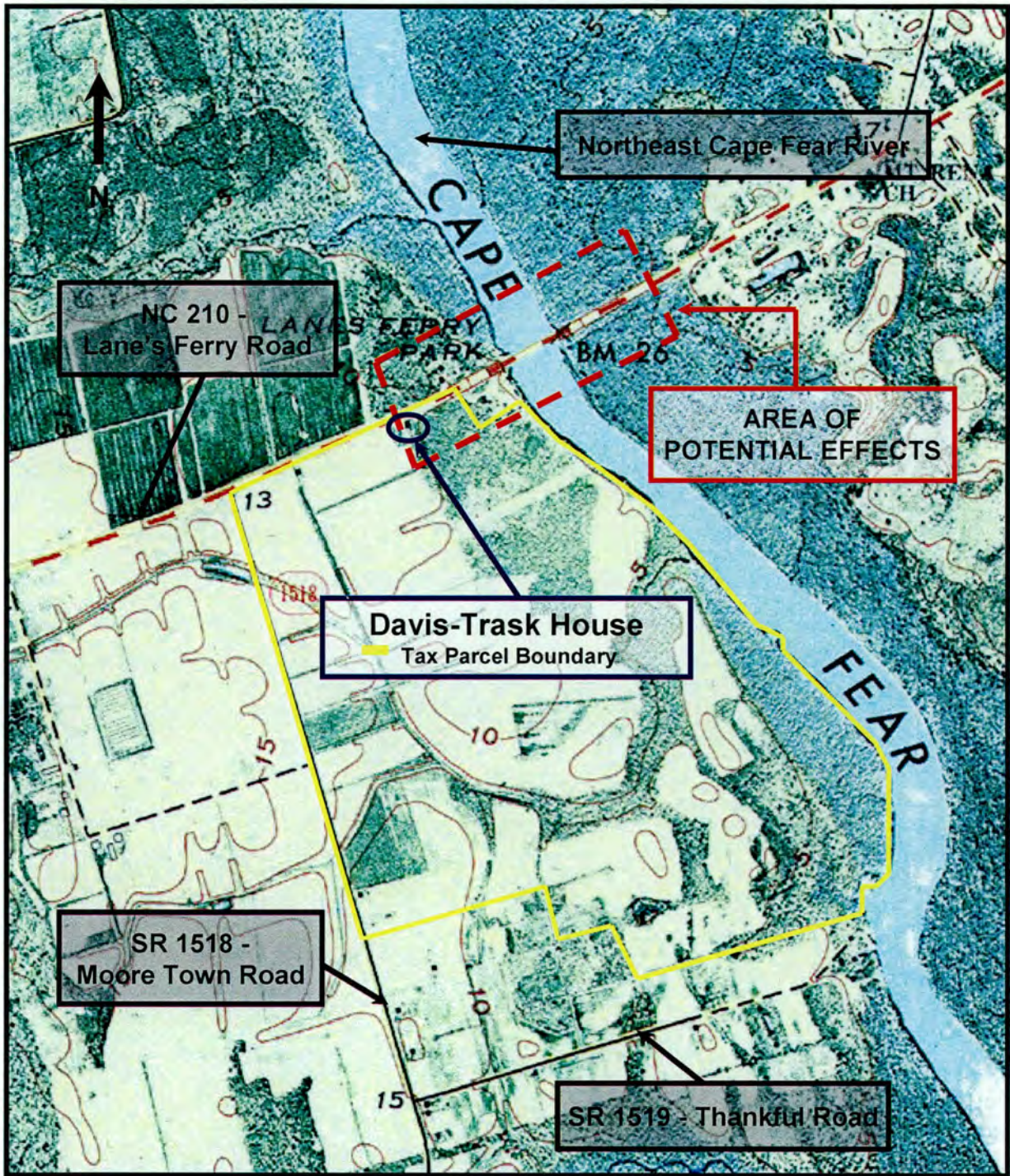
NCDOT conducted survey and compiled this report in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the APE as part of the environmental studies performed by NCDOT for the proposed project B-4223, Replacement of Bridge No. 21, Pender County, and documented by a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (PCE). This report is prepared as a technical addendum to the PCE and as part of the documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended, 16 U.S.C. Section 470f, requires Federal agencies to take into account the effect of their undertakings (Federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects) on properties included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. This report is on file at NCDOT and is available for review by the general public.

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



**Figure 1.** Project Location. Not to Scale.





**Figure 2.** Historic Architectural Resources B-4223 Pender County  
 Mooretown USGS 7.5' quadrangle Not to scale  
 Property boundary from Pender County 2003 Tax Records

architectural survey reports developed by NCDOT and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NCHPO) dated February 2, 1996.

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

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

An NCDOT architectural historian conducted a field survey on October 26, 2002, covering 100% of the APE by automobile and on foot. All structures over fifty years of age were identified, evaluated, photographed, and recorded on the appropriate United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map (see Figure 2).

An NCDOT architectural historian pursued preliminary documentary research to establish historical and architectural contexts for the project area, as well as the development of individual buildings and structures. The principal resources consulted included architectural survey and National Register files at the NCHPO in Raleigh and public records at the Pender County Tax Assessor's Office and Register of Deeds in Burgaw and North Carolina State Library and Archives in Raleigh. Both primary and secondary sources held in the Pender County Public Library in Burgaw, the New Hanover County Public Library in Wilmington, the Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the North Carolina State Library and Archives in Raleigh yielded additional information.

## **Summary Findings**

No properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NR), included on the state study list (SL), or otherwise determined eligible for the National Register are located within the APE. One property was identified as greater than fifty years of age (see Figure 2). Investigation of the property in question, the Davis-Trask House, suggests that it should not be considered eligible for the National Register, and it is treated accordingly in this report. The building is represented in the state architectural survey files as Pender County (PD) 233, the Trask House.

Criterion Consideration G, for properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years, states that properties less than fifty years of age may be listed in the National Register only if they are of exceptional

importance or if they are integral parts of districts eligible for the National Register. There are no properties in the APE that qualify for the National Register under Criterion Consideration G.

### **Historic Architectural Resources in the APE**

*Properties Listed on the National Register:*

None

*Properties Listed on the North Carolina State Study List:*

None

*Properties Evaluated and Determined Not Eligible  
for the National Register:*

Davis-Trask House (Trask House, PD 233)

*Properties Evaluated and Considered Eligible  
for the National Register:*

None

## Davis-Trask House

**Location and Setting:** The house sits approximately 800 feet west of Bridge No. 21 and is set back approximately 40 feet from the south edge of NC 210. It is screened from the Northeast Cape Fear River by an expanse of woodland and flanked at the west by an unpaved farm road and cultivated fields (Figure 3). The areas immediately to the south and east of the house are lightly wooded, and a few ornamental plantings appear to the north. The house is located roughly mid-way along the northern boundary of a 322.93-acre tract of level, river bottomland (see Figure 2).



**Figure 3.** The Davis-Trask property, looking northeast from Moore Town Road. Modern post-and-board fencing defines sections of the west and north boundaries.

**Description:** The one-story, frame Davis-Trask House sits on a continuous masonry-block foundation and is distinguished by its high hipped or truncated pyramidal roof (Figures 4 and 5). From the southeast corner of the nearly square (32 feet by 40 feet) main block extends a hip-roofed, rear, dining room/kitchen ell (16 feet by 28 feet).<sup>1</sup> The five-bay, main (north) elevation is sheltered by a five-bay, hip-roofed, Tuscan-columned porch. A shed-roofed, L-shaped porch of similar depth (8 feet) fills the angle between the ell and the main block at the southwest. It is

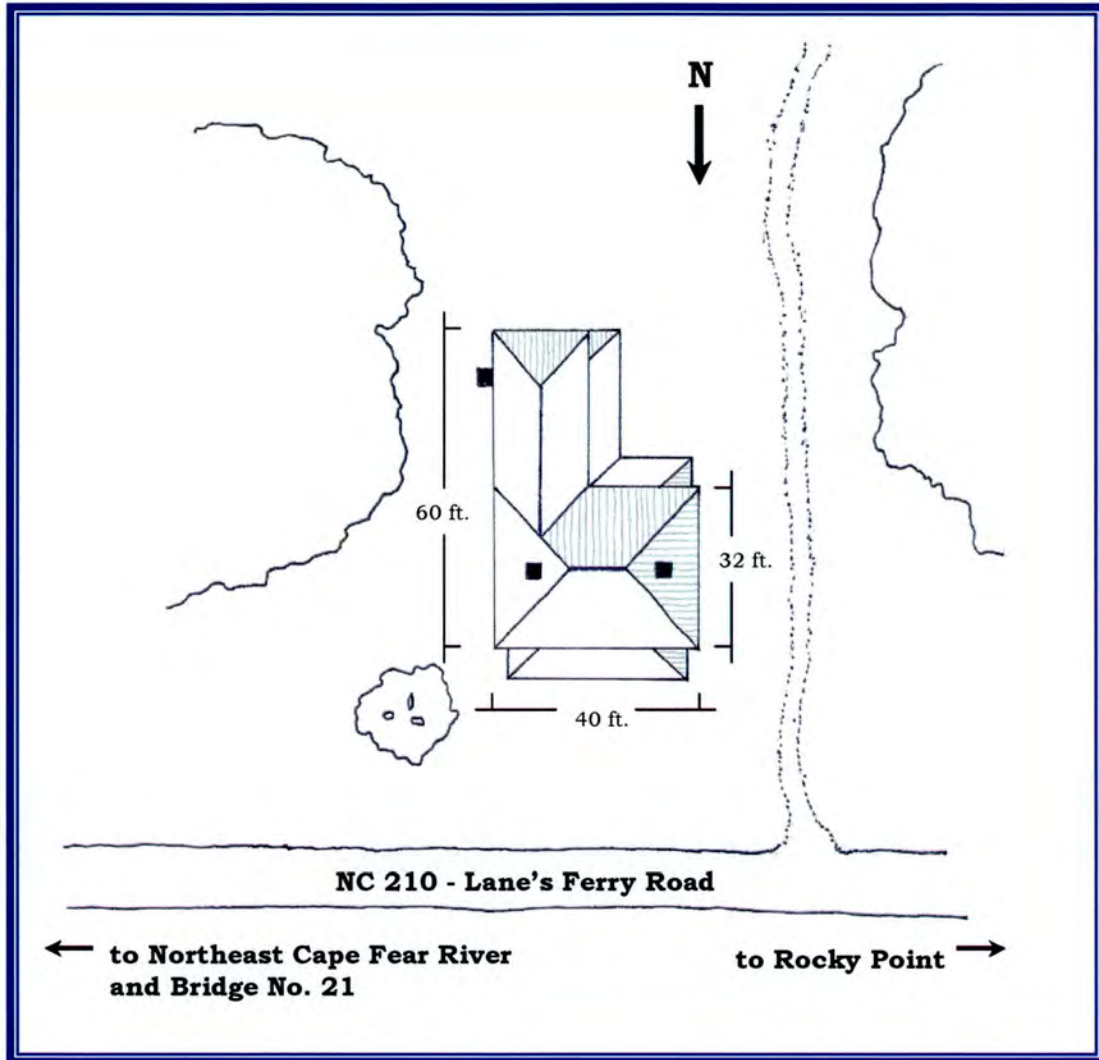
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<sup>1</sup> Dimensions of the house are included in the current tax listing for the property. PIN 3255-12-8063-0000, Pender County Tax Records 2003, Tax Assessor's Office, Burgaw. Room placement is recorded in the Pender County (PD) 233 notes, Architectural Survey Files, NCHPO, Raleigh.



**Figure 4.** Davis-Trask House. Main (north) elevation and east elevation from Lane's Ferry Road (NC 210).





**Figure 5.** Davis-Trask House. Site Plan. Not to scale.

supported by turned posts and its northwest leg is enclosed as a bathroom.

The central doorway in the main elevation is flanked by tripartite sidelights -- two rectangular lights stacked vertically above a rectangular wooden panel -- and serves a center-hall, double-pile plan. Windows are replacement, one-over-one, double-hung sash. Window surrounds are unornamented apart from architraves composed of a narrow torus and simple drip cap. A tall, interior, corbelled and banded, brick chimney stack laid in stretcher bond rises from either side of the roof peak, and a similarly detailed, exterior stack serves the rear ell. The house is clad with weatherboards and corrugated sheet-metal roofing. Roof overhangs for both house and porches are shallow, and cornices are boxed. Narrow cornerboards articulate the main (north) elevation. The major components of the structure, including the ell, belong to a single period of construction, and its condition appears to be excellent.

**History:** Pender County owes its existence to Reconstruction politics, specifically to the differences between the merchants of the Wilmington area and rural farmers north of the city concerning agricultural progress and social equality.<sup>2</sup> In 1875 an act of the North Carolina General Assembly created the new county from the northern two-thirds of New Hanover County above the branches of the Cape Fear River. It was named after Confederate Major General William Dorsey Pender. Like the counties of the Roanoke River Valley in north-central North Carolina, eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century New Hanover supported not only farms of varying size and prosperity, but many fully realized plantations. The Davis-Trask House sits on land once part of "The Vatts" and north of "Spring Field" and "Strawberry," all plantations owned by members of the Lane family.<sup>3</sup> "The Vatts" was also known as the "Ferry" plantation in

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<sup>2</sup> Mattie Bloodworth, *History of Pender County North Carolina* (Richmond, Va.: 1947), pp. 1-2; Edward F. Turberg, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Pender County, North Carolina," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (1998); and Bill Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina* (Raleigh: 1961), pp. 1522-1523. The following brief profile of Pender County and the Rocky Point area is derived principally from these sources.

<sup>3</sup> Pender County and New Hanover County deeds dating to 1911 and earlier record the 850-acre tract "known as the 'Vatts' or 'Ferry' plantation," as well as its proximity to "Springfield" and "Strawberry," out of which the later Davis-Trask property emerged -- for example, Pender County Deed Book 75, pp. 124-127 (February 27, 1911). Pender County Register of Deeds, Burgaw. Subsequent references to Pender County records assume this repository unless otherwise indicated; New Hanover County records cited in this report were viewed at the North Carolina State Library and Archives, Raleigh. Plantations in the vicinity of the Davis-Trask House are identified in James Sprunt, *Chronicles of the Cape Fear River 1660-1916* (Raleigh: 1916), pp. 68-69. The Davis-Trask House faces "Lane's Ferry Road;" Bridge No. 21 to which it leads occupies

reference to the crossing point on the western bank of the Northeast Cape Fear River located within its borders - "Lane's Ferry." Following the Civil War such large holdings were broken up, and many of the reconstituted properties served the new and diversified truck farming, as well as the continuing naval stores industry, that began to dominate the Pender County economy towards the end of the nineteenth century.

An outcropping of rocks at a bend in the Northeast Cape Fear River near the Davis-Trask property lent its predictable name, Rocky Point, to the area immediately to its west. Endowed with particularly fertile soil naturally enriched by limestone and marl and navigable waterways, the Rocky Point area also acquired improved connections to the greater world when the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad arrived in the 1840s. These factors profitably supported a plantation economy and, augmented with expanding rail and highway networks, significantly contributed to the success of new and often innovative agricultural ventures from the later nineteenth into the twentieth centuries.

In 1860 Bettie A. Lane sold the 850-acre Vatts or Ferry Plantation to William L. Moore. The property thereafter became subject to various trusts and mortgages, emerging in 1905 under the ownership of Laura T. French. From the late 1860s members of the French family farmed the land, operated a cotton gin, and established a quarry (ca.1880 - ca. 1904) that produced a highly regarded chalk-marl-based fertilizer. Though living in Pender County when she came into possession of the property, Laura T. French is identified as a resident of Bangor, Maine in the deed recording her sale of the 850-acre tract in 1911. None of her French predecessors or their trustees and mortgagors appear to have lived on the land, and it is likely that she also made her home elsewhere. Indeed it is not until the "French Farm" underwent three more years of mortgages and releases that it probably acquired its first possible owner-resident of the post-plantation era.<sup>4</sup>

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approximately the same site as the earlier crossing and is known locally as Lane's Ferry Bridge.

<sup>4</sup>The transfers, trusts, and mortgages of the former Vatts plantation between 1860 and 1905 are recorded or referenced in: New Hanover County Deed Book UU, pp. 228-230 (November 15, 1866), pp. 462-463 (February 19, 1867), pp. 464-465 (February 19, 1867), and p. 541 (March 20, 1867); New Hanover County Deed Book WW, pp. 368-370 (January 20, 1869) and pp. 371-373 (January 20, 1869); Pender County Deed Book 44, pp. 134-136 (March 31, 1905) and pp. 139-143 ([March] 1905), and Pender County Will Book A, pp. 326-332 (George Z. French, probated November 14, 1904). The agricultural and extractive activities of the French ownership occurred for at least several years under the name of the "Excelsior Planting Company" or "Excelsior Plantation" -- Pender County Deed Book 44, pp. 139-143 ([March] 1905), Pender County Will Book A, pp. 326-332 (November 14, 1904), and Bloodworth, pp. 10 and 88; see also *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory* (Raleigh: 1877-1878, 1884, 1890) and *The North Carolina Yearbook* (Raleigh: 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906). The manufacture of lime fertilizer by the "French Bros." is also recorded in *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory* (Raleigh:

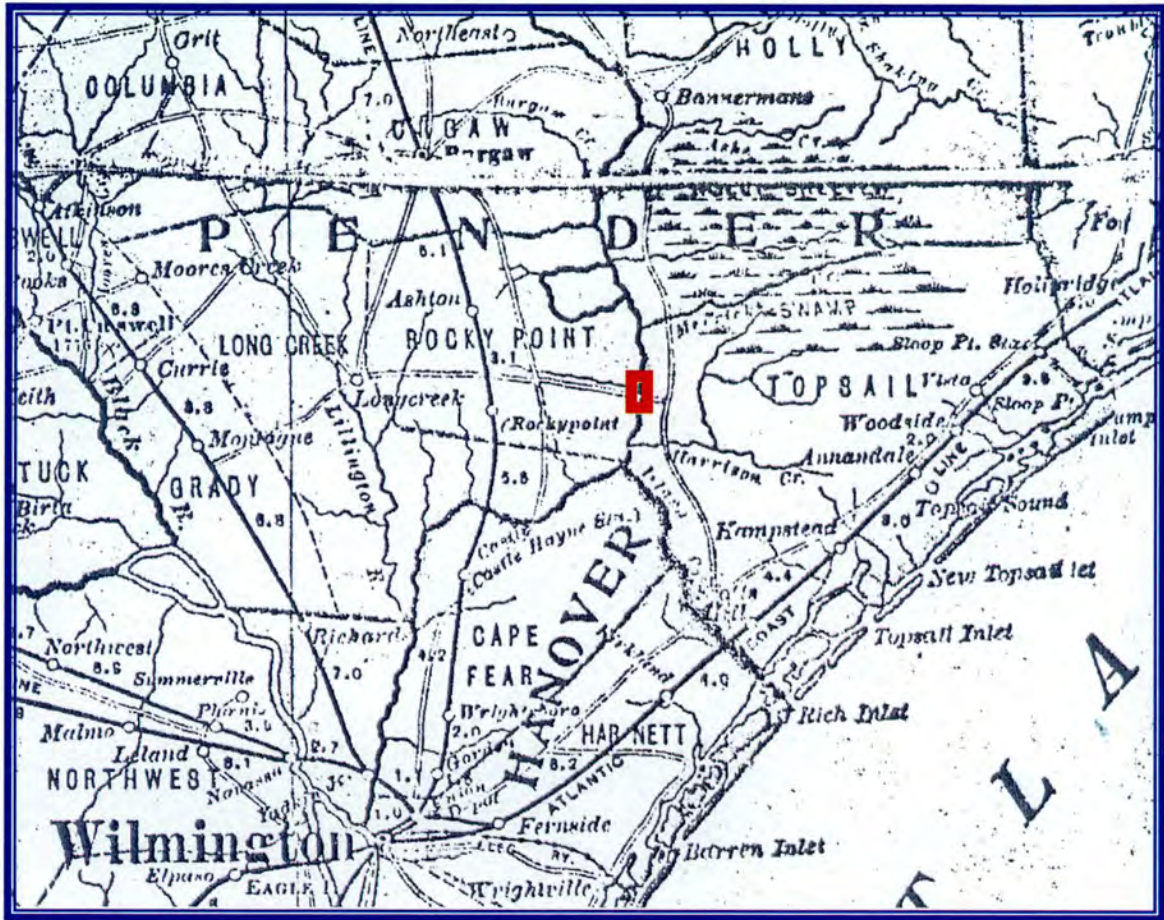


Farmer and merchant John B. Davis and his son and business partner Clifton F. Davis purchased 248 acres of the "French Farm" in 1914. Of the two men C. F. Davis is the more likely resident -- and perhaps builder - of the house still standing on the property they acquired as "co-partners in trade." For the earliest years of the twentieth century J. B. Davis is listed in *The North Carolina Yearbook* as a merchant "near Rocky Point" and chairman of the county board of education. The 1900 and 1910 Federal censuses identify him as a resident of Topsail Township, while the 1920 return documents his move to Burgaw, the county seat. At least as early as 1916 he served as the Pender County registrar of deeds and also as the mayor of Burgaw. In 1917 J. B. Davis' wife Mahala died "at home in Burgaw," yet her funeral took place "at the old home near Lane's Ferry." It seems unlikely that a property owned for only three years would be considered "old" or selected as the location for such an important event. The more likely reference is to the earlier Davis residence evidently located just east of the Northeast Cape Fear River, which divided Topsail and Rocky Point Townships and was crossed via Lane's Ferry (Figure 6). During the 1910s C. F. Davis established himself as a leading farmer in the Rocky Point area, where he resided at the time of the 1920 Federal census, probably in the Davis-Trask House. By 1930 he too had relocated to Burgaw, but continued to manage his farm, as well as the C. F. Davis store in town.<sup>5</sup>

Investigation of the southern half of Pender County revealed several pyramidal-roofed houses very similar in form and proportion to the Davis-Trask House. The John Wright Bowen House in Burgaw, built in the 1880s, displays the same high hipped roof, square massing, and tall,

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1884), *Chataigne's North Carolina State Directory and Gazetteer* (Raleigh: 1883-1884), and *The North Carolina Yearbook* (Raleigh: 1902, 1903, and 1904). The deeds cited above specify residences in Wilmington and points beyond the region for the key players. Laura French's ownership was brief and, in fact, a result of inheritance (described in Pender County Deed Book 44, pp. 139-143 and Will Book A, pp. 326-332), suggesting (but admittedly not proving) that she did not reside on the land. The transfers of the property between 1911 and 1914 are recorded in: Pender County Deed Book 75, pp. 124-127 (February 27, 1911) and Pender County Deed Book 95, pp. 268-270 (December 10, 1913), pp. 298-301 (December 29, 1913), and pp. 520-524 (March 7, 1914).<sup>5</sup> Pender County Deed Book 95, pp. 520-524 (March 7, 1914). *The North Carolina Yearbook* (Raleigh: 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906). United States Bureau of the Census, Twelfth Census 1900 - Population Schedule, North Carolina, Pender County, Topsail Township, Sheet 17B; Thirteenth Census 1910 - Population Schedule, North Carolina, Pender County, Topsail Township, Sheet 1A; Fourteenth Census 1920 - Population Schedule, North Carolina, Pender County, Burgaw Township, Sheet 4B. *The North Carolina Yearbook* (Raleigh: 1916) and *Wilmington News Dispatch* 17 October 1925 (John B. Davis Obituary). *Wilmington Star* 22 October 1917; "Map of North Carolina" (Indianapolis:1909). *The North Carolina Yearbook* (Raleigh: 1916); United States Fourteenth Census 1920 - Population Schedule, Pender County, Rocky Point Township, Sheet 14B; Fifteenth Census 1930 - Population Schedule, Pender County, Burgaw Town, Sheet 9A; Bill Reaves, *History of Burgaw, N.C.* (Wilmington: 1979), pp. 61, 111, 143.



**Figure 6.** Location of Lane's Ferry on the Northeast Cape Fear River, the boundary between Rocky Point and Topsail Townships, Pender County. Detail of "Scarborough's Map of North Carolina and South Carolina" published by the Scarborough Company, Indianapolis, Indiana in 1909. North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

paired chimney stacks, but differs in its three-bay façade, deep eaves, and more elaborate door and window surrounds. Another Bowen House at 166 N. Dickerson Street in Burgaw and the house at 114 North Rankin Street in Atkinson are also three-bay examples. Built around 1920, they include Tuscan porch columns and otherwise modest decorative elements, as well as bay windows on two sides. The circa-1900 Chauncey Harrell House in Burgaw boasts a slightly lower hip with a central, gabled dormer, as well as a five-bay façade and rear ell. The "pyramidals" may be characterized as amalgams of the mid-nineteenth-century picturesque cottage and the American bungalow. Increasing the roof pitch, squaring the massing, and simplifying the ornamentation (and sometimes the plan) of the cottage resulted in a house type of great economy and adaptability. Appearing in the late nineteenth century, the type reached its height of popularity during the 1910s and 1920s. Such houses were built throughout the South and especially favored in coastal regions like the Cape Fear.<sup>6</sup>

In 1938 C. F. Davis and his wife Vera sold the 248-acre property on Lane's Ferry Road to C. (Christian) Heide Trask of New Hanover County. The Trask family achieved considerable success in truck farming starting with C. Heide Trask's grandfather Daniel Webster Trask, the first commercial lettuce-grower in the Wilmington area. George W. Trask, C. Heide Trask's father, operated nationally known truck farms near Castle Hayne in New Hanover County and in Beaufort County, South Carolina. C. Heide Trask and his siblings participated in managing the Castle Hayne farm ("George W. Trask and Sons"), as well as their own specialized ventures. His purchase of the Davis property supported the development of the "Trask Bulb Farm" (from 1946 "Carolina Flowers, Inc."), considered

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<sup>6</sup> Field investigation; Pender County Survey Files, NCHPO, Raleigh (PD 66, 74, and 117); and Cynthia de Miranda/Edwards Pitman Environmental, Inc., "Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report ... Burgaw Bypass ... TIP No. R-3302" (prepared for NCDOT, 2003), pp. 16 and 18. Turberg, "Historic and Architectural Resources ..." and Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings, *American Vernacular Design 1870-1940* (New York: 1985), pp. 194-197, 220-221. The current tax listing for the Davis-Trask property indicates that the house was constructed in 1948. Given the practice of county tax offices assigning somewhat arbitrary dates to buildings greater (and sometimes less) than fifty years of age, as well as the physical and other documentary evidence assembled for the property, the tax record date should be considered suspect. An additional challenge to the 1948 date is supplied by a 1938 state highway map of Pender County delineating an occupied building at the location of the Davis-Trask House (New Hanover County Public Library Map Collection, Wilmington). Site notes for PD 233 place the house in the 1886-1915 construction period. A circa-1920 construction date is consistent with both apparent building conventions of the Rocky Point area and the ownership and use patterns of the Davis-Trask property. The Aladdin Company, manufacturers of prefabricated houses, established a factory in Wilmington in the 1920s. A sampling of catalogs from the 1910s-1930s did not yield a match for the Davis-Trask House; the house near Rocky Point is most likely the product of a local builder. Aladdin catalogs were viewed online at the Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University, Aladdin Company Exhibit, [www.lib.cmich.edu/clarke/aladdin/Aladdin.htm](http://www.lib.cmich.edu/clarke/aladdin/Aladdin.htm).

one of the largest flower-growing businesses in the South. Before it closed in 1973 the nursery routinely shipped over seven million flowers -- daffodils, gladiolas, iris, tulips, and other varieties -- via the Rocky Point depot to northern markets.<sup>7</sup>

C. Heide Trask occupied a position of some prominence in southeastern North Carolina. He was a progressive farmer and served as a member of many local and state boards and commissions, notably as a state highway commissioner during the mid-1950s. In 1958, the year following his death, the bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway at Wrightsville Beach was named in his honor; one of the newest schools in Pender County is Heide Trask, Sr. High School. While many of his business interests centered on Pender County, C. Heide Trask lived with his family in Wilmington. So, too, does his son, C. Heide Trask, Jr., who inherited the "French Plantation" in 1957. C. Heide Trask, Jr. and his wife Cason L. Trask now own the property as River Rock Farm, LLC, established in 2001. With reference to the current project, it should be noted that the riparian boundary of the Davis-Trask property has been interrupted adjacent to NC 210 and Bridge No. 21 by the 1946 sale of approximately 3.9 acres to the International Paper Company, which retains ownership to this day (see Figure 2).<sup>8</sup>

**Evaluation.** For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the Davis-Trask House is not considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. While the house retains the qualities of location, design, and setting that constitute its historical identity, neither it nor the property as a whole possess other associations and characteristics that might decisively contribute to its certain significance. The integrity of the property has been compromised by the loss of farm and nursery buildings that served its various agricultural functions both prior to and during the Davis and Trask ownerships.

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<sup>7</sup> Pender County Deed Book 221, pp. 23-24 (October 5, 1938). Frederick Graham Trask, *The Carolina Trasks - an Informal History* (Beaufort, SC: 1981), pp. 61-65, 75-76, 81, and 85-89. *The Sunday-Star News* [Wilmington] 10 November 1946, p. 3-A, col. 1-3 (establishment of Carolina Flowers, Inc. - advertisement); Angela Ivey, "History Abundant in Pender Community [Rocky Point]," *The Pender Chronicle* [Burgaw] 15 May 1996, pp. 2-B and 3-B.

<sup>8</sup> Trask, p. 136; *Wilmington Morning Star* 4 November 1957, pp. 1 and 2; *The News and Observer* [Raleigh] 5 November 1957; *The Sunday-Star News* [Wilmington] 8 June 1958, pp. 1 and 2-A. *Hill's Wilmington (New Hanover County, N.C.) City Directory* (Richmond: 1944-1959, 1965, 1979). New Hanover County Will Book E, pp. 30-33 (December 23, 1947, probated November 7, 1957). Pender County Deed Book 1835, pp. 225-227 (October 24, 2001); Pender County Deed Book 765, pp. 866-871 (January 7, 1991). Pender County Deed Book 262, pp. 161-162 (August 24, 1946).

The Davis-Trask House is **not eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A (event)**. *To be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American pre-history or history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or the nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.*<sup>9</sup> The Davis-Trask property fostered economic success for its several owners, but constituted only one of many such farms in a traditionally agriculturally productive area. Admittedly Carolina Flowers, Inc. was a relatively unusual venture, operating in a market far greater than its immediate locale. However, as none of the nursery buildings now stand, the site cannot be said to express that period of its existence.

The Davis-Trask 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.* C. F. Davis, though one of the more prosperous farmers in the Rocky Point area, derived his identity chiefly from an association with his occupational group. C. Heide Trask achieved a much high degree of prominence, but his residence was elsewhere and his activities far more diverse and wide-ranging than those associated with his Pender County farm. Again, there are now no buildings on site used in the cultivation and processing operations of Carolina Flowers, Inc.

The Davis-Trask House is **not eligible** for the National Register under **Criterion C (design/construction)** for its rural landscape significance. *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.* The Davis-Trask House is one of several examples of its type surviving in Pender County, a type also well

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<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, D.C.: 1998), p. 12. All subsequent definitions of the criteria are drawn from this source.

represented in the region and state as a whole. The loss of the farm and nursery buildings eliminates the property from consideration as an agricultural complex or landscape.

The Davis-Trask 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 contribute to our understanding of human history or pre-history, and 2) the information must be considered important.* The Davis-Trask property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of agriculture or building design and technology.

The Davis-Trask House thus fails to meet the provisions of the National Register criteria. Specifically, the property does not possess sufficient integrity to qualify as historically significant under those provisions.

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