



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

October 25, 2005

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Peter Sandbeck *PS for Peter Sandbeck*

SUBJECT: Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, Replace Bridge No. 32 on SR 1100 over Trotman Creek, Gates County, ER04-1292

Thank you for your letter of August 30, 2005, transmitting the survey report by Jennifer Cathey for the above project. We apologize for the delay in our response.

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

Hofler-Carter Farms Rural Historic District

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

Hofler-Carter Farms Rural Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C for its association with the broad patterns in agricultural history and for architectural significance. The district is comprised of three adjacent farm complexes with associated farmhouses, tenant houses, outbuildings, two stores, and a landscape featuring fences, fields, mature tree cover, and woodlots. The district illustrates local agricultural practices and building forms for over one hundred years.

We would like to request clarification concerning the period of significance. The district's agricultural landscape, a contributing element, has maintained its integrity through the present day (otherwise it could not have been considered significant), and the report does not mention any change in agricultural practices post WWII. Therefore, we think the period of significance should span through the mid-twentieth century.

ADMINISTRATION
RESTORATION
SURVEY & PLANNING

Location
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The report is inconsistent in the period of significance discussions found on page 5 “with house and support structure dating from the 1920s through the mid-twentieth century” and on page 12 “Its period of significance extends from the 1840s to the second quarter of the twentieth century, and on page 16, “...the period of significance of which ranges from approximately 1840...to the 1930s, when the Hofler-Cater Tenant farmstead was developed. Please provide correction pages to rectify this inconsistency.

We concur with the proposed National Register boundaries as justified and delineated in the survey report.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following property is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places:

Bridge No. 32, because it is a common type, has undergone some alterations, and is a late example of the timber stringer bridge type.

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, please 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, NCDOT
Jennifer Cathey, NCDOT

bc: Southern/McBride
Scott Power/EO
106
County



RECEIVED
SEP 1 2005
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

August 30, 2005

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

*Refer 04-1292
Sarah 9/21*

Dear Mr. Sandbeck:

RE: Replace Bridge No. 32 on SR 1100 over Trotman Creek, Gates County, North Carolina, TIP No. B-4520, State Project No. 8.2060401, Federal Aid No. BRZ-1100(18)

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 concludes that one property in the Area of Potential Effects (APE), the Hofler-Carter Farms Rural Historic District, is Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Bridge No. 32 is considered Not Eligible for the National Register.

Please review the survey report and provide us with your comments. If you have any questions concerning the accompanying information, please contact me at (919) 715-1516.

Sincerely yours,

Jennifer Cathey

Jennifer Cathey
Historic Architecture Section

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SEP 08 2005

Attachment: survey report

Cc (w/ attachment): Bill Goodwin, Project Development, NCDOT/PDEA
John F. Sullivan, III, Division Administrator, FHWA

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**HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT
FINAL IDENTIFICATION & EVALUATION**

**Replace Bridge No. 32 on SR 1100 over Trotman Creek
Gates County, North Carolina**

**TIP No. B-4520
State Project No. 8.2060401
Federal Aid No. BRZ-1100(18)**



**Jennifer Cathey
Architectural Historian
North Carolina Department of Transportation**

August 2005

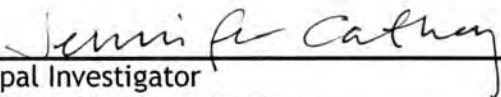
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Replace Bridge No. 32 on SR 1100 over Trotman Creek
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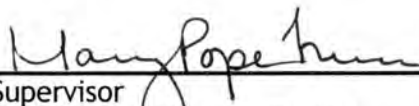
TIP No. B-4520
State Project No. 8.2060401
Federal Aid No. BRZ-1100(18)

Jennifer Cathey
Architectural Historian
North Carolina Department of Transportation

August 2005


Principal Investigator
Historic Architecture Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

8/29/05
Date


Supervisor
Historic Architecture Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

8.29.2005
Date

Management Summary

Bridge No. 32 is located on SR 1100 (Carters Road) over Trotman Creek in Gates County. The bridge was built in 1952 and is considered functionally obsolete. Replacement in place with an offsite detour is the preferred alternative for replacement, and two detour routes are under consideration. The Hofler-Carter Farms Rural Historic District, which was Study Listed for the National Register of Historic Places in 1988, is located at the northwest quadrant of the bridge. The district and Bridge No. 32 are evaluated for National Register eligibility in this report. The Hofler-Carter Farms Rural Historic District is considered to be Eligible for the National Register, while Bridge No. 32 is considered to be Not Eligible as an individual resource and Not Eligible as a contributing resource to the proposed historic district. The project is Federally funded, F.A. Project Number BRZ-1100(18) and state funded, W.O. No. 8.2060401.

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Project Description

Bridge No. 32 is located on SR 1100 (Carters Road) over Trotman Creek in Gates County (*Figure 7*). It is a 69-foot long, 19.2-foot wide, two-lane structure with two rail-high plank railings. The sufficiency rating for the bridge is 43.1 out of a possible 100, and it is considered functionally obsolete due to a deck geometry appraisal of three out of a possible nine. SR 1100 is a rural route with no posted speed limit. NCDOT has considered four alternatives for replacing the bridge: “no build,” rehabilitation, replacement on the existing location with onsite detour, and replacement in place with an offsite detour. The “no build” alternative would lead to the closure of SR 1100, and is thus not an acceptable option. Rehabilitation of the existing structure is not feasible because the timber substructure of the existing bridge can not be adequately repaired. Replacement of the bridge in the existing location with an onsite detour is imprudent because it would cause undue environmental impacts to surrounding high quality wetlands, and the cost of a temporary detour structure is prohibitive. Replacement in place with an offsite detour is the preferred alternative, and two detour routes are under consideration. The first route utilizes SR 1104 (Spivey Road), NC 37 and SR 1101 (Punch Bowl Road); the second route utilizes SR 1106 (Horace Carter Road) instead of SR 1104.

Purpose of Survey and Report

NCDOT conducted a survey and compiled this report in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) as part of the environmental studies performed by NCDOT and documented by a Categorical Exclusion (CE). This report is prepared in 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 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 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 CFR 44716); 36 CFR Part 800; 36 CFR Part 60; and Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines for Historic Architectural Resources by NCDOT (October 2003). This survey and report meet the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service.

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.

Survey methodology for this report consisted of field examination of the buildings and historic research of the farm and project area. Jennifer Cathey visited the project area on September 3, 2004, delineated the project APE, and took photographs of structures in the APE. HPO files

and survey maps indicated that the Hofler-Carter Farms Rural Historic District is located at the northwest quadrant of bridge No. 32. Though it is not listed on the National Register, the property was Study Listed for the National Register in 1988, following Tom Butchko's Comprehensive Architectural Survey of Gates County. The rural historic district is composed of three farmsteads documented in detail by Mr. Butchko during the county survey, and in the survey publication, *Forgotten Gates*. Butchko's architectural description and historic research of the farmsteads form the core of this report.

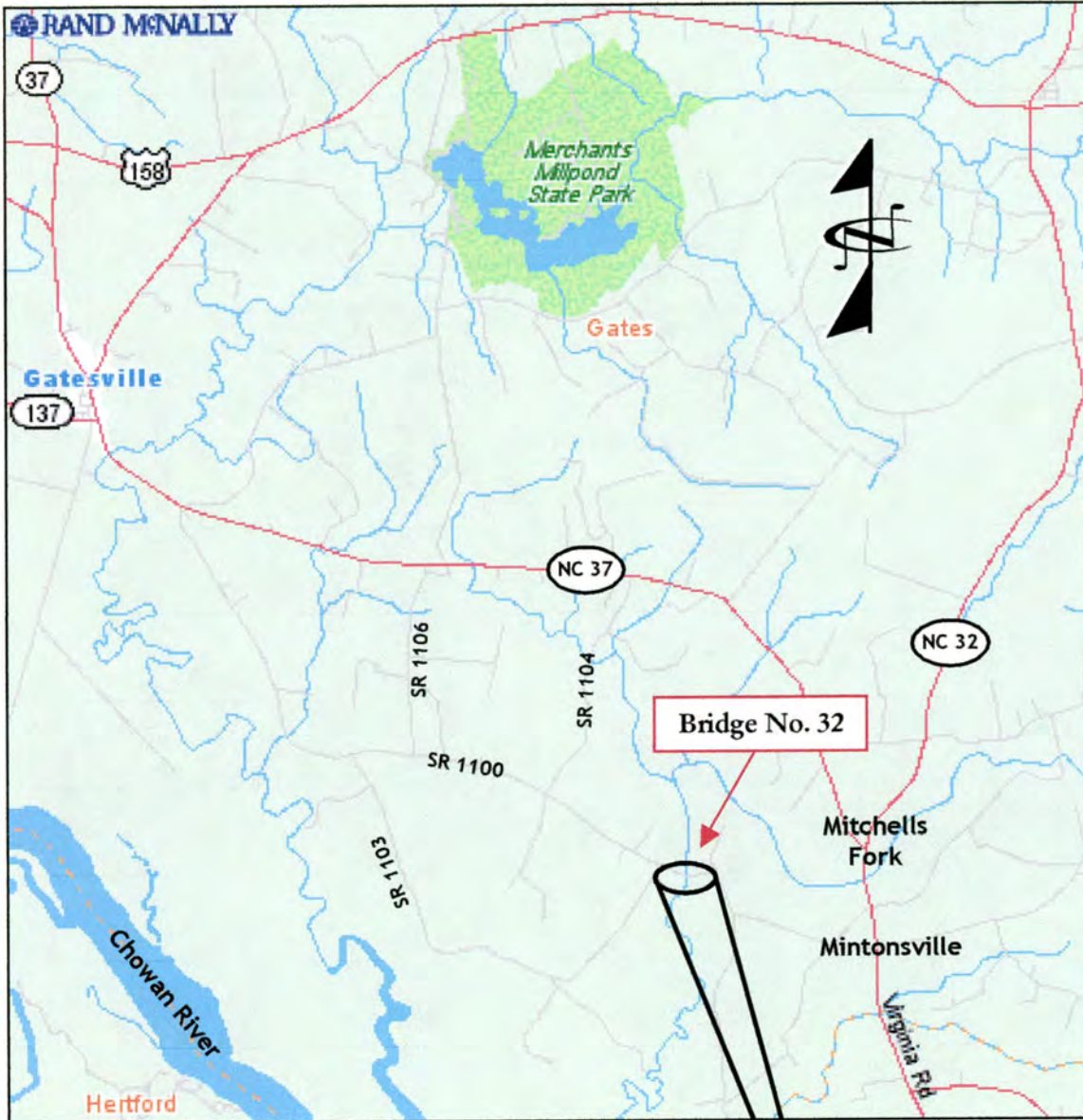
The project was discussed at a NCDOT/HPO consultation meeting on May 17, 2005. HPO representatives Scott Power and Sarah McBride reviewed photos of the Hofler-Carter Farm and expressed their opinion that, despite the loss or poor condition of several outbuildings and the addition of vinyl siding to the Hofler-Carter House, the component farm complexes retain sufficient integrity for National Register eligibility, and requested the formal Determination of Eligibility provided in this report. Eligibility of Bridge No. 32 was also discussed at the meeting, though evaluation of National Register eligibility was deferred. NCDOT staff decided to include the National Register evaluation of the bridge in this report.

Jennifer Cathey surveyed the complex on December 16, 2004, compiled Tom Butchko's research and writing about the Hofler-Carter Farms property, prepared the National Register evaluation of the farm and of Bridge No. 32, and performed some additional research pertaining to current property lines. Resources for background research and National Register evaluation of the property included the following materials: survey maps and files located at the Raleigh office of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO); Tom Butchko's survey publication, *Forgotten Gates*, and public records at the Gates County Courthouse.

Summary Findings

Bridge No. 32 spans Trotman Creek in Gates County, North Carolina. The three farmsteads that comprise the Hofler-Carter Farms Rural Historic District are located on the north side of SR 1100 at the west end of the bridge. The district was Study Listed for the National Register in 1988, and is Determined Eligible for the National Register in this report. Bridge No. 32 is considered Not Eligible for the National Register as an individual resource, or as a contributing element to the historic district. No other buildings or structures over fifty years old are located in the project APE.

- **Properties Listed on the National Register:**
None
- **Properties Listed on the North Carolina State Study List:**
Hofler-Carter Farms Rural Historic District
- **Properties Considered Eligible for the National Register:**
Hofler-Carter Farms Rural Historic District
- **Properties Considered Not Eligible for the National Register:**
Bridge No. 32
- **Properties Determined Not Eligible for the National Register and Not Worthy of Further Evaluation:**
None



B-4520

Gates County

Replace Bridge No. 32 on SR 1100
over Trotman Creek

Figure 1. Project area.



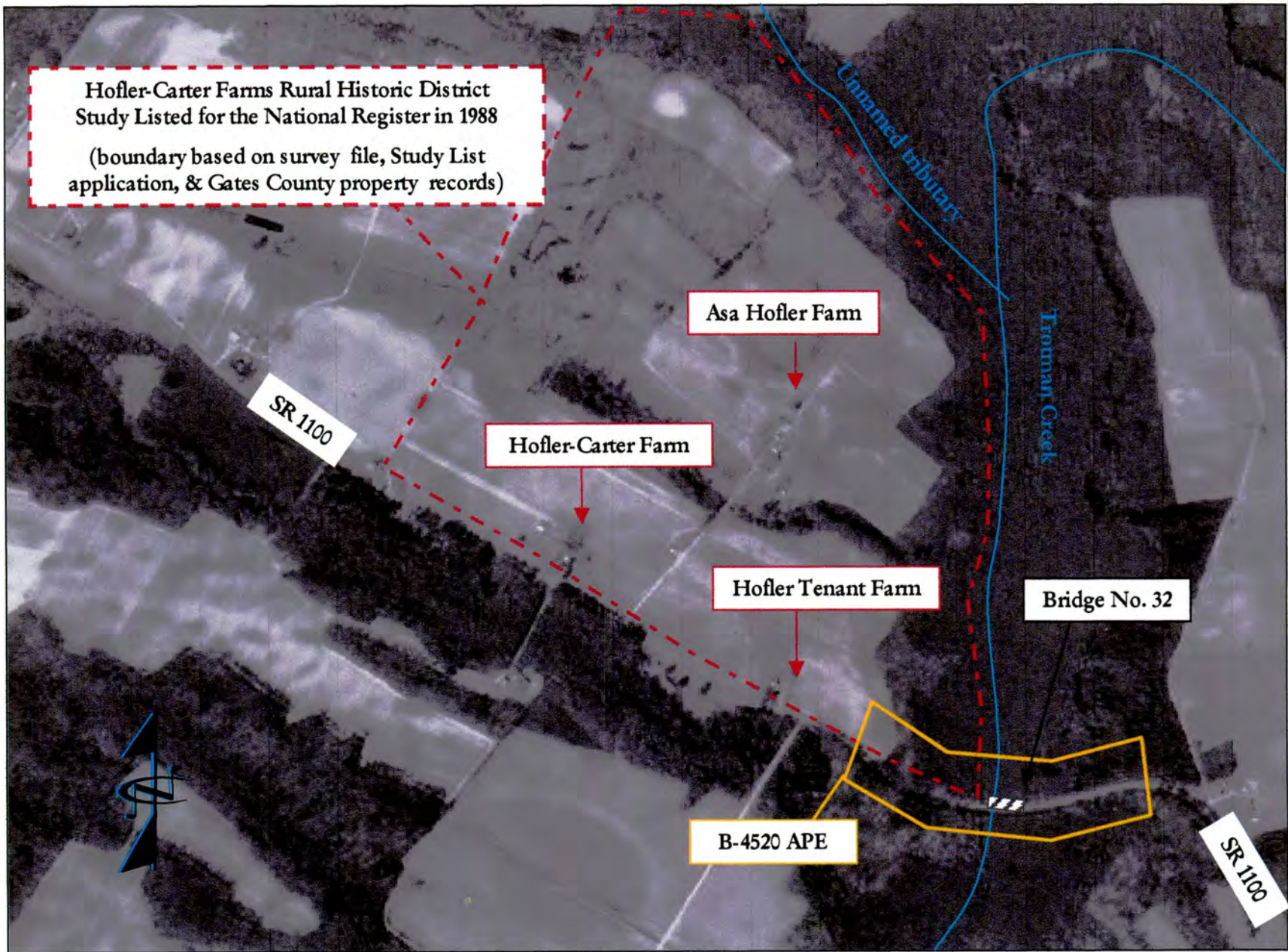


Figure 2. Aerial view of B-4520 project APE and Hofler-Carter Farms Rural Historic District (National Register Study List).

Project Setting

The B-4520 project area is located in the Mintonville Township of southern Gates County. The county is rural and agricultural in character, hemmed in by the Chowan River to the west and the Great Dismal Swamp to the east. Significant acreage of swampland lines creeks and riverbanks throughout the county. SR 1100 (Carters Road) is a paved two-lane rural route that links a string of farmsteads historically associated with the Hofler and Carter families. Bridge No. 32 spans Trotman Creek, a tributary of Catherine Creek, which runs into the Chowan River south of the project area. The Hofler-Carter Farms are located on a slight rise bordered by Trotman Creek and its unnamed tributary to the east and north, and by SR 1100 to the south.

Property Evaluation: Hofler-Carter Farms Rural Historic District

Description

The Hofler-Carter Farms Rural Historic District is composed of three adjacent farmsteads (*Figure 2*). The Hofler-Carter complex, with house and support structures dating from the last quarter of the nineteenth into the mid-twentieth century, anchors the western end of the district. The Hofler Tenant Farm complex, with house and barns dating from the 1920s through the mid-twentieth century, lies at the eastern end of the district. Both of these farms are aligned with and located within two hundred yards north of SR 1100, and they flank the entrance to the oldest of the three complexes, the Asa Hofler Farm. Located at the end of an unpaved drive approximately one-third of a mile long leading north from SR 1100, the Asa Hofler farmhouse dates to the second quarter of the nineteenth century, with surviving outbuildings likely constructed from the mid-late nineteenth to the early-twentieth centuries. The last few hundred feet of lane approaching the house is lined with rail fence and mature trees (*Figure 3*). Open field surrounds all three farmsteads.

Asa Hofler Farm

Constructed for Asa Hofler and his wife Sarah around 1840, the Asa Hofler house is a two-story, frame, single-pile, center hall house with weatherboard siding (*Figures 3-4*). It has several features that represent a transitional Federal/Greek Revival stylistic influence, including the exterior gable end returns and three carved mantels. Hofler descendants remodeled the house in 1917, adding the rear kitchen ell, altering the front porch, and installing one-over-one-light window sash. The farm complex features two clusters of frame outbuildings. One group, arranged in a line on the west side of the house, includes two frame barns and a machine shed (*Figure 5*). One outbuilding of indeterminate use, located in the L-shaped courtyard formed by the house and barns, was destroyed after Tom Butchko's 1987 survey. The second grouping of outbuildings consists of two gable-roofed barns located south (in front) of the farmhouse, between the Asa Hofler Farm and its associated tenant farm (*Figure 6*).

Hofler-Carter Farm

The two-story, frame, single-pile, center hall house was built in 1878 for John Quincy and Alice Hinton Hofler, son and daughter-in-law of Asa Hofler (*Figure 7*). An inscribed brick indicates

that James Green, an African-American mason, participated in the construction of the house. Subsequent owners updated the house by adding the rear kitchen ell, and adding a full-width bungalow-style porch. Interior renovations, including the removal of one center hall wall and installation of a Colonial Revival-influenced mantel, took place in the 1930s. Vinyl siding, apparently not present during the 1987 survey of the property, obscures notable exterior features such as paneled pilasters, boxed cornices with gable returns, and bracketed eaves. This farmstead possesses an impressive array of domestic and agricultural outbuildings, all of frame construction (*Figure 8*). Domestic service buildings including a dairy, kitchen, and smokehouse are clustered behind the house (*Figures 9-10*). A small gable-roofed store building (formerly located at the road) is aligned with a gable roofed utility building and machine shed west of the house, forming an avenue that leads to the barn and fields (*Figures 11-13*). A cemetery plot shaded by mature trees is partially enclosed by an iron fence (*Figure 14*). The stones date to mid-twentieth century and are associated with the Carter and Freeman families.

Hofler Tenant Farm

The Hofler Tenant Farm is compactly organized at one corner of the Hofler-Carter fields (*Figure 15*). Constructed during the 1920s, the two-story, frame Hofler Tenant House displays classic characteristics of the bungalow style, including a front-facing dormer with tri-partite widow located on the front elevation, centered over a full-width porch (*Figure 16*). Rafter tails under the deep roof eaves are exposed, and plain, flat-cut brackets are located in the side gable eaves and front dormer eaves. A small frame utility barn and shed are located behind the bungalow, alongside a frame gable-roofed barn with side sheds (*Figure 17*). A front-gable, frame store building is located at the roadside in front of the tenant house, one of two small store buildings associated with the proposed rural historic district (*Figure 18*). (The other, according to Tom Butchko's survey notes, was relocated from the roadside to the cluster of outbuildings behind the Hofler-Carter House.) According to the current tenants of the property, the store building has recently been used for general storage and the interior retains none of the original store cabinetry or furnishings.



Figure 3: Asa Hofler Farm, looking north.



Figure 4: Asa Hofler House, looking northeast.

7

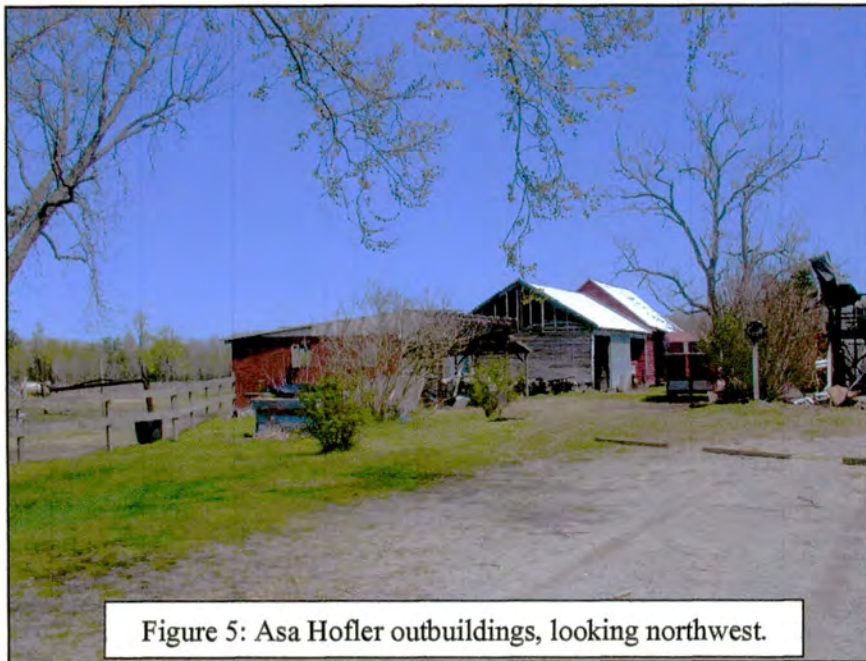


Figure 5: Asa Hofler outbuildings, looking northwest.



Figure 6: Asa Hofler outbuildings, looking east.

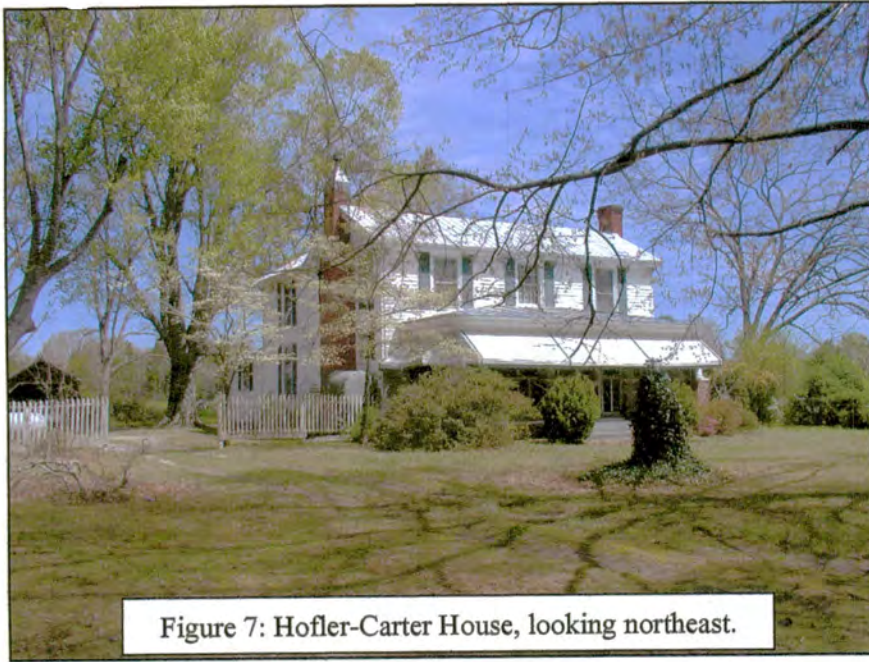


Figure 7: Hofler-Carter House, looking northeast.

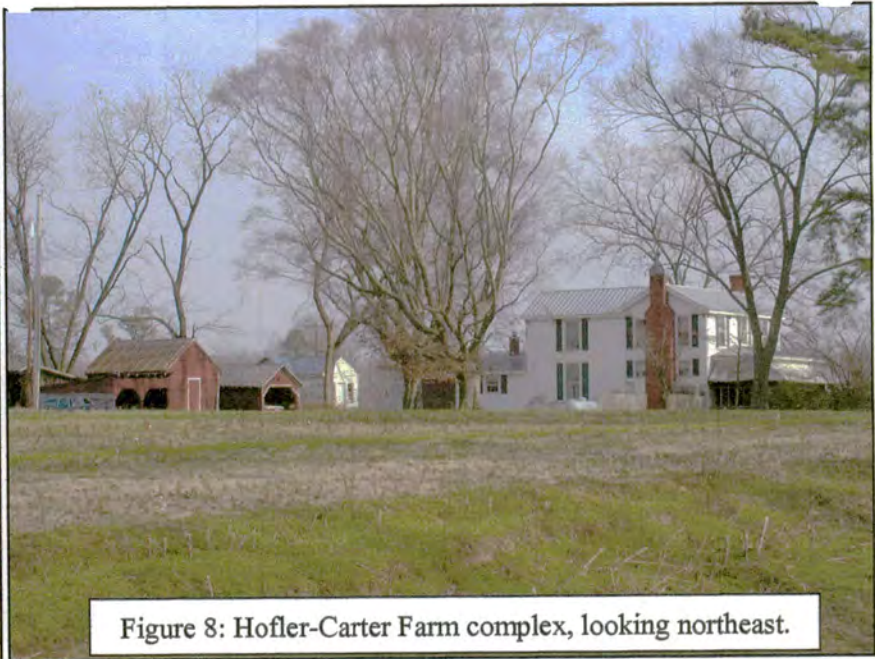


Figure 8: Hofler-Carter Farm complex, looking northeast.

8

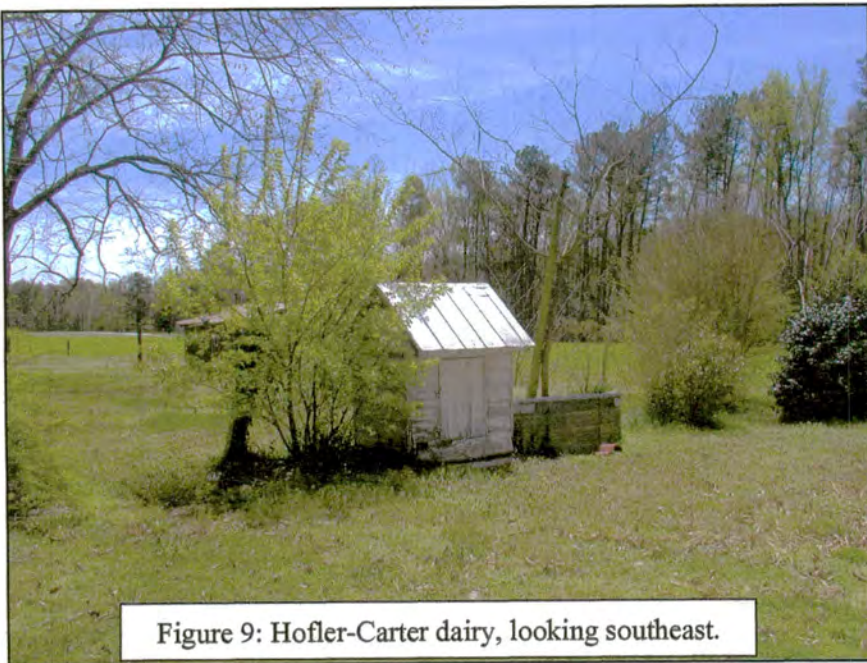


Figure 9: Hofler-Carter dairy, looking southeast.

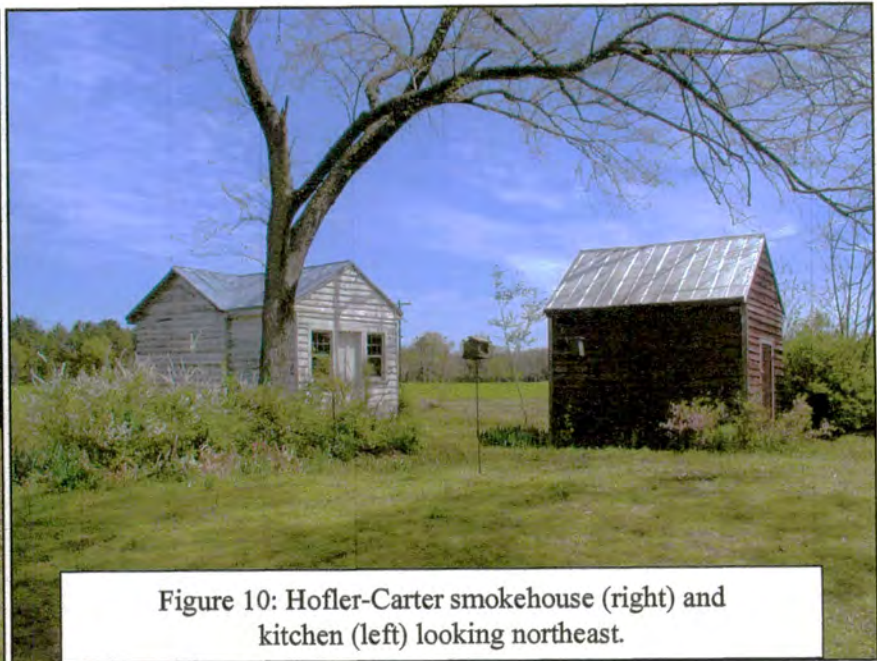


Figure 10: Hofler-Carter smokehouse (right) and kitchen (left) looking northeast.

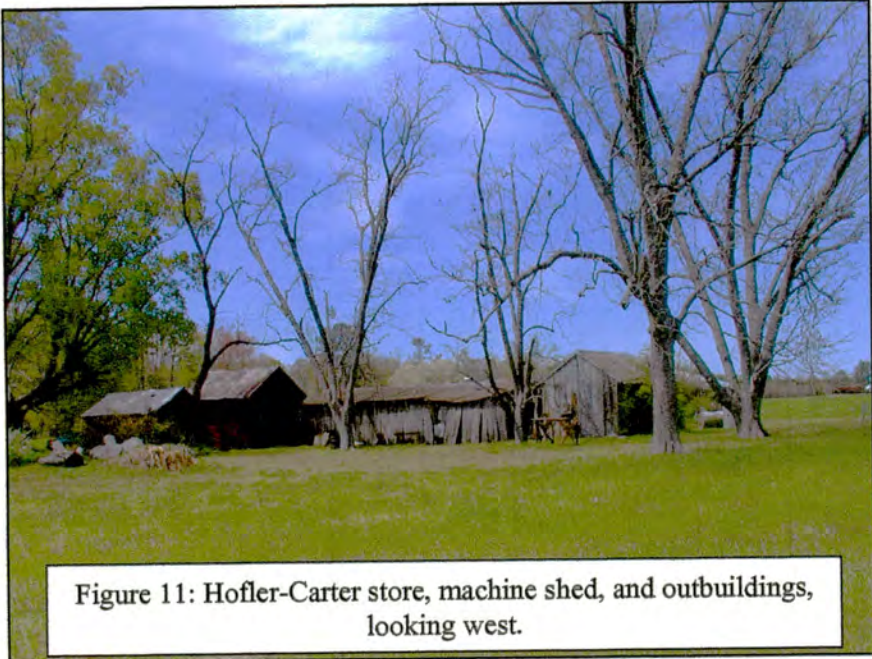


Figure 11: Hofler-Carter store, machine shed, and outbuildings, looking west.

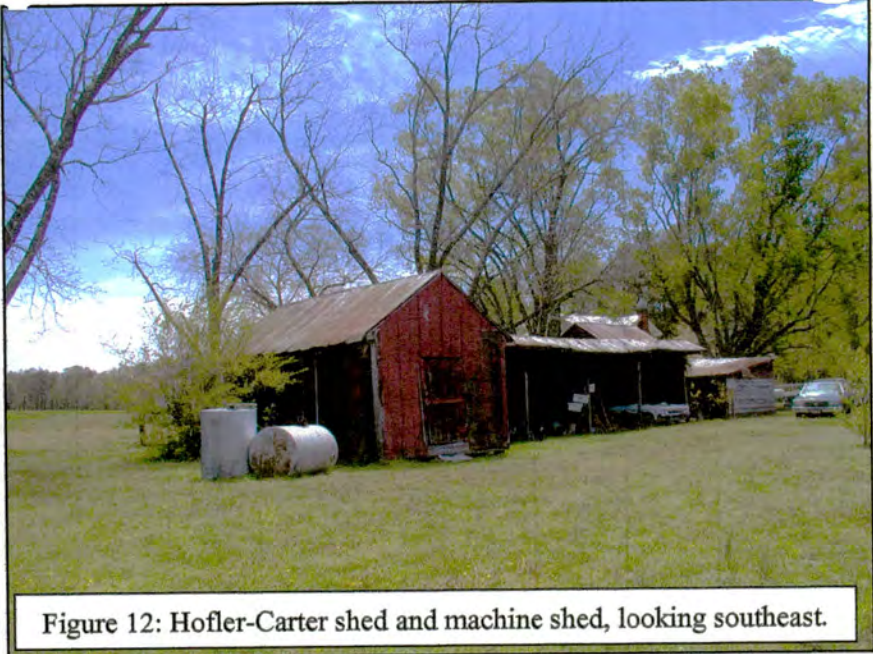


Figure 12: Hofler-Carter shed and machine shed, looking southeast.

9

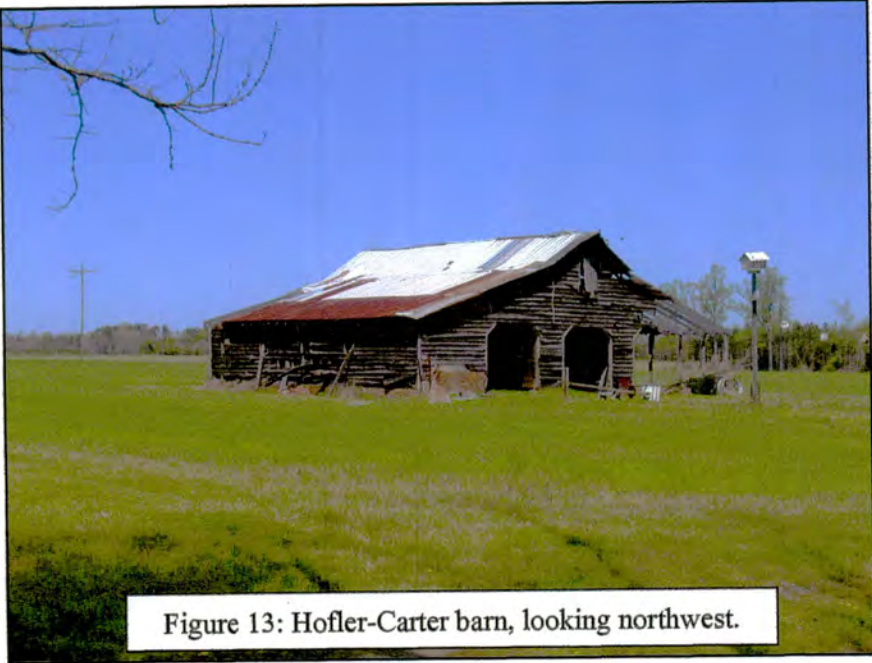


Figure 13: Hofler-Carter barn, looking northwest.

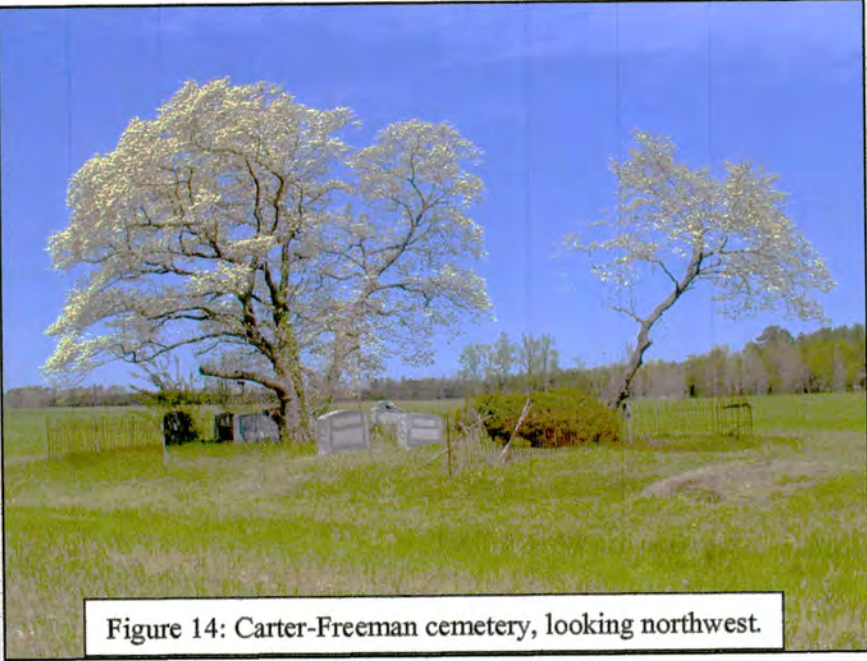


Figure 14: Carter-Freeman cemetery, looking northwest.

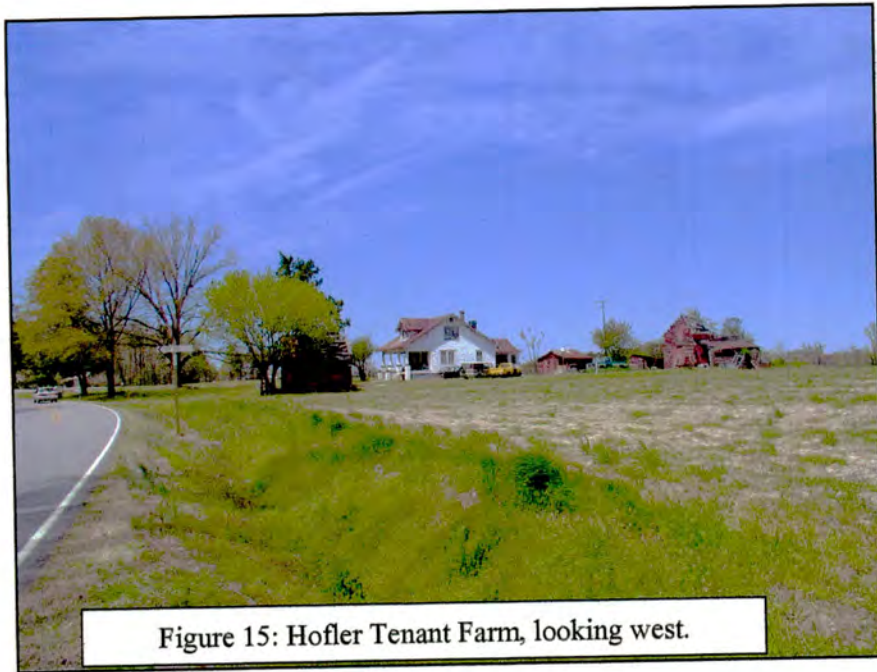


Figure 15: Hofler Tenant Farm, looking west.



Figure 16: Hofler Tenant House, looking north.

10

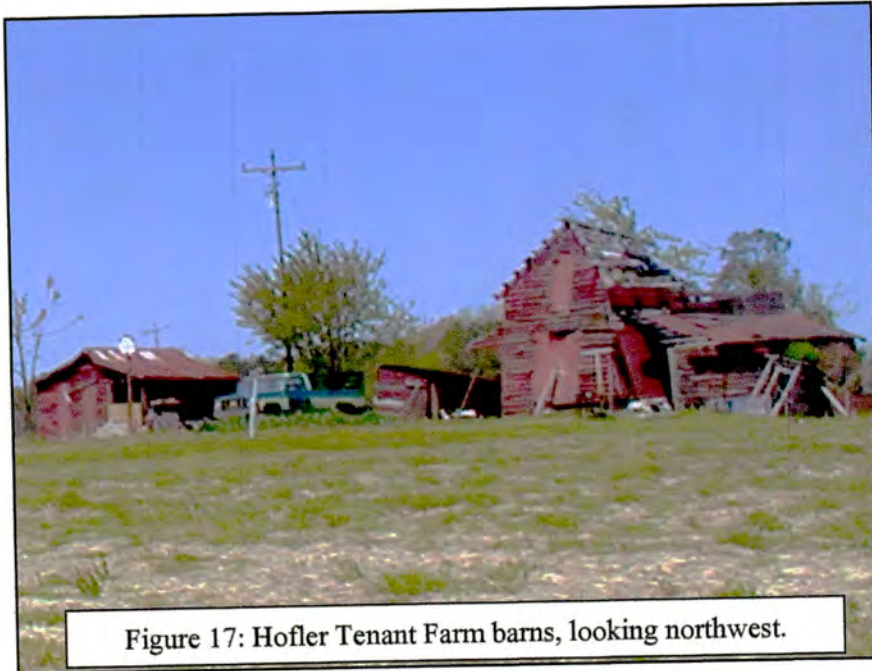


Figure 17: Hofler Tenant Farm barns, looking northwest.



Figure 18: Hofler Tenant Farm store, looking northwest.

Historic & Architectural Context

Before European settlement of North Carolina's northern Albemarle region, the Weapemoc Indians occupied the territory lying between the Chowan River and the Great Dismal swamp, utilizing for natural resources derived from the river and swampland. The river and swamp formed a natural barrier to travel and trade. By the last quarter of the seventeenth century, Virginians entered the area from the north by way of the river. The county was formed in 1779 from Chowan, Hertford, and Perquimans Counties, with its seat at Gatesville. Lacking rail service until the 1880s, the Chowan River functioned as a "river-top-railroad" for the transportation of agricultural goods. Shingles and staves were the products of small-scale manufacturing, and mixed crops such as Indian corn, sweet potatoes, peas, and beans were the primary agricultural products in the antebellum period.¹

Asa Hofler established his farmstead during the period of gradual population and economic growth in Gates County that took place between 1790 and the Civil War. The two-story, center hall, single-pile frame house form employed by Hofler had become the most common house type in the region by the mid-nineteenth century. Kitchens were often housed in a separate building, sometimes connected to the house by a breezeway and later incorporated into the main house as a rear ell.² The earliest of these center hall dwellings exhibit transitional Georgian-Federal stylistic details such as elongated proportions and delicately carved interior mantels and wainscot.³ Greek Revival architectural features became predominant by the 1830s and 1840s, seen mainly in the form of cornices, gable returns, and double-tier porches, and in by the use of flat-panel moldings and mantels in house interiors. The transitional Federal Greek Revival mantels in the Asa Hofler's houses are typical of the modest interior finishes typical of many Gates County farmhouses during this period.⁴

Tom Butchko described the "basic complement" of outbuildings found on an antebellum Gates County farm, which includes distinct groupings of domestic and agricultural structures. In the domestic realm, a smokehouse, privy, and wood house were located near the dwelling. Some combination of barn, stable, and grain barn were often grouped in the agricultural realm. Larger farm complexes often featured a freestanding kitchen, dairy, washhouse, well house, and numerous barns, grain sheds, wagon sheds, and stables. Documentary records indicated that more than 900 slave houses were located on Gates County farmsteads in 1860. However, due to loss or conversion of the structures for other uses after abolition, few buildings known to have housed slaves remain on the landscape today.⁵

Gates County's farmers lost their enslaved workforce at emancipation, contributing to labor shortages and economic collapse in the decade after the Civil War. Economic prosperity returned in the 1870s and 1880s with the arrival of two railroad lines in the county and a subsequent transition into cash crop agriculture. Cotton, peanuts, and timber became the primary products, while small-scale corn and tobacco production continued as a secondary

¹ Butchko, 17.

² Butchko, 20.

³ Butchko, 26-27.

⁴ Butchko, 28-29, 206.

⁵ Butchko, 33.

pursuit for local farmers.⁶ The two-story, single-pile, center hall house plan remained the predominant house form in the county after the Civil War and into the twentieth century. John Quincy Hofler's farmhouse represents the same building form as that of his father, though updated in decorative details. The later house, constructed in 1878, features applied Italianate-influenced eave brackets (now covered by vinyl siding).

Although ornate sawnwork detailing was popularly used on dwellings both in and out of Gates County's small towns, irregularly massed building forms associated with the turn of the twentieth-century architecture did not often appear in the region, especially in Gates County's rural dwellings. Despite the absence of complex Queen Anne forms, builders did adopt later popular architectural styles, such as the Colonial Revival and bungalow styles of the first and second quarters of the twentieth century.⁷ Both the Asa Hofler House and the John Quincy Hofler House received Colonial Revival-influenced renovations. The Hofler-Carter Tenant farmhouse exemplifies the adoption of another popular twentieth-century building form, the bungalow. By the early twentieth century, agricultural trends led to a reliance on cash crops such as cotton rather than a diversity of crops and livestock. Tenant farming increased at this time, and by 1930, tenants operated nearly 70 percent farms in North Carolina's inner coastal plain.⁸

National Register Evaluation

In his analysis of the Gates County architectural survey, Tom Butchko remarks that "the farm complex, and not just the farm house, is the basic architectural unit of the agrarian landscape." He identified many farm complexes during the survey, and like the Hofler-Carter farms, most represent the evolution of the form and use of agricultural buildings over many decades in North Carolina's northern Albemarle region. More than 35 farmsteads were Study Listed for the National Register following the survey. Two rural historic districts aside from the Hofler-Carter Farms complex, the Gatling-Langston Family Farms and the Beamon-Corbitt Farms Rural Historic Districts, were identified as exceptional assemblages of dwellings, agricultural buildings, and landscape features, and were Study Listed for the National Register.

The significance of the Hofler-Carter Farms Rural Historic District apart from other Study Listed farms lies in the survival of three adjacent farm complexes and their associated landscape features of fences, fields, mature tree cover, and woodlots. The district is also noteworthy for the inclusion of the tenant house complex, which illustrates the predominant system for running large cash crop farms during the late nineteenth through the mid-twentieth century. The two buildings formerly used as roadside stores are also significant features of the district, representing mixed economic activity that took place within farming culture.

The Hofler-Carter Farms Rural Historic District is considered Eligible for the National Register under Criteria A for association with broad patterns in agricultural history, and under Criteria C for architectural significance. Its period of significance extends from the 1840s to the second quarter of the twentieth century, spanning the construction dates of the three farm dwellings and their associated outbuildings. The district is considered Not Eligible under Criterion B for association with the lives of significant persons, or for Criterion D, potential to yield information important in history or prehistory.

⁶ Butchko, 6, 39-40.

⁷ Butchko, 48-49.

⁸ Bishir, et al., 35.

National Register Boundary Justification

The suggested boundary for the Hofler-Carter Farms Rural Historic District is based on Tom Butchko's survey information, the National Register Study List application for the property, and property records at the Gates County Courthouse. County tax maps show imprecise boundaries for the three farmsteads that form the district (Figure . Verbal boundary descriptions and acreage recorded in the deeds indicate that the three farms occupy approximately 247 acres, and abut the wooded banks of Trotman Creek to the east and Trotman's unnamed tributary on the north. The right-of-way line on the north side of SR 1100 forms the southern boundary of the district and the western boundary is marked by field boundaries discernable from aerial photos of the Hofler-Carter properties. The suggested boundary is illustrated in Figures 2 and 19.

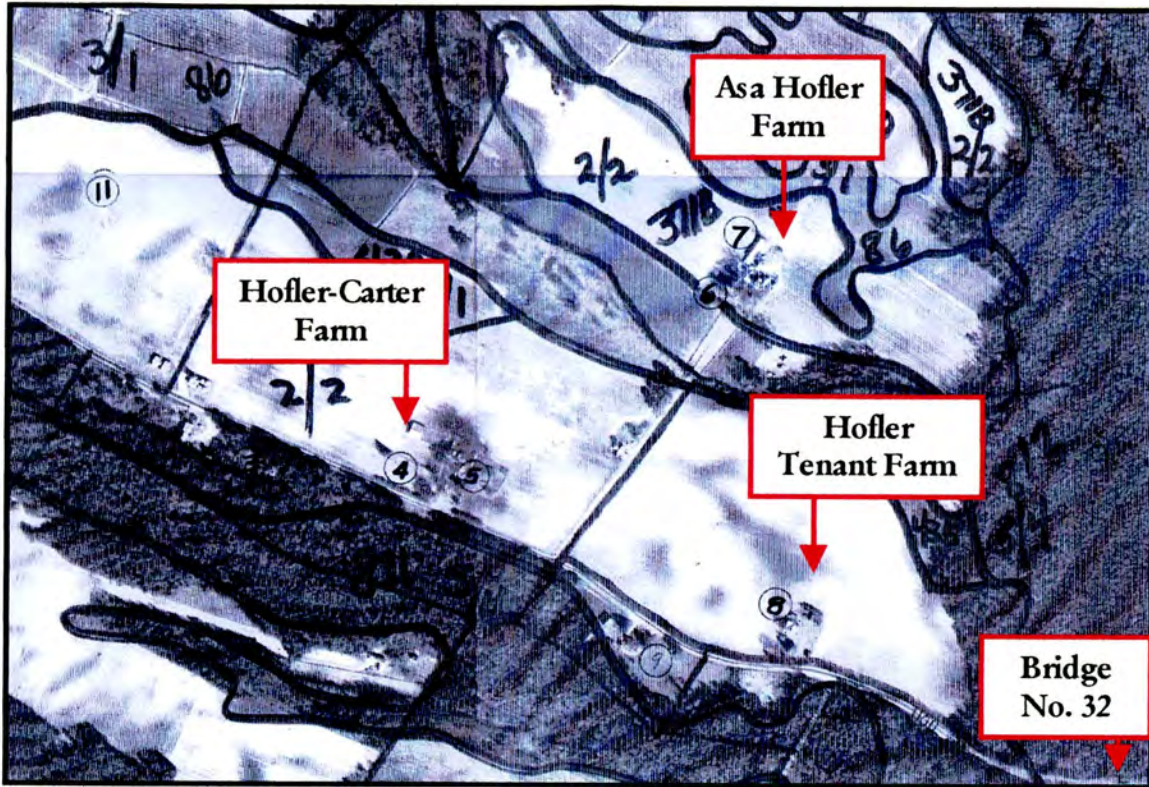


Figure 19. Aerial photo showing approximate property boundaries and land use coding, courtesy of the Gates County Tax Office. This map and acreage recorded in property deeds was used to delineate the proposed National Register boundary.

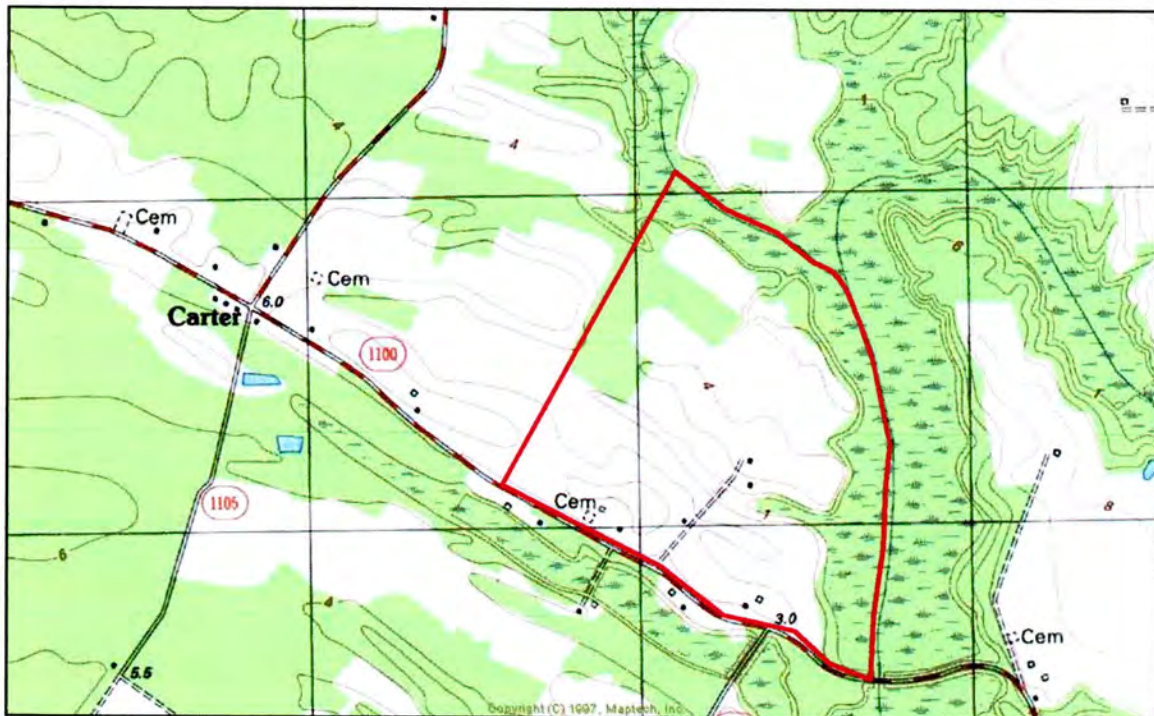


Figure 20. USGS Mintonville quad showing proposed boundary for the Hofler-Carter Farm Rural Historic District.

Property Evaluation: Bridge No. 32 on SR 1100 over Trotman Creek

Description

Bridge No. 130 is a two-lane, four-span timber stringer bridge with timber pilings and two-rail-high wood plank railings. It is 69 feet long and has a clear roadway width of 19.2 feet. Constructed in 1952, the bridge has been significantly altered by repair and maintenance in recent decades. This maintenance, though routine for a timber stringer bridge, led surveyors for the North Carolina Historic Bridge Survey program to believe that the bridge had been entirely replaced in the 1990s and did not merit National Register evaluation (*see the Lichtenstein survey form in Appendix 1*). Records from the NCDOT bridge maintenance unit indicate that the 1952 bridge in fact was not entirely replaced—rather, the bridge floor was replaced in 1988, and one pile and bent were repaired in 1996.⁹

Historic & Architectural Context

The State Highway Department developed standard designs for timber stringer bridges in 1928. Composed of creosote-treated wood beams or logs, the structure was commonly used for bridge spans under 25 feet long, often in combination with a reinforced concrete deck and concrete or wooden railings. Over 570 timber stringer bridges were built before 1961, and few are composed entirely of original fabric because their timber components require frequent maintenance and replacement.¹⁰



Figure 22.
Bridge No. 32 on SR 1100
over Trotman Creek.

⁹ Personal communication with Karen Capps, NCDOT PDEA Consulting Engineer, and Cary Clemmons, NCDOT Bridge Maintenance Unit, 20 April, 2005.

¹⁰ Patrick Harshbarger, "North Carolina Department of Transportation Historic Bridge Inventory" (summary publication), Lichtenstein Consulting Engineers for NCDOT, 2005.

National Register Evaluation

Bridge No. 32 is considered Not Eligible for the National Register under any criteria. The Historic Bridge Inventory compiled information about the structural type, age, historic background, and integrity of materials for bridges throughout the state. The oldest and most intact examples of bridge types, structures with unusual aesthetic appeal, and structures with significant historical associations were Determined Eligible for the National Register as a result of the survey. Three bridges were identified as the most intact surviving examples of timber stringer bridges in North Carolina—Bridge No. 309 in Anson County, Bridge No. 4 in Warren County, and Bridge No. 77 in Northampton County. All were constructed between 1928 to 1934, and were prototypes of what was to become a common bridge form. In comparison to these bridges, Bridge No. 32 in Anson County is a late example of the timber stringer form without any particular architectural significance. The bridge is not considered to be a contributing element to the Hofler-Carter Farms Rural Historic District. The 1952 bridge with late twentieth-century alterations does not relate to the historic and architectural significance of the district, the period of significance of which ranges from approximately 1840, when the Asa Hofler House was built, to the 1930s, when the Hofler-Cater Tenant farmstead was developed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Gates County Courthouse (Gatesville). Land and Tax Records.
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- Butchko, Thomas R. *Forgotton Gates: The Historic Architecture of a Rural North Carolina County*. Gatesville, NC: The Gates County Historical Society, 1991.
- Harshbarger, Patrick. "North Carolina Department of Transportation Historic Bridge Inventory" (summary publication). Lichtenstein Consulting Engineers for NCDOT, 2005.
- North Carolina Office of Archives and History, State Historic Preservation Office (Raleigh). Architectural survey maps and files.
- United State Department of the Interior, National Park Service. *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington, DC: USGPO, 1998.
- United States Geological Survey. Minstonsville quadrangle. 1:125,000. Washington, DC: USGS, 1982.

Appendix I

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY - PHASE I REPORT

LICHTENSTEIN CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.

Bridge ID No: 360032 County: GATES Div: 01 City:
Location: .06 MI W JCT SR 1102 UTM: 18 350770 402375 Owner: STATE
Facility Carried: SR 1100
Carried/Feature Intersected: SR 1100 OVER TROTMAN CREEK
Type: STRINGER/MULTI-BEAM Design:
Material: TIMBER # Spans: 4 Length: 69 Width: 200 # Lanes: 2
Railing Type: 2 RAIL HIGH WOOD PLANK RAILINGS
Date of Construction: 1996 Alteration: Source: NCDOT Bridge Maint. Unit File
Designer/Builder:

Current National Register Status of Bridge: Not Previously Evaluated.

Local, Determined Eligible, or NR Historic District/Status:

Name/Date:

Located in Potential Historic District/Historic Context? No

Adjacent to Identified or Potential Historic Properties?

Inventory NR Recommendation: Not Eligible

Setting/Context:

Physical Description:

Summary of Significance:

The timber stringer bridge was built in 1996 to replace an earlier timber stringer bridge. The bridge is post 1960.

Bibliography:

NCDOT Bridge Maintenance Unit File.

NC Dept. of Cultural Resources. Survey & Planning Branch Records.

Plan Reel/Position: 000445 / 007

Reviewed By/ Date: MEM (2/01)

Notes:

PROPOSED PROPERTIES FOR THE STUDY LIST

County: GATES

Property Name: Hofler/Carter Family Farms Rural Historic District

Property Location: NE side SR 1100, 0.6 mi SE of Jct w/ SR 1104

Owner's Name: 1) Mrs. Bessie Hofler 2) C. Herman Carter Owner Request? _____

Owner's Address: 1) 32) Route 1 Hobbsville, NC 27946

Significance: Two impressive adjacent farm complexes w/ 1 assoc. tenant farm built for father Asa G. Hofler (ca. 1815-ca. 1859) & son John Q. Hofler (1850-1902); son's farm later acquired by niece. Fine complements of outb include barns, large stable, 2 cemeteries, 3 superb tree cover & undulating landscape.
NR criteria which property fulfills:

AIC

SL priority:

Recommendation to SPRC:

Survey Specialist responsible for property: _____

If the property is State owned, please indicate it on the form giving name of Department and name of property section head.