



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

April 8, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mary Pope Furr  
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch  
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Peter Sandbeck *for Peter Sandbeck*

SUBJECT: Widening of US 64 from east of Columbia to US 264 in Manns Harbor, R-2544/R-2545,  
Tyrrell and Dare Counties, ER 06-2877

Thank you for your letter of March 24, 2008, transmitting the architectural survey report by Shelby Spillers for the above referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the report and concur that the following properties are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and that the proposed boundaries are appropriate.

(Also see TY0201)

**Lindsay Warren Bridge #7 over the Alligator River** (DR 617) under Criterion C. We suggest that it may also be eligible under Criterion A in that it was part of the statewide push to improve roads and provide a permanent link between the mainland and Roanoke Island, thereby replacing the necessity for a ferry at this location.

**East Lake Methodist Church** (DR 235) under Criterion C and Criterion Consideration A for religious properties. The inclusion of the cemetery and associated structures is well supported.

**East Lake Fire Tower** (DR 630) under Criterion C and possibly Criterion A as part of the broad pattern of the forestry industry and its protection in Dare County.

The other sixteen properties identified in the Area of Potential Effect do not appear to be eligible or warrant additional study.

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 919-807-6579. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Shelby Spillers, NCDOT

bc:

DOT  
County

BC to  
Scott/ED  
to D!  
Thanks! R

**Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report**  
**Widening US 64 from 0.9 miles east of Columbia to US 258, Manns Harbor**  
**Tyrell and Dare Counties, North Carolina**

**TIP No. R-2544/R-2545**  
**WBS No. 35487/35492**



**Shelby Lyn Spillers**  
**Architectural Historian**  
**North Carolina Department of Transportation**

March 2008

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT

Widening US 64 from 0.9 miles east of Columbia to US 258, Manns Harbor  
Tyrell and Dare Counties, North Carolina

TIP No. R-2544/R-2545  
WBS No. 35487/35492



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
REPORT PREPARED BY SHELBY LYN SPILLERS

MARCH 2008

---

Principal Investigator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Historic Architecture Group  
North Carolina Department of Transportation

---

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



## **MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to widen US 64 from 0.9 miles east of Columbia in Tyrell County to US 264 near Manns Harbor in Dare County, North Carolina.

A Final Identification and Evaluation survey was conducted to determine the Area of Potential Effects (APE), and to identify and evaluate all structures over fifty years of age within the APE according to the Criteria of Evaluation for the National Register of Historic Places. On October 10, 2007 NCDOT architectural historians surveyed the APE by automobile and on foot, covering 100% of the APE, and identified nineteen properties over fifty years of age. In addition to the fieldwork, an architectural historian consulted the Dare and Tyrell County survey files in the State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) in Raleigh, and the National Register of Historic Places and the North Carolina State Study List files. The architectural historian conducted additional research at the Dare County Registrar of Deeds, the Outer Banks History Center, and the North Carolina State Library and Archives.

Nineteen historic resources were identified in this survey. On October 30, 2007 these properties were considered at a consultation meeting between NCDOT and HPO and sixteen were determined not eligible and not worthy of further evaluation. This report evaluates the three remaining properties according to National Register criteria. One property, Bridge No. 7 over the Alligator River was determined eligible for National Register during the 2005 North Carolina Historic Bridge Survey. Two properties, Property No. 14, East Lake Methodist Church and Cemetery and Property No. 15, Fire Tower are recommended eligible for National Register listing. There are no properties in the APE that are listed in the National Register.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### PROPERTIES LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (NRHP)

None

### PROPERTIES PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR LISTING IN THE NRHP

The Lindsay Warren Bridge, No. 7 over the Alligator River (DR 617)

### PROPERTIES EVALUATED BY NCDOT & RECOMMENDED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NRHP

Property # 14 East Lake Methodist Church and Cemetery (DR 235)  
Property # 15 East Lake Fire Tower (DR 630)

### PROPERTIES EVALUATED BY NCDOT & RECOMMENDED NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NRHP

Property # 2-16 & 16-19

### PROPERTIES ELIGIBLE UNDER CRITERION G

None

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Management Summary	i
Summary of Findings	ii
Introduction	1
Technical Guidelines	1
Methodology	1
Physical Environment	2
Historic Resource Inventory	6
History of Mainland Dare County and East Lake	7
Properties Evaluated and Recommended Eligible for National Register Listing	10
Works Cited	34
HPO Concurrence Form	35
Properties Determined Not Eligible for National Register Listing and Not Worthy of Further Evaluation	36

## MAPS

Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map	3
Figure 2: Area of Potential Effects	4
Figure 3: Historic Resource Map	5

## **INTRODUCTION**

NCDOT conducted a survey and compiled this report in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the APE as part of the environmental studies performed by NCDOT and documented by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This report is prepared as a technical addendum to the CE 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 requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings (federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects) on properties listed in or eligible for 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 available for review by the public.

## **TECHNICAL GUIDELINES**

NCDOT conducted the survey and prepared this report in accordance with the provisions of FHWA Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents); the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 800; 36 CFR Part 60; and Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines for Historic Architectural Resources by NCDOT. This survey and report meet the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service.

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

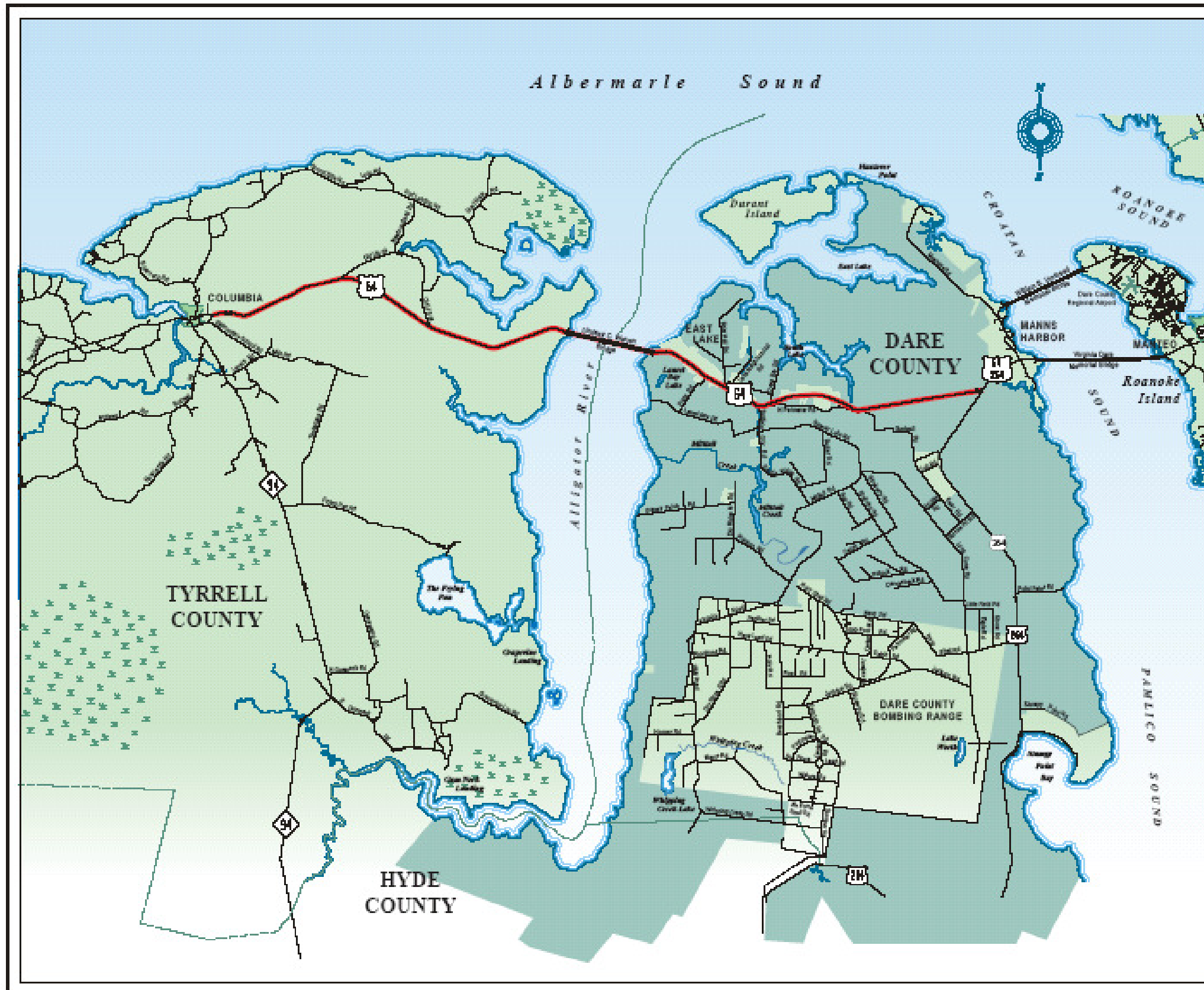
## **METHODOLOGY**

The survey methodology consisted of a field survey and background research on the project area. NCDOT staff architectural historians conducted field surveys in October 2007 by car and on foot. All structures over fifty years of age in the APE were photographed and keyed to a Historic Architectural Resources Survey Map, Figure 3 (page 5) Historic Resource Survey Numbers were obtained from Offices of the Survey and Planning Branch of the Historic Preservation Office. Architectural historians completed preliminary research at the HPO, Dare County Registrar of Deeds, the Outer Banks History Center Library, and the State Library of North Carolina. As part of research activities undertaken, NCDOT staff also consulted with the following individuals: Fay Kemp, member of East Lake Methodist Church, Rev. Betty Garrick

Francis, pastor of East Lake Methodist Church, and Lewis Midget, Ranger for the Division of Forest Resources in Dare County, all of whom have personal knowledge of the properties surveyed.

## **PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

The project stretches 27.3 miles through Tyrell and Dare counties in northeastern North Carolina. Beginning at the eastern edge of Columbia, the project follows US 64 through sparsely populated swampland, crossing the Alligator River and continuing through Dare County. This portion of Dare County is dominated by the Alligator River Wildlife Refuge and is under the jurisdiction of the federal government. The project terminates in Mann's Harbor at the junction with US 264.

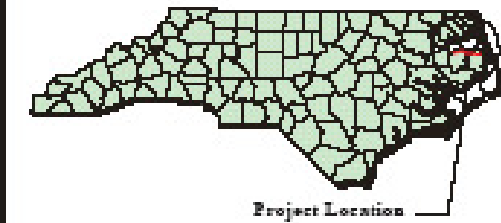


## US 64 Improvements Project Environmental Impact Statement



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT  
 OF TRANSPORTATION  
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND  
 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH

County: TYRRELL / DARE COUNTIES  
 Div: 1  
 TIP Nos.: R2544 & R2545  
 WBS: 35487  
 Date: December 2006



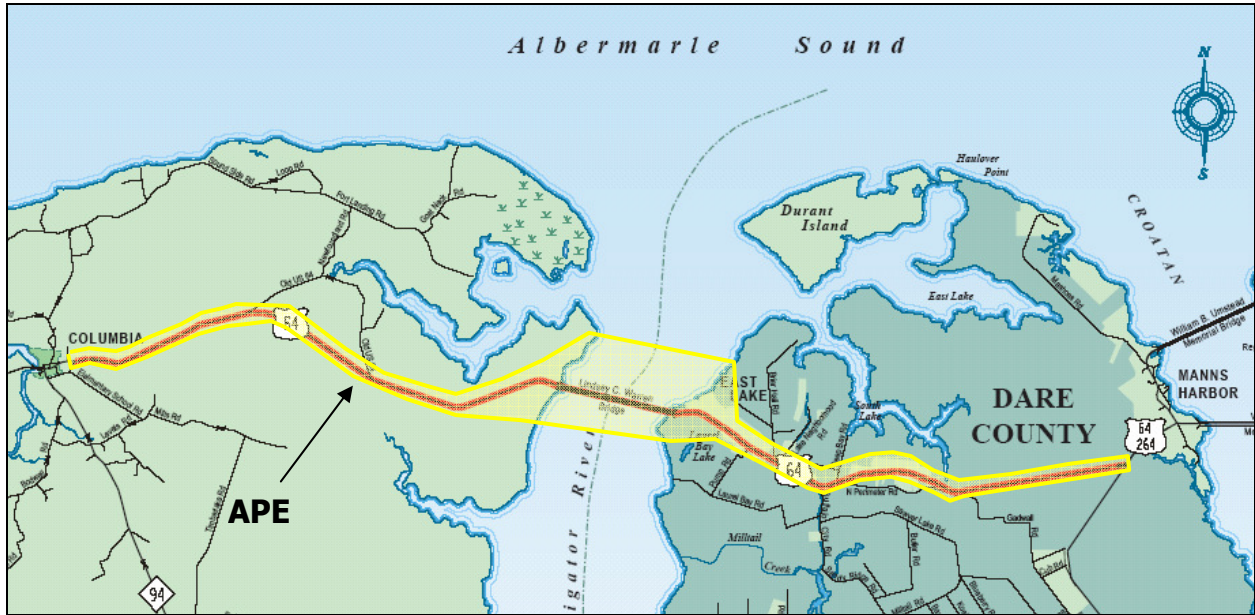
### Legend

- Project Limits
- Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge



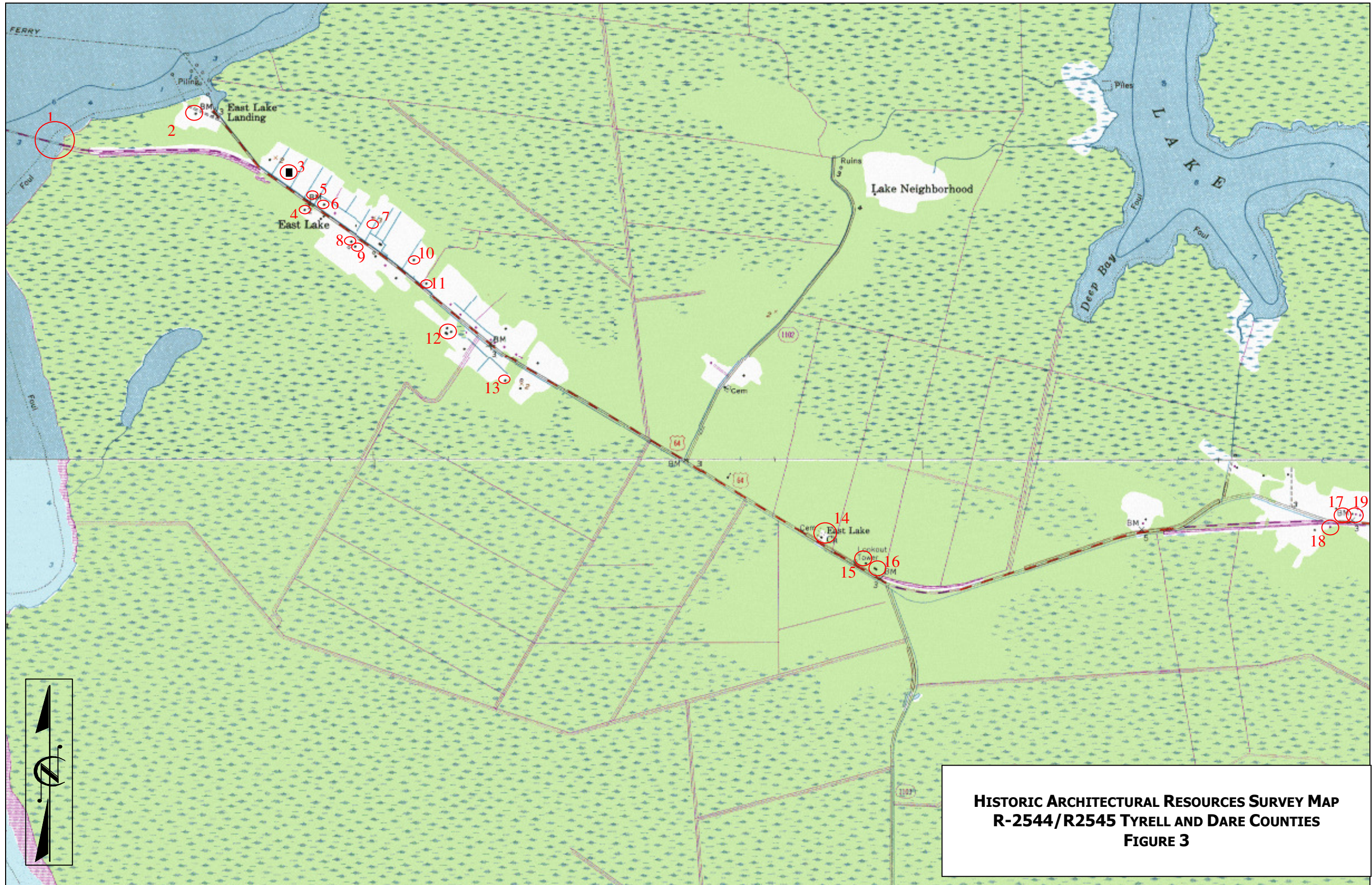
Vicinity Map  
 US 64 Improvements  
 Tyrrell/Dare Counties

Figure 1



R-2544/R1545 Dare and Tyrell Counties Project APE  
Figure 2







R-2544/2545 Tyrell and Dare Counties  
Historic Resource Inventory

Property Number	Property Name	HPO Survey Number
1	Bridge No. 7 Lindsay Warren Bridge	DR 617
2	House	DR 618
3	House	DR 619
4	House	DR 620
5	House	DR 621
6	House	DR 622
7	House	DR 623
8	House	DR 624
9	House	DR 625
10	House	DR 626
11	House	DR 627
12	House	DR 628
13	House	DR 629
14	East Lake Methodist Church and Cemetery	DR 235
15	Fire Tower	DR 630
16	East Lake Community Center	DR 631
17	Creefs Family Cemetery	DR 232
18	House	DR 632
19	House	DR 633

## History of Mainland Dare County and East Lake

Many of the written histories of Dare County focus on the Outer Banks and Roanoke Island. With good reason: the first permanent English settlement in the New World can be found in Dare County as well as the Wright Brothers historic first flight. However, mainland Dare County has a rich history all its own.

The peninsula of mainland Dare County is situated between the Alligator River to the west, the Albermarle and Croatan Sounds to the north and east and Hyde County to the south. All of what is now mainland Dare County was granted to John Grey Blount in 1785. By 1793 Blount had amassed more than 3 million acres of land in the New World and was involved in shady land speculation deals that ended with his indictment and confused title to mainland Dare.<sup>1</sup> In the years following the founding of the nation, much of the land in this area was owned by a small number of non-residents, while the people actually living and working on the land were known as squatters and therefore entitled to "squatters rights."<sup>2</sup> Not until May of 1873, when the Eastern Land, Lumber, and Manufacturing Company, began to survey the land, clear deeds were issued and land ownership settled.<sup>3</sup>

Legislators carved from parts of Hyde, Currituck and Tyrell County to form Dare in 1870, and established the county seat on Roanoke Island in the village of Manteo. The geography made development of what is now mainland Dare County difficult with the four separate sections (Nags Head, Hatteras Island, Roanoke Island and the mainland) all separated by water and accessible only by boat. The mainland is split into four townships: Stumpy Point, Masheos, Manns Harbor and East Lake. The townships were also all separated by bodies of water. The first post office on the mainland was established at East Lake in 1875. On the mainland the swampy terrain made the development of even dirt roads difficult to manage. Not until 1926 were the villages of Manns Harbor, East Lake and Stumpy Point connected by roads.

In addition to the fishing industry and some farming, mainland Dare's economy was supported primarily by the lumber industry. East Lake Lumber Company purchased the land from Eastern Land, Lumber, and Manufacturing Company in 1904, which the company acquired in 1873. Between 1904 and 1917 East Lake Lumber leased 168,000 acres to Dare Lumber Company. Dare Lumber Company purchased the land in 1917.

Dare Lumber Company established a landing on the north bank of Milltail Creek and there built the company town, Buffalo City; likely named for Buffalo, New York from where East Lake Lumber Company hailed. At its peak Buffalo City boasted more than ninety buildings and homes for its estimated two to three thousand permanent

---

<sup>1</sup>Mary Wood Long, *The Five Lost Colonies of Dare*. Elizabeth City, NC: Family Research Society of Northeastern North Carolina, 2001. p.142

<sup>2</sup>David Stick, *Dare County: A Brief History*. Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives, 1970. p.16

<sup>3</sup>Long. p.144

residents with camps for six hundred more temporary workers surrounding the village.<sup>4</sup> In addition to housing for the residents, the village had a Company store, a Post Office, a Hotel, and a schoolhouse.

Not all the lumber workers lived in Buffalo City. Many had houses in the East Lake area. John Pinter's Store at Lake Landing on the Alligator River supplied the area with enumerable goods as well as having "one of the largest docks, warehouses, and stores complexes in the coastal area."<sup>5</sup> According to a map of East Lake in 1900<sup>6</sup> a "County Road" ran along the ridge from Lake Landing to Manns Harbor, roughly what is now US 64. Along the road stood the East Lake Post Office, East Lake School, East Lake Methodist Church and the Primitive Baptist Church.

The lumber industry of Dare County took an unusual turn after 1920. Three men, Clarence F. Birdseye, his son Kellogg Birdseye, and George Montgomery, fraudulently represented officials of Pittsburg Life Insurance Company with consent to sell the Washington Life Building in New York City in exchange for six million dollars in bonds of the Dare Lumber Company, plus another million dollars for the land holdings in Dare County.<sup>7</sup> Once the facts of the case were made clear, Metropolitan Life and Trust Company, the parent company of Pittsburg Life, was awarded the holdings of the Dare Lumber Company and the Birdseyes and Montgomery were convicted for conspiracy to commit fraud.<sup>8</sup>

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company did not find much success in timber and during their ownership the population of Buffalo City declined. The company leased the land to Fred Maloof and the Duvall Brothers who would eventually buy the land and run a shingle mill at the site of the nearly vacant Buffalo City. Metropolitan held the land until 1940, when they sold it to Maloof under the name Dare Corporation. In 1953 the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company bought the timberland, but by that time the lumber industry in Dare was but a shadow of its heyday in the first two decades of the century.<sup>9</sup>

After 1920, when Metropolitan Life took over ownership of Dare Lumber Company's land holdings on the mainland, the lumber industry fell into decline. The closing of the Dare Lumber Company coincided with the beginning of the Era of Prohibition in the United States. The out-of-work lumbermen turned to another set of skills they possessed to make ends meet. Moonshining had always been practiced by a few on the mainland. Alcohol brought in by boat proved too expensive a luxury for the

---

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. p.150.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. p.159

<sup>6</sup> Map of East Lake in 1900 As Remembered by Sherriff Frank M. Cahoon. Held at the Outer Banks History Center.

<sup>7</sup> New York Times, August 4, 1917.

<sup>8</sup> Long, p. 144.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. p. 145.

lumbermen, so homemade whiskey stills, or rigs, were not uncommon in the woods of mainland Dare.<sup>10</sup>

Tight-knit communities including East Lake protected moonshiners from federal agents. Elaborate look-out systems were set up to avoid the Federal Agents, or Revenuers, who sought to bring justice to the moonshiners. The whiskey produced on mainland Dare had the reputation of being some of the finest available in the nation. Dare County whiskey found its way to speakeasies as far north as New York City and west to Chicago as harbor police charged \$120 to allow boats to pass uninspected.<sup>11</sup> The end of Prohibition, however, effectively ended the moonshine business and the last major raid on the moonshine rigs of mainland Dare was reported in the Dare County Times November 18, 1938 edition.<sup>12</sup>

Beginning in the early 1920s when Wash Baum became chairman of the Board of Commissioners, the county began to build canals, roads and bridges to connect the separate communities and increase tourism to the Outer Banks. A canal was dredged on the west side of Croatan Sound at Manns Harbor and a road was built from the canal to the village. In 1926 the county borrowed money from Metropolitan Life to build a road through their land holdings from Stumpy Point to Hyde County. To pay off the loan, the county raised the taxes on Metropolitan's land.<sup>13</sup> The county used bond money to build bridges across the Roanoke and Currituck Sounds. These bridges operated as toll bridges until the State bought them in the late 1930s. In 1962, the Lindsay Warren Bridge was completed and connected East Lake to Tyrell County.

While the Outer Banks benefitted from the establishment major tourists attractions like the Wright Brothers Memorial in 1931, *The Lost Colony* beginning in 1937, and Cape Hatteras National Seashore which also began 1937 though its completion wasn't seen until 1952, the population of mainland Dare dwindled. The once booming lumber industry suffered greatly after the collapse of Dare Lumber Company. Much of the population moved away from the area, many to Virginia. By 1974 the population of East Lake was estimated to be less than ninety people.<sup>14</sup> Mainland Dare remains sparsely populated today. In 1984 the US Fish and Wildlife Service established the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge within 152,000 acres of former prime timberland.

---

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. p. 160.

<sup>11</sup> Lane Degregory, "Buffalo City," *Virginian-Pilot*, Sunday, 2 October 1994, Carolina Coast section, p. 16.

<sup>12</sup> Long. p.172.

<sup>13</sup> David Stick. *The Outer Banks of North Carolina: 1584-1958*. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1958.) p.244

<sup>14</sup> Nell Wise Wechter. *Some Whisper of Our Name*. (Manteo, NC: Times Printing Company. 1975.) p.4.

PROPERTIES EVALUATED BY NCDOT AND RECOMMENDED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

## Identification

The Lindsay Warren Bridge, Number 7, over the Alligator River



## Location

US 64 East crossing the Alligator River (Intercostal Waterway) from Tyrell County to Dare County.

## Date of Construction

1960-1962

## Physical Description

The Lindsay Warren Bridge is a 2.8-mile long bridge swing-span bridge. Except for the swing-span, all other spans of the bridge are pre-stressed concrete stringer spans. The railings are concrete one bar cantilevered, off brush curb railings. The swing-span is a welder girder and floor beam, the rim of which is supported by a large circular girder that rotates with the span. A two-story, flat roofed operator's tower is located on the southwest corner of the swing-span.

## Historical Background

Built to replace the ferry service between Dare and Tyrell counties, the plan for the bridge was included in the larger project to extend US 64 and connect Roanoke Island and the Outer Banks to the mainland. Improving transportation and access to the coastal regions of North Carolina became a major cause of action for many politicians in the state, among them Lindsay Warren.<sup>15</sup> Lindsay Warren, a Dare County native was a US Congressman from 1924 to 1940. He went on to serve as the U.S. Comptroller General from 1940 to 1954. Warren used his political position to work for improved highways and bridges in eastern North Carolina.

The Lindsay Warren Bridge is an example of early success in bridge building using the developing technology of welding. Using welding for structural application became more common after the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. By the early 1960s the state had transitioned from riveted to welded construction techniques. The welder girder-floorbeam swing span Lindsay Warren Bridge is one of the three oldest long-span welded beam highway bridges in the state.<sup>16</sup>

## National Register Criteria Assessment

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Lindsay Warren Bridge has been determined **eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places during the 2005 NC DOT Historic Bridge Inventory.

The Lindsay Warren Bridge retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Lindsay Warren Bridge is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (Event). *To be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American 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 a 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>17</sup> The property is not associated with any event or pattern of history that would raise the significance to the level necessary to make it eligible for National Register listing.

The Lindsay Warren Bridge 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.,*

---

<sup>15</sup> Lichtenstein Consulting Engineers, Inc. *Historic Bridge Inventory* (North Carolina Department of Transportation. 2003)

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15*. (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1991), p. 12.

*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.*<sup>18</sup> Although Lindsay Warren was a well-known politician and made significant contributions to the state of North Carolina, the bridge that bears his name does not have significant association with the productive period of his life to elevate the level of significance to National Register eligibility under Criterion B.

The Lindsay Warren Bridge is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its architectural 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 may lack individual distinction.*<sup>19</sup> The Lindsay Warren Bridge is an early example of the use of welding as a method of construction for long-span application of welder girders in the state. The Lindsay Warren Bridge is recommended eligible under Criterion C.

The Lindsay Warren Bridge 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 prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*<sup>20</sup> The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology. Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church is not recommended eligible under Criterion D.

---

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., p. 15.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., p. 17.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., p. 21.

## National Register Boundary

The National Register boundary for the Lindsay Warren Bridge No. 7 over Alligator River has been drawn according to the guidelines of National Register Bulletin 21, *Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties*. The boundary is drawn to include the footprint of the bridge.





## Property Identification

East Lake Methodist Church (Dare County PIN: 971800150789) is identified as Property No. 14 and DR 235 on Figure 3 Historic Resources Map.



## Location

East Lake Methodist Church is located at 16932 US 64 approximately one mile east of Lake Neighborhood Road in East Lake District of Dare County. The church and cemetery occupy a 1.69 acre parcel on the north side of US 64 surrounded by the Alligator River Wildlife Refuge.

## Description and Development History

Not far from the Currituck Courthouse, a historic marker commemorates the first Methodist sermon delivered North Carolina. On September 28, 1772 the sermon was given by Joseph Pilmoor, sent to American in 1769 by John Wesley to spread Methodism in America. The 1776 Methodist Conference in Baltimore established Carolina Circuit. Circuit riders spread Methodism through the countryside by travelling

to private homes or meeting places to preach the gospel. By 1783 the Camden Circuit formed and included much of what is today Dare County.<sup>21</sup>

The first dedicated structure to serve as a Methodist Church in what is now Dare County was located on Roanoke Island near Sykco. The small twenty-by-twenty-five foot pine and cypress building served the community from 1799 until a larger building replaced it in 1830.

Church building by the Methodists in the area proliferated during this time. In 1848 Bethany United Methodist Church in Wanchese and Shiloh Church at Stumpy Point were established. Mount Olivet in Manteo was built in 1887. The Mount Carmel congregation in Manns Harbor dates to the early 1800s, but the first deed mentioning a church on the property was in 1886.<sup>22</sup>

The Methodists of East Lake had organized into a congregation by 1848, at which time they built a Meeting House.<sup>23</sup> In 1887, under the guidance of Rev. Joseph Lennon of Virginia, they built the current sanctuary to serve the congregation. The land for the church was given by Holloway and Anne Payne "inconsideration for the love we bear for and the cause of Christ and from an earnest desire to promote his heritage on earth"<sup>24</sup>

East Lake Church is distinctive architecturally from the other churches in the county built during that time. While Bethany, Shiloh, Mount Olivet, and Mount Carmel are all examples of Gothic architecture, the church at East Lake is notably simple in style. The one-story frame church rests on a brick pier foundation. The gable front façade features two sets of two-leaf wood panel doors capped with fanlights. Concrete steps with wrought-iron hand rails lead to each door. Both the east and west elevations have four double-hung sash windows capped by fanlights. The east elevation has an exterior brick chimney.

The church windows have been replaced but are the same configuration as the originals and vinyl siding covers the original clapboards. A small gable roof addition to the rear of the building houses the restrooms and provides handicap accessibility.

The interior of the church conveys its history through retention of much of the original material. Interesting details of the interior include the coved ceiling, bead board walls and the wood surrounds of the doors and windows. Hooks to hold kerosene lamps were still used into the 1950s. They remain on the walls and ceiling.

The 1.69 acre parcel contains a privy, shed and the wood table stands and an ice chest used for the annual homecoming. Located directly behind the church and surrounded

---

<sup>21</sup> Jack Hohmann. "Dare Methodists Trace Roots Two Centuries Back In Area," *Coastland Times*, Thursday, 29 November 1984, Section B section, p.1.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Dare County Deed Book F Page 308, August 3, 1898

by a white picket fence is the cemetery. Containing more than 175 headstones, the grass-covered cemetery is sparsely planted with decorative trees and shrubs. The headstones date from the late 1800s to the present. The grave sites are marked with a variety of materials and most feature decorative funerary art. Many of the graves are capped with tablets.

East Lake Methodist Church is currently on the Manns Harbor Charge with services are held once each month, led by Rev. Bettie Garrick Francis. Additionally the church used for funerals, weddings and the popular annual homecoming. There is still a small but active membership most of whom are direct descendants of the original congregation.<sup>25</sup>

---

<sup>25</sup> Fay Kemp. "A Brief History of the East Lake Methodist Church." n.p.: n.d.

## **National Register Criteria Assessment**

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), East Lake Methodist Church is recommended **eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places.

East Lake Methodist Church retains its integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. The church has suffered some loss of its original materials with the window replacement and the addition of vinyl siding. However the siding is reversible and the windows were replaced in-kind, therefore the loss of integrity is minimized. Furthermore, the building retains the integrity of materials on the interior.

East Lake Methodist Church is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (Event). *To be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American 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 a 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>26</sup> The property is not associated with any event or pattern of history that would raise the significance to the level necessary to make it eligible for National Register listing. East Lake Methodist Church is not recommended eligible under Criterion A.

East Lake Methodist Church is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion B (Person). *For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.*<sup>27</sup> There are no known persons of national, state, or local significance associated with East Lake Methodist Church. East Lake Methodist Church is not recommended eligible under Criterion B.

East Lake Methodist Church is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its architectural significance. *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive*

<sup>26</sup> National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15*. (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1991), p. 12.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 15.

*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 may lack individual distinction.*<sup>28</sup> East Lake Methodist Church is distinguished architecturally, particularly in contrast to the other Methodists churches constructed in Dare County around the same time as East Lake's construction. The churches of Bethany, Shiloh, Mount Olivet, and Mount Carmel all have elements of the more ornate Gothic architecture common to this time period. The Methodist church at East Lake is distinctive for its plain, unornamented architecture. The cemetery is an excellent example of a late nineteenth—early twentieth century churchyard cemetery with a wide variety of material and funerary art, which is uncommon on mainland Dare County.

East Lake Methodist Church is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (Potential to Yield Information). *For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*<sup>29</sup> The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology. East Lake Methodist Church is not recommended eligible under Criterion D.

East Lake Methodist Church is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion Consideration A: Religious Properties. *For a property to be eligible under Criterion Consideration A, it must meet two requirements: 1) derives its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or 2) historical importance.* East Lake Methodist Church meets Criterion Consideration A because it does derive its primary significance from its architecture. The Church is distinctive within the architectural context of other churches with the county. Among the nineteenth century churches in Dare County, the East Lake Methodist Church retains a high degree of architectural integrity and is one of the few examples of simple wood-frame rural churches on the mainland.

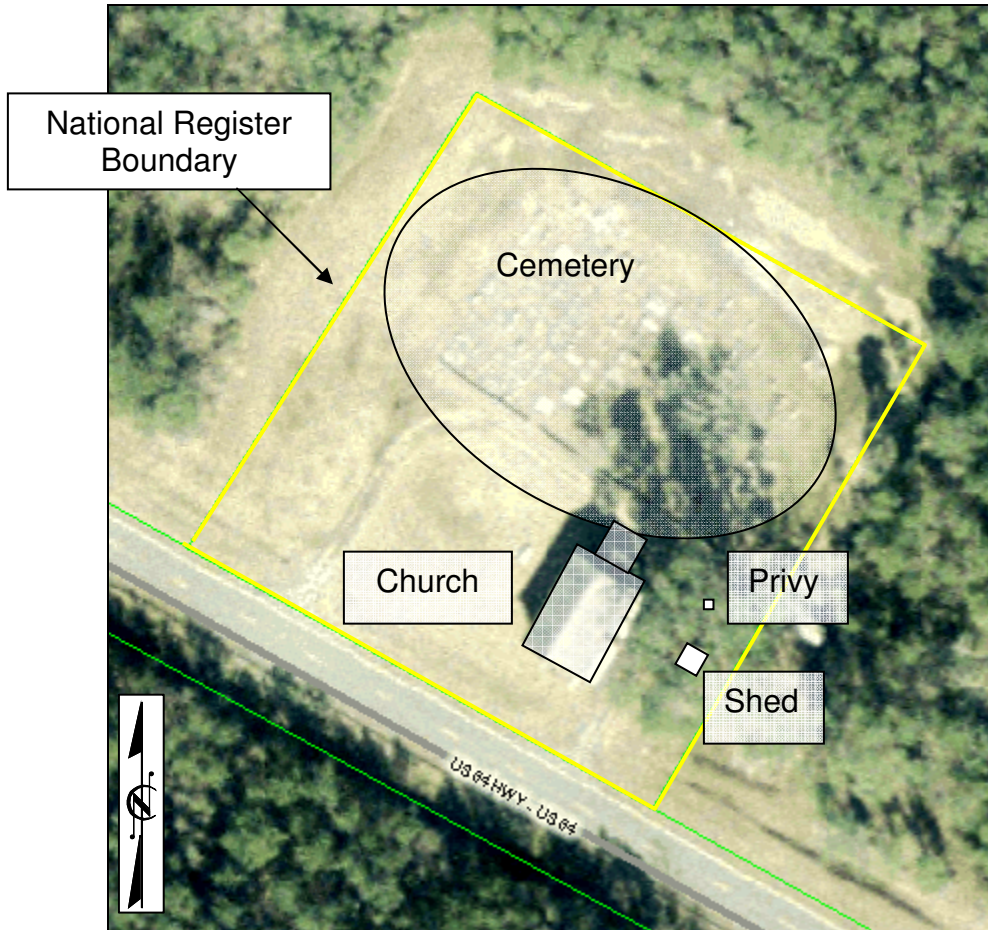
---

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., p. 17.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid., p. 21.

## National Register Boundary

The National Register boundary for East Lake Methodist Church has been drawn according to the guidelines of National Register Bulletin 21, *Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties*. The boundary is drawn to include the church, the cemetery and all other historic resources associated with the property and surrounding 1.69-acre parcel. The boundary follows the existing right-of-way for US 64. The legal property boundary is identified as Dare County Parcel ID # 971800150789.



National Register Boundary and Site Plan







East Lake Methodist Church facing northeast

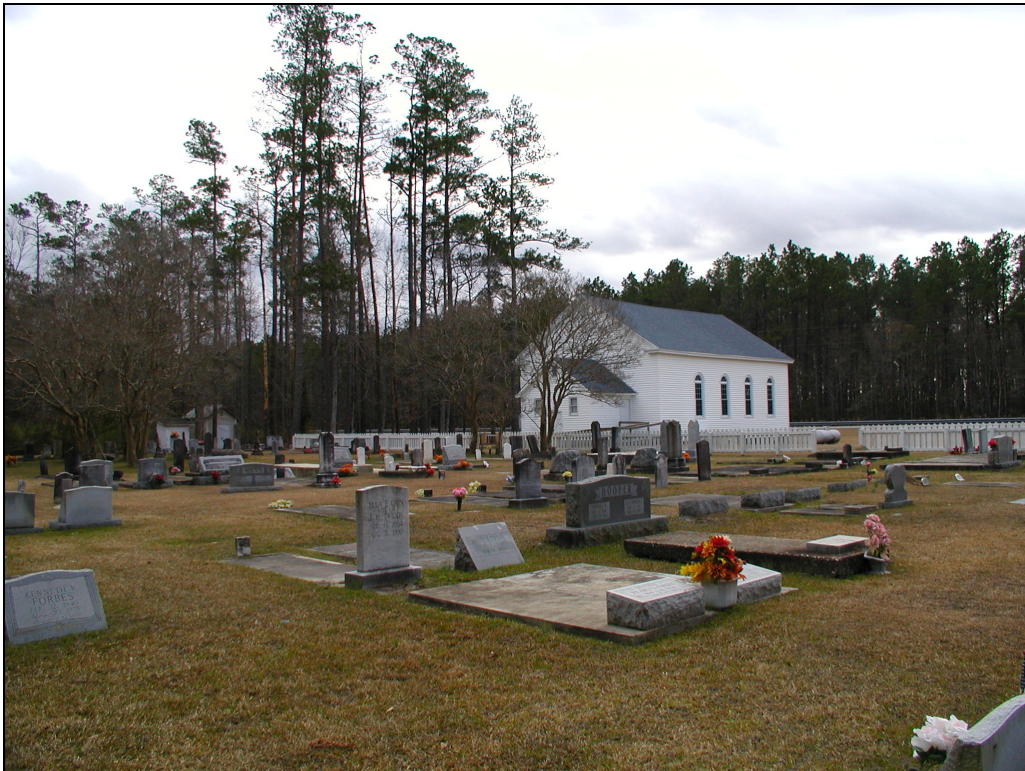


East Lake Methodist Church facing south





View of area looking east on US 64



View of cemetery looking southeast





Privy



Modern Shed



Table Stands for Annual Homecoming





Interior of church, looking toward alter



Interior of church, looking toward front doors





Architectural Details Door and Chimney



Interior Details: Lamp Hooks





Variety of Grave Markers





## Identification

### East Lake Fire Tower



## Location

The East Lake Fire Tower is located at 16736 US 64 approximately 0.15 miles west of SR 1103 (Buffalo City Road) in East Lake District of Dare County. The fire tower occupies a 2.0 acre parcel on the north side of US 64 surrounded by the Alligator River Wildlife Refuge.

## Date of Construction

ca. 1936

## Physical Description

The East lake Fire Tower is a one-hundred-twenty-foot-tall fire lookout tower. Built in the 1936, the structure consists of a square steel truss frame that tapers upwards from approximately nineteen feet square at the base to approximately seven feet square at the top. A cab or lookout room tops the structure. The tower rests on four concrete bases. A dogleg stair with wooden treads rises through the middle of the structure.

The cab of the fire tower cannot be accessed for safety reasons. The cab is seven-foot square room accessed by a trapdoor in the wood floor. The walls are galvanized steel on the lower half and metal frame awning windows on the top. An azimuth table sits in the center of the room. The structure is topped by a pyramidal metal roof.<sup>30</sup>

There are no other structures at this site. A small wood-frame house once served as the Rangers house and headquarters, but the building was demolished sometime after 2002.

## Historical Background

The following historic context was published in Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report R-3620 Washington County Phase II: Final Identification and Evaluation.

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

In 1927, the U.S. Forest Service built North Carolina's first steel lookout tower in Cumberland County using the LX 25 pattern, a steel tower designed by the Aermotor Company of Chicago. The LX 25 was the more common of the two Aermotor plans used in eastern North Carolina. It is a tapered steel tower with a steel cab reached via a dogleg stair that makes its way up the inside of the tower. The LX 24 is the same steel tower but instead of a stair, a ladder ascends the structure's exterior. Both the federal and state forest services used these plans to construct lookout towers across the state in the 1930s and 1940s.

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

The fire lookout tower served as the foundation of the state's forest fire fighting plan. A towerman, hired seasonally, lived during "fire weather" either in a cabin at the tower, in the cab itself, or in some other accommodations near the tower. The towerman was considered to be on duty twenty-four hours a day, and when

---

<sup>30</sup> Lewis Midget, Division of Forest Resources Ranger in Stumpy Point. Personal Interview. February 1, 2008. Mr. Midget provided the description of the inaccessible interior of the cab.

he spotted smoke, he used a "fire finder" to locate its point of origin. The finder was a round map on which the towerman could triangulate the compass azimuth to translate his sighting of smoke into a point on a map. The towerman then contacted a second tower or requested that a dispatcher call a second tower for a reading. The two measurements could pinpoint a fire to which the towerman or dispatcher would send a "smokechaser" or fire crew. The forest service used telephones for most of their communications, although by 1936, the service was slowly switching to radios.

After World War II, improving communications lessened the importance of fire lookout towers. Use of the towers began a steady decline in the 1960s. The state forest service, now part of the Division of Forest Resources, stopped using many of its towers in the eastern part of the state in the early 1990s.<sup>31</sup>

### **History of the East Lake Fire Tower**

The timber industry in Dare County provided the County with a substantial tax base, but forest fires threatened to destroy the industry. On Monday June 22, 1936, the Dare County Board of Commissioners moved to adopt the Forest Fire Program of the State Department of Conservation and Development. The county provided \$1,150 to match state and federal funds for construction and operation of the fire tower.<sup>32</sup>

The tower was built on the land Metropolitan Life Insurance Company land by a design of Aeromotor Company of Chicago. Metropolitan operated the lumber industry in East Lake after the insurance company was awarded the land holdings of Dare Lumber Company as a result of the fraud case of Birdseye and Montgomery in 1920. On October 27, 1937 Metropolitan Life Insurance Company deeded the two-acre parcel to the North Carolina State Department of Conservation and Development Division of Forestry under the condition that the parcel be used for a fire tower, or for purposes connected with fire prevention and control. The deed goes on to mention the tower and the house that existed on the premises.<sup>33</sup>

The land remains under the ownership of the state agency though the rangers stopped using the towers to spot fires in the 1980s. The East Lake Fire Tower is the only fire tower that remains in Dare County. The fire towers at Long Shoal and Stumpy Point have both been demolished.

---

<sup>31</sup> Sarah Woodard David. "Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report R-3620 Washington County Phase II: Final Identification and Evaluation" November 2006, NCDOT.

<sup>32</sup> n.a. "Commissioners Move To Stop Fire Damage" *Dare County Times* 26 June 1936

<sup>33</sup> Dare County Deed Book 19, Page 363, October 27, 1937.





East Lake Fire Tower, view toward the east on US 64

## National Register Criteria Assessment

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the East Lake Fire Tower is recommended **eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places.

The East Lake Fire Tower retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

East Lake Fire Tower is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (Event). *To be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American 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 a 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>34</sup> The property is not associated with any event or pattern of history that would raise the significance to the level necessary to make it eligible for National Register listing. East Lake Fire Tower is not recommended eligible under Criterion A.

East Lake Fire Tower is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion B (Person). *For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., 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.*<sup>35</sup> There are no known persons of national, state, or local significance associated with the East Lake Fire Tower. The fire tower is not recommended eligible under Criterion B.

The East Lake Fire Tower is recommended **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its architectural 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 may lack individual distinction.*<sup>36</sup> Retaining a high level of architectural integrity, the East Lake Fire Tower is the only fire tower still standing in

<sup>34</sup> National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin* 15. (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1991), p. 12.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 15.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 17.

Dare County. The fire towers at Long Shoal and Stumpy Point have both been demolished. The tower remains an excellent example of a steel tower in the LX 25 pattern designed by the Aermotor Company of Chicago. The East Lake Fire Tower is recommended eligible under Criterion C.

The East Lake Fire Tower 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 prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*<sup>37</sup> The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology. The East Lake Fire Tower is not recommended eligible under Criterion D.

---

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., p. 21.

## National Register Boundary

The National Register boundary for the East Lake Fire Tower has been drawn according to the guidelines of National Register Bulletin 21, *Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties*. The boundary is drawn to include the fire tower and the surrounding 2-acre tax parcel. The boundary follows the existing right-of-way for US 64. The legal property boundary is identified as Dare County Parcel ID # 971800250257.



Site Plan and National Register Boundary





View to northeast



View to west



View of cab



Former location of house



## WORKS CITED

- Dare County Deed Book F Page 308, August 3, 1898
- Dare County Deed Book 19, Page 363, October 27, 1937.
- David, Sarah Woodard. "Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report R-3620 Washington County Phase II: Final Identification and Evaluation" (North Carolina Department of Transportation, 2006.)
- Degregory, Lane. "Buffalo City," *Virginian-Pilot*, October 2, 1994.
- Hohmann, Jack. "Dare Methodists Trace Roots Two Centuries Back In Area," *Coastland Times*, November, 29 1984.
- Kemp, Fay. "A Brief History of the East Lake Methodist Church." n.p.: n.d.
- Lichtenstein Consulting Engineers, Inc. *Historic Bridge Inventory* (North Carolina Department of Transportation. 2003)
- Long, Mary Wood. *The Five Lost Colonies of Dare*. Elizabeth City, NC: Family Research Society of Northeastern North Carolina, 2001.
- New York Times, August 4, 1917.
- Map of East Lake in 1900 As Remembered by Sherriff Frank M. Cahoon. Held at the Outer Banks History Center.
- Midget, Lewis. Personal Interview. February 1, 2008.
- National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin* 15. (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1991)
- n.a. "Commissioners Move To Stop Fire Damage" *Dare County Times* June 26, 1936.
- Stick, David. *Dare County: A Brief History*. Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives, 1970.
- Stick, David. *The Outer Banks of North Carolina: 1584-1958*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1958.
- Wechter, Nell Wise. *Some Whisper of Our Name*. Manteo, NC: Times Printing Company. 1975.

Federal Aid # none

TIP# R-2544/2545

County: Dare/Tyrell

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

Project Description: **Widening US 64 from 0.9 miles east of Columbia to US 258, Manns Harbor**

On **October 30, 2007** representatives of the

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

Reviewed the subject project at

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

All parties present agreed

- There are no properties over fifty years old within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are no properties less than fifty years old which are considered to meet Criteria Consideration G within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are properties over fifty years old within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE), but based on the historical information available and the photographs of each property, the properties identified as 2-13-16-18 are considered not eligible for the National Register and no further evaluation of them is necessary.
- There are no National Register-listed or Study Listed properties within the project's area of potential effects.
- All properties greater than 50 years of age located in the APE have been considered at this consultation, and based upon the above concurrence, all compliance for historic architecture with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and GS 121-12(a) has been completed for this project.
- There are no historic properties affected by this project. (Attach any notes or documents as needed)

Signed:

Shelby Spalding 10/30/07  
Representative, NCDOT Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
FHWA, for the Division Administrator, or other Federal Agency Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Representative, HPO Date

Rebecca Hedrick-Easley 10.30.07  
State Historic Preservation Officer Date

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

Properties 1, 14, 15 - Report

*Properties Determined Not Eligible for the National Register and Not Worthy of Further Evaluation*



Property 2  
DR 618  
PIN 879900743227  
19669 OLD FERRY LANDING RD



Property 3  
DR 619  
PIN 879900838773  
19766 HWY 64



Property 4  
DR 6620  
PIN 879900925586  
HWY 64





Property 5  
Dr 621  
PIN 879900927898  
19473 HWY 64



Property 6  
DR 622  
PIN 879900929710  
19434 HWY 64



Property 7  
DR 623  
PIN 970900120027  
19206 HWY 64



Property 8  
DR 624  
PIN 970900110751  
19145 HWY 64



Property 9  
DR 625  
PIN 970900110751  
HWY 64



Property 10  
DR 626  
PIN 970900222025  
18936 HWY 64





Property 11  
DR 627  
PIN 970900211109  
18868 HWY 64



Property 12  
DR 628  
PIN 970800293635  
18749 HWY 64



Property 13  
DR 629  
PIN 970800388988  
18649 HWY 64



Property 16  
East Lake Community Center  
DR 631  
PIN 971800253027  
16674 HWY 64



Property 17  
Creef Family Cemetery  
DR 232  
PIN 972800264693  
HWY 64



Property 18  
DR 632  
PIN 972800262247  
14799 HWY 64





Property 19  
DR 633  
PIN 972800370382  
14588 HWY 64