



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

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

Division of Historical Resources
David J. Olson, Director

May 14, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Greg Thorpe, Manager
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: David Brook *for David Brook*

SUBJECT: Historic/Architectural Resources Final Identification and Evaluation,
Bear Creek Stream and Wetland Mitigation, U-2524 WM, Chatham County,
ER03-1148

Thank you for your letter of April 22, 2003, transmitting the survey report by Vanessa E. Patrick, for the above project.

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

The Phillips Farm

The Phillips Farm, located approximately 0.5 mile south of Edwards Hill Church in Bear Creek Township is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A: event and C: design/construction. The farm has contributed to the agricultural development of western Chatham County and its key architectural and landscape features embody and reflect the regional evolution of 19th and 20th century-agricultural practices. Further, the spatial organization of the farm is consistent with traditional southern farms.

We concur with the National Register boundaries as described and delineated in the survey 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.

www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us

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May 14, 2003

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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: Mary Pope Furr

bc: ✓ Southern/McBride
County

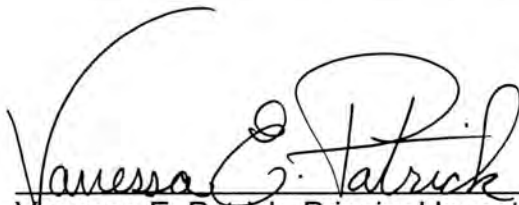
HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES FINAL IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

BEAR CREEK STREAM AND WETLAND MITIGATION

CHATHAM COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

T.I.P. NO. U-2524WM
STATE PROJECT NO. 8.U492107
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. NHS-124-1(8)

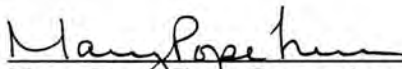
VANESSA E. PATRICK
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
APRIL 2003



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

4-21-03

Date



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

4.21.2003

Date

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Purpose and Methodology

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes stream and wetland mitigation along a tributary of Bear Creek in Chatham County (Figure 1). T.I.P. project number U-2524WM is both federally (NHS-124-1(8)) and state (8.U492107) funded. A complex of domestic and agricultural buildings and related landscape lie within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE) (Figure 2). Accordingly, the Mitigation Group, Office of Natural Environment (NCDOT) requested an evaluation of this property by the Historic Architecture Group, Office of Human Environment (NCDOT).

NCDOT conducted survey and compiled this report in order to identify historic architectural resources located on the property in question 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 architectural survey reports developed by NCDOT and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NCHPO) dated February 2, 1996.

An intensive survey was undertaken to identify and record all significant resources composing the property in question and to evaluate these resources according to the National Register of Historic Places criteria. An NCDOT architectural historian visited the property on February 11, 2003. All structures over fifty years of age were identified, evaluated, photographed, and recorded on the appropriate United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map, as well as a site plan (Figures 2 and 3).

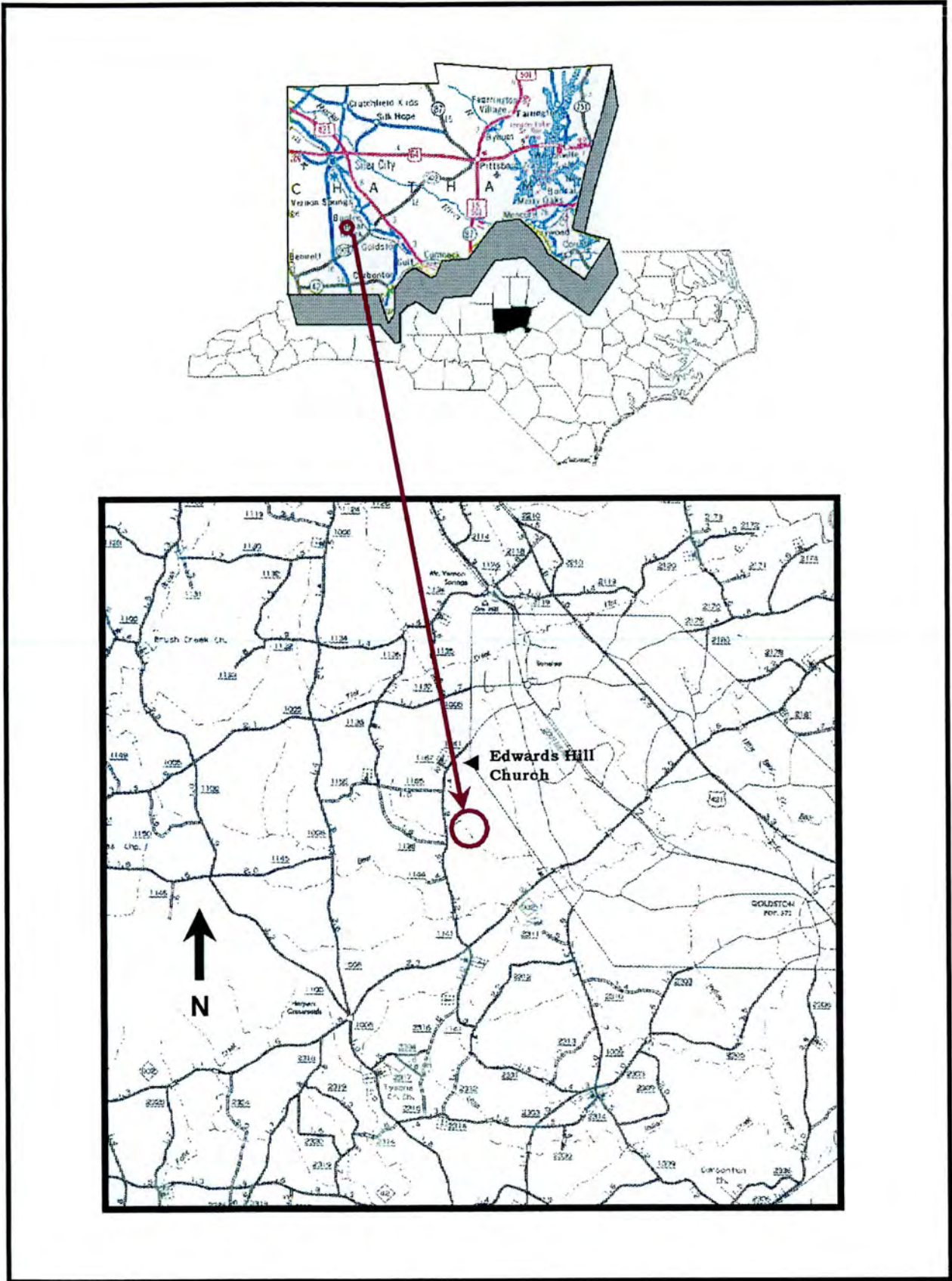


Figure 1. Project Location. Not to scale.

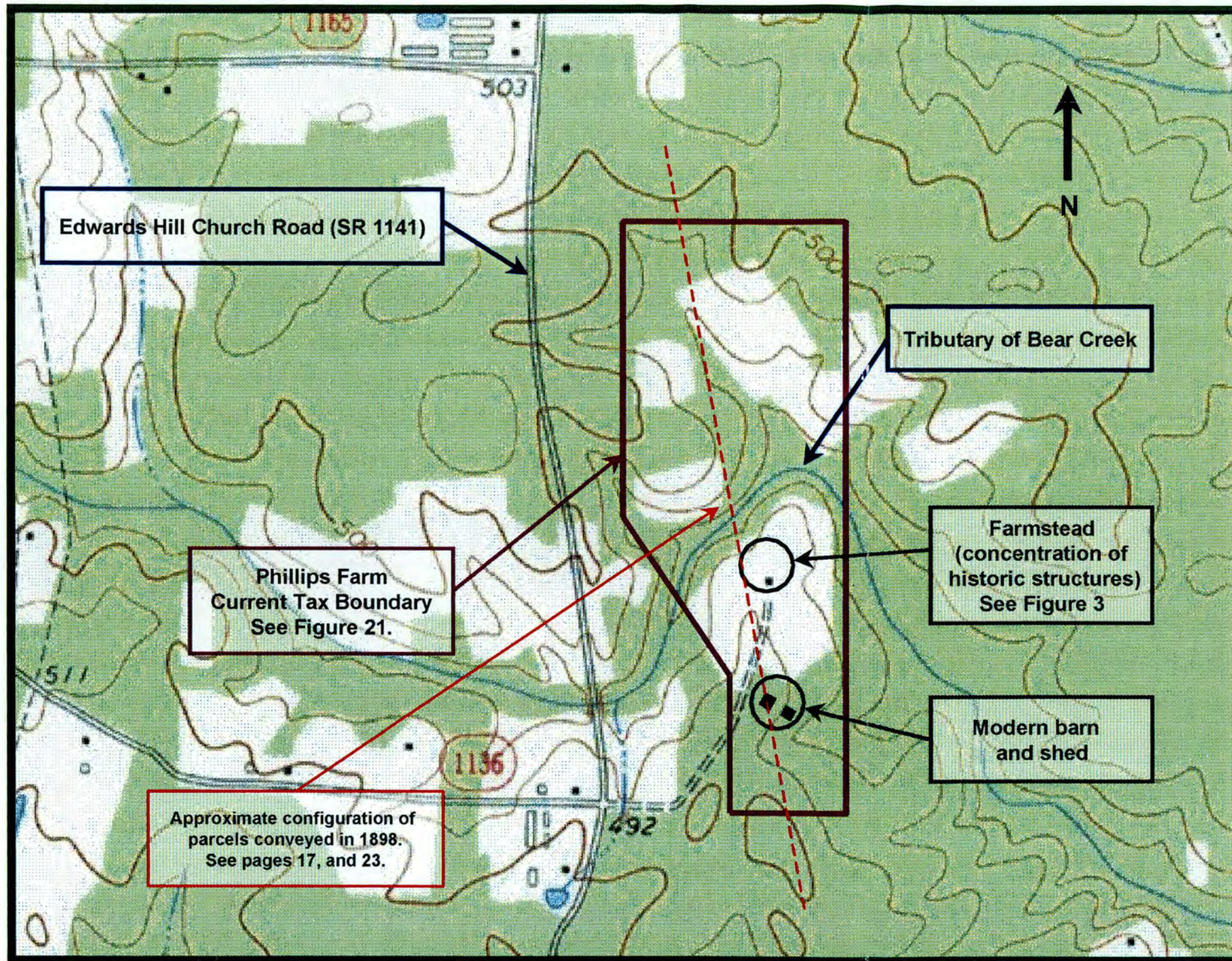


Figure 2. Phillips Farm - Location and Principle Features
Bear Creek (1970) 7.5' USGS quadrangle - not to scale

U-2524WM

Chatham County
March 2003

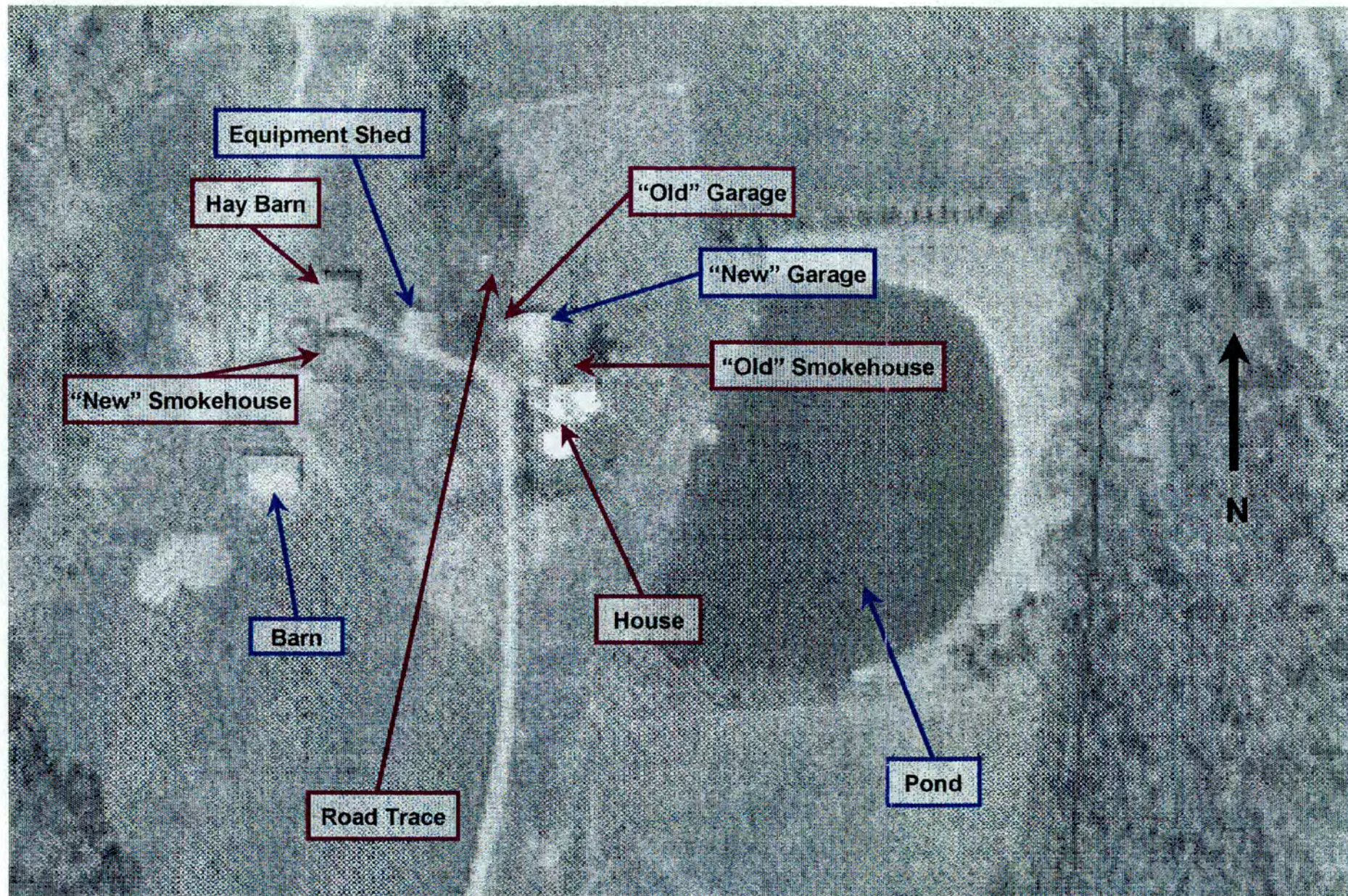


Figure 3. Phillips Farm - Site Plan of Farmstead. Historic Structures and features are indicated by purple text boxes, modern structures and features by blue text boxes. Detail and enlargement of 2002 Chatham County tax map (see Figure 21). Original approximately 1/2" = 207'. Above not to scale.

An NCDOT architectural historian pursued preliminary documentary research to establish historical and architectural contexts for the property, as well as the development of individual buildings and structures. The principal resources consulted included survey and National Register files at the NCHPO in Raleigh and public records at the Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro and North Carolina State Library and Archives in Raleigh. Both primary and secondary sources held in the Pittsboro Memorial Library in Pittsboro and the North Carolina State Library and Archives in Raleigh yielded additional information. Vicky Phillips, who with her husband Lee owns the property, generously shared her knowledge of its history and development.

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. Investigation of the property in question, the Phillips Farm, suggests that it should be considered eligible for the National Register, and it is treated accordingly in this report.

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.

Phillips Farm

Description. The Phillips Farm is located approximately 0.5 mile south of Edwards Hill Church in Bear Creek Township in the southwestern corner of Chatham County (see Figure 1). The farm occupies 76.5 acres of rolling hills, largely given over to pasture and woodland (see Figure 2). A tributary of Bear Creek traverses the property, roughly dividing it into northern and southern halves. Approximately 300 feet southeast of the tributary, on relatively high ground, stands the farmstead, composed of a dwelling house, its attendant outbuildings, and landscape features (see Figure 3).

An unpaved drive leads into the property from Edwards Hill Church Road (SR 1141), heading initially due east, then curving northward for approximately 1800 feet, and arriving in the farmstead just west of the house. The drive branches at this point, running east into the domestic yard and west towards a grouping of agricultural structures. A dense line of boxwoods screens the western side of the house from the drive, and individual, though equally robust, plants of the same species, as well as other ornamental plantings, define its main (south) entrance yard. The farmstead also contains a complement of well-developed trees, predominantly black walnuts, cedars, and oaks.

The dwelling house is a framed building of some complexity, whose three major phases of construction remain discernable nearly a century after the last commenced (Figure 4). The oldest and original part of the house (Period I), dating to the middle of the nineteenth century, is a two-story, double-pile structure sheathed with weatherboards and resting on stone piers (Figure 5). Under the broad overhang of its gable roof are visible rafter and rake tails, all trimmed to receive plain fascia boards (Figure 6). The central doorway of the main (south) elevation is flanked by four-over-four, double-hung sash windows; above each of the latter, in the second story, is a square, four-light window. A similar fenestration pattern is evident in the rear (north) elevation, now partially obscured by the Period II addition. A pair of four-over-four sash occupies both stories of the west elevation; a pair of smaller window openings filled with multi-paned panels of stained glass were introduced between the first story windows in recent years. No openings appear on the east elevation, where a single-shouldered brick chimney once stood.¹ The one-story, three-bay, shed-roofed porch of the main (south) elevation is supported by skinned-log posts. Beneath its boxed cornice short, vertical boarding creates a simple frieze, as well as fills in the rakes of the shed. All window and door

¹ A photograph of the house in the possession of the property owners records the main (south) elevation as it appeared during the 1870s or 1880s. Clearly visible in the photograph is the now missing, exterior chimney.

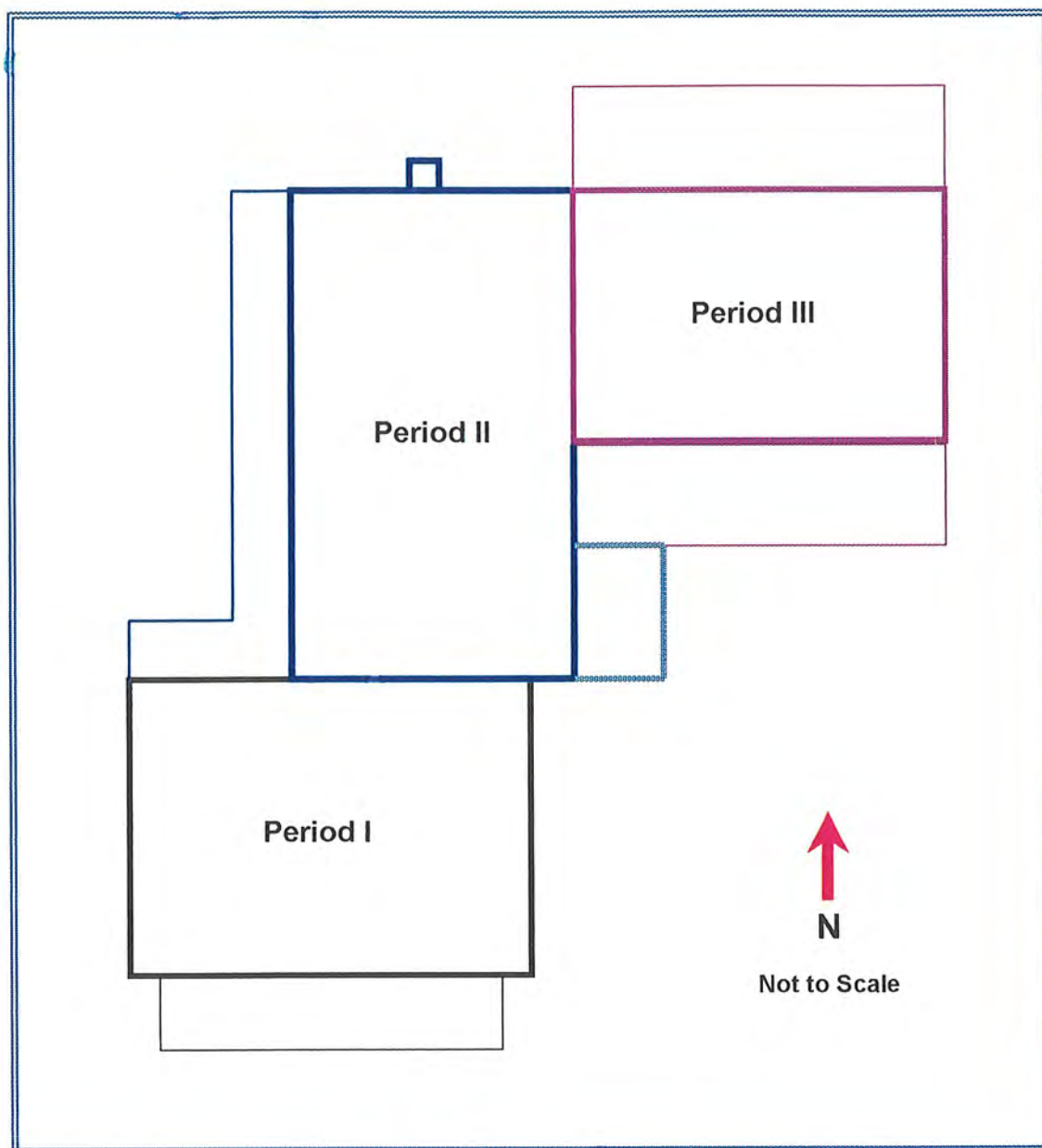


Figure 4. Phillips Farm - Dwelling House Construction Sequence.

Period I represents the original house, built around the middle of the nineteenth century. The Period II addition followed later in the same century and the Period III ell around the turn of the century. The partial enclosure of the Period III porch, indicated in gray, dates to the late-twentieth century.



Figure 5. Dwelling House. Period I - south (main) and west elevations. Photographed February 11, 2003.



Figure 6. Dwelling House. Period I - detail of eaves, southwest corner. Photographed February 11, 2003.

surrounds, corner boards, and gable-end frieze boards are unornamented. Both gable and shed are covered in standing-seam, sheet-metal roofing.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century a one-and-one-half story, gable-roofed, three-bay, single-pile structure (Period II) was affixed to the rear (north) elevation of the original building (Figure 7 and see Figure 4). The main (west) elevation of the addition is distinguished by a central cross-gable, faced with variously shaped and patterned wooden shingles and pierced by a louvered, diamond-shaped vent (Figure 8). Beneath the cross-gable a central doorway is flanked by four-over-four, double-hung sash windows. A rebuilt, exterior, brick chimney stands on the north elevation, and a square, four-light window appears in the small section of the south elevation visible to the east of the Period I building. On the north and south elevations are the returns of the boxed cornice. All three gable rakes are also enclosed. The one-story, shed-roofed, L-shaped porch extends across the main (west) elevation of the Period II addition and the adjacent north side of the original house. In design and materials the porch is identical to that of the Period I house.² The Period II addition is sheathed with weatherboards, roofed with standing-seam sheet metal, and rests on stone (with some masonry block) piers. Its window and door surrounds, including that of the cross-gable vent, corners, and gable friezes, are composed of plain boards.

The Period I and Period II building efforts produced examples of two house types popular in Chatham County during the nineteenth century. The two-story, single- or double-pile, gable-roofed house and the one-and-one-half story, single-pile, cross-gabled house, both most commonly center-hall in plan, usually were constructed as independent buildings, rather than linked as at the Phillips Farm (Figure 9). By contrast the Period III effort yielded a conventional "ell" addition, a structure usually joined at a right-angle to and often to the rear of an existing house, typically accommodating a kitchen (Figure 10 and see Figure 4). The one-story, gable-roofed Period III structure was connected to the rear (east) elevation of the Period II addition during the late-nineteenth or early-twentieth centuries.³ Its north elevation is comparatively formal, served by a central doorway flanked by a pair of four-over-four, double-hung sash windows and a pair of four-light windows (Figure 11). The three-bay,

² The photograph cited in footnote 1 reveals that the present porch of the original house replaces one of earlier date. The earlier porch was also shed-roofed, but fully as wide as the main (south) elevation and lacked a boarded frieze. The photograph also indicates that the Period II and Period III additions postdate the 1870s/1880s, as it shows instead a one-story, gable-roofed log kitchen (identified as such by the current property owners) to the northwest and a one-story, gable-roofed frame outbuilding to the northeast of the original house.

³ The sequence of construction suggested by the exterior characteristics of the house, as well as indicated by the photograph cited in footnotes 1 and 2, is corroborated by the present owners.



Figure 7. Dwelling House. Period II - west (main) and north elevations. Photographed February 11, 2003.



Figure 8. Dwelling House. Period II - detail of cross-gable, west (main) elevation. Photographed February 11, 2003.



Figure 9. Dwelling House. Periods I and II looking west. Period III addition visible at far left in above view. Photographed February 11, 2003.





Figure 10. Dwelling House. Period III at right - south and east elevations. Photographed February 11, 2003.



Figure 11. Dwelling House. Period III - north elevation. Photographed February 11, 2003.

shed-roofed porch with an open cornice is supported on skinned log posts. The south elevation is similarly provided with a shed-roofed porch, but the shed abuts the building mid-way along the south gable slope. The porch turns the right angle to extend across the rear (east) side of the Period II addition; this section of the porch recently has been enclosed as a bathroom. The east gable and cornice, as well as that of the south porch, are enclosed. The Period III addition is weatherboarded and trimmed with plain boards. It is roofed with standing-seam sheet metal and supported by stone and masonry block piers.

Just to the northeast of the house stands a one-story, gable-roofed, pier-set, log structure (Figure 12). It is called the "old" smokehouse (to distinguish it from a second such building nearby) by the property owners, who moved it to its present location from elsewhere on site and carried out its repair. The structure is diamond-notched and currently lacks its daubing and chinking; the roof is covered with standing-seam sheet metal. A broad doorway is cut in the west elevation, and both gable ends (west and east elevations) are weatherboarded and decorated with metal, commercial signage.

The "old" garage, dating to the early-twentieth century, stands next to the "new" garage built in the 1970s (Figure 13).⁴ A small, one-story building with a shallow, gable roof and enclosed shed on its east elevation, it rests on a concrete slab and is sided with broad weatherboards on all but its main (south) elevation. Vertically hung, board-and-batten double-doors occupy most of the main elevation, which is similarly sheathed. Window openings appear in the west elevation and south shed elevation. The building is adorned with commercial and highway signage and metal hand-tools. The larger "new" garage imitates the earlier structure in materials and proportions.

The "old" garage marks the western edge of the more domestic half of the farmstead, containing the buildings already described, a relatively new, outdoor shower structure and a pond (greatly enlarged in the 1980s) to the east of the house, as well as the aforementioned ornamental plantings (most notably, large boxwood) and the eastern branch of the unpaved drive that connects the farmstead to Edwards Hill Church Road (SR 1141). Alongside the longer, western branch of the drive stand an equipment shed, hay barn, and the "new" smokehouse (see Figure 3). Just beyond and roughly between the two forks of the drive and on either side of the post-and-board fence that delineates the northern edge of the farmstead is a pronounced depression. According to the property owners, it and the present drive constituted part of the old post road leading north to Bonlee (Figure 14).

⁴ The property owners provided estimated construction dates for the modern buildings and features in and near the farmstead, most of which are mentioned in this report.



Figure 12. "Old" Smokehouse. West (main) and north elevations above, north (rear) and west elevations below. Photographed February 11, 2004.





Figure 13. “Old” Garage. South (main) and west elevations above and north (rear) and west elevations below. The “new” garage, immediately to the east is most visible in the above view. Photographed February 11, 2003.





Figure 14. Road Trace. Looking north from vicinity of dwelling house (above) and “old” garage (below).
Photographed February 11, 2003



Within the more agricultural half of the farmstead the equipment shed dates to the 1970s/80s. The hay barn replaced an earlier barn in about 1915, while the "new" smokehouse may be of a similar date. The two-story, shed-roofed hay barn is of frame construction and sheathed with weatherboards (Figure 15). Most of the first story is a single, undivided space, served by three, broad, vehicular openings on the main (south) elevation. A narrow fourth bay is partitioned and entered through a doorway at the western end of the main (south) elevation. Access to the second story is gained via a ladder engaged on the eastern side of the partitioned bay and a doorway above the central vehicular bay. Weatherboards are widely spaced in the upper few feet of the barn walls to provide ventilation to the interior. The building is roofed with sheet metal and embellished with wide corner boards and metal, commercial signage.

The "new" smokehouse is a one-story, gable-roofed, frame building, resting on stone piers and sheathed with both vertical and horizontal boarding (Figure 16). Access to the interior is provided by a central doorway in the north (main) gable end. Open sheds are appended to the east and west elevations. Roofing is standing-seam sheet metal, and metal, commercial signage decorates the structure. Designated "new" by the property owners to distinguish it from the "old" smokehouse near the dwelling house, the building is presently used for general storage.

Modern post-and-board and post-and-rail fencing enclose the entire farmstead at the north, south, and west (Figure 17). A barn built in the 1970s stands in a fenced area just south of the "new" smokehouse, and a barn and shed of similar date are located to the east of the drive and further south of the farmstead (Figure 18).

History. The Phillips Farm achieved its present form in 1898, when the central acreage of a somewhat larger property was consolidated in the hands of Lowney P. (Preston L.) Phillips, representing the third generation of the family to own the land.⁵ As early as 1837 Ransom Willett (1811-1857), Lowney Phillips' grandfather, began purchasing acreage "on the

⁵ Chatham County Deed Book DB, pp. 324-325 (October 3, 1898) and Deed Book EN, pp. 394-395 (October 3, 1898). These transfers are discussed in detail later in this report. All public records cited subsequently may be assumed to originate in Chatham County, unless otherwise noted. Documents in the possession of the property owners certify the property as a North Carolina "Century Farm." A request placed with the Century Farm office of the state Department of Agriculture for the materials concerning the Phillips Farm remains unanswered at this writing.



Figure 15. Hay Barn. South (main) and east elevations (above) and detail of first-story doorway and engaged ladder (below) Photographed February 11, 2003.





Figure 16. "New" Smokehouse. North (main) and east elevations (above) and detail of roof framing - east elevation shed (below). Photographed February 11, 2003.





Figure 17. Farmstead Detail. Looking northwest towards “new” smokehouse (far left), hay barn, and equipment shed. A corner of a post-and-rail cattle enclosure is visible in foreground.

Photographed February 11, 2003.



Figure 18. Additional Farm Buildings. Modern barn within enclosure west of dwelling house (above); modern barn and shed south of farmstead (below). Photographed February 11, 2003.



waters of Bear Creek."⁶ He eventually owned about 400 acres and possessed no slaves, most likely because he was a Quaker.⁷ It should be noted, however, that in 1860 only 5.8% of the free population in Chatham County owned slaves, a figure that dropped to 3.8% in the Western District where Willett lived.⁸ Ransom Willett died in 1857, leaving a widow Irene (Reana) and six children.⁹ The oldest daughter, Elizabeth Jane (1834-1913), recently had married Noah R. Phillips (1831-1897), and together they became the next owners of the lands eventually constituting the present Phillips Farm.

The federal census of 1860 found Elizabeth and Noah Phillips and their two small children living in the household of Reana Willett. Late in the previous year Noah Phillips purchased 137 nearby acres on Bear Creek, and in June of 1860 borrowed money to buy "cows and calves," probably using the recently acquired land as collateral. In the same year 50 of his acres were considered improved and yielded the usual subsistence crops, like sweet potatoes, peas, and Indian corn, as well as 50 pounds of the increasingly important cash crop tobacco. Noah Phillips served the Confederacy briefly in Company H of the 46th North Carolina Regiment during 1863, then returned to his Chatham County farm and family.¹⁰

By 1870 the Phillips family -- Noah, Elizabeth, and five children -- constituted an independent household, and their farm had grown in size as well. While both the farm's cash value and the number of improved acres had declined in the wake of the recent war, it now contained a total of 206 acres, more and varied livestock, and a broader range of crops. Like most of his neighbors, Noah Phillips grew corn, potatoes, peas and beans and, like some, wheat and rye. His farm also produced modest

⁶ Deed Book AI, pp. 323-324 (December 25, 1837) and p. 325 (August 26, 1854); Deed Book FB, p. 406 (March 22, 1856). Albert James Willett, Jr. *The Willett Families of North America* (Easley, SC: 1985), vol. 2, p. 799.

⁷ Willett, vol. 2, pp. 799-800.

⁸ United States Bureau of the Census, Eighth Census 1860 - Schedule 2: Slave Inhabitants and Schedule 1: Free Inhabitants, North Carolina, Chatham County. Slave ownership in Chatham County was far less than the state average (27.7% in 1860) and concentrated in its eastern part. Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, *The History of a Southern State - North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: 1973), p. 420. Wade Hampton Hadley, Doris Goerch Horton, and Nell Craig Strowd, *Chatham County 1771-1971* (Durham, NC: 1976), p. 319.

⁹ Willett, vol. 2, p. 799. No will for Ransom Willett appears in the available Chatham County records.

¹⁰ United States Census 1860 - Schedule 1: Free Inhabitants, North Carolina, Chatham County, Western Division, Goldsboro P.O., p. 29. Deed Book AM, pp. 221-222 (November 8, 1859). Deed Book AP, pp. 152-153 (June 15, 1860). United States Census 1860 - Schedule 4: Agriculture, North Carolina, Chatham County, Western Division, Fall Creek P.O., p. 7. Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr., *North Carolina Troops 1861-1865 - A Roster* (Raleigh: 1987), vol. 11, p. 215. Cornelius O. Cathey, "The Impact of the Civil War on Agriculture in North Carolina," in *Studies in Southern History*, J. Carlyle Sitterson, ed. (Chapel Hill: 1957), pp. 97 and 110.

quantities of tobacco and cotton. Among farms in Bear Creek Township recorded in 1870 as containing 30 improved acres, the Phillips Farm figured below average (in approximately the lowest 8%) in farm value, but in the uppermost ranks (in approximately the upper 5%) of agricultural production (Figure 19). As one of 214 farm-owners in the township, Noah Phillips belonged to a group representing approximately 74% of the total heads of households. His acreage placed him in the mid-range of farmers, but the value of his produce was surpassed by only about one-fifth of the group. The 1880 federal census and county tax lists for later years indicate that Noah Phillips continued to cultivate a diversity of crop typical of the region in the latter half of the nineteenth century with a similar rate of relative status and success. In state directories for 1883-4 and 1896 he is listed as one of respectively sixteen and eleven principal farmers in the Bear Creek area.¹¹

Noah Phillips died intestate in 1897. In 1898 five of Elizabeth and Noah Phillips' children sold their shares in 30.5 acres of their father's land to the sixth and youngest sibling, Lowney P. (later Preston L.) Phillips (1876-1942); on the same day Lowney purchased 30 adjacent acres from his mother.¹² As noted in the deed recording the latter transfer, Elizabeth Phillips had inherited her land from her father, Ransom Willett, and the house in which she then lived stood on the 30-acre tract. Boundary descriptions in both 1898 deeds indicate that the two parcels of land purchased by Lowney P. Phillips correspond to the present configuration of the Phillips Farm (see Figure 2). Elizabeth Phillips' land constituted roughly that half (the eastern) of the property where the farmstead is located, suggesting that the existing dwelling house is the home she shared with her husband Noah. The 1900 and 1910 federal census returns record Elizabeth Phillips in the household of her son Preston L. Phillips, lending credence to the identity of the present house.¹³ If, as

¹¹ United States Bureau of the Census, Ninth Census 1870 - Population Schedule, North Carolina, Chatham County, Bear Creek Township, Grove P.O., p. 13 and entire; Agricultural Schedule, North Carolina, Chatham County, Bear Creek Township, Grove P.O., p. 53 and entire. United States Bureau of the Census, Tenth Census 1880 - Agricultural Schedule, North Carolina, Bear Creek Township, p. 20. Tax Lists, Chatham County, Bear Creek Township, North Carolina State Library and Archives, Raleigh. *Chataigne's North Carolina Directory and Gazetteer, 1883-4* (Raleigh: 1883), pp. 249 and 254; *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1896* (Raleigh: 1896), pp. 172 and 179.

¹² Deed Book EN, pp. 394-395 (October 3, 1898) and Deed Book DB, pp. 324-325 (October 3, 1898).

¹³ United States Bureau of the Census, Twelfth Census 1900 - Population Schedule, North Carolina, Chatham County, Bear Creek Township, Sheets 12A and 12B; United States Bureau of the Census, Thirteenth Census 1910 - Population Schedule, North Carolina, Chatham County, Bear Creek Township, Sheet 5A. Also living with Preston L. Phillips was his aunt Mary Willett (Elizabeth's sister), who first appeared in the Noah Phillips household in the 1880 federal census. Her presence further suggests a continuity of residence in the dwelling house. Elizabeth Phillips died in 1913 and is buried at the nearby Edwards Hill Friends Church, as is Noah R. Phillips and other family

Figure 19

**Farms with 30 Acres of Improved Land
1870 Federal Census - Schedule 3, Agriculture
Bear Creek Township, Grove P.O., Chatham County
(N=38)**

Value of Farm (\$)	# Farms	% Farms	Cum. # Farms	Cum. % Farms
0-50	0	0	0	0
51-100	3	7.89	3	7.89
101-150	26	68.42	29	76.31
151-200	4	10.53	33	86.84
201-250	5	13.16	38	100.00
Totals	38	100.00	38	100.00

Value Produce(\$)	# Farms	% Farms	Cum. # Farms	Cum. % Farms
0-100	2	5.26	2	5.26
101-200	11	28.95	13	34.21
201-300	19	50.00	32	84.21
301-400	4	10.53	36	94.74
401-500	1	2.63	37	97.37
501-600	0	0	37	97.37
601-700	1	2.63	38	100.00
Totals	38	100.00	38	100.00

The farm owned by Noah R. Phillips figured below the township average in land value (at \$100), but as one of the most productive (at \$385) among those containing 30 improved acres in Bear Creek Township in 1870.

seems likely, the dwelling house on the Phillips Farm was occupied by Elizabeth and Noah Phillips, were they responsible for its construction?

As already noted, Elizabeth and Noah Phillips lived in the household of Reana Willett in 1860, but by 1870 had established an independent residence. Curiously, the couple and their children appear twice in the 1870 federal census -- once with the erroneous surname "Willit" and again with the correct "Philips." The "order of visitation" recorded in the census return reveals that the Phillips lived near, but not with "Raney Willit," who continued to maintain her own household. Thus, the Phillips left Reana and Ransom Willett's house and presumably built the dwelling at the Phillips Farm around 1860 or a few years later. The design and construction of the Period I house are consistent with the documentary indicators.¹⁴

The dwelling house at the Phillips Farm shares a number of basic features with other nineteenth-century domestic buildings in Chatham County (see Figures 4 and 5). Its frame construction, weatherboard cladding, (former) exterior end chimney, gable roof, and two-bay over three-bay façade characterize many houses surviving from the first half of the century, as well as the immediate post-war years. The Period I Phillips house resembles the Abraham Pilkington House built about 1840 near Terrels, as well as the dwelling at the Sanders-Beavers Farm near Bonlee built about 1880 in such particulars, and all three structures display a relatively rare double-pile massing. Double-pile houses seem to have been especially uncommon in the county prior to the Civil War. The Phillips house is most similar to a small number of two-story, double-pile antebellum residences of broad and rather boxy proportions, including the house at the Whitehead-Fogleman Farm (NR) near Crutchfield Crossroads built about 1839, the aforementioned Abraham Pilkington House, and the circa-1860 frame addition to the circa-1800, log R. B. Paschal House (SL) near Siler City. Lower and wider in form and detail than earlier houses like the Federal-style John Womble House near Siler City built around 1830, the Phillips house and those like it may be considered vernacular expressions of the Greek Revival. The county contains more overt, two-story examples of the style, such as the Goldston-Fields House near Goldston and the Hadley House near

members. Will Heiser and Audrey Heiser, *The Gravesites of Chatham County, North Carolina* (Pittsboro, NC: 2001), vol. II, pp. 107, 110, 111, 228, 260.

¹⁴ United States Census 1860 - Schedule 1: Free Inhabitants, North Carolina, Chatham County, Western Division, Goldsboro P.O., p. 29; United States Census 1870 - Population Schedule, North Carolina Chatham County, Bear Creek Township, Grove P.O., pp. 12 and 13. That the multiple entries in the 1870 census represent the same family is evident in the identical first names and relative ages of the children and their parents in the two listings. Chatham County court records addressing the settlement of Ransom Willett's estate note that his residence was locally called the "mansion house;" it is apparently no longer standing. Willett, pp. 799-800.

Pittsboro both dating to the 1850s, and such buildings are quite unlike the Phillips house type in form and complexity of ornament.¹⁵

Just as its massing, proportions, and simplicity of finish identify the Period I Phillips house as one of only a few examples in Chatham County of a certain ante-bellum type, the form of its Period II addition secures its status as an unusual domestic structure (see Figures 4, 7, 8, and 9). Joined to the eastern end of the north (rear) elevation of the original building, the Period II addition is itself a recognizable house type, one immensely popular in the county and, indeed, much of the state, during the second half of the nineteenth and the early-twentieth centuries. One- and two-story, single-pile, gable-roofed houses with single cross-gables centered over three-bay façades proliferated in the decades following the Civil War, and reflect both the extensive appeal of the "picturesque" aesthetic and the increasing availability of prefabricated, mass-produced building materials. A considerable number still stand in Chatham County today, such as the Roe Routh House built around 1900 and the Riley Phillips House built in 1907, both in Bear Creek Township. The Period II Phillips addition is a one-and-one-half story example of the type, probably built during the last two decades of the nineteenth century, and notable for the intricate pattern of its cross-gable shingling, but otherwise quite conventional in form and detail. Virtually all such houses surviving in the county are freestanding or themselves augmented with simple, rectangular ells like the Period III addition to the Phillips dwelling. A few two-story examples, like the Welch-Fulford House built near Bonlee around 1890, are attached to earlier structures, which in turn become subservient to the new buildings. Though a fully realized, one-and-one-half-story house, the Period II Phillips addition is neither freestanding, nor has it completely supplanted the original structure as the formal core of the residence. The application of a single or story-and-a-half, cross-gable house to an existing house retaining at least some of its original identity appears to be unparalleled in the county.¹⁶

¹⁵ Rachel Osborn and Ruth Selden-Sturgill, *The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina* (Pittsboro, NC: 1991), pp. 28-31, 163-164, 203, 246-247, 251, 287-288, 302-303. Survey and National Register Files - Chatham County, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

¹⁶ The approximate construction date of the Period II addition is suggested by structural evidence, as well as an historical photograph and family knowledge shared by the present owners (see also footnotes 2 and 3). Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, pp. 42-43, 163-164, 204, 206, 216-217, 246-247. Survey and National Register Files - Chatham County, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh. Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture* (Chapel Hill: 1990), pp. 291-292, 295. Houses with central cross-gables, especially the one-story variety, are often awarded the name "triple-A." A recently-coined, local term, it refers collectively to the two gable ends plus the central façade gable of such buildings. Two of the three buildings most like the Period I Phillips house -- the Pilkington and Whitehead-Fogleman Houses -- acquired more conventional, plainly detailed additions.

The Period II addition to the Phillips dwelling house occupies the general site of a log kitchen, presumably a contemporary of the original house and either moved or demolished to make way for new construction. The kitchen and a frame outbuilding of unknown function are visible to either side of the house in a late-nineteenth century photograph, but no longer stand on site. The "old" smokehouse may also date to the initial development of the farmstead by Elizabeth and Noah Phillips; the three other historic outbuildings -- the hay barn, the "old" garage, and probably the "new" smokehouse -- were built during the ownership of their son, Preston L. Phillips. Several Chatham County farms of comparable age and historical status have retained a greater number and variety of outbuildings -- the Cheek-Hughes and Sizemore Farms in Bear Creek Township are two examples. Nevertheless, the surviving outbuildings at the Phillips Farm not only define traditional domestic and agricultural workspaces, but continue to reflect and at least one (the hay barn) fulfills its original function. The land still bears evidence of earlier cultivation, especially when viewed from the air, in patterns of new growth timber, plow scars, and pasture boundaries.¹⁷

The farmstead on the Phillips property is bisected by what appears to have been a public road and is now the drive and trace running roughly north-south just west of the dwelling house. According to the present owners, this was once the road to Bonlee, a town established in the late 1890s about two miles northeast of the farm, and unless the Bear Creek tributary just north of the farmstead had flooded, mail traveled over this route. Preliminary examination of circa-1900 post route maps for the state, as well as the 1870 map of Chatham County by N. A. Ramsey, do not illustrate the road, though perhaps are of insufficient detail to do so. The 1930 North Carolina County Road Survey map for Chatham County records a somewhat different path for the northern half of the present Edwards Hill Church Road (SR 1141), suggesting that it passed through the Phillips Farm and has since been reconfigured (Figure 20). The orientation of the Period II addition -- main elevation facing west -- may reflect a desire to display a modern face to all who traveled on the road. Additional research should reveal more detailed information about this important feature.¹⁸

¹⁷ Photograph and information supplied by the present property owners (see footnotes 1 and 2). The hay barn replaced an earlier barn in about 1915 and the "old" garage was built to house a Ford Model "T" automobile (produced between 1908 and 1927). Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, pp. 209, 215-216.

¹⁸ Information supplied by the present owners. Map Collection, North Carolina State Library and Archives, Raleigh. "Bonlee Seemed Destined to Prosper," *The Chatham-News Record - A 1976 Bicentennial Salute*, p. 11-B.

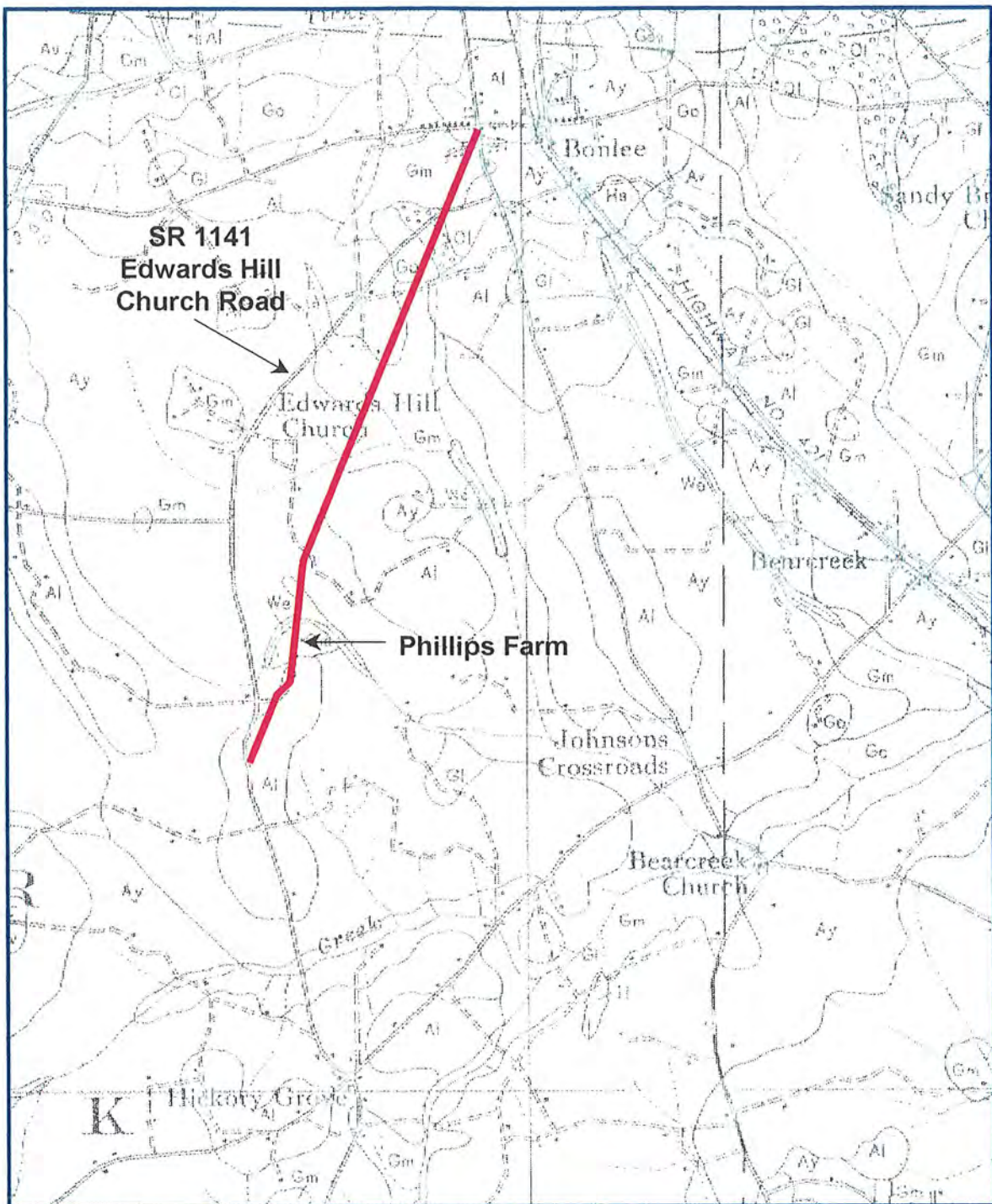


Figure 20. Possible Route of Former Public Road. The road trace evident at the Phillips Farm appears to be recorded on the Chatham County map of the *North Carolina County Road Survey 1930* (scale: about 1" = 2 miles). The 1930 route is superimposed above in red on a 1933 USDA soil map of the county (scale of original: 1" = 1 mile). Both maps are in the collection of the North Carolina State Library and Archives, Raleigh.

The Phillips Farm, like others today in Chatham County, is devoted to cattle raising. It remains in the Phillips family, owned and well maintained by Beverly Lee Phillips and his wife Victoria Marie Phillips.¹⁹

Evaluation. For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the Phillips Farm is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. As it contains a variety of elements reflecting historic land use -- including buildings, vegetation, pasture and field patterns, and natural features -- the property qualifies as a rural historic landscape.²⁰ Its large acreage and multiple, related features define it as a district. The Phillips Farm is eligible under Criteria A and C as significant both locally and regionally in the areas of agriculture and architecture.

The Phillips Farm is **eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A (event)**. *To be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American pre-history or history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or the nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.*²¹ Owned by the Phillips family since the first half of the nineteenth century, the farm has contributed to the agricultural development of western Chatham County. The key architectural and landscape features of the farm resulted from and still reflect agricultural practice in the region as it evolved in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The vestiges of a formerly public road suggest an additional association with the transportation network in the county and beyond.

The Phillips 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*

¹⁹ Several recent deeds record the present ownership and identify the current 76.5 acre parcel as composed of the lands acquired by Preston L. Phillips in 1898 (see page 23). DB 391, pp. 338-339 (October 7, 1975) and DB 779, pp. 763-764 (February 2, 1999). The property is also recorded in the Chatham County Tax Records for 2002 as parcel number 4865, PIN 8677-18-0728.

²⁰ Linda Flint McClelland, et al., *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes* (Washington, D.C.: 1999), pp. 1-6.

²¹ 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.

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. Noah R. Phillips, though one of the more successful farmers in the Bear Creek area, derived his identity chiefly from an association with his occupational group and does not therefore meet the provisions of Criterion B.

The Phillips Farm is **eligible** for the National Register under **Criterion C (design/construction)** for its rural landscape significance. *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.* A pattern of land use characteristic of the Chatham County region since at least the mid-nineteenth century is clearly evident in the Phillips Farm. The spatial organization of the property -- arrangement of pastures, other open areas, internal circulation routes and the placement of the farmstead and its component workyards and structures -- is consistent with that of traditional southern farms. Not only functional concerns, but a responsiveness to the natural environment have shaped the site, exemplified by the planting of shade trees in the farmstead and the siting of buildings on relatively elevated ground. The dwelling house displays characteristics distinctive of a small group of two-story, double-pile, vernacular Greek Revival structures surviving in the county from the decades immediately preceding the Civil War. Its later expansion by the addition of a one-and-one-half-story, cross-gable house is a somewhat unusual variation on local practice. The outbuildings, while individually undistinguished, reflect a design vocabulary and construction technology firmly based in local needs and resources.

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

The Phillips Farm retains the qualities of location, design, and setting that constitute its historical identity. The organization of its component spaces, the placement of its buildings, and incorporation of topographical and other natural features were all attained during its earliest existence and have remained the key elements of a cohesive agricultural landscape.

Surviving structures have experienced some modification, and the farm has lost several of its historic outbuildings and gained new ones. The latter, while considered non-contributing features, are traditionally sited and illustrate the continuing use of the land. The majority of characteristics that have defined the property from its inception are present and essentially unchanged. Collectively they convey a sense of agricultural life in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Chatham County. The Phillips Farm thus possesses sufficient integrity to be judged a notable representative of the early Bear Creek area and of the later perpetuation of the area's agricultural vitality.

Boundary. The National Register boundary for the Phillips Farm is determined by the present-day parcel containing the historic features that directly contribute to its significance. The use of existing legal boundaries is appropriate because they are consistent with the historical partition and ownership of the property, as well as its remaining integrity. The boundary is more precisely defined in Figure 21. The legal boundaries are recorded as current (2002) tax parcel number 4865, PIN 8677-18-0728 on a map held at the Chatham County Office of the Tax Supervisor. The farm contains 76.5 acres.



Figure 21. Phillips Farm - Rural Historic Landscape District.
Proposed National Register boundaries for the farm conform to those indicated on the current tax map for the property (No. 4865, PIN 8677-18-0728), Chatham County 2002 Tax Records.

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