

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

April 15, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vanessa Patrick
Human Environment Unit
NC Department of Transportation

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley *Renee Gledhill-Earley*
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report for W-5704 F, Intersection Improvements at
NC 581 and SR 1324 and SR 1317, PA 18-06-0021, Wayne County, ER 19-0984

Thank you for your March 5, 2019, memorandum transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and offer the following comments.

We concur that the Deans House (WY0590) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture for the house itself. However, we would strongly encourage obtaining current interior photos in addition to the forty-year-old description and property owner's information to confirm and bolster the Criterion C determination.

We also believe that the following items should be addressed.

- The report does not state if the outbuildings are original to the site. It is suggested in *Glimpses of Wayne County, North Carolina*, the county architectural survey book, that they may have been "acquired". Additionally, it is not clear from the report whether or not these outbuildings are considered contributing or non-contributing. Verifying this information will aid in determining if an additional Criterion A argument for agriculture could be successfully made, given the age and diversity of the extant outbuildings and continued agricultural cultivation as an example of the overall local trend of Wayne County's historic "agricultural prosperity" (see Smith and Pezzoni. *Glimpses of Wayne County, North Carolina*, pages 21-29.). In that event, the entire parcel (including fields), the age-eligible agricultural buildings and auxiliary structures in addition to the house could be eligible.
- If a Criterion A argument for agriculture were made, it would be helpful to include a description of the relationship of the landscape to the farmstead, for example, intact historic field patterns.
- If solely a Criterion C argument is made, then it would likewise be helpful to understand the house's siting within the landscape.
- The report did not indicate a period of significance. An initial date of construction of 1844 with modifications circa 1886 to 1915 was stated.

- The boundary justification should be strengthened to explain better why the entire parcel is being included. For example, why is the historic cemetery associated with the family's farmstead not being included?

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 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT, mfurr@ncdot.gov



Received: 03/14/2019
State Historic Preservation Office

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

ER 19-0984

To: Renee Gledhill-Earley, NCHPO

From: Vanessa E. Patrick, NCDOT

Due -- 4/5/19

Date: March 5, 2019

Subject: *Historic Structures Survey Report for TIP No. W-5704F, Intersection Improvements at NC 581 and SR 1324 (Nor-Am Road) and SR 1317 (Buck Swamp Road), Wayne County, North Carolina. WBS No. 44850.1.6. PA Tracking No. 18-06-0021.*

H-
e letters
4/12/19

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project. Enclosed for your review is a report presenting the evaluation of historic architectural resources in the W-5704F, Wayne County project area (one hard copy and one CD-ROM). Survey photographs, GIS data, and a site form are also included on the CD-ROM, and hard copies of the site form and photographs are also provided.

The report considers one resource, the Deans House (WY0590) and recommends it as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. Initial screening of the project area by NCDOT Historic Architecture identified which resources warranted additional study.

We look forward to receiving your comments on the report. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at vepatrick@ncdot.gov or 919-707-6082. Thank you.

V.E.P.

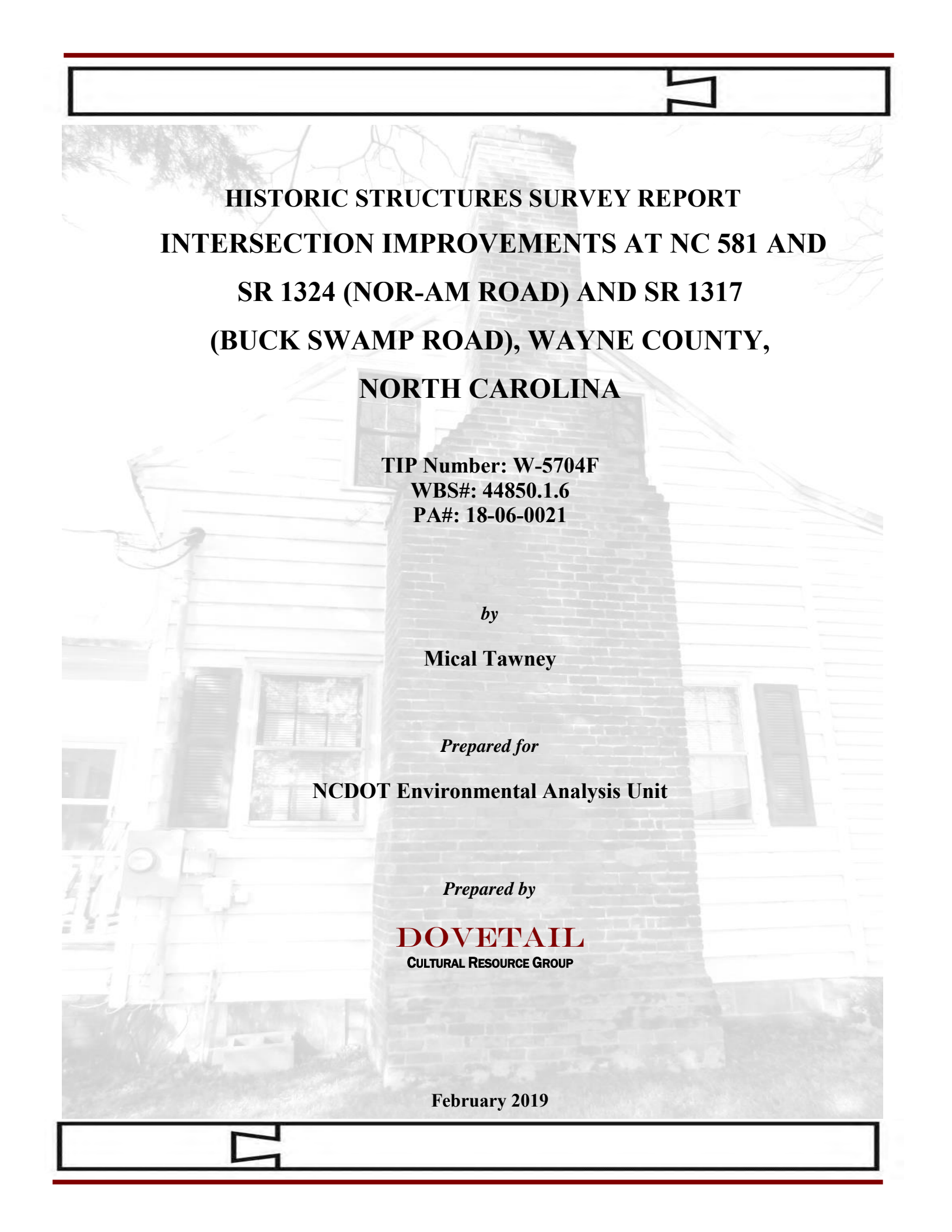
Attachments

Mailing Address:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HUMAN ENVIRONMENT SECTION
MSC 1598
RALEIGH, NC 27699-1598

Telephone: (919)-707-6000
Fax: (919)-212-5785
Customer Service: 1-877-368-4968

Website: www.ncdot.gov

Location:
1020 BIRCH RIDGE DRIVE
RALEIGH, NC 27610



**HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT NC 581 AND
SR 1324 (NOR-AM ROAD) AND SR 1317
(BUCK SWAMP ROAD), WAYNE COUNTY,
NORTH CAROLINA**

**TIP Number: W-5704F
WBS#: 44850.1.6
PA#: 18-06-0021**

by

Mical Tawney

Prepared for

NCDOT Environmental Analysis Unit

Prepared by

DOVETAIL
CULTURAL RESOURCE GROUP

February 2019

Historic Structures Survey Report

Intersection Improvements at NC 581 and SR 1324 (Nor-Am Road) and SR 1317 (Buck Swamp Road), Wayne County, North Carolina

TIP Number: W-5704F

WBS#: 44850.1.6

PA#: 18-06-0021

Prepared for

North Carolina Department of Transportation

Environmental Analysis Unit

1598 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598

Prepared by

Mical Tawney

Dovetail Cultural Resource Group

11905 Bowman Drive, Suite 502

Fredericksburg, Virginia 22408

(540) 899-9170

Dovetail Job #19-006

February 2019



February 28, 2019

Principal Investigator
Dovetail Cultural Resource Group

Date

Supervisor, Historic Architecture Group
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to improve the intersection at NC 581, SR 1324 (Nor-Am Road) and SR 1317 (Buck Swamp Road) in Pikeville, Wayne County, North Carolina. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) number is W-5704F and the WBS# is 44850.1.6.

This project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA/USFS 2015). An NCDOT Architectural Historian defined an Area of Potential Effects (APE) and conducted a site visit and preliminary documentary research to identify and assess all resources of approximately fifty years of age or more within the APE. Only one resource warranted an intensive National Register eligibility evaluation and it is the subject of this report. NCDOT Architectural Historians determined that all other properties and districts are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity.

In January 2019 NCDOT's Environmental Analysis Unit engaged Dovetail Cultural Resource Group (Dovetail) to carry out the evaluation of the Deans House (WY0590) (Table 1). The resource had been previously recorded, but not formally evaluated, by the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (NC-HPO) during a survey of the county conducted by Penne Smith in December of 1996.¹

The goals of this investigation were to: first, document the architectural and landscape features of the property; second, gather archival data on the property; and third, examine the physical and historical information collected within the appropriate context(s) to properly evaluate the property under established criteria for the NRHP. The fourth goal of this investigation was to propose NRHP boundaries the property should it be recommended eligible for listing. Work on this project was conducted in January and February 2019, in accordance with relevant state and federal regulations as part of the compliance process established in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800).

As a result of this investigation, Dovetail **recommends that the Deans House (WY0590) is eligible for the NRHP.**

Table 1: Eligibility Recommendation.

Property Name	NC-HPO Survey Site Number	Eligibility Recommendation	Criteria
Deans House, 1366 Buck Swamp Road	WY0590	Recommended Eligible	Criterion C

¹ Smith 1996.

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INTRODUCTION

Dovetail conducted a NRHP eligibility evaluation on behalf of the NCDOT Environmental Analysis Unit in preparation for a project to improve the intersection at NC 581, SR 1324 (Nor-Am Road) and SR 1317 (Buck Swamp Road), Wayne County, North Carolina (Figure 1, p. 3). The TIP number is W-5704F and the WBS# is 44850.1.6.



Figure 1: Map of Wayne County within the State of North Carolina.²

This project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA/USFS 2015). An NCDOT Architectural Historian defined an Area of Potential Effects (APE) and conducted a site visit and preliminary documentary research to identify and assess all resources of approximately fifty years of age or more within the APE. Only one resource warranted an intensive National Register eligibility evaluation and it is the subject of this report. NCDOT Architectural Historians determined that all other properties and districts are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity.

Documentation and research for this project was conducted in accordance with relevant state and federal guidelines as part of the compliance process established in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800). Dovetail Field Director Mical Tawney performed the work for this project and served as Project Manager. Heather Dollins Staton served as the Principal Investigator. Ms. Staton meets and exceed the standards established for Architectural Historian and Historian by the Secretary of the Interior (SOI).

Following a review of NC-HPO records, Dovetail conducted fieldwork and archival research from January 29 to February 1, 2019. During this period, historic data was collected from the NC-HPO Survey and Planning Archives in Raleigh, North Carolina; Wayne County Register of Deeds in Goldsboro, North Carolina; the Local History Room at the Goldsboro Library in Goldsboro, North

² NCPedia 2006.

Carolina; the State Archives of North Carolina in Raleigh, North Carolina; and the North Carolina Government and Heritage Library in Raleigh, North Carolina.

This report includes an eligibility evaluation of one resource recommended for study by the NCDOT within the project APE (Figure 2–Figure 3, pp. 5–6). This report meets the standards set forth by the NC-HPO’s Architectural Survey Manual, Practical Advice for Recording Historic Resources, as well as those outlined by NCDOT in *Sections 106 Procedures and Report Guidelines*.



Figure 2: Aerial Map Showing Project APE.³

³ NCDOT 2019.



Figure 3: Deans House (WY0590) as Shown on a Current Aerial.⁴

⁴ Esri 2019.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

WY0590: Deans House

Date of Construction: 1844
Modifications: Circa 1886–1915

1366 Buck Swamp Road
Pikeville, Wayne County, North Carolina
PIN: 2682531299
Eligibility Recommendation: Eligible, Criterion C



Architectural Description

The Deans House at 1366 Buck Swamp Road (SR 1317) is located in a moderately populated area in Pikeville, Wayne County, North Carolina (Figure 4 and Figure 5, pp. 9–10). The property comprises a lot measuring approximately 81.5 acres covered in a grass lawn and farmland, bound by Buck Swamp Road to the south, NC 581 and Nor-Am Road to the west, additional farmland to the north, and housing developments to the east. Shrubbery and trees (primarily cedar and oak) dot the landscape surrounding the main house while the remaining property is comprised of open farmland. The primary resource, a dwelling, faces south towards Buck Swamp Road. A circa-1860s tenant house, a circa-1940s open storage garage, a two-story, circa-1930s tobacco barn, a circa-1950s covered well-house, a circa-1950s shed, and the Thomas A. Deans Cemetery are associated with this resource. A gravel and dirt driveway extends north from Buck Swamp Road toward the primary resource and ends to the east of the house. A white picket fence encloses the west, south, and east sides of the property; two gates (one at the south side of the resource and one at the east side) allow for access from the gravel road. The current property owner permitted access to the property; however, access was limited to exterior of the resource. An article written by Bonita Metz in 1979 included information pertaining to the dwelling's interior, which is summarized below.⁵

Primary Resource: Exterior

The primary resource is a one-story, five-bay, timber-framed, single-family dwelling constructed in 1844 in the Greek Revival style with late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century modifications that are reflective of the Queen Anne style (Photo 1, p. 11). Clad in weatherboard, the hall-and-parlor-planned house features a cross-gabled roof with a front-gabled projection at the south side of the house (Photo 2, p. 11). The foundation appears to have originally been wooden piers that were later infilled with brick and concrete (Photo 3, p. 12). The resource is covered in a moderately pitched side-gabled roof sheathed in standing-seam metal with the original wooden shingles sitting

⁵ Metz 1979.

underneath the current roofing (Photo 4, p. 12). Diamond-shaped vents are located in the south and west gable ends (Photo 2, p. 11). A weather vane sits atop the projecting front gable.

A large, exterior-end, brick chimney laid in the eight-course common bond sits on the east elevation of the house. It features a large stepped base and shoulders near the top. According to the owner, the date of the house was etched into the brick but has eroded over the years (Photo 4, p. 12)⁶. The Lancaster family, the current owners, has their name etched in the brick. The building's original primary entrance is off-centered on the south elevation, near the eastern corner. It features an original single-leaf, paneled wood door and is covered by a metal-framed storm door; however, it is kept locked and rarely used (Photo 5, p. 13). Other fenestration in the 1844 core includes original, six-over-six and four-over-four, wood-framed, double-hung-sash windows with glass and metal storm windows covering them.

The 1844 core is linear in form; however, two large additions were added to the house. A one-story, wrap-around front porch was built on the primary (south) elevation circa 1890–1950s (Photo 16, p. 22). This is a major feature in Queen-Anne style residences. The western half of the porch was screened in likely during the 1950s. A hipped roof sheathed in standing-seam metal covers the porch and is supported by wooden chamfered posts. The porch is made of wood and is supported by a brick foundation lined with a wooden balustrade. The screened-in porch is accessed by two exterior entrances: a single-leaf, wood-framed doorway and four concrete steps lined with a metal railing located on the south elevation and another single-leaf, wood-framed screen door, located on the east elevation (on the porch itself) (Photo 6, p. 13). The current primary entrance, also a single-leaf, paneled door, is located on this 1890s front-gabled addition to the south and east elevation of the house. A central-interior brick chimney pierces the roof's south slope and a third brick chimney is located on the western end of the house along the slope of the roof. Both of these chimneys are smaller in size than the exterior-end chimney and are not a part of the original core (Photo 1, p. 11).

Other large additions were added to the rear (north) elevation of the house between 1886 and 1915 (Photo 7–Photo 8, pp. 14–14).⁷ Similar in materials to the original, the additions are clad in thinner weatherboard and sit on wood, concrete block, and brick foundations. The east elevation addition's roofline continues in slope with the original roof, giving it a shed-like appearance. This addition has a single-leaf, wood paneled door covered by a metal storm door accessed by three concrete steps (Photo 9, p. 15). Mirroring those found on the 1844 section of the house, this addition has two six-over-six, double-hung-sash, wood-frame windows. It is probable that this section contains a kitchen or laundry room. The west addition also has a shed roof, but it is not continuous with the front of the house's roofline. Three windows in the same style as the others on the original core and eastern addition feature in the façade; there is no door in this section.

⁶ Charles Lancaster, personal communication 2019.

⁷ Smith 1996.



Figure 4: Location and Parcel Boundaries of the Deans House (WY0590).⁸

⁸ Esri 2019.



Figure 5: Site Plan of the Deans House (WY0590).⁹

⁹ Google Maps 2019.



Photo 1: Primary (South) Elevation of Deans House.



Photo 2: Detail of Vent in Gable End, Looking East.



Photo 3: Detail of Concrete, Wood, and Brick Foundation, Looking West.



Photo 4: View of Original Shingles Underneath Metal Roof, East Elevation (Left) and View of Original Chimney on East Elevation (Right).



Photo 5: View of Original Door, Looking West.



Photo 6: View of Doors on the Screened-in-Porch, Looking Northwest.



Photo 7: View of Original Core Attached to Additions, Looking Southeast.



Photo 8: View of Split between Addition and Original Sections, Looking Northeast (Left) and View of Additions, Looking Southeast (Right).



Photo 9: View of Door on North Elevation, Looking South (Left) and View of North Elevation, Looking Southwest (Right).

Primary Resource: Interior

Access to the interior of the building was not permitted during the current effort as the property owner’s brother lives there and was recovering from serious health issues; however, the interior of the house was previously written about in an article entitled, “Deans House Dates Back to Early 1800s” by Bonita Metz. She writes, “the small house had one chimney that had a large fireplace on the first floor and another above it on the second floor. The latter was probably used as a kitchen which is indicated by the open accessibility to the hearth and the cooking utensils that still hang there.”¹⁰ This was further confirmed by a conversation had with Charles Lancaster, the current owner, who stated that the cooking utensils are still hanging around the hearth on the second floor.¹¹ She writes further, “The large living room on the first floor had a mantel and wainscoting around the entire room, both of which were secured by wooden pegs. There were exposed beams overhead.”¹²

Secondary Resources

A one-story, three-bay, tenant house built circa 1860 is located northeast of the primary resource (Photo 10, p. 17).¹³ The foundation consists of raised concrete blocks and supports the structural system that is clad in weatherboard topped with a side-gabled v-crimp-metal sheathed roof. Two original, six-over-six, wooden, double-hung-sash windows pierce the

¹⁰ Metz 1979:95.

¹¹ Charles Lancaster, personal conversation 2019.

¹² Metz 1979:95.

¹³ Smith 1996.

primary (east) elevation of the house north and south of two single-leaf, wooden doors. The interior shows exposed wooden ceiling beams and two large, enclosed back doors. Currently the house is primarily used for storage. Older agricultural tools sit in the northwest corner of the house (Photo 11, p. 17). Joyce Vail Lancaster, Charles Lancaster's mother and fourth owner of the house, moved the tenant house from its original location close to Deans House sometime during the late-twentieth century.¹⁴

A one-story, four-bay, circa-1940 garage sits south of the tenant house and east of the primary resource (Photo 12, p. 18).¹⁵ Four wooden posts support the side-gabled, standing-seam metal roof. Currently, the Lancaster family uses the garage for additional storage space.¹⁶ To the east of this shed is a two-story, three-bay tobacco barn built around 1930, clad in weatherboard and topped by a front-gabled, metal-sheathed roof (Photo 12, p. 18).¹⁷ It sits on elevated brick piers as its foundation¹⁸. The west portion of the barn features a "garage" with an enclosed doorway overtop. The main section of the barn features three enclosed bays and one, one-over-one, double-hung-sash, vinyl window. The survey from 1996 mentions an additional secondary resource to the south of the barn, but Charles Lancaster mentioned that it was torn down about fifteen years ago¹⁹.

Two smaller outbuildings sit on the property as well. A utilitarian one-story, one-bay, front-gabled roofed well-house sits to the northeast of the house (Photo 13, p. 18). Made of cinderblock, the circa-1950 structure has a small, single-leaf door on the south front elevation. This is the only fenestration present. The roof is covered in pressed metal. On the west side of the primary resource sits a one-story, one-bay front-gabled shed constructed around 1950 (Photo 13, p. 18). It has a single-leaf, wooden door on the east elevation. No other fenestration is present. On the north side of the shed sits an open "garage" for additional storage. It also has a pressed metal roof.

The Thomas A. Deans Family Cemetery is located on the property to the far east of the primary resource (Photo 14, p. 18). Thomas A. Deans (1811–1876), builder and original owner of the house, is buried there alongside several other family members. Two cedar trees used to stand in the cemetery, but have since fallen or been cut down.²⁰ A complete list of family members who are buried in the cemetery with marked graves can be seen in Table 2 (p. 19).

¹⁴ Smith 1996.

¹⁵ Smith 1996

¹⁶ Smith 1996.

¹⁷ Smith 1996.

¹⁸ Smith 1996.

¹⁹ Charles Lancaster, personal communication 2019.

²⁰ Charles Lancaster, personal communication 2019.



Photo 10: Tenant House, Looking North (Left); Detail of Door on Primary Elevation, Looking Northeast (Right).



Photo 11: Interior of Tenant House, Looking North.



Photo 12: Primary (South) Elevation of Open Garage, Looking North (Left) and Northwest Oblique of Barn, Looking Northwest (Right).



Photo 13: Northwest Oblique of Well-House, Looking Northwest (Left) and Primary (East) Elevation of Shed, Looking West (Right).



Photo 14: View of Thomas A. Deans Family Cemetery, Looking East.

Table 2: List of Marked Internments in the Thomas A. Deans Cemetery.²¹

Surname	Given Name	Birth Date	Death Date	Comments
Row 1				
Vail	George Willie	Jun. 24, 1886	Jan. 23, 1963	CPL MG Co II Inf. NC WWI
Vail	Ora Belle D.	Jun. 19, 1895	Apr. 9, 1953	
Deans	Benjamin	May 16, 1859	Mar. 17, 1939	
Deans	Lula A.	Oct. 12, 1870	May 22, 1928	w/o Benjamin Deans
Deans	Hubert	Aug. 29 1893	Jan. 14, 1894	s/o Benj. & Lula
Deans	Thomas A.	Mar. 16, 1811	Sep. 2, 1876	
Row 2				
Deans	Dosia Jernigan	Jun. 15, 1859	Sep. 30, 1930	Mother
Deans	Woodard	Dec. 5, 1855	Nov. 21, 1932	Father
Deans	Mary Dees	Aug. 29, 1898	Apr. 23, 1964	
Deans	Thomas A.	May 3, 1881	May 11, 1922	
Deans	Willie	May 18, 1891	Sep. 22, 1896	
Walker	Bessie Ella Deans	Dec. 17, 1883	Aug. 10, 1976	
Walker	William Thomas	Aug. 11, 1882	Jun. 8, 1955	
Lancaster	Gerald Ray	Oct. 14, 1952	Mar. 31, 1984	s/o Charles and Joyce Lancaster who died in a plane crash, he was lost at sea but not in our hearts.

Historic Context

Established in 1770, Wayne County was, and portions still remain, primarily agricultural and rural in nature, but with the construction of the railroad in the early-nineteenth century, the county began to grow and the town of Goldsboro, the seat of Wayne County, was established.²² Wayne was an ideal location for tobacco cultivation and “the county’s agricultural production rose steadily during the latter part of the nineteenth century. Crops such as cotton, rice, and tobacco—all grown before the war—became increasingly important.”²³ It was within this context that the Deans family settled and farmed their land in Wayne County.

The land on which the Deans House is located has been in possession of the Deans family since 1801. Daniel Deans (d. 1789) was one of the first Deans to settle in North Carolina. Daniel Deans was a prominent figure in Wayne County: he fought in the Revolutionary War for three years and then became a Methodist preacher after introducing the religion to the county in 1786 by inviting Bishop Francis Ashbury to preach. He built the first Methodist meeting house and established the Salem Methodist Church. The meeting house is still extant; however, it was moved from its original location by the church and relocated to the church’s permanent home at 2706 Salem Church Road (Photo 15, p. 20). He had a son, George Deans, who,

²¹Old Dobbs Genealogical Society 2005.

²² Smith 1998, 12.

²³ Smith 1998, 23.

according to Bonita Metz, author of “Deans House Dates Back to Early 1800s”, “was the first to settle in the part of northwestern Wayne County on a tract of land granted to him by the state, under the signature of N.C. Governor B. Williams in 1801.”²⁴



Photo 15: View of Deans Meeting House, Looking East.

When George Deans passed away, he split his property holdings, totaling 950 acres to his sons, Thomas A. Deans, James Deans, and Benjamin Deans.²⁵ Thomas A. Deans (1811–1876) built the Deans House. A farmer and county commissioner between 1869 and 1873, Thomas A. Deans built the one-story, small, timber framed house which has been added on to in subsequent years.²⁶ Originally, “It had two large rooms with a small stairway to two rooms above. Only one of those was plastered. The other was fully floored with 10-inch-wide boards and had exposed roof rafters... the small house had one large chimney that had a large fireplace on the first floor and another above it on the second floor”.²⁷ When viewing the house today, the original section of the house is located on the eastern side of the structure (see Photo 1, p. 11).

Thomas A. Deans was married twice: his first wife’s name is unknown, but they had three children.²⁸ He remarried in December of 1854 to Edith Howell; they had three children—Woodard, John M., and Benjamin.²⁹ According to the 1860 census of Wayne County, Thomas and Edith, their five children, a farm laborer named Thomas Phillips, and a “domestic” by the name of Isabella Monlague all lived on the property.³⁰ These two are the only non-family

²⁴ Metz 1979, 94.

²⁵ Metz 1979, 94.

²⁶ Smith 1996.

²⁷ Metz 1979, 94.

²⁸ United States Federal Population Census [U.S. Census] 1850.

²⁹ Howell 1998, 5; U.S. Census 1860.

³⁰ U.S. Census 1860.

members listed on the census. No race for either was listed on the 1860 census, but the 1880 census lists Thomas Phillips as a black carpenter living with his own family in Wayne County and Isabella (listed as Isabel) Langston (she married William Langston in 1865) as a white woman whose occupation was keeping house.³¹

Upon his death, Thomas A. Deans split his property holdings amongst his children, but left his house and land to his son, Benjamin A. Deans (1859–1939).³² Benjamin A. Deans followed in his father’s footsteps and continued to farm the land; his brother, William A. Deans (1840–1896) was a property owner as well as the Sheriff of Wayne County in the 1870s.³³ It was Benjamin A. Deans and his wife, Lula Hooks (1870–1928) who expanded the Deans House.³⁴ In a photograph, provided by Charles Lancaster, current owner and descendant to Thomas and Benjamin Deans, Lula, Benjamin, and their family dog stand in front of the Deans House (Photo 16, p. 22). While the date of the photograph is unknown, it can be assumed that it was taken after Benjamin and Lula were wed in 1892. It shows the wrap-around front porch, the original wooden shingles that still sit under the metal roofing, and sets of wooden stairs that lead up to the porch (since replaced with concrete). The biggest visible difference between the photograph and the current house is that the far west side of the porch has since been screened in. The construction of the front porch and hipped roof gave the house an altered appearance from its original Greek Revival look to a more Queen-Anne styled, picturesque home.

³¹ U.S. Census 1880.

³² Wayne County Deed Book [WCDB] 41:390–394.

³³ Smith 1996.

³⁴ Wayne County Public Library 2004, 28.



Photo 16: Photograph of Benjamin and Lula Deans in front of Deans House,
Date Post-1892.³⁵

When Benjamin A. Deans passed away in 1939, he left the house and property to his daughter, Ora Belle D. Vail (née Deans) (1895–1953) who in turn left the property to her daughter, Joyce Vail Lancaster (1927–2014); she married Charles Miller Lancaster (1920–1999). Today, the house is in the possession of Joyce’s son Charles A. Lancaster.³⁶ Thomas, Edith, Benjamin, Lula, Ora Belle, and George are all buried in the family cemetery on the property; Joyce and Charles Lancaster are buried in the Pikeville cemetery.³⁷

According to Charles Lancaster, not much has changed on the house since the period of expansion and addition besides some basic repairs (such as covering the roof in metal, replacing a few panes of broken, original glass). The agricultural industry has changed significantly since the construction of the house and farm, but the Lancaster family still rents out the land to local farmers for them to plant on throughout the year.³⁸

Evaluation

The Deans House retains a high level of integrity in its location and setting. The house, and most of its outbuildings, have not been moved. While the surrounding area has had some residential development, most of it is contained to Nor-Am Road, NC 581, and further east along Buck Swamp Road; most of the area remains a moderately populated, rural area. The

³⁵ Charles A. Lancaster, Private Collection of Family Photographs.

³⁶ Charles Lancaster, personal communication 2019.

³⁷ FindAGrave.com 2010.

³⁸ Charles Lancaster, personal communication 2019.

resource continues to function as a single-family residence, retaining a high level of association. Since the house has only had a few modifications made since the early twentieth century, such as the back addition, new roofing, and screened-in porch, the resource maintains a moderate to high level of integrity of workmanship, design, materials, and feeling.

The National Park Service (NPS) outlines the considerations for which a property can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A. They are as follows: “To be considered for listing under Criterion A, a property must be associated with one or more events important in the defined historic context.... The event or trends, however, must clearly be important within the associated context... and it must retain historic integrity.”³⁹ As noted above, agriculture was one of the main economic fields in Wayne County during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Deans were large landholders and traded and sold land with several other members of the community. While it is clear that they were involved economically with the agricultural community in Wayne, there is no evidence that the Deans were innovators in the area. There are no known associations of the Deans House with an important event in local, state, or national history. Therefore, the Deans House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

For a resource to be eligible under Criterion B, it must have an association with “individuals whose specific contributions to history can be identified and documented.... within a local, State, or national historic context. The criterion is generally restricted to those properties that illustrate (rather than commemorate) a person’s important achievements.”⁴⁰ While the Deans family played a role in the development of the community in Wayne County, as well as helped build a community for the Methodist church, none of the homeowners are known to have made significant impact locally, statewide, or nationally; consequently, the Deans House is recommended not eligible under Criterion B.

Criterion C as outlined by NPS pertains to “properties significant for their physical design or construction, including such elements as architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, and artwork.”⁴¹ In order for a resource to be eligible under Criterion C, it must “embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, possess high artistic value, and represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.”⁴² The form of the Deans House is unique to the region due to the fact that it represents a small number of surviving Greek Revival and Victorian transitional houses in the region.

In order to properly evaluate the resource’s NRHP eligibility under Criterion C, it must be compared with resources within the area. Catherine W. Bishir writes that North Carolina’s “architectural landscape is subtle and at first unprepossessing, seldom magnificent, sometimes untidy, and often utilitarian.”⁴³ This statement would be true for Wayne County today. While

³⁹ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

⁴⁰ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

⁴¹ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

⁴² Shrimpton et al. 1990.

⁴³ Bishir 2005, xvii.

the resources are diverse, much of the landscape within the county is still rural and utilitarian in nature. It is not uncommon to see a modern-era house adjacent to a dilapidated tobacco barn that had been sitting on the property for years (Photo 17, p. 24).

As Bishir further states, the Greek Revival style became a common style choice in North Carolina starting in the 1830s, right before the construction of the Deans House. Although some homeowners and landowners were beginning to construct houses that contained elaborate details of the Greek Revival, Bishir notes, “They did not depart entirely from familiar standards.... North Carolinians demonstrated their continuing preference for established precedents of craftsmanship, plan, and form.”⁴⁴ Again, this would be true for the Deans House: it has elements of both the Greek Revival and Victorian picturesque movements (particularly Queen Anne), but in a much more modest manner.

Many houses within Wayne County and close to the Deans House are farmhouses with Craftsman elements (Photo 18, p. 25). These one-story, three-bay houses feature side-gabled or hipped roofs with a front porch supported by the typical Craftsman styled post-on-piers. Many either have one or two exterior-end brick chimneys. Other common forms found within the area were similar Craftsman style houses with cross-gabled roofs featuring a front-gabled projection with a vent (Photo 19, p. 25). Other popular housing style and forms in the area were Ranch-styles, Contemporary-styles, Minimal Traditional-styles, and mobile houses.



Photo 17: View of Mobile House and old Barn along Weathervane Road (near 414 Weathervane Road).

⁴⁴ Bishir 2005, 235.



Photo 18: View of 849 Nor-Am Road (Left) and 194 Nor-Am Road (Right).



Photo 19: View of 590 Gurley Dairy Road (Left) and 1320 Capps Ridge Road SW (Right).

A house located at 617 NC 581 Road appeared the most similar in style and appearance to the Deans House. Located about 3.8 miles away from the Deans House, 617 NC 581 is a one-story, three-bay house with an attached front porch that wraps around the north side of the resource (Photo 20). A small addition with a carport sits on the rear (west side) of the house. Eleven thin piers support the front porch with a hipped roofline and a central brick chimney sits at the center of the house. The house is cross-gabled with three front-gabled projections featuring a diamond shaped vent; this was a popular farmhouse type of the 1900 to 1920 time period.⁴⁵ It was sometimes called “the Triple-A’ so named for the type’s three A-shaped gables: one on each end of the roof and one centered over the front elevation.”⁴⁶ Windows appear to be six-over-six, double-hung-sash, vinyl windows; most feature fixed shutters on either side. Other fenestration could not be seen from the right of way.

⁴⁵ Smith 1998, 32.

⁴⁶ Smith 1998, 32.



Photo 20: View of 617 NC 581 Road from the south side (Left) and the north side (Right).

The obvious similarities between 617 NC-581 and Deans House include the diamond shaped vents in the front-gables and the front porch. Given that the house fits the “Triple-A” form so fittingly, it was more than likely constructed in the 1920s, about 75 years after the Deans House was built. While the Deans House has some paired down elements of the picturesque, 617 NC 581 fits that description more strongly due to the multiple varying levels at the roof line. Although this house appears similar in style, it proves the Deans House unique setting within the Wayne County architectural landscape.

The Barnes-Hooks Farm (WY0139) is a National Register property that is similar to the Deans House (Photo 21, p. 27). Built in 1874, the main house is representative of the Greek Revival and Italianate style.⁴⁷ The property also includes the following: an early-nineteenth century hall and parlor house, a mule stable, framed tenant house (1920), a tobacco barn (1930), a smoke house (1874), and two grain bins (1970s–1980s).⁴⁸ The property has remained with the same family for 250 years and is currently still used for farming.⁴⁹ The farm complex was nominated under Criterion A and C due to its strong architectural and agricultural integrity and history within the community. The property was unable to be viewed at the time of fieldwork for the project, but a current aerial photograph of the property is featured below (Photo 21, p. 27).⁵⁰

⁴⁷ Crow 1995, 1.

⁴⁸ Crow 1995, 1.

⁴⁹ Crow 1995, 7.

⁵⁰ Google Maps 2019.



Photo 21: Picture of Barnes-Hooks Farm Main House, Taken from NR Report (Right) and Aerial of Barnes-Hooks Farm, Taken from Google Maps (Left).⁵¹

Located within Fremont, the Barnes-Hooks Farm is about 11.3 miles away from the Deans House. Both properties historically functioned as farms, and still function as such to this day and were once a part of large tracts of lands that followed agricultural trends common for the region, such as using tenant labor and primarily producing tobacco and cotton.⁵² Both properties currently retain their original hall and parlor houses as well as agricultural buildings such as tenant houses and tobacco barns.

The Barnes-Hooks Farm's main house and the Deans House are great examples of transitional architecture within the region, although representative of different eras and styles.

The Deans farming property is a better example of the standard geography for the region. As noted in the nomination for the Barnes-Hooks Farm, "the topography of the Barnes-Hooks Farm is unusual for northern Wayne County that is generally characterized by flat fields with large vistas."⁵³ The Deans House is a great representative of the typical landscape historically seen within the northern part of the county: the property is large in size and flat. Finally, the Deans House extant tenant house, built sometime during the mid-nineteenth century, is an earlier example than the house listed on the Barnes-Hooks Farm, which was listed as an example from the 1920s.

Although access to the interior of the Deans House was not permitted during the current effort, Dovetail's archival research and conversations with Charles Lancaster has provided sufficient information with which to evaluate the integrity of the interior under Criterion C. The Deans House retains many of its original features such as the siding, fenestration, roof materials, and foundation. The style and form of the house were once common within the area historically, but no extant models were found during this current effort. The Deans House also maintains its original materials which strengthens the historical integrity of the house; thus, illustrating that

⁵¹ Crow 1995, Photos at End; Google Maps 2019.

⁵² Crow 1995, 7.

⁵³ Crow 1995, 1.

it serves as a rare example of a transitional Greek Revival- and Queen Anne-style farmhouse and therefore has high artistic value. Furthermore, the secondary structures on the property, such as the tenant house and tobacco barn, demonstrate how the Deans farm followed state wide agricultural trends of the period that focused on tenant farming and cotton and tobacco production.⁵⁴ The secondary structures, in relatively good condition, serve as other important and rarely extant architectural models for the agricultural history of Wayne County. Although, Thomas A. Deans was not a noted architect or designer, it is unique that the house remains with the original family and is still used with its original purpose in mind: as a single-family dwelling and farm. As such, this resource is recommended as eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.

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 significant.⁵⁵ The Deans House is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology, nor of significant patterns of history or prehistory in the area. Therefore, it is recommended not eligible under Criterion D.

In sum, the Deans House is recommended **eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C**. A recommended period of significance for this resource is based on the construction and expansion of the main house (1844–1915). The NRHP boundaries for the property as determined during the current investigations conform to the existing tax parcel. The boundary extends about 1,530 feet along Buck Swamp Road (SR 1317), roughly 420 feet along NC 581, and about 707 feet along Nor-Am Road (SR 1324) following the southern and western portion of the boundary. The northernmost boundary of the resource runs about 2,142 feet and the easternmost boundary runs about 2,168 feet. At the widest parts, the entire boundary stretches about 1,258 feet north to south and 1,788 feet west to east (Figure 6, p. 29). The boundaries include the original path of the driveway, the main house (1366 Buck Swamp Road), all outbuildings, the family cemetery, and all farmland associated with the property.

⁵⁴ Crow 1995, 7.

⁵⁵ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

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