



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

September 5, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vanessa Patrick
Human Environment Unit
NC Department of Transportation

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley 
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report, U-5798, Widening SR 1102 from US 401 to south of
Stewarts Creek, Cumberland County, ER 19-1847

Thank you for your memorandum of July 23, 2019, transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and concur that the following properties are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the reasons cited in the report:

- William John Gillis Farmstead (CD0211, CD1491, & CD1492)
- McInnis House (CD0213)

However, we do not concur with the proposed boundary for the McInnis House. In 1998, the McInnis House was determined eligible with a boundary that included about one acre. Attached is a proposed boundary that sufficiently conveys the house's architectural significance and includes approximately one acre of land. The house no longer retains its agricultural associations, and the current report failed to justify including the larger tract. The attached proposed boundary follows the edge of pavement along SR 1102, an agricultural field along the southern edge, and then follows a tree line north and northwest back to the road.

We also concur that the Gillis Cotton Gin (CD0792) is not eligible for the National Register for the reasons stated in the report

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

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.

Attachment: Map

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



McInnis House Boundary: following the cultivated field along the south edge, then following a tree line to the north and northwest, then following the edge of pavement back to the beginning.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

ER 19-1847

To: Renee Gledhill-Earley, NCHPO

From: Vanessa E. Patrick, NCDOT

Due -- 9/5/19

Date: July 23, 2019

H- ER letters
8/29

Subject: *Historic Structures Survey Report for TIP No. U-5798, Widen SR 1102 (Gillis Hill Road) from US 401 (South Raeford Road) to South of Stewarts Creek, Fayetteville, Cumberland County, North Carolina. WBS No. 44369.1.1. PA Tracking No. 18-03-0035.*

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 U-5798, Cumberland County project area (one hard copy and one CD-ROM). Survey photographs, GIS data, and site forms are also included on the CD-ROM, and hard copies of the site forms are also provided.

The report considers three resources, the William John Gillis Farmstead (CD0211, CD1491, and CD1492), the McInnis House (CD0213), and the Gillis Cotton Gin (CD0792) and recommends the farmstead and house 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

**HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT
WIDEN SR 1102 (GILLIS HILL ROAD)
FROM US 401 (SOUTH RAEFORD ROAD) TO SOUTH OF STEWARTS CREEK
FAYETTEVILLE, CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

**TIP PROJECT U-5798
WBS NO. 44369.1.1
PA TRACKING NO. 18-03-0035**

**PREPARED FOR:
RS&H
1520 South Boulevard, Suite 200
Charlotte, NC 28203**

and

**North Carolina Department of Transportation
Division 6**

**PREPARED BY:
Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc.
P.O. BOX 1198
201 WEST WILSON STREET
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27886**

**Shannon Winterhalter
*Architectural Historian***

and

**Megan Funk
*Architectural Historian***

NCR-0806

JULY 2019

Shannon Winterhalter

**Shannon Winterhalter, Principal Investigator
Commonwealth Heritage Group**

7-15-2019

Date

**Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor
Historic Architecture Group, NCDOT**

Date

**HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT
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NCR-0806

JULY 2019

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to widen State Route (SR) 1102 (Gillis Hill Road) in Fayetteville, Cumberland County. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) equates with the study area and extends along SR 1102 (Gillis Hill Road) from US Highway 401 (South Raeford Road) to just south of Stewarts Creek. The project is included in the North Carolina State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) as Project Number U-5798 and is state funded. Federal permits are anticipated.

The project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA/USFS 2015). An NCDOT Architectural Historian conducted preliminary documentary research and a site visit to identify and assess all resources of approximately fifty years of age or more within the APE. Four resources warranted intensive National Register eligibility evaluation and are the subjects of this report. When field survey was conducted, it was discovered that one resource, the Gillis Saw Mill (CD0793) was relocated to the property of the William John Gillis House (CD0211). An extant cotton gin was also discovered on the former site of the saw mill and is original to the site. For this reason, the saw mill and cotton gin formerly associated with survey site number CD0793, were assigned new survey site numbers (CD1491 and CD1492, respectively) from the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO). The resources are all historically associated with the same farmstead and were evaluated along with the William John Gillis House as the William John Gillis Farmstead. This farmstead includes the two parcels associated with the William John Gillis House and the former location of the Gillis Saw Mill, as well as one additional parcel located directly between the two. Together the three parcels create a more contiguous site within which to evaluate the resources. NCDOT Architectural Historians determined all other properties and districts are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity.

This report represents the documentation of three properties located within the APE for this project, as per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. For the preparation of this evaluation report, the Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. (Commonwealth), architectural historian conducted architectural analysis and in-depth National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation of the requested properties in the study area. Field documentation included notes, sketch maps, and digital photography. Background research was conducted at the Cumberland County Register of Deeds online, in addition to using other online sources. Information was also provided by the Gillis family. This report recommends the William John Gillis Farmstead, including the William John Gillis House, the Gillis Saw Mill, and the Gillis Cotton Gin No. 2, and the McInnis House as eligible for the NRHP. The Gillis Cotton Gin is recommended not eligible for the NRHP.

PROPERTY NAME	HPO SSN	ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION	CRITERIA
William John Gillis Farmstead (including the House, Saw Mill, and Cotton Gin No. 2)	CD0211, CD1491, CD1492	Eligible	C
McInnis House	CD0213	Eligible	C
Gillis Cotton Gin	CD0792	Not Eligible	-

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METHODOLOGY

For the preparation of this report, the Commonwealth architectural historian conducted architectural analysis and in-depth NRHP evaluations of the requested properties in the study area in May 2019. Field documentation included notes, sketch maps, and digital photography. Background research was conducted at the Cumberland County Register of Deeds online, in addition to using other online sources. Information was also provided by the Gillis and McInnis families. This report includes the architectural analysis and in-depth evaluation of three properties in the Area of Potential Effects (APE): the William John Gillis Farmstead, [including the William John Gillis House (CD0211), the Gillis Saw Mill (CD1491), the Gillis Cotton Gin No. 2 (CD1492)], the McInnis House (CD0213), and the Gillis Cotton Gin (CD0792). This report is on file at NCDOT and is available for review by the public.

Commonwealth prepared this historic architectural resource evaluation report in accordance with the provisions of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation*,¹ NCDOT's *Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines for Historic Architectural Resources*, and the HPO's *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports*. Resources are evaluated according to NRHP criteria. The location of the project area and the evaluated resource are shown in Figures 1 and 2.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The study area is located west of downtown Fayetteville and is crossed to the north by a branch of Little Rockfish Creek and Stewarts Creek to the south. It is characterized by a mix of commercial and residential development, with commercial development concentrated at the northern end and planned residential neighborhoods to the south, west, and east. Much of the area immediately adjacent the central portion of the project area however is characterized by late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth century houses and tracts of forested and cultivated agricultural land. Some residential streets on the southern end of the project area extend from Gillis Road and lead to neighborhoods with sinuous streets and roughly rectangular parcels with average sized single-family dwellings that date to the late 1990s. The neighborhoods are primarily concentrated north of Stewarts Creek, east of Gillis Hill Road. The commercial development to north is largely concentrated around Raeford Road (US 401) with more residential developments to the north. The resources evaluated in this report are the exceptions to the development in the project area.

¹ National Park Service, 2017. 48 CFR 44716; 36 CFR Part 800; 36 CFR Part 60.

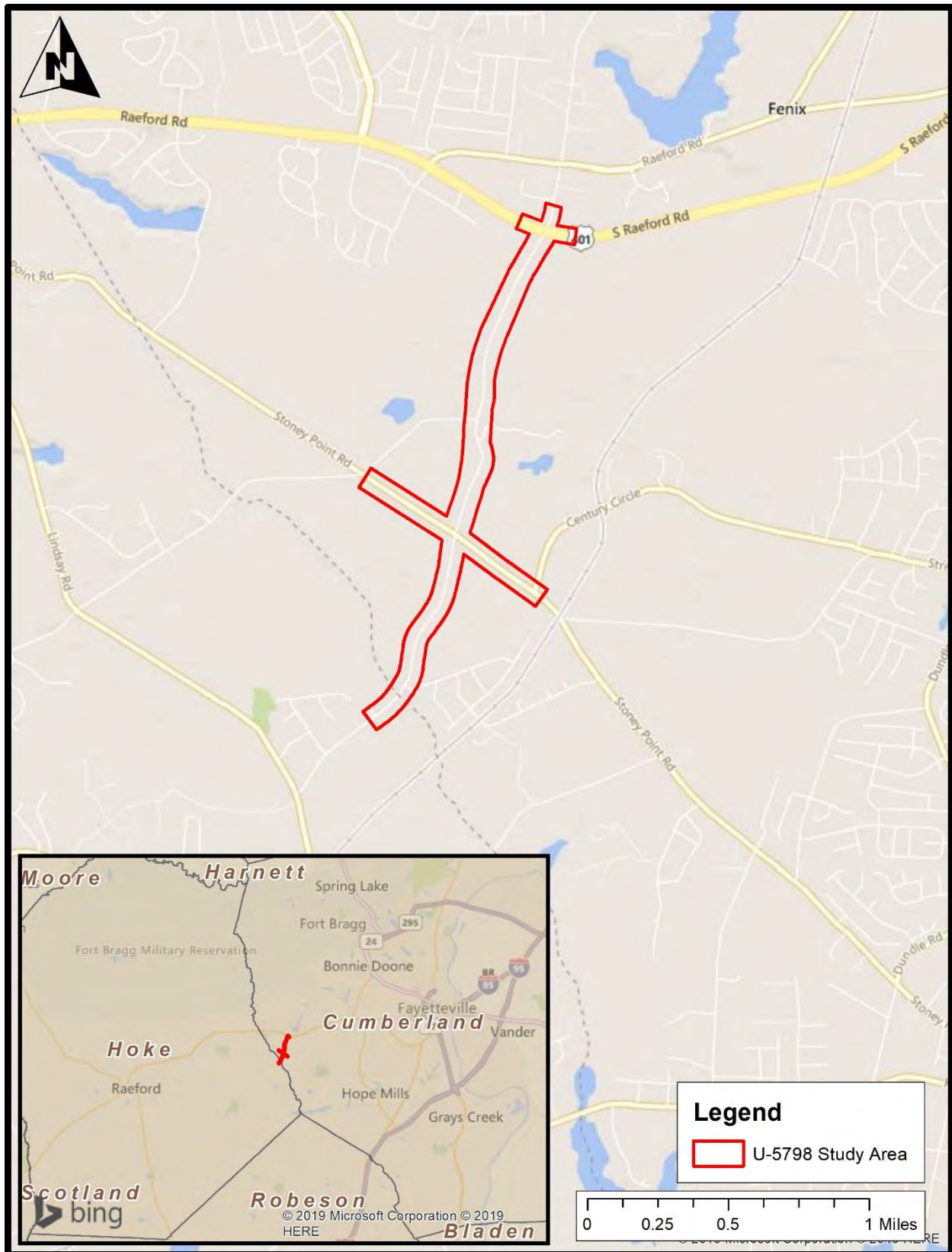


Figure 1: Project Location.

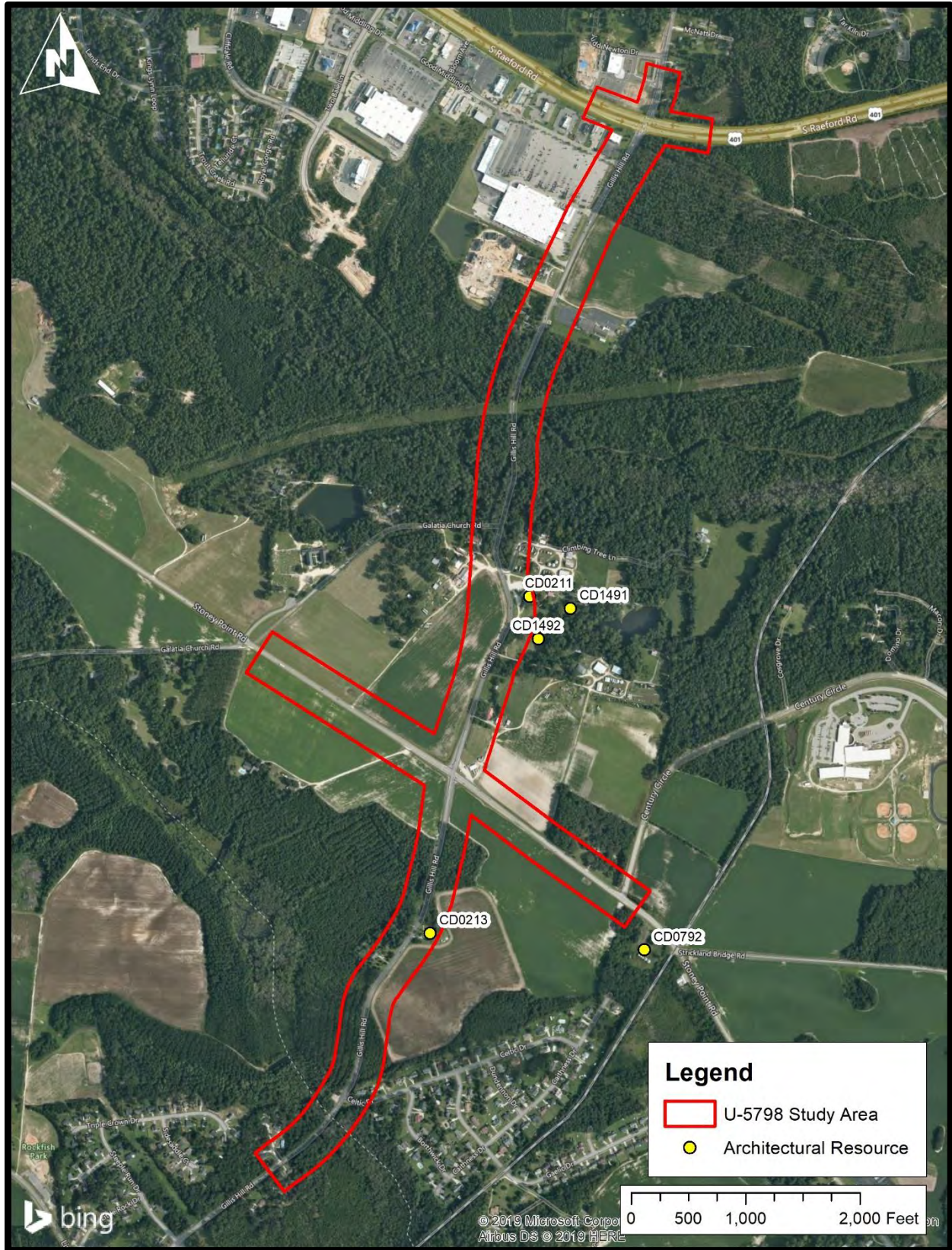


Figure 2: Area of Potential Effects.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Early European settlers navigated their way to the Cumberland County area via the Cape Fear River in the 1730s and 1740s. In the 1750s a flood of migration came from the Pennsylvania and Chesapeake region following the completion of a new trail through the Carolina Piedmont.² The principal ethnic group was Scots, arriving as immigrants directly from Scotland. Many were recruited to come to North Carolina due to the colonial governor himself being Scottish. The first Scottish settlers in Cumberland County arrived in 1739.³ In their new home, the Scots associated with people from other regions of their homeland, including the so-called “Scotch-Irish,” as well as immigrants from Ireland, England, and Quaker migrants from Philadelphia.⁴

In 1754, Cumberland County was established by the Colonial Assembly.⁵ The present boundaries of the county were reached in 1911 after three other counties were divided from it, first Moore in 1784, Harnett in 1855, and Hoke in 1911.⁶ By 1755 the county population had reached 302 white males, and seventy-four males of color, most of whom were enslaved.⁷

That year, the seeds of Fayetteville were planted when a Quaker migrant from Pennsylvania, John Newberry, purchased 1,400 acres in Cumberland County and built an overshot waterwheel gristmill on Cross Creek near the Cape Fear River.⁸ He sold lots and developed a town known as Cross Creek that boomed in the 1760s with new residences, stores, and industry. During the Revolutionary War, Cross Creek had solid patriot support. The town served as a supply depot and occasionally functioned as an outpost. Following the war, town officials hoped to make their community the capital. To facilitate this goal, they platted the village with orderly blocks and squares and renamed it Fayetteville.⁹ By 1790 the village population had reached over 1,000 whites, thirty-four free African Americans, and over 500 slaves.¹⁰ Although Fayetteville never became the capital, it did grow to become the largest inland city in North Carolina in the early nineteenth century.¹¹ Because of its river access, the town became a major trade center, serving as a link between the port city of Wilmington and the “back country.”¹² Trade efforts were bolstered by the establishment of various plank roads to connect Fayetteville to surrounding communities.¹³

² Roy Parker, *Cumberland County: a brief history*, (Raleigh: Div. of Archives and History, North Carolina Dep. of Cultural Resources, 1990) 5.

³ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 5.

⁴ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 6.

⁵ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 7.

⁶ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 1.

⁷ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 8,15.

⁸ Roy Parker, “Fayetteville,” NCPedia, last updated 2006, accessed September 20, 2018, <https://www.ncpedia.org/fayetteville>.

⁹ Parker, “Fayetteville.”

¹⁰ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 23.

¹¹ Parker, “Fayetteville.”

¹² Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1996), 398.

¹³ Bishir and Southern, *Eastern North Carolina*, 398.

While Fayetteville developed as a commercial center, much of the surrounding territory in Cumberland County was agricultural. In the Colonial era, farmers raised livestock, corn, grains, and forest products.¹⁴ Tobacco was introduced to the region in 1770 and became an important crop. During the Antebellum era, agriculture remained important county-wide. The landscape was characterized by a few large plantations, hundreds of small farms, and thousands of working slaves.¹⁵ After 1800, rural Cumberland County became one of the state's leaders in developing early cotton and textile production.¹⁶

A military presence in Cumberland County dates to the Antebellum Era. In the 1840s the Federal government erected an arms storage facility, which during the Civil War, was converted to an arsenal by the Confederate Army.¹⁷ When the Union Army reached Fayetteville in 1865, General William T. Sherman destroyed the arsenal and burned the offices of the local newspaper. No new installation would be erected until the establishment of Fort Bragg in the twentieth century.

Following the Civil War, Cumberland County remained a primarily rural and agricultural place.¹⁸ Cotton production flourished, covering twenty percent of the county's cleared land.¹⁹ The city of Fayetteville struggled during this time, unable to pay fiscal debts. The city abandoned its charter in 1881, and did not re-establish it until 1893.²⁰ The railroad did not reach the city until the year 1885, which brought "renewed prosperity and growth."²¹ With a new method of shipping materials, industry flourished in the early twentieth century, including textile factories, sawmills, and turpentine distilleries.

A military presence in Cumberland County was reestablished in the early twentieth century. At the close of World War I, the United States Army acquired 100,000 acres of pine woods and farmland west of Fayetteville for an installation called Camp Bragg, later renamed Fort Bragg.²² The massive installation housed approximately 1,200 troops in its first two years, 1919-1920.²³ During the 1920s and 1930s the installation housed artillery units and Air Corps planes. The base became the chief economic driver of Fayetteville, resulting in steady population increases over the next several decades.²⁴ By 1920 Fayetteville's population reached 8,887, and grew to

¹⁴ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 16.

¹⁵ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 27.

¹⁶ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 27, 53.

¹⁷ Parker, "Fayetteville."

¹⁸ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 76.

¹⁹ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 97.

²⁰ Michelle A. Michael, *Fayetteville Municipal Survey of Buildings, Sites, and Structures*, (Fayetteville: City of Fayetteville Planning Department and Historic Resources Commission, Raleigh: North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, 2001), E-8.

²¹ Michael, *Fayetteville Municipal Survey*, E-9; Parker, "Fayetteville."

²² Parker, "Fayetteville."

²³ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 117.

²⁴ MdM Historical Consultants, Inc. *Fayetteville Modern Architecture Survey*, (Durham: MdM Historical Consultants, Inc. 2009), 3.

13,039 by 1930.²⁵ The city's footprint gradually expanded west toward the military base, as automobiles made suburbanization more feasible.²⁶

In 1940 Fayetteville's population reached 17,428 people.²⁷ Later that year, in preparation for World War II, the Army enlarged Fort Bragg to the county's largest army training post, ballooning to 67,000 troops.²⁸ This pattern of high occupancy continued in the Korean and Vietnam wars as well. As a result, Fayetteville's civilian population boomed during the mid-twentieth century. Many civilians were employed at Fort Bragg and even those who were temporarily employed during wartime chose to remain in the community.²⁹ The military attracted a very specific demographic of young families, requiring housing and consumer goods.³⁰ Over 2,700 houses were erected between 1945 and 1951 alone.³¹ The west side of Fayetteville, near the project area, developed large shopping centers and became one of the state's largest retail centers.³² New industries were attracted to the area, migrating from their centers in Northern states, and they produced products such as plastics, tires, auto parts, and appliances.³³ Large numbers of residential subdivisions were developed resulting in a highly suburban landscape by the 1970s.

As a result of suburbanization, agriculture declined. Twenty-two thousand people resided on farms in Cumberland County in 1940.³⁴ This decreased steadily following World War II, particularly during the 1960s when the number of farms in Cumberland County fell by sixty-three percent.³⁵ By 1980 there remained only 2,100 people residing on Cumberland farms.³⁶

Suburban growth continued into the late twentieth century. During the 1970s through 1990s, Fayetteville's commuter roads, health care facilities, and event venues all expanded.³⁷ By 2005, Fayetteville has become the sixth largest city in North Carolina, at a population of 150,000.³⁸

²⁵ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 118.

²⁶ Michael, *Fayetteville Municipal Survey*, E-12.

²⁷ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 133.

²⁸ Parker, "Fayetteville;" Parker, *Cumberland County*, 134.

²⁹ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 135.

³⁰ MdM, *Modern Architecture*, 3.

³¹ Michael, *Fayetteville Municipal Survey*, E-17.

³² Parker, "Fayetteville."

³³ Parker, "Fayetteville;" Parker, *Cumberland County*, 148.

³⁴ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 150.

³⁵ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 150.

³⁶ Parker, *Cumberland County*, 150.

³⁷ Parker, "Fayetteville."

³⁸ Parker, "Fayetteville."

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATIONS

Resource Name:	William John Gillis Farmstead
NCDOT Survey Site Numbers:	001
HPO Survey Site Numbers:	CD0211, CD1491 and CD1492 (former CD0793)
Location:	2761 Gillis Hill Road, Fayetteville, NC 28115
Parcel ID:	9486-40-2513, 9486-40-0356 and 9486-30-9165
Dates(s) of Construction:	Ca. 1900 (Dwelling), ca. 1910 (Saw Mill and Cotton Gin)
Recommendation:	Eligible



Figure 3: William John Gillis Farmstead, Dwelling, Looking Southeast.

Setting

The William John Gillis House (CD0211), Gillis Saw Mill (CD1491), and Gillis Cotton Gin No. 2 (CD1492) are all located on the east side of Gillis Hill Road just north of an intersection with Stoney Point Road (SR 1112). The house is situated at a slight angle, with its façade facing northwest toward Gillis Hill Road, approximately 130 feet from the road itself. Directly north of the farmstead is a parcel with several modern outbuildings, separated by Climbing Tree Lane, which runs east-west and acts as the boundary between the two parcels. The two parcels to the south contain a mixture of modern and historic buildings that are associated with the Gillis Farmstead. For this reason, the three parcels together and the resources they contain are being evaluated together in this report. The areas surrounding the farmstead exhibit a mixture of uses

including religious facilities, modern commercial development, cultivated fields, forested lands, as well as historic and modern residences. The Gillis Saw Mill and Cotton Gin (formerly CD0793) shared a site nearby the house until the mid-2000s when the saw mill was moved just east of the original dwelling. The cotton gin remains in its original location and new survey site numbers have been assigned to both resources. Together, along with numerous other outbuildings that are both original and moved to the site, these resources make up the William John Gillis Farmstead. A semicircular gravel path runs in front of and around the original dwelling, connecting the residence to associated outbuildings throughout property. The current parcel has a somewhat irregular shape due to the surrounding land, which was originally associated with the larger David Gillis Farmstead, being divided between different generations of the family over the years (Figures 4 and 5).

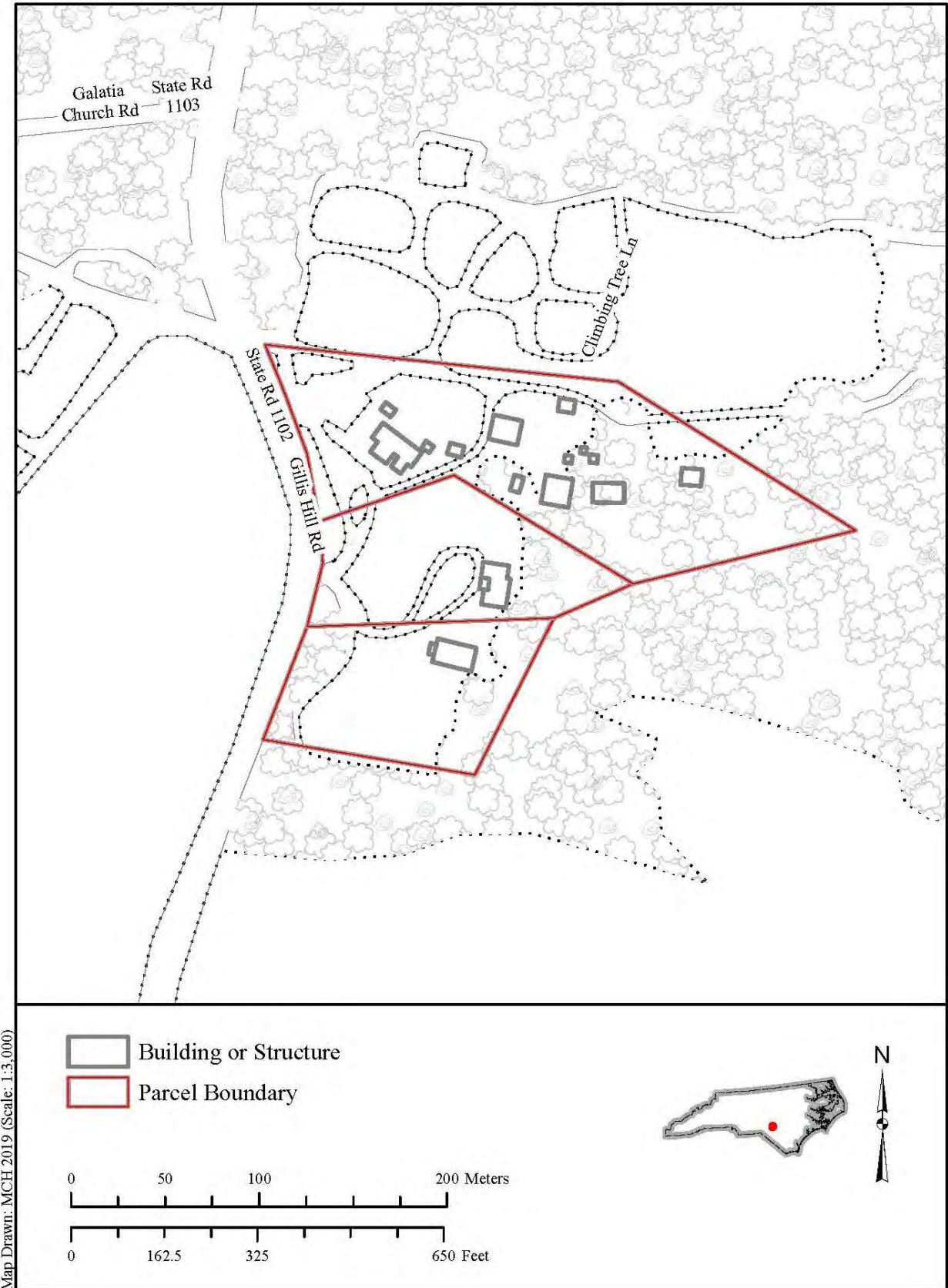


Figure 4: William John Gillis Farmstead Sketch Map.

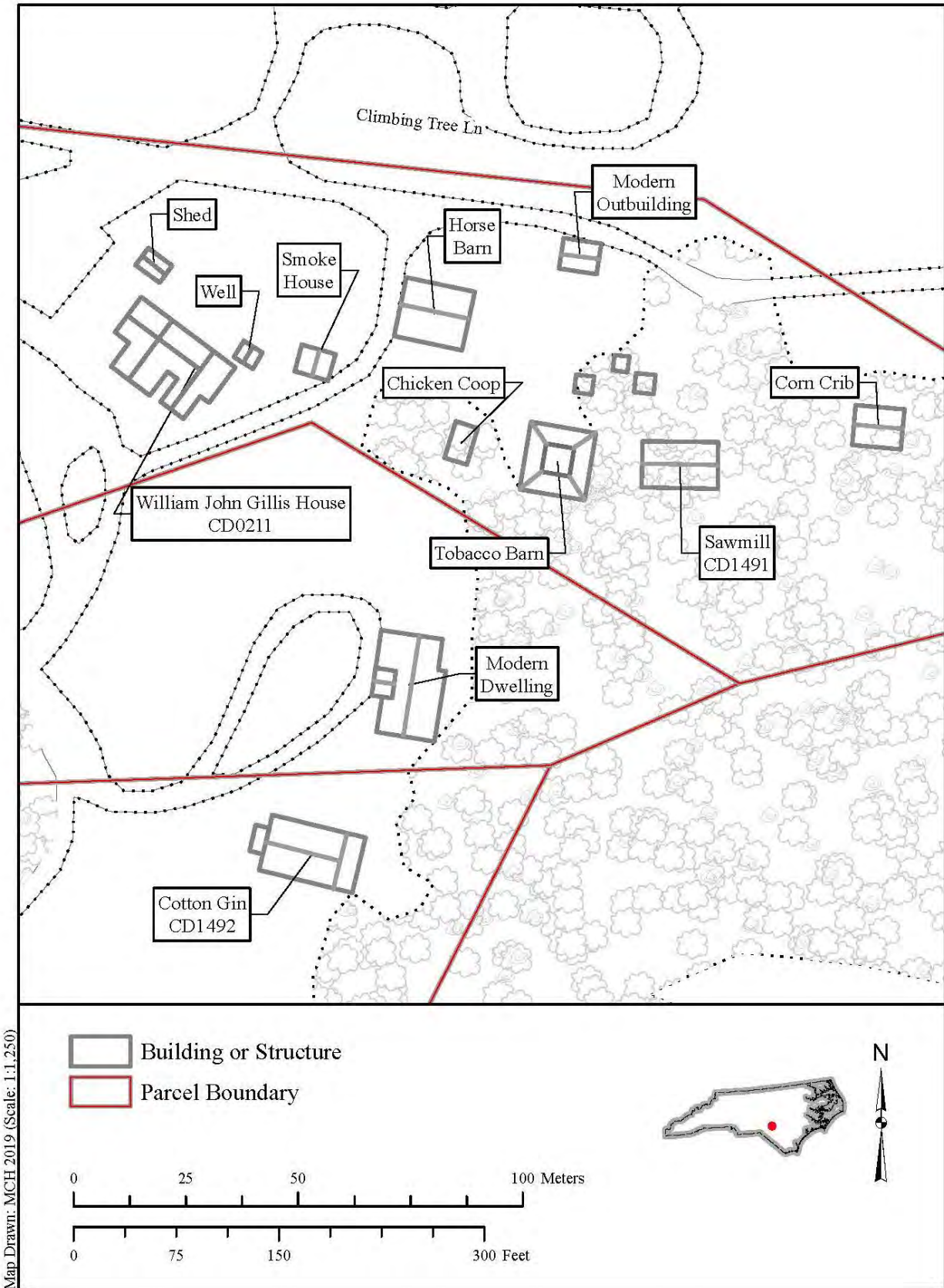


Figure 5: William John Gillis Farmstead, Close-Up of Structures Sketch Map



Figure 6: William John Gillis House, Dates of Construction.

Property Description

William John Gillis House (CD0211)

Exterior

The dwelling is a one-story vernacular house with Greek Revival features such as a divided light transom and sidelights and slender columns that support an integral porch. The house is of frame construction, rests on a brick foundation, and is clad in German (or drop) siding and metal roofing. The dwelling is largely asymmetrical in massing and has an irregular footprint due to having had several wings added since it was originally constructed. The façade has an L-plan appearance with a front gabled projecting wing meeting a side-gabled wing. It differs from a typical gable-and-wing form in that it is larger and has an integral L-shaped porch that shelters the side elevation of the projecting gable and the front elevation of the wing. A set of brick steps on the side-gabled wing lead to the original entrance with a wooden entry door flanked by sidelights that are divided into three equally sized panes over a recessed wooden panel and capped by a transom with four equally sized panes (see Figure 3). Though the exact timeline of additions is not entirely clear, based on interviews with the current owner and changes in the interior treatment, the original portion of the house appears to be the central side-gabled section. The kitchen addition and porches to the southeast and the L-shape portion to the northwest were likely added in the early-twentieth century, though the exact dates are not clear (Figure 6). Tax assessor data also states 1915 as the construction date for the house. This date, however, seems late for the original portion and may be in reference to the additions. Based on historic aerials, the house has had its current form since at least 1956.



Figure 7: William John Gillis Farmstead, Dwelling, Looking Southwest.

The northeast (side) elevation reveals the complex rooflines of the William John Gillis House. The northwesternmost section has a partially hipped roof with a brick chimney extending from the center of the roofline. Fenestration on this section includes two two-over-two, wooden, double-hung-sash windows. A side-gabled central section contains another brick chimney and connects the previously described section of the house to the other end, which is defined by a Dutch gable roof and has a third chimney. The Dutch gable appears to be the result of additions, rather than an intentional design feature. A shed-roofed screened porch runs the length of the southeastern two-thirds of the elevation and has a screen door accessed by a wooden entry ramp. Decorative latticework separates the screened windows from German siding below on the porch (Figure 7).

The southeast (rear) elevation is comprised of a simple side-gabled roof with a continuation of the shed-roofed porch seen on the northeastern elevation of the house (Figure 8). Porch fenestration remains consistent with screened windows over latticework and siding. Another pedestrian entrance is accessed by a set of wooden steps which lead to the screened porch. Within the screened porch there is a secondary entrance to the rear of the house. The porch covers about two-thirds of this elevation, leaving the southwestern third exposed. A single two-over-two, wooden, double-hung-sash window with simple wooden enframing is centered on this exposed section. Additionally, this section of the house has decorative pressed tin roofing. Other sections of the house are clad in standing-seam metal, like the porch seen on this elevation.

The southwest (side) elevation contains two gabled ends connected by a recessed side-gabled hyphen. The gabled section to the northwest contains part of the porch from the primary façade



Figure 8: William John Gillis Farmstead, Dwelling, Looking Northwest.



Figure 9: William John Gillis Farmstead, Dwelling, Looking Northeast.

and a centrally placed brick end chimney flanked by two-over-two, wooden, double-hung-sash windows. The central hyphen has an enclosed porch accessed by a set of brick steps. The porch has a wooden frame enclosure finished with wooden siding and a centrally placed wooden door flanked by two-over-two, wooden, double-hung-sash windows. The second gabled wing contains a centrally placed two-over-two, wooden, double-hung-sash window on the gabled end and another window with a similar treatment on the interior side elevation (Figure 9).

Interior

The dwelling currently serves several purposes for the Gillis family business including a farm office, storage, and an ice cream shop. Though the dwelling has not functioned as residence since the mid-2000s, few modifications have been made to the interior. The ice cream store is located in the front room of the gabled wing on the primary elevation. This room was a bedroom before the family converted the house from a residence to a shop (Figure 10). The room contains a modern ice cream counter and an original fireplace and mantel flanked by doorways on either side. Either of these doorways provide access to the central room of the house. Likely an original portion of the house, this room has a square footprint and contains original wooden floors, a large fireplace with a mantel, and interior walls finished with flush wooden board (Figures 11 and 12). Looking southwest out of the central room is the enclosed porch on the southwest elevation (Figure 13). Located southwest of the main room is the kitchen wing, which is largely untouched from when it functioned as such. It contains a large brick chimney with a wood burning stove on the southwestern wall (Figure 14) and a dry sink and cupboard on the southeastern wall (Figure 15). Two pedestrian entrances are found in the kitchen, one on the southeastern wall and one on the northeastern wall. Additionally, a former pantry in the northwestern corner was converted to a bathroom in the late-twentieth century when Eugene Gillis lived in the house.³⁹

³⁹ John Davis Gillis II, interview with surveyor, May 7, 2019.



Figure 10: William John Gillis House, Former Bedroom, Northwest Wing, Looking East.



Figure 11: William John Gillis House, Central Room, Looking Northeast.



Figure 12: William John Gillis House, Central Room, Looking Southwest.



Figure 13: William John Gillis House, Southwestern Enclosed Porch, Looking Northwest.



Figure 14: William John Gillis House, Kitchen Wing, Looking Northeast.



Figure 15: William John Gillis House, Kitchen Wing, Looking Southwest.

Ancillary Buildings

Ancillary structures associated with the dwelling, moving roughly from west to east, include: a modern general storage structure (Figure 16), a reconstructed well (Figure 17), a modern horse barn (Figure 18), a smokehouse (Figure 19), a modern chicken coop (Figure 20), a modern restroom outbuilding (Figure 21), several general purpose structures in animal feed pens (Figures 22 and 23), a reconstructed tobacco barn (Figure 24 through 27), the relocated Gillis Saw Mill (Figures 28 through 34), and a historic but relocated corn crib (Figure 35). Moving south, outside of the first parcel that contains the primary dwelling, is a ca. 1970s dwelling constructed by John Davis Gillis II (Figure 36). South of that residence is the former site of the Gillis Saw Mill ruins and the current and historic site of the Gillis Cotton Gin No. 2 (Figure 37 through 41).



Figure 16: William John Gillis Farmstead, Structure, Looking East.



Figure 17: William John Gillis Farmstead, Modern Well, Looking Southwest.



Figure 18: William John Gillis Farmstead, Horse Barn, Looking Northeast.



Figure 19: William John Gillis Farmstead, Smokehouse, Looking Northwest.

The smokehouse (Figure 19), is original to the site and located approximately 40 feet east of the dwelling. Its construction likely dates to around the same time as the dwelling, ca. 1900. The structure has a simple front-gabled form, weatherboard siding, and a standing seam metal roof. A pedestrian door is located on the north elevation, and open-air wings with exposed rafters flank either side of the central gabled form. The smokehouse was used for meat curing and storage in order to maintain a supply of consumable meat products prior to refrigeration. The meat was salted and then hung from interior rafters to cure. A small fire was stoked in the enclosed shelter and the smoke subsequently cured the meat over several weeks. Behind the smokehouse is a modern chicken coop (Figure 20), and farther north and east is a modern



Figure 20: William John Gillis Farmstead, Modern Chicken Coop, Looking Southeast.



Figure 21: William John Gillis Farmstead, Modern Toilets, Looking South.

restroom facility (Figure 21) and several animal feed structures located within grazing areas (Figures 22 and 23).



Figure 22: William John Gillis Farmstead, Structure in Animal Pen, Looking South.



Figure 23: William John Gillis Farmstead, Structure in Animal Pen, Looking South.



Figure 24: William John Gillis Farmstead, Tobacco Barn, Looking Northwest.

A reconstructed tobacco barn is located approximately 160 feet behind and slightly southeast of the dwelling. The owner of the property, Mr. Gillis, stated that the farm originally had six tobacco barns, almost all of which are no longer extant. He expressed that one tobacco barn was saved, and the structure was salvaged and reconstructed (Figures 24 and 25). Based on aerials and the existing survey file for the property, the tobacco barn was possibly relocated and rehabilitated on this site sometime in the mid-2000s. Mr. Gillis also stated that the barn

originally utilized a wood stove but was later updated to gas. He reconstructed the wood stove when the barn was placed here in order to illustrate the original function of the tobacco barn (Figures 26 and 27).⁴⁰ This is an example of a two-story gabled tobacco barn with a one-story hip-roofed porch. The exterior is finished with board and batten wooden siding and both roofs are clad in metal.



Figure 25: William John Gillis Farmstead, Tobacco Barn, Looking Northwest.



Figure 26: William John Gillis Farmstead, Tobacco Barn Stove, Looking South.



Figure 27: William John Gillis Farmstead, Interior of Tobacco Barn.

⁴⁰ John Davis Gillis II, Interview with Surveyor, May 7, 2019.

Saw Mill (CD1491)

The machinery associated with the sawmill was originally located just south of its current location on a parcel associated with the Gillis Cotton Gin 2 (CD1492), known as site CD0793 [Gillis Saw Mill (Original Site)]. The machinery was moved sometime in the mid-2000s and a new shelter was constructed around it during this period. The new site is approximately 435 feet north of its original site and is placed within a group of historic outbuildings near the William John Gillis House. The saw mill and new shelter are located 300 feet east of the original dwelling and are connected to the house and other outbuildings through a network of dirt paths that provide circulation for the entire property.

Shelter

The form of the original shelter of the sawmill is unknown, but based on family photos, it was nonextant as early as the 1980s. The present shelter was constructed sometime in the mid-2000s and is a simple front-gabled open-air structure (Figures 28 through 30). The wooden frame structure has a rectangular footprint and consists of unfinished wooden posts supporting a frame roof clad with corrugated metal. Each gable contains vertical board and batten siding. Little other detail is found on the structure outside of interpretive signage.



Figure 28: William John Gillis Farmstead, Saw Mill, Looking Northeast.



Figure 29: William John Gillis Farmstead, Saw Mill, Looking Southeast.



Figure 30: William John Gillis Farmstead, Saw Mill, Interior Setup, Looking West.

Machinery

This is an example of an early twentieth-century diesel powered saw mill. This particular power unit is similar to one identified as an International Harvester Inc. power unit, possibly a UD-9 power unit produced in the 1940s (Figures 32 and 33).⁴¹ It functions by starting with gas and then switches to diesel to power the saw mill. The diesel power unit and a circular saw are both located at the northeastern corner of the shelter with the saw centrally located under the shelter itself. The saw mill mechanism is an example of a Moffitt Sawmill indicating a brand that was popular during the early twentieth century (Figure 34).⁴² These sawmills were produced by Moffitt Ironworks located in Sanford, North Carolina, just north of Fayetteville. Moffitt Ironworks operated from 1888 into the first half of the twentieth century.⁴³



Figure 31: William John Gillis Farmstead, Saw Mill, Circular Saw, Looking Southwest.

⁴¹ “International Power Units Brochure, 1940” McCormick – International Harvester Collection, Wisconsin Historical Society, accessed June 3, 2019, <https://wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Image/IM88710>.

⁴² “Sanford’s Big Business Beginnings,” accessed May 30, 2019, <http://welcometosanford.com/index.php/2017/07/13/sanfords-big-business-beginnings/>.

⁴³ “Sanford’s Big Business Beginnings,” accessed May 30, 2019, <http://welcometosanford.com/index.php/2017/07/13/sanfords-big-business-beginnings/>.



Figure 32: William John Gillis Farmstead, Saw Mill, Diesel Engine, Looking Southeast.



Figure 33: William John Gillis Farmstead, Saw Mill, Diesel Engine, Looking Southeast.



Figure 34: William John Gillis Farmstead, Saw Mill, ca. 1900 Moffit Saw Mill, Looking Southeast.

Located behind the sawmill moving east, a corn crib is located approximately 450 feet east of the dwelling with its primary elevation facing west toward the dwelling and Gillis Hill Road (Figure 35). It is a front-gabled log structure with a projecting eave and an open southern wing. The structure sits on loose brick piers and its roof is clad with ribbed metal sheets. The architecture is typical of a corn crib with saddle notching and ventilation space between the logs. It also features a primary pedestrian door and a second-story door providing access to loft space in the gable. This particular barn is not original to the Gillis farmstead, but belonged to the Willis family whose property was sold for development. The corn crib was moved from that property and saved from development in the mid-2000s and moved to its current location in February of 2010. It dates from ca. 1923.⁴⁴

Moving south to the central tax parcel is a modern dwelling is located on between the two studied parcels. It is a simple brick clad Ranch-style dwelling with minimal Neoclassical detailing (Figure 36). According to John Davis Gillis II, he constructed the house for his aunt and uncle but currently lives in the house with his wife.

⁴⁴ Interpretive plaque, Gillis Hill Farm, Site Visit May 7, 2019.



Figure 35: William John Gillis Farmstead, Corn Crib, Looking Northeast.



Figure 36: William John Gillis Farmstead, Modern Dwelling, Looking Northeast.

Gillis Cotton Gin No. 2 (CD1492)

Exterior

The Gillis Cotton Gin No. 2 is an example of a two-story front-gabled cotton gin complex with an upper divided loft above and an open plan ground floor with intact drive shafts (Figures 37 and 38). A seed house is attached to the rear and forms a one-story shed-roofed projection on the rear elevation (Figure 39). The structure has a wooden frame and is clad in corrugated metal sheets. A retaining wall cuts across the westernmost third of the structure and is largely overgrown with vegetation, making access to the other elevations and rear of the structure impossible. An adjacent fence separates the structure from the neighboring parcel. The rear elevation was not directly accessible due to the brick retaining wall and overgrowth surrounding the area.

Interior

The ground floor of the cotton gin has an open floor plan and contains the original driveshafts (Figure 40). The upper story contains divided loft space three to four bays deep (Figure 41).



Figure 37: Gillis Cotton Gin No. 2, Looking Northeast.



Figure 38: Gillis Cotton Gin, Looking Northeast.



Figure 39: Gillis Cotton Gin 2, View of Side Elevation and Seed House, Looking Southeast.



Figure 40: Gillis Cotton Gin 2, View of Ground Floor and Drive Shafts, Looking Southeast.



Figure 41: Gillis Cotton Gin 2, View of Divided loft in upper story, Looking Southeast.

Historical Background

The William John Gillis Farmstead is located in western Cumberland County. According to one of the current owners, Mr. John Davis Gillis II, the Gillis line came to Cumberland County in the late 1700s with the arrival of husband and wife Malcolm and Rebecca Gillis from Scotland.⁴⁵ The first dwelling associated with the family was likely the Gillis residence just northwest of the marked future site of the William John Gillis House on the map below (Figure 42). This home possibly dated to 1764 but burned in the late 1800s.⁴⁶ This is the land located directly west of the present William John Gillis House, across Gillis Hill Road.

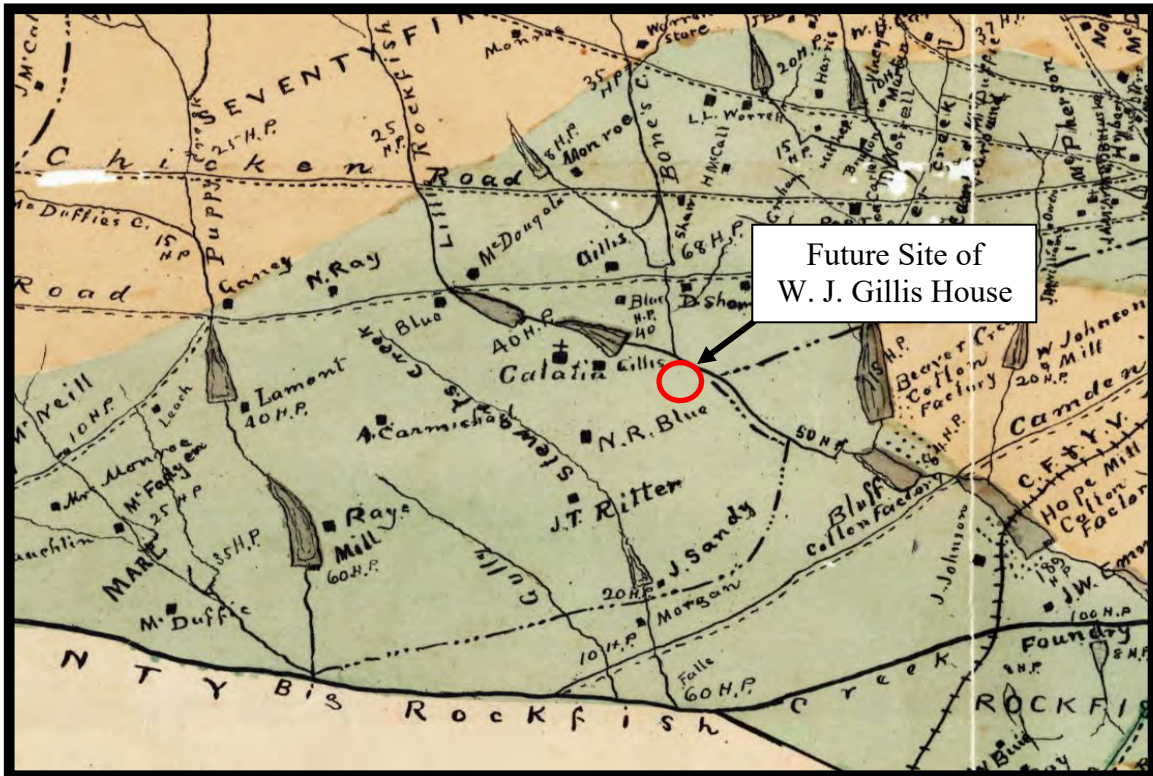


Figure 42: Map of Iredell County (North Carolina Maps).

The William John Gillis House was likely built a short time after the original house burned, sometime in the late 1800s or early 1900s, though the exact date of construction is uncertain. The existing site file for this property states that it was constructed by William John Gillis between 1901 and 1903.⁴⁷ According to its tax record, however, the house was constructed in 1915. Adding to the discrepancy are the simple details of the dwelling and the fact that it was constructed without a kitchen. The kitchen wing was added later and currently sits at the rear of the home. All of these factors indicate that it was likely constructed much earlier than 1915. Adding some credence to this theory is the presence of a dwelling in the vicinity of the farmstead on an 1884 map of Cumberland County (See Figure 42). Though this is likely the original

⁴⁵ John Davis Gillis II, *Amazing Grace*, family history.

⁴⁶ John Davis Gillis II, Interview with Surveyor, May 7, 2019.

⁴⁷ HPO, Survey File, CD0793.

nineteenth century dwelling, it is clear this vicinity was occupied by the Gillis family at this point in history. Based on the survey files, and records from the family history described below, it seems that the dwelling was likely constructed in the early 1900s. A 1938 highway map shows a dwelling and a sawmill in the vicinity of the farmstead (Figure 43), and a written account by the family indicates that a cotton gin was located “next to the homeplace.”⁴⁸ Together, these accounts paint a picture of the original William John Gillis Farmstead.

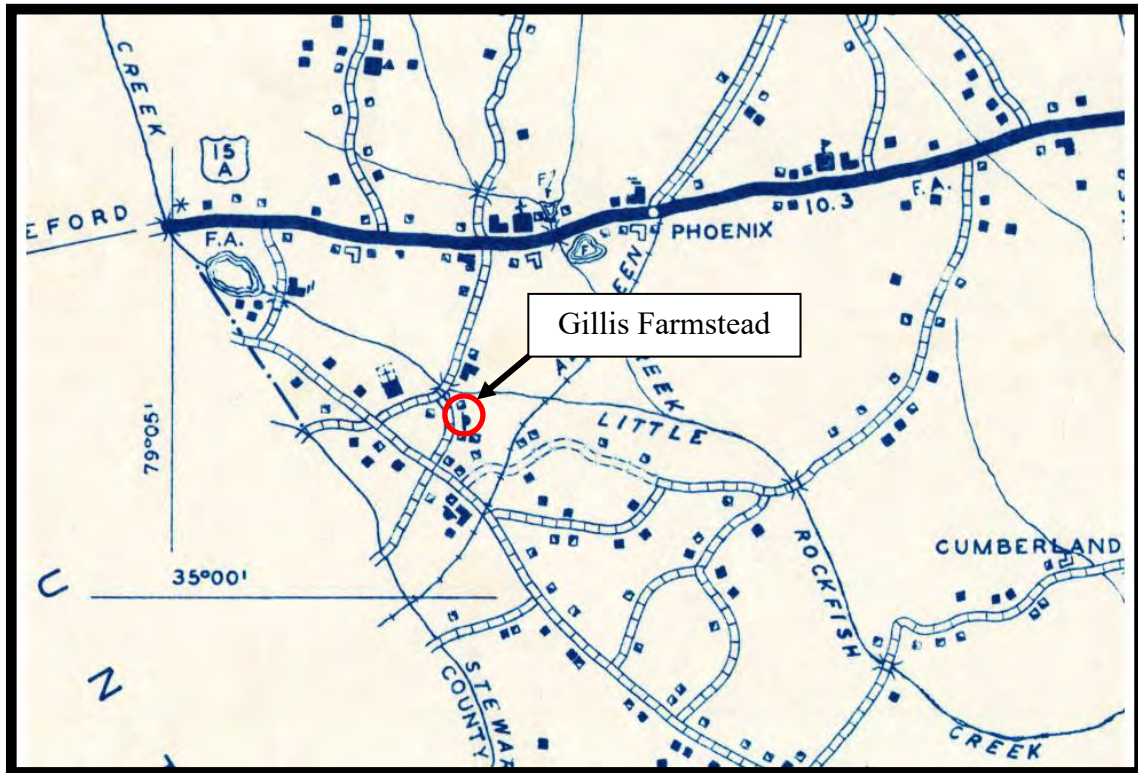


Figure 43: Cumberland County Highway Map, 1938 (North Carolina Maps).

William John Gillis was the son of John Archibald Gillis and Catherine Ann Gillis. John was the son of Lieutenant Colonel David Chase Gillis (1792 - ca. 1878) who was perhaps one of the most prominent of the Gillis clan. His obituary described him as “One of the best and most prominent men in our county,”⁴⁹ and he served as a colonel in the War of 1812. David Gillis was also the son of Malcom and Rebecca, the first of the Gillis family to settle in Cumberland County. This lineage makes William John Gillis the grandson of David Gillis.

William John Gillis was born in Cumberland County around 1871.⁵⁰ He married Maude Parham Gillis in 1898 and together they had eight children, the oldest of which was William McNatt Gillis. William John’s parents, Catherine and John, deeded him the land that now contains the dwelling in 1902, just a few years after his marriage to Maude.⁵¹ It is unclear if he started

⁴⁸ John Davis Gillis II, *Amazing Grace*, family history.

⁴⁹ “David Chase Gillis Obituary”, *The Eagle*, Fayetteville, North Carolina, June 14, 1873. Volume I, No. 77.

⁵⁰ “William John Gillis,” accessed May 30, 2019, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/68304869/w_j_gillis

⁵¹ Cumberland County Deed Book P, No. 5, page 81.

construction on the house after the land was deeded or if it was started closer to when he married Maude. The 1900 census shows the Gillis family consisting of W. J. Gillis, Maude, and their son, William McNatt Gillis. The home was registered as owned and he was employed as a farmer.⁵² The Gillis family is listed immediately after Angus McInnis who lived just south of them at the time.

With the construction of the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad around 1904,⁵³ W. J. Gillis decided to relocate closer to the new line for commercial reasons. According to family history, he moved his wife and family into the two-story Greek Revival Shaw-Gillis House (CD0212). His wife Maude, however, disliked the tall ceilings in the drafty old house and the lack of fireplaces. For this reason, they had the William John Gillis House on Gillis Hill Road more or less replicated on Old Raeford Road with an identical floorplan and a fireplace in every room (contributing to the Shaw-Gillis Historic District, CD210).⁵⁴ By the 1910 census, William and Maude and several of their children were shown as living at Rockfish and Raeford Roads, likely the site of the Shaw-Gillis House.⁵⁵ In 1911, he also transferred the dwelling William John Gillis House and surrounding property from his ownership to his wife, Maude, and his living children: William, Duncan, Neill, and James.⁵⁶ This transfer was made “for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which the part of the first (William John Gillis) has for his wife and children, the parties of the second part, and the sum of one dollar...”⁵⁷ Totaling about 86 acres, this area was described as the eastern portion of the David Gillis Homestead, which previously totaled 547 acres. A portion of the 86 acres also came from the land of James McNatt, who gave 5.5 acres of land to his daughter Catherine, wife of John Archibald Gillis and mother of William John Gillis. The McNatt family were also large landowners in the area at the time. This small portion was acquired in 1884.⁵⁸ It is unclear who, if anyone, lived in the William John Gillis House after Maude and William moved, but they eventually gave the house to their son, William McNatt Gillis, and his new wife, Carrie Belle Bethea Gillis, who were married in 1920.⁵⁹ William John Gillis died in 1929 of a gunshot wound at his general store located near the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad. It is unknown if this was the result of a burglary at the store or a self-inflicted wound.⁶⁰

William McNatt Gillis and Carrie Belle Gillis (Figure 44) lived in the house from around 1920 to as late as 1979 when Carrie Belle passed away. Though the couple supposedly lived in the house as early as 1920, it wasn't until 1963 that a deed was officially recorded showing a transfer of

⁵² United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, *Twelfth Census of the United States*, (Washington, District of Columbia: Bureau of Census, 1900).

⁵³ “A&R History,” Aberdeen & Rockfish R.R. Co., accessed June 3, 2019, https://www.aberdeen-rockfish.com/html/a_r_history.html.

⁵⁴ John Gillis, Interview with surveyor, May 7, 2019.

⁵⁵ Bureau of Census, *Twelfth Census of the United States* 1910.

⁵⁶ Cumberland County Deed Book 164, page 462.

⁵⁷ Cumberland County Deed Book 164, page 462.

⁵⁸ Cumberland County Deed Book L, No. 3, page 260.

⁵⁹ “North Carolina Marriage Records, Carrie Belle Bethia, February 10, 1920, accessed June 3, 2019, https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?dbid=60548&h=12784566&indiv=try&o_vc=Record:OtherRecord&rhSource=60525.

⁶⁰ Gillis, *Amazing Grace*.

ownership to them both.⁶¹ This deed illustrates Maude and several other members of the Gillis family transferring the land to William and Carrie Belle for “the sum of one dollar and other valuable considerations...”⁶² The land transfer totaled 88 acres and was described as part of the land known as the “Gillis Homestead.” The 1940 census shows the couple owning, operating, and living on the farm with their children Eugene, Frances, William, and John. The house was noted as having a value of \$600 at the time.



Figure 44: Photo of William McNatt Gillis and Wife Carrie Belle Bethea Gillis, Ca. 1920, The Year They Were Married (John Davis Gillis II).

William McNatt Gillis died in 1974 leaving the estate to Carrie Belle. She deeded a one-half undivided interest in the property to her eldest son, Eugene, in 1974 for “ten dollars and other valuable considerations.”⁶³ Eugene lived in the dwelling until his death in 2002.⁶⁴ No records were found indicating he ever married or had children. He was survived by his two brothers, William K. Gillis and John Davis Gillis Sr., and a sister, Frances G. Dinkins (Figure 45).

John Davis Gillis Sr. was born in 1931 in the William John Gillis house in the room that now serves as the ice cream shop.⁶⁵ He married Barbara Miller Gillis in 1950 (See Figure 45). His son, John Davis Gillis II, is one of the present owners of the property. In the years leading up to

⁶¹ Cumberland County Deed Book 990, page 607-610.

⁶² Cumberland County Deed Book 990, page 607.

⁶³ Cumberland County Deed Book 2749, page 308.

⁶⁴ “Eugene Gillis,” Find A Grave, accessed June 3, 2019, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/43759570>.

⁶⁵ John Davis Gillis II, Interview with surveyor, May 7, 2019.

Eugene's death, it appears that he divided a large portion of the land he owned between his siblings, many of whom either remain on the land or distributed it to their children and families.



Figure 45: From Left to Right, Brother Eugene Gillis; Brother William (Bill) Gillis; Wife of John Gillis Sr., Barbara Miller; Sister Frances at the Farm, Ca. 1950 (John Davis Gillis II).

The two parcels to the south, also associated with the Gillis Farmstead and containing resources evaluated in this report, were both owned by Frances Gillis Dinkins and her husband, Frederic R. Dinkins. Frances was the sister of Eugene Gillis, the eldest son of William and Carrie Belle Gillis. Although still listed as the owner for the central parcel, which contains a ca. 1970 house, the house is currently occupied by John Davis Gillis II and his wife, who operate Gillis Hill Farms. The southernmost parcel was officially deeded from Frances and her husband to John Davis Gillis II and David Miller Gillis in 2009.⁶⁶

After the death of Eugene, the northernmost parcel containing the dwelling appears to have come under the ownership of David Miller Gillis and William (Bill) Gillis, the nephew and brother of Eugene. Starting around 2007, the farm began to diversify and moved away from exclusively farming and into agritourism. The landscape of Cumberland County had changed vastly, and the family did their best to respond to development while still maintaining and utilizing their landholdings as they had for generations (Figures 46 and 47). With increasing suburban development just on the other side of the forested lands and fields of the homesteads, the demand for land in the county continued to shift away from agriculture and toward development. In 2007 the current owners, John Davis Gillis II and David Miller Gillis, were deeded the land.⁶⁷ Today the three parcels comprise 9.07 acres of the former eastern portion of the Gillis Homestead.

⁶⁶ Cumberland County Deed Book 8113, page 669.

⁶⁷ Cumberland County Deed Book 7472, page 455.



Figure 46: 1993 Aerial Image of Gillis Farmstead (Google Earth Pro).

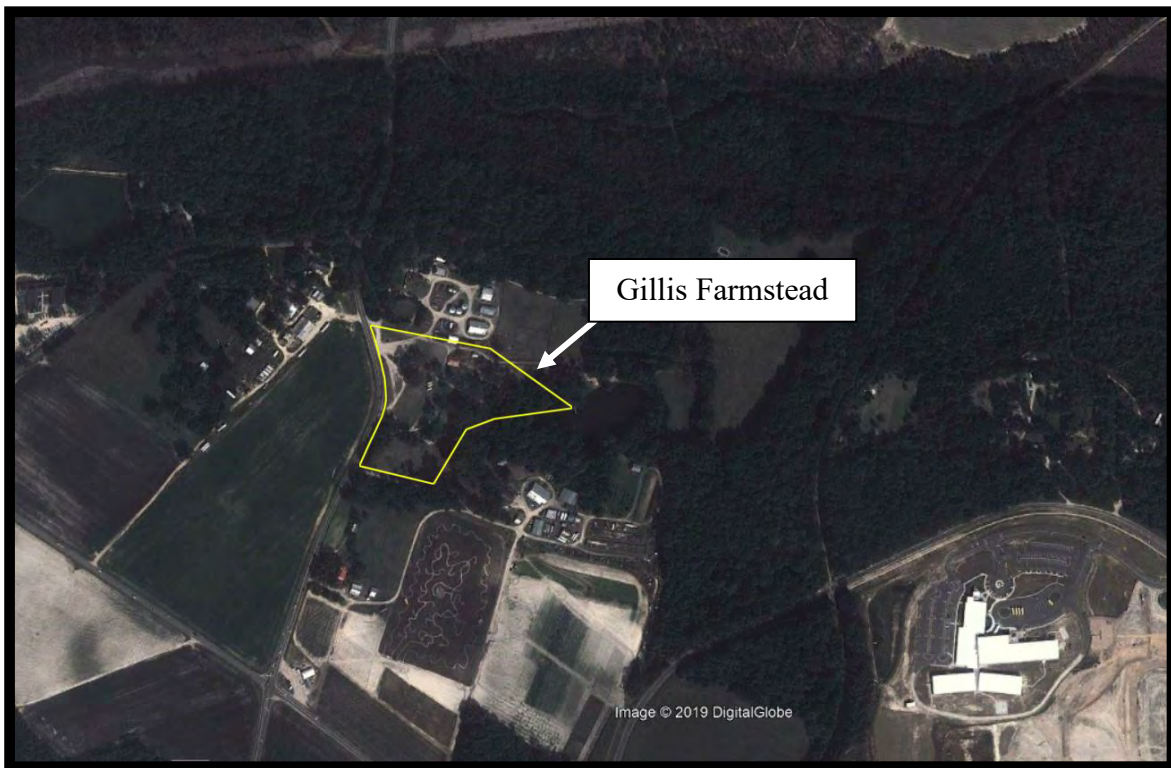


Figure 47: 2012 Aerial Image of Gillis Farmstead (Google Earth Pro).

NRHP Criteria Evaluation

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the William John Gillis Farmstead is recommended eligible for the NRHP with the William John Gillis House (CD0211), Gillis Saw Mill (CD1491) and the Gillis Cotton Gin No. 2 (CD1492) considered as contributing resources.

Integrity

The original dwelling remains in its original location and though the area around it is now characterized by commercial development and planned neighborhoods, its immediate setting has been minimally altered. The house retains a great deal of historic integrity regarding design, materials, and workmanship. These qualities are expressed in its humble form, wooden sash windows, German siding, and minimal decorative features. The addition of another dwelling and the change in the function of the site are not enough to negate the retained integrity of the property. The dwelling and farmstead now serve a commercial capacity in the form of an ice cream store and agritourism complex. Both the Gillis Saw Mill and the Gillis Cotton Gin No. 2 function in the same capacity for this farmstead and reinforce its association with early twentieth-century agricultural practices and its feeling and association as a rural homestead. The remaining outbuildings consist of a mixture of original, reconstructed, or relocated structures that together paint a picture of a nineteenth century farmstead. Though not a wholly original representation of an intact historic farmstead, the Gillis Farmstead is a unique example of such a resource with many key original components.

Criterion A

The William John Gillis Farmstead is recommended eligible for the NRHP 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 prehistory or history or pattern of events or historic trends 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.

Though only a small portion of Gillis Hill Farm, which measures roughly 1,500 acres, the William John Gillis Farmstead represents the core of an over 200-year farming operation, with one of its oldest portions being traced to a land grant from 1790. Over this period, the larger farm has adapted to take advantage of the needs of the economy and is historically associated with the lumber, cotton, and tobacco industries. This evolution closely reflects the course of North Carolina's agricultural economy while also representing the multigenerational story of the immigrant families that settled in North Carolina and helped shape it into the state it is today. On the Gillis Farmstead, this story still persists with descendants of the family continuing to plant the fields with the most economically viable crops, including corn, soybeans, wheat and hay, as well as adding an agritourism component.

The farmstead contains a mixture of original, reconstructed, and relocated structures and equipment, some of which originally stood on other parts of the farm. Though the moved and reconstructed resources are not ideal for interpreting the farm at a given point in time, they are representative of the adaptation of the farm to meet changing needs and to stay viable in an economy that is moving further and further from family owned agricultural operations and increasingly closer to commercial and residential endeavors. Furthermore, the resources have

been preserved through their movement as opposed to being lost through replacement and are being interpreted on the farmstead through its agritourism component. Due to the measures taken by the Gillis family to preserve their family farm, the William John Gillis Farmstead remains as a strong example of the pattern of agricultural development that was enacted by numerous early settlers and their descendants in both Cumberland County and North Carolina and is recommended eligible under Criterion A.

Criterion B

The William John Gillis House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP 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.

The property is historically associated with the Gillis family, whose productive life was spent maintaining the family farm. Research did not reveal their activities to be historically significant within the local, state, or national historic context. Colonel David Gillis was a prominent man of the county and leader in the War of 1812, but his life predates the William John Gillis House. Therefore, the property is not recommended eligible under Criterion B at the local level.

Criterion C

The William John Gillis House is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C (design/construction). 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.

A search of HPOWeb for comparison properties for the dwelling, the saw mill, and the cotton gin were all conducted in order to properly evaluate the significance of these integral resources. Additionally, the existing survey files indicate that a 1998 report recommended (and HPO concurred) the house and associated resources (meaning the Gillis Saw Mill and Gillis Cotton Gin No. 2) eligible for the National Register "under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of turn of the century, rural domestic architecture in Cumberland County."⁶⁸ Commonwealth maintains that this evaluation is still accurate based on the current conditions of the properties.

William John Gillis House (CD0211)

The William John Gillis House (CD0211) is an example of an exceptionally intact turn-of-the-century farm house in Cumberland County.

⁶⁸ HPO, Site File, CD0211.

HPOWeb lists 16 similar resources in Cumberland County, all of which are located in Fayetteville or on the western or northern boundaries of the county, and most of which are listed on the NRHP. Many of these serve as larger, more articulated versions of the type with more stylized details and more than one story. Additionally, none of these examples were similar in composition to the William John Gillis House as an L-plan, one-story dwelling.

One resource identified by the current owner of the Gillis farmstead is the William John Gillis House No. 2, which is part of the Shaw-Gillis Historic District (CD0210). It is located approximately three miles northeast of the William John Gillis House. Constructed in ca. 1920, this residence is very similar in plan, consisting of an L-form and simple asymmetrical massing. Transom and sidelights surround the primary entryway which faces south toward Old Raeford Road. The similarities between the two homes were attributed to the wife of William John Gillis, Maude Gillis. The story of the William John Gillis House No. 2 was discussed earlier in this report and is known to be identical to the William John Gillis House No. 1 in its floor plan, shape, and style. The William John Gillis House No. 2 (Figure 48) shares many qualities with the William John Gillis House No. 1. The Shaw-Gillis House, a two-story Greek Revival house constructed in 1857, is also located in the district, along with several outbuildings. The outbuildings appeared to be in poor condition at the time of survey, but both houses were intact. This district is evaluated as eligible under Criterion C for architecture. While both William John Gillis Houses have intact exteriors in regard to wooden siding, wooden sash windows, massing, and simple details like window enframingent and sidelights and transom, the current state of the interior of the William John Gillis House No. 2 is not known. The interior of the William John Gillis House No. 1 however, is known to be intact. Based on the evaluation of the William John



Figure 48: William John Gillis House No. 2 (CD0210), Looking North.

Gillis House No 2 as contributing to a district, it is recommended that the William John Gillis House No. 1, which retains similar if not higher integrity, should be evaluated as eligible. Furthermore, the William John Gillis House No. 1 contains more intact associated outbuildings and retains a higher degree of integrity in terms of its association with its twentieth-century agricultural history.

Gillis Saw Mill (CD1491)

Due to the unique context of the Gillis Saw Mill, having been moved and relocated to a nearby location with a new shelter constructed around it, the resource was evaluated as an object and the integrity and significance of the machinery itself made the focus of the evaluation. For this reason, other resources in addition to saw mills were utilized as comparison properties for evaluation. These included other large agricultural implements, such as cotton presses and pottery kilns. The search was also expanded beyond Cumberland and neighboring counties in order to identify a greater number of comparable resources and to better identify resources with high integrity. Care was also taken to identify resources that had been moved and/or existed within reconstructed structures.

One example of relocated agricultural equipment with a reconstructed shelter is the Cotton Press (ED0007) located in Edgecombe County (Figure 49). The Cotton Press was originally constructed ca. 1840 and moved to its current location from a nearby plantation around 1938.⁶⁹ It was listed on the NRHP under Criteria A and C in 1971 and evaluated as a structure. It is described as “one of the few remaining examples of the type of machinery used by Southern cotton growers in the nineteenth century.”⁷⁰ The cotton press is a very well preserved example of an early and rare piece of agricultural equipment. While the Gillis Saw Mill is similar in that it is also an intact example of an agricultural complex, it does not rise to the level of individual eligibility like the that of the Cotton Press. Diesel power units were a twentieth century development for powering saw mills and are not as rare of a resource as a mid-nineteenth century cotton press. However, the saw mill still has the ability to contribute to the site it occupies on the William John Gillis Farmstead and is a part of the farm’s evolution from an early eighteenth century farmstead to a burgeoning twentieth century farm that periodically updated equipment in order to stay relevant in the agricultural industry.

HPOWeb revealed only 20 resources in the entire state when a search was conducted for “saw mill” and “sawmill,” three of which were noted as gone. These resources, however, were primarily surveyed for their structure rather than the equipment they sheltered. Furthermore, a high number of those within the central and eastern regions of North Carolina were shown to be in questionable condition or could not be identified using aerial images and streetviews provided by Google. For this reason, the search was broadened to identify extant saw mill equipment as opposed to focusing on saw mill structures/shelters. A resource that is not listed in HPOWeb but was suggested for comparison by Scott Power of the HPO’s Eastern Office is located at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. This is an example of a steam powered saw mill

⁶⁹ National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), Cotton Press, Edgecombe County, North Carolina, National Register #71000582.

⁷⁰ NRHP, Cotton Press, #71000582.



Figure 49: Cotton Press (ED0007), Looking West.

that was moved from Pitt County to the state fairgrounds around 2009. The buildings/shelters that originally stood over the mill equipment were documented, but were too deteriorated to continue to use, along with the boiler. The mechanism was reassembled as it once stood on the original site. Similar to this example, the Gillis saw mill (which was originally steam powered but is currently powered by an early twentieth century diesel power unit) was moved and reassembled at its present site in order to illustrate the function of the twentieth century machinery (Figures 50 and 51). Additionally, the saw mill mechanism appears to be similar to the Moffit Saw Mill found at the Gillis site.

The Gillis Saw Mill and the saw mill at the state fairgrounds have many similarities. Both were moved from their original site, and both have new, similarly constructed, open air shelters built around them. Therefore, both are very similar in terms of their level of integrity. They also function in similar capacities as working examples of farm equipment that now serve a more educational purpose in the realm of agritourism. The Gillis Saw Mill, however, though in a different physical location, was only moved a short distance, still being located on the farmstead it was originally associated with. The Gillis Saw Mill is also powered by a diesel power unit, a later technology than the steam powered equipment at the state fair grounds. Though the exact date of the switch from steam power to diesel is unknown, similar International



Figure 50: Saw Mill at State Fair Grounds, Saw Mill Mechanism.



Figure 51: Saw Mill at State Fair Grounds, Steam Engine and Boiler.

Harvester power units were ubiquitous in the 1940s.⁷¹ This switch is illustrative of the responsiveness of a small family farm to changing technologies, and shows how a resource like a saw mill may exhibit a mixture of technologies like the Moffit Saw Mill, dating to the early twentieth century, and a diesel powered engine, dating closer to the mid-twentieth century. Ultimately, the saw mill complex on the Gillis Farmstead is a small-scale example of the evolution the farmstead experienced, and therefore contributes to the history and integrity of the site.

Gillis Cotton Gin No. 2 (CD1492)

HPOWeb lists the only other cotton gin in Cumberland County as the Gillis Cotton Gin (CD0792) just southeast of the resource being evaluated here. The Gillis Cotton Gin (Figure 52), was also evaluated in this report and was recommended not eligible due to lack of integrity in 1998 and again in 2019. In an effort to find more examples with which to compare the Gillis Cotton Gin 2, surrounding counties were searched similarly scaled cotton gins from the time period, though certain gins from other parts of the state did serve as better examples.

One such example is the O. J. Smith Cotton Gin in Nash County (Figure 53). It is characterized as a “c. 1935 1-story side gabled building clad in corrugated metal” and includes a cotton gin building, a seed house, and a well. Similar to the Gillis Cotton Gin complex from the early to almost-mid twentieth century, this complex was recommended eligible under Criterion A and C. The complex itself remains intact with a large number of integral outbuildings all with sufficient integrity to collectively illustrate the historic practices that took place at the complex. Much like the O. J. Smith Cotton Gin, the Gillis Cotton Gin 2, though somewhat deteriorated, is associated with a larger farm complex. Furthermore, the Gillis Cotton Gin No. 2 still retains original driveshafts while the O. J. Smith Cotton Gin does not contain any original machinery.

The Davenport Cotton Gin (Figure 54) was constructed in the 1930s and is similar in scale and size to the Gillis Cotton Gin, though it is clad with wooden siding versus the Gillis Cotton Gin’s metal sheathing. This structure, though not formally evaluated, appears to retain more physical integrity than the Gillis complex.

Each of these examples display how early twentieth century cotton gins have withstood development and neglect over the years. The Gillis Cotton Gin No. 2 is smaller in size and likely operated as a gin primarily for the cotton grown on the Gillis Farm. It retains various original elements that contributes to the farmstead as a whole. For this reason, it is recommended eligible for the NRHP as a contributing resource to the William John Gillis House.

As for the additional dwelling, the Ranch-style house has been a part of the central parcel since ca. 1970 and appears to retain integrity but is a common example of the style. The associated outbuildings are either heavily reconstructed or recently moved to the farmstead from their original site and are not considered as contributing resources to the farmstead. Despite this, their presence does not detract from the property’s integrity and instead leads to an increased integrity

⁷¹ “International Power Units Brochure, 1940” McCormick – International Harvester Collection, Wisconsin Historical Society, accessed June 3, 2019, <https://wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Image/IM88710>.



Figure 52: Gillis Cotton Gin, CD0792, Looking Southwest.



Figure 53: O. J. Smith Cotton Gin, NS0513, Looking North.



Figure 54: Davenport Cotton Gin, ED0646, Looking Northwest.

of feeling and association for the farmstead as a whole. For these reasons, the William John Gillis House is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C for architecture, with contributing resources including the Gillis Saw Mill, and the Gillis Cotton Gin No. 2.

Criterion D

The William John Gillis Farmstead is recommended not eligible for the NRHP 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 and prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.

The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design and technology and is therefore not recommended eligible under Criterion D.

Criteria Consideration B

One of the farmstead's resources, the Gillis Saw Mill, is not recommended individually eligible for the NRHP under Criteria Consideration B (moved properties) though it does still contribute to the overall property. For a property to be eligible under Criteria Consideration B, it must meet one of two requirements: 1) the property is significant primarily for architectural value, or 2) it is the surviving property most importantly associated with a historic person or event.

The equipment of the Gillis Saw Mill was moved from the southern portion of the farmstead to the northern portion, roughly 0.1 miles. When moved, its shelter was not preserved and

eventually an open-air structure was built over it. Due to the loss of the original structure and a lack of documentation to dictate what that structure may have looked like, as well as the inability of the equipment to convey architectural significance, the saw mill is not eligible for its architectural value. Furthermore, as a resource contributing to a larger property, it is not the surviving property most importantly associated with a historic person or event and is therefore not recommended individually eligible under Criteria Consideration B.

NRHP Boundary Justification

The NRHP boundary for the William John Gillis Farmstead (Figure 55), 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 dwelling, landscape, and associated outbuildings that contribute to the property's setting. The NRHP boundary is identified as three current parcels: 9486-40-2513, 9486-40-0356, and 9486-30-9165 (Cumberland County PIN's), and extends to the edge of the pavement along its western boundary on Gillis Hill Road. The boundary contains approximately 9.07 acres.

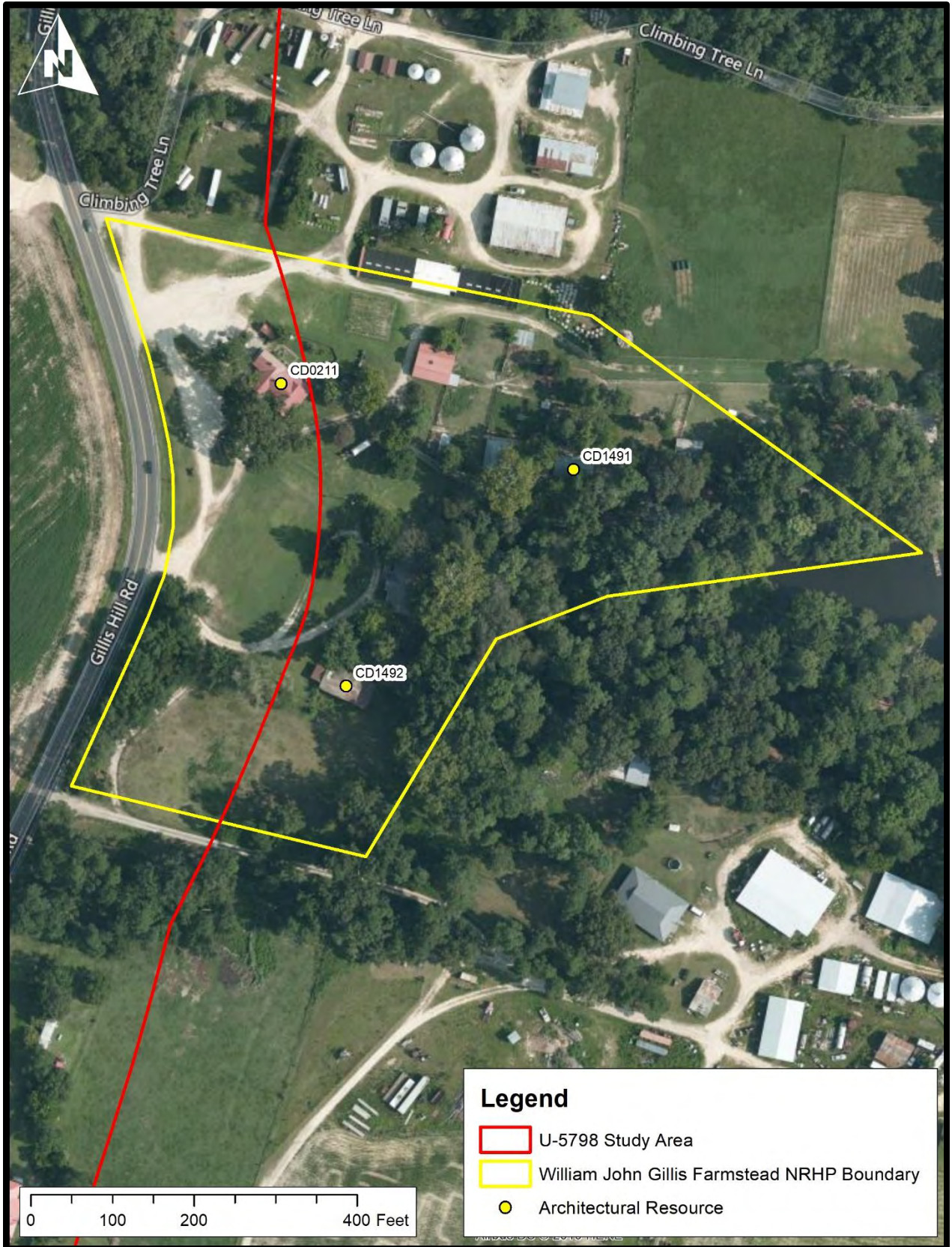


Figure 55: William John Gillis Farmstead, NRHP Boundary.

Resource Name:	McInnis House
NCDOT Survey Site Number:	002
HPO Survey Site Number:	CD0213
Location:	3039 Gillis Hill Road, Fayetteville, NC 28115
Parcel ID:	9485-27-1543
Dates(s) of Construction:	Ca.1850
Recommendation:	Eligible



Figure 56: McInnis House, Looking Northeast.

Setting

The McInnis House is located on the east side of Gillis Hill Road (SR 1102) approximately 0.25 miles south of an intersection with Stoney Point Road (SR 1112). The dwelling is oriented southwest toward Gillis Hill Road and a paved arched driveway placed at a semi-perpendicular angle connects the residence to the road. The driveway then extends north for 165 feet, running in front of the house, before connecting to Gillis Hill road at a second point. Opposite of the dwelling on Williamson Road is a wooded section of the parcel and two modern houses. Both houses are located on different parcels. Roughly 0.3 miles to the south is a modern residential development and 0.56 miles to the north on Gillis Hill Road is the William John Gillis House (CD0211), illustrating the mixture of historic architecture and modern residential growth in the area. Old growth trees are scattered across a manicured lawn in front of and to the rear of the dwelling (Figures 57 and 58). The parcel has an irregular shape, including the immediately adjacent cultivated land on the eastern side of Gillis Hill Road, and the wooded land on the opposite side of the road while excluding the two previously mentioned modern houses.

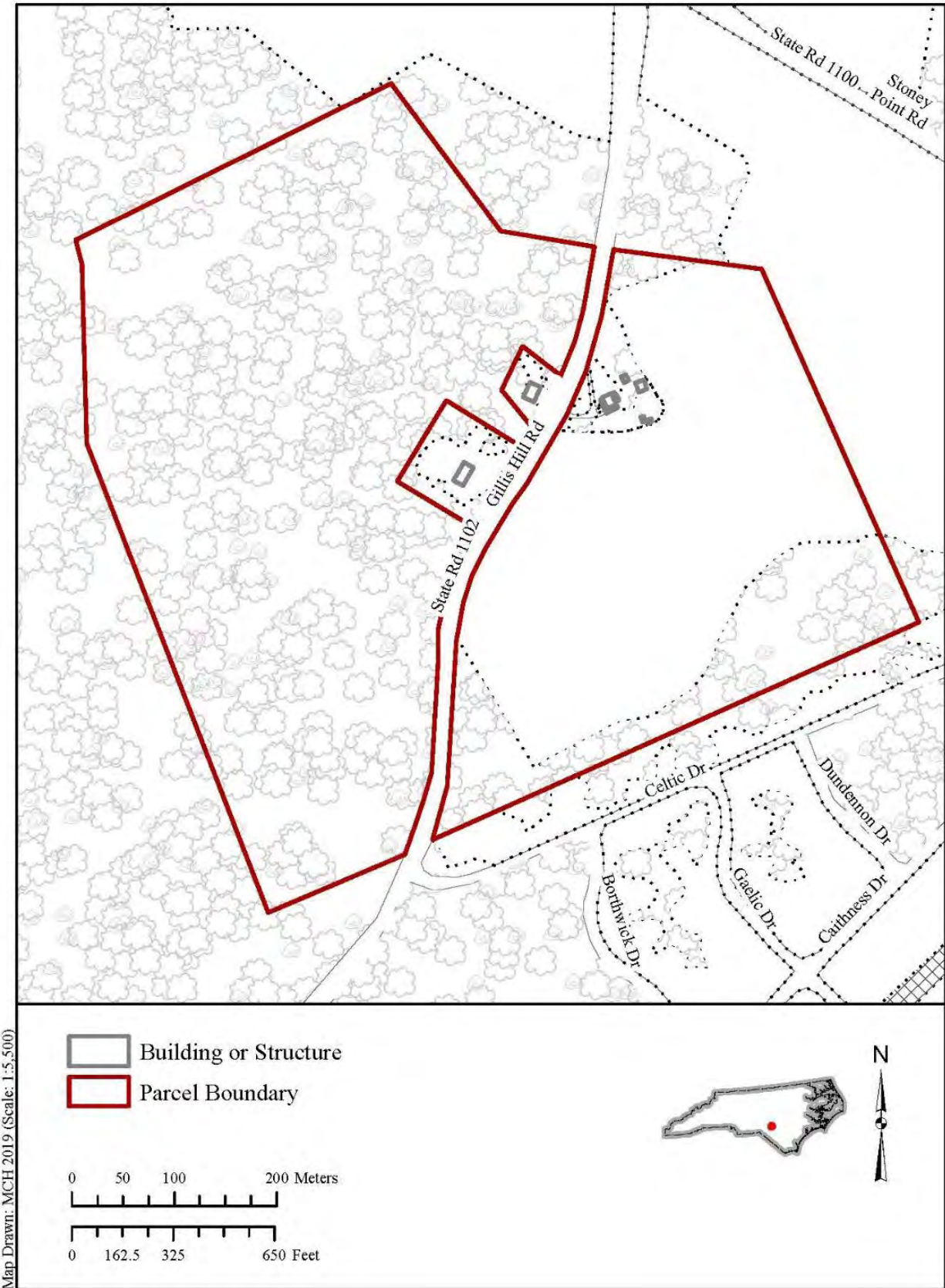


Figure 57: McInnis House Sketch Map.

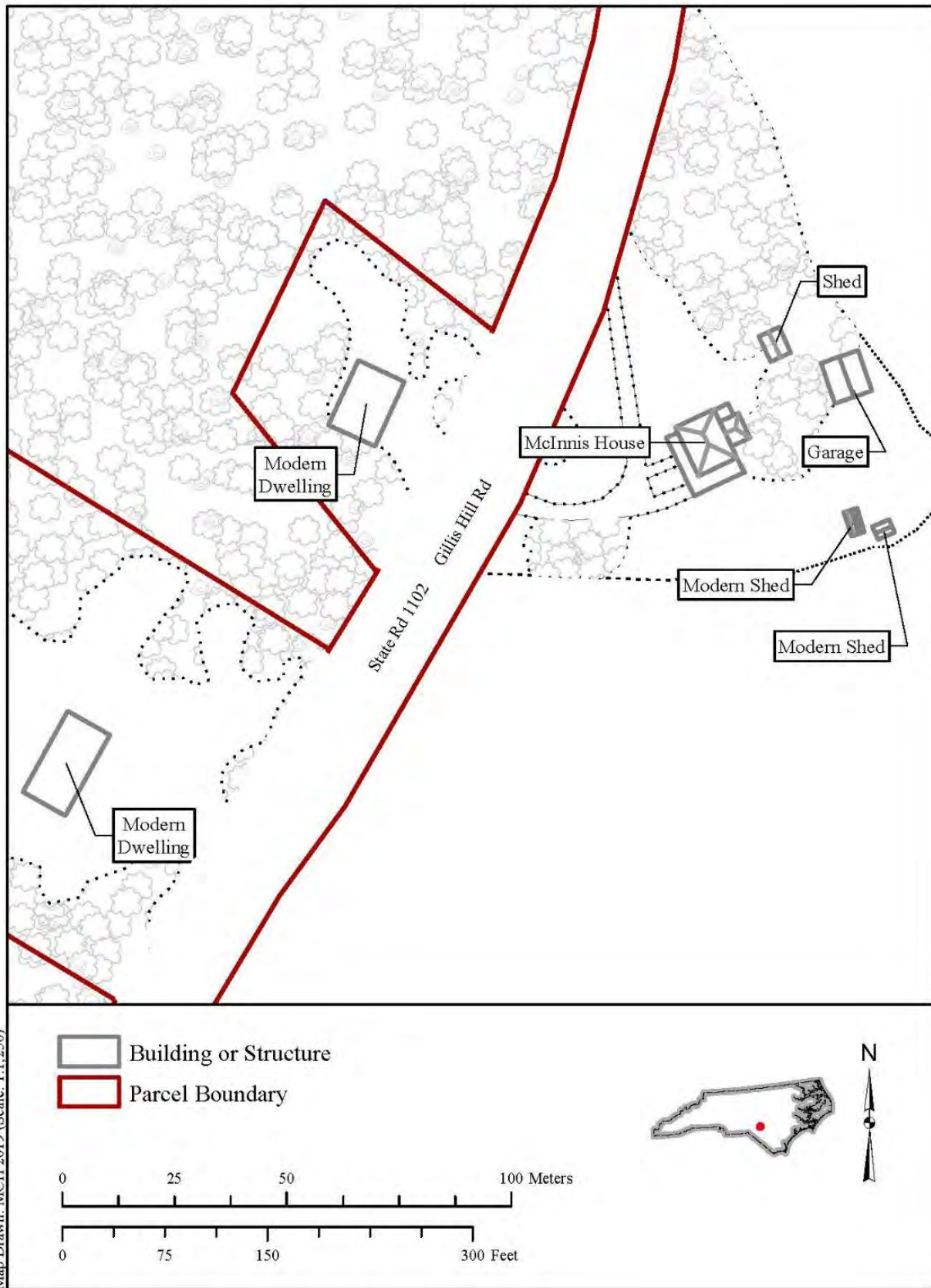


Figure 58: McInnis House, Close-Up Sketch Map.

Property Description

Exterior

The house is a one-story, hip-roofed dwelling of framed construction with Greek Revival elements, resting on a brick foundation, and clad in weatherboards and asphalt shingles. The façade faces southwest towards Gillis Hill Road. The house is a rare and relatively intact example of a double pile Greek Revival cottage in the county. It features two interior chimneys with somewhat decorative brick corbelling consisting of a single projecting brick course below several normal courses and finished with three courses of stepped bricks and a metal cap. The chimneys are located on the side-slopes of the roof reinforcing the symmetrical massing of the house. The house has a continuous hip-roofed porch that runs almost the entire length of the façade and retains original decorative lattice woodwork that is the dominant decorative feature of the façade. The porch shelters a symmetrical façade with a wooden entry door flanked by five-pane sidelights over recessed wooden panels and capped by a three-pane transom. On either side of the entryway are one-over-one replacement windows. Based on the existing site file and survey photos for this house from the late-1990s, original windows were wooden, nine-over-six, double-hung-sash windows. The porch is approached by a small set of brick steps (see Figure 56). A wing extends from the southeast (side) elevation of the dwelling creating a car port-like addition on the corner of the residence. The carport is comprised of decorative latticed support beams sitting on brick piers. The house does contain several small-scale additions, two on the rear elevation, and one on the southeast elevation that was just described.



Figure 59: McInnis House, Looking Southwest.

The northeast (rear) elevation contains a centrally located hip-roofed projection that is flanked on either side by modern additions (Figure 58). The addition to the north is a flat roofed-mid-2000s⁷² addition which contains a small one-over-one modern window.⁷³ To the south of the central projection is mid-1990s flat-roofed addition that sits on a brick foundation. This southern addition, however, is flush with the eastern footprint of the home, and projects slightly southeast rather than east. It is slightly shorter than the original block of the house. The central projection contains a pedestrian door flanked by rectangular one-over-one modern windows. A set of concrete steps provides access to this rear entrance.

The side elevation to the northwest is fairly plain in fenestration containing two one-over-one modern replacement windows and a shorter one-over-one modern window on the flat-roofed addition (Figure 60). The remaining side elevation to the southeast contains a flat-roofed projection slightly shorter than the original section of the home that connects to the roof of the carport (Figure 61). One small horizontally oriented window is located in the upper west section of the flat-roofed projection (Figure 62).



Figure 60: McNinnis House, Looking South.

⁷² Jackie McNinnis, interview with surveyor, May 8, 2019.

⁷³ HPO, Survey File, CD0213.



Figure 61: McInnis House, Looking Northwest.



Figure 62: McInnis House, Looking Northeast.

Interior

The homeowners did not permit access to the interior at the time of survey; however, they did share both historic and current photos of the interior and exterior with the surveyor.



Figure 63: McInnis House, Central Hall, Floorboard Detail, Looking Northeast (Neill McInnis, 2019).

Based on several interior photos provided by the homeowners (Neill and Jackie McInnis), the dwelling appears to retain a high level of integrity. Wide heart pine wood floors can be found throughout the house (Figure 63), and its central hall plan remains intact (Figure 64). Fireplace mantels also retain their integrity and exhibit detailing in keeping with the Greek Revival Style (Figure 65). The feathering found on two mantels was a common alternative to purchasing

expensive marble that may have been difficult to acquire (Figure 66). This practice of finishing wood mantels with a faux marble finish was typical of the Greek Revival Style.⁷⁴

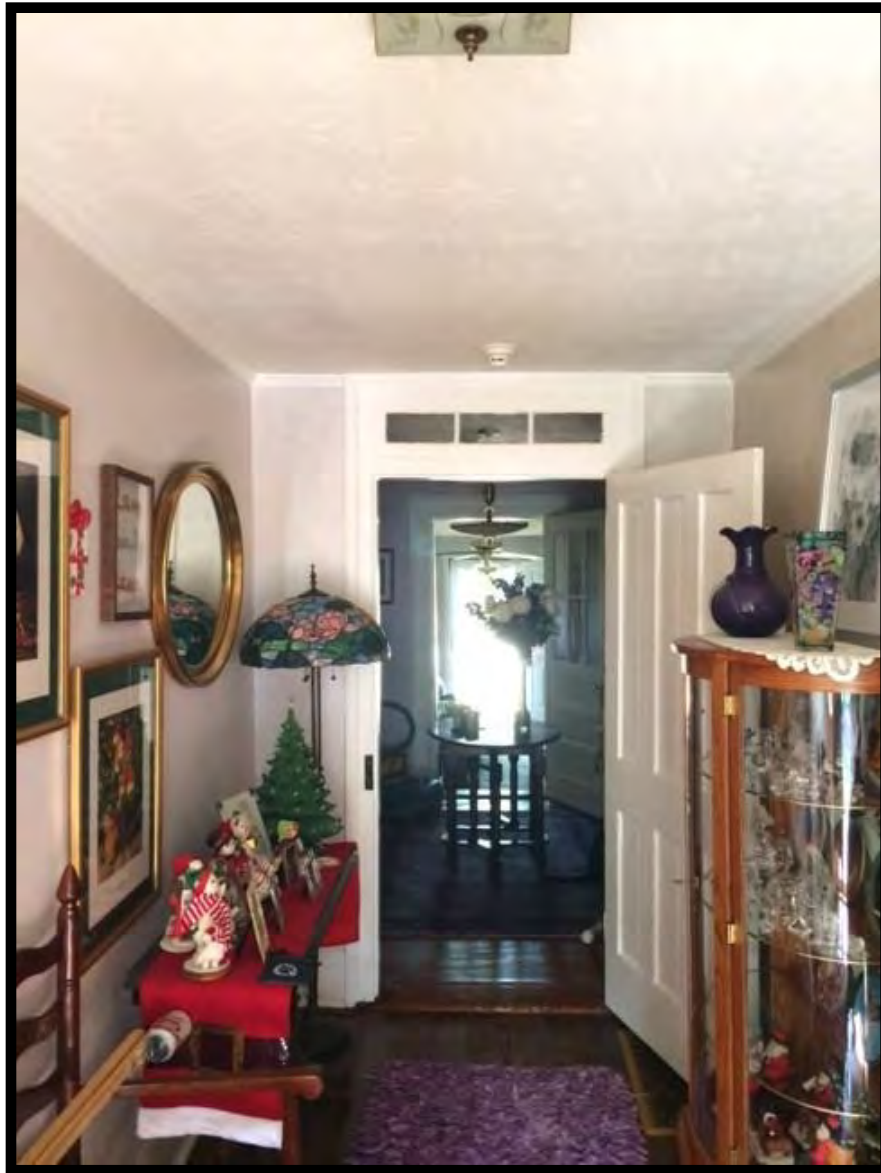


Figure 64: McInnis House, Central Hall, Looking Northeast (Neill McInnis, 2019).

⁷⁴ “The Beauty of the Mantel,” Old House Journal Online, last modified January 23, 2019, <https://www.oldhouseonline.com/interiors-and-decor/the-beauty-of-the-mantel>.



Figure 65: McInnis House, First Bedroom Mantel. (Neil McInnis, 2019)



Figure 66: McInnis House, Living Room Mantel. (Neill McInnis, 2019)

Ancillary Buildings

Ancillary structures associated with the dwelling include a ca. 1940 side-gabled structure, a three-car garage, two modern storage structures and an above ground swimming pool. The side-gabled structure appears to be the only historic structure of the ancillary buildings and is located just north of the dwelling. The structure is partially obstructed by overgrowth and displays some deterioration (Figure 67). The wood-frame structure is clad in a faux brick asphalt siding and has a metal clad roof with exposed rafters. Portions of the exterior replacement siding are missing, revealing flush wood board underneath. The structure sits on a raised concrete block foundation. What appears to be a door opening is located on the northernmost side of the western elevation, but no door is present. A window opening with a six-over-six wood sash window is located on the eastern elevation but obstructed by overgrown vegetation.



Figure 67: McInnis House, Shed, Looking Northeast.

A modern side-gabled three-car garage located northeast of (behind) the dwelling (Figure 68). The façade (southwest) is comprised of three paneled overhead metal doors. The exterior is clad in vinyl siding and the roof is finished with asphalt shingles. No other fenestration appears on other elevations.

The final two outbuildings on the property are modern storage structures located southeast of the dwelling. One is a side-gabled metal structure with its primary elevation facing north toward Gillis Hill Road (Figure 69), and the other is placed at a right angle to its counterpart and has a gambrel roof. Its primary entrances on its eastern elevation facing the agricultural fields to the north and east (Figure 70). Both structures have modern standing seam metal clad roofs and vertical wood board exteriors. They rest on raised concrete piers on a poured concrete slab. What appears to be a covered above ground pool is located just east of these two structures.



Figure 68: McInnis House, Modern Garage, Looking Southeast.



Figure 69: McInnis House, Side-Gabled Modern Storage Shed, Looking South.



Figure 70: McInnis House, Gambrel-Roofed Modern Storage Shed, Looking Southwest.

Historical Background

The McInnis Property is located in western Cumberland County. At the time, the area's residents were primarily subsistence farmers who planted vegetables, grains, and cotton and raised livestock for their own consumption and use. This was the case for the McInnis family. In 1880, 310 acres were associated with the McInnis Farmstead, most of which remained unimproved. 110 acres were used for cultivation and pasture and the land and buildings were valued at \$4000. In the late nineteenth century, the McInnis family owned hogs, sheep and cattle valued at \$200. They also farmed apples, peaches, sweet potatoes, wheat, oats and rye, and devoted thirty acres to corn for livestock and personal consumption.⁷⁵ What is unclear is if the described McInnis farm on the 1880 census is associated with the McInnis House that is the subject of this report. The original property owners were the Blue family, and the McInnis's appear to have been neighbors who, through marriage, eventually came into ownership of the land in the early 1890s. Today the property has shrunken to 86-acres, excluding the two modern homes directly across the street. These plots were divided in the early 1990s (Figure 71).⁷⁶

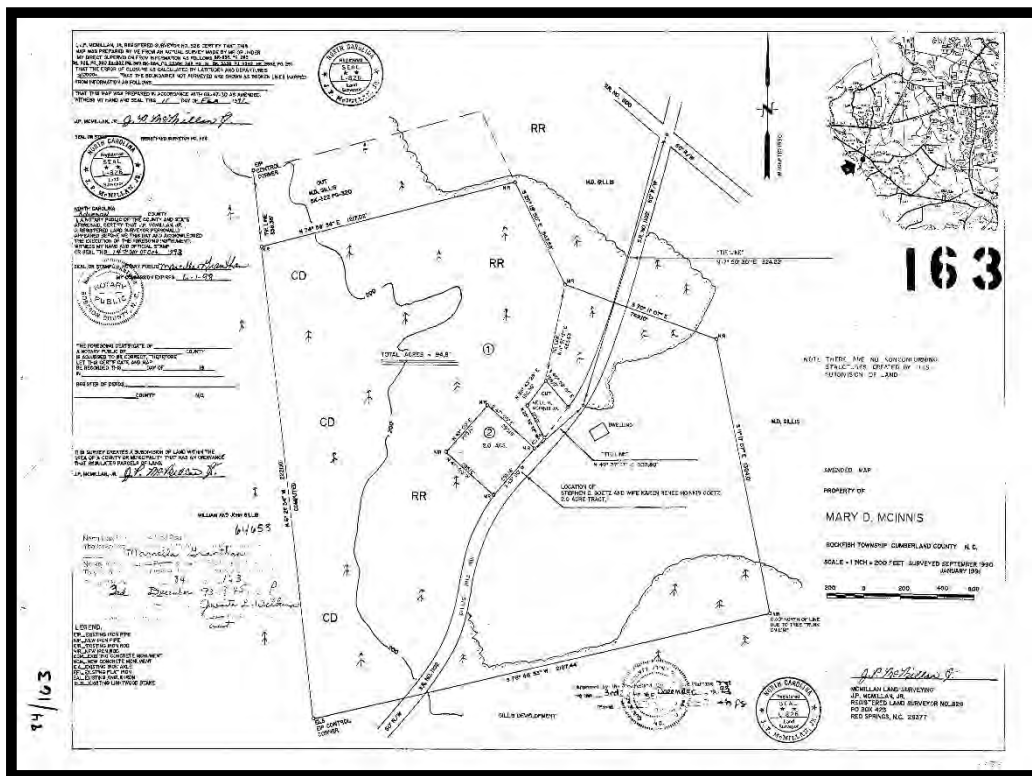


Figure 71: Surveyor Map of McInnis Property 1991 (Cumberland County Register of Deeds).

Also uncertain, is when the dwelling was constructed. According to its property tax record, the house was constructed in 1900. Its simple details and the fact that it was constructed with a detached kitchen,⁷⁷ however, indicate that it was likely constructed much earlier. An original

⁷⁵ HPO, Survey File, CD0213.

⁷⁶ Cumberland County Deed Book, 4048, page 165.

⁷⁷ HPO, Survey File, CD0213.

kitchen and dining room wing was located behind the house connected by a latticed breezeway.⁷⁸ Adding some credence to this theory is information relayed by the current owner of the home, stating it has been in the McInnis family for several generations and that it was constructed sometime around 1850. The present owner shared that his ancestors had memories of General Sherman marching through the area, suggesting that the structure is potentially antebellum.⁷⁹ These oral histories, however, are stories with no real documentation attached and do not necessarily match the reviewed deeds and other documentation cited for the purposes of this review. The owner also stated that hand hewn beams were visible in certain areas underneath the home, further supporting that the construction date would have predated access to or the use of pit or circular saw mills in the area, or that they were recycled from an earlier building or structure. Furthermore, the style, massing, and size of the home suggest that it would have been constructed sometime between 1825 and 1860, when the Greek Revival Style dominated the rural built environment of the south.⁸⁰

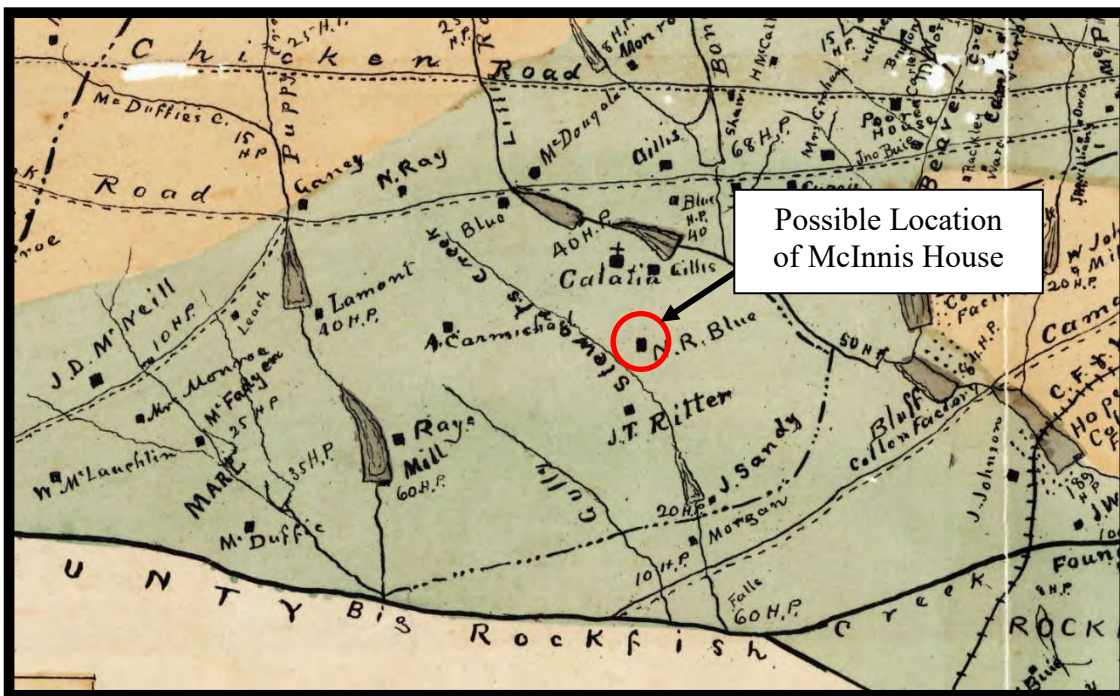


Figure 72: McDuffie's Map of Cumberland County, North Carolina, 1884 (North Carolina Maps).

Early maps of the area do not show any plots of land or dwellings marked with the name McInnis, but the presence of a dwelling in the vicinity of the farmstead is present on an 1884 map of Cumberland County (Figure 72). Based on its relationship to the Gillis property to the north, Stewarts Creek to the South, and the presence of a church in between them, this is roughly the area where the McInnis House is located. The residence, though, is marked with the name N.R. Blue. The Blue property likely belonged to Neill R. Blue, who was the owner of a plot of

⁷⁸ HPO, Survey File, CD0213.

⁷⁹ Neill Malcolm McInnis III, interview with surveyor, May 9, 2019.

⁸⁰ Virginia McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2018), 248.

land recorded as early as 1859.⁸¹ Born in 1821, he was a farmer in 1870 and owned his land, which was valued at \$1200, and a personal estate valued at \$750.⁸² He is shown as living in Cumberland County in the Rockfish vicinity, owning and farming land, as early as 1850.⁸³ Neill R. Blue died in 1891 and divided much of his land among his children including his oldest son Daniel A. Blue and his youngest son Kenneth A. Blue. According to the existing survey file, the latter was said to have constructed the McInnis House.⁸⁴



Figure 73: McInnis Family outside of McInnis House, Date Unknown (HPO, Survey File, CD0213).

The existing survey file for this property notes that the home was built by Dr. Kenneth Blue, and that his nephew, Neil McInnis, lived in the home. The house is referred to as the Blue-McInnis House in the site file for that reason.⁸⁵ According to census records, Kenneth Blue was born in 1867 and died in 1910.⁸⁶ A deed recorded in 1898, just eight years after Neill R. Blue died and bequeathed much of his land to his sons, shows a transfer of property for \$300 from D.A. Blue and Kenneth A. Blue to Angus McInnis, born about 1867.⁸⁷ Angus was the husband of Christian C. Blue McInnis, Kenneth's older sister. Christian and Angus had several children, one of which was named Neill (possibly the nephew mentioned in the existing site file). If he is indeed the builder of the home, it would seem likely that he built the house sometime between 1880 and 1898. He would have been in his late-teens to early-thirties during this time period. This was likely the line that introduced the McInnis family to this particular property and to the home. Christian McInnis died in 1900, shortly after the land was acquired, and

⁸¹ Cumberland County Deed Book 54, page 614.

⁸² Bureau of Census, *Ninth Census of the United States*, 1870.

⁸³ Bureau of Census, *Sixth Census of the United States*, 1850.

⁸⁴ HPO, Survey File, CD0213.

⁸⁵ HPO, Survey File, CD0213.

⁸⁶ "Kenneth A. Blue Sr.," Find-A-Grave, accessed May 21, 2019 "https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?dbid=60525&h=28783654&indiv=try&o_vc=Record:OtherRecord&rhSource=7163

⁸⁷ Cumberland County Deed Book 97, page 587; "Angus McInnis, North Carolina, Marriage Records, accessed June 6, 2019, https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=60548&h=327440&tid=&pid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=spT157&_phstart=successSource

Angus was remarried to Mary Elizabeth Jessup McInnis in 1904.⁸⁸ The first McInnis family who inhabited the house included Angus and his first wife and children, followed by his second wife Mary Elizabeth, along with the children from his two marriages.

After Angus McInnis died in the early 1930s, a deed from 1931 shows the conveyance of the land from Commissioner R.W. Herring to Nannie Mae McInnis, who was a daughter of Angus and Mary Elizabeth McInnis. Nannie Mae bid on and secured the property for \$200. The land was being auctioned at the courthouse in Fayetteville “under a judgement of the Superior Court of said County, in the special proceedings entitled Mary E. McInnis, Administratrix of the Estate of Angus McInnis, vs. McInnis, et al.”⁸⁹ No details concerning this case were found during the research process.

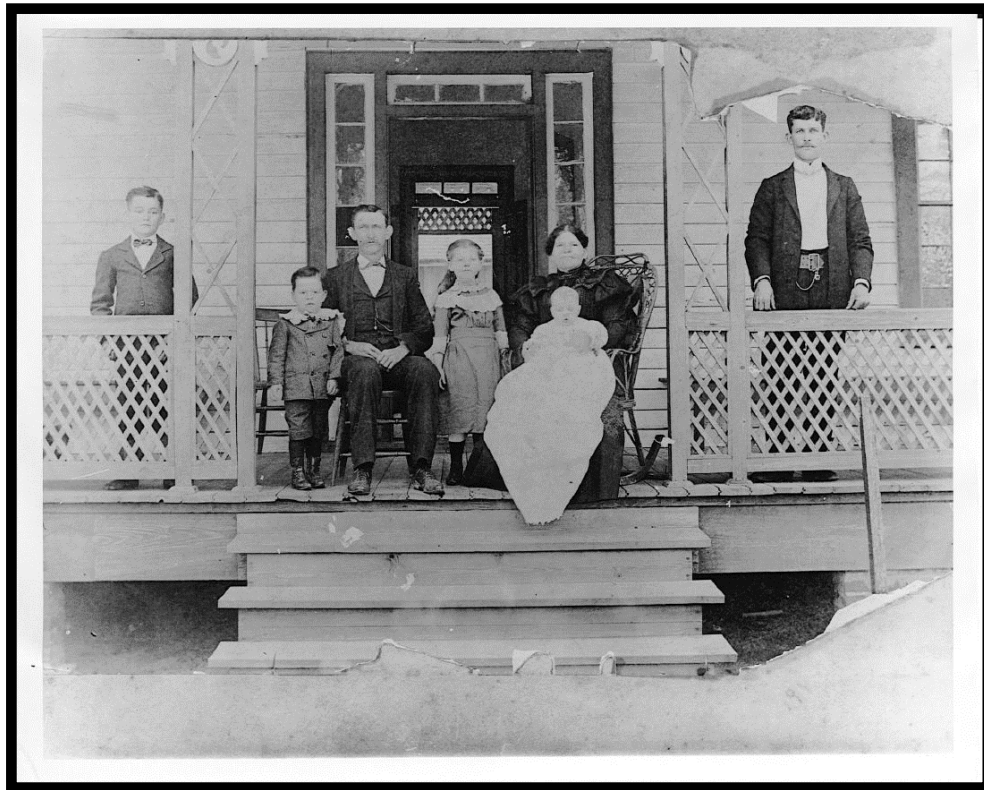


Figure 74: Possibly McInnis Family, ca. 1890 to 1900 (HPO, Survey File, CD0213).

⁸⁸ Ancestry.com, Accessed May 21, 2019, “Angus McInnis,” *North Carolina, Marriage Records, 1741-2011* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015.

⁸⁹ Cumberland County Deed Book 364, page 600.



Figure 75: McInnis Family Member outside of McInnis House, ca. 1890-1900 (Neill McInnis).



Figure 76: McInnis Family Member outside of McInnis House, ca. 1890-1900 (Neill McInnis).

The land seemed to change hands quickly several times within the family following its acquisition from the county. Just five days after Nannie Mae purchased the land at the auction, she deeded it to Mary E. McInnis, her widowed mother for “ten dollars and other good and valuable considerations.”⁹⁰ In 1935, just four years later, Mary E. McInnis and Nannie Mae McInnis conveyed the land to Mary Davis McInnis for ten dollars.⁹¹ This is likely Mary Davis Monroe McInnis, who was the wife of Neill Malcom McInnis (son of Angus McInnis and his first wife Christian), and the grandmother of the present owner, Neill Malcolm McInnis III. Neil Malcolm McInnis and Mary Davis Monroe McInnis have multiple listings of address at Route #3, Fayetteville (Figure 77), North Carolina including his draft card in 1942 and his death certificate in 1964 suggesting they lived in the home during the mid-twentieth century. Based on the 1993 survey map of the property, it was still owned by Mary D. McInnis in 1993 (see Figure 71). The current owner, Neill McInnis, was named power of attorney for Mary D. McInnis in 1990 and therefore took financial and legal responsibility for Mary’s property including the McInnis House.⁹² He presently lives in the home with his wife Jackie McInnis.

⁹⁰ Cumberland County Deed Book 357, Page 309.

⁹¹ Cumberland County Deed Book 386, page 142.

⁹² Cumberland County Deed Book 3629, page 539.

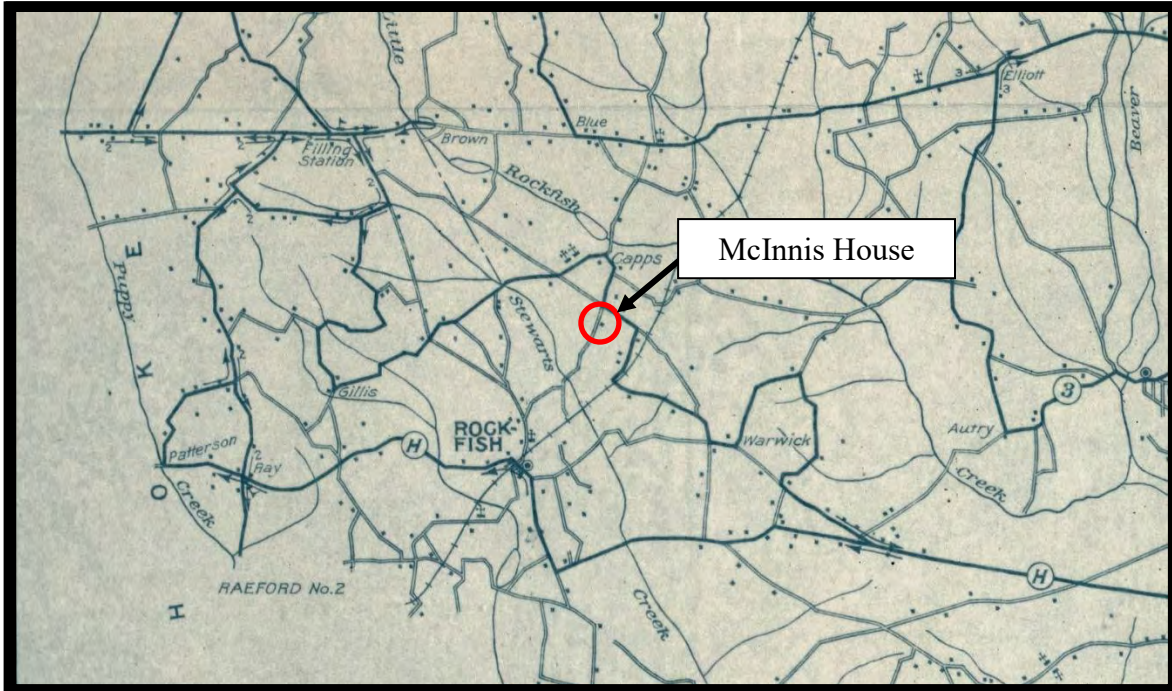


Figure 77: Rural Delivery Routes ca. 1920, Cumberland County (North Carolina Maps).

Within the last thirty years, the pace of commercial and residential development began to increase south of the parcel (Figures 78 and 79). Today, the parcel measures approximately 86 acres, excluding the two modern residences directly across the street to the west. Though a number of ancillary structures remain on the property, and some of the land appears to be actively cultivated, no substantial outbuildings remain that are representative of the property's association with agriculture.



Figure 78: 1993 Aerial Image (Google Earth Pro).

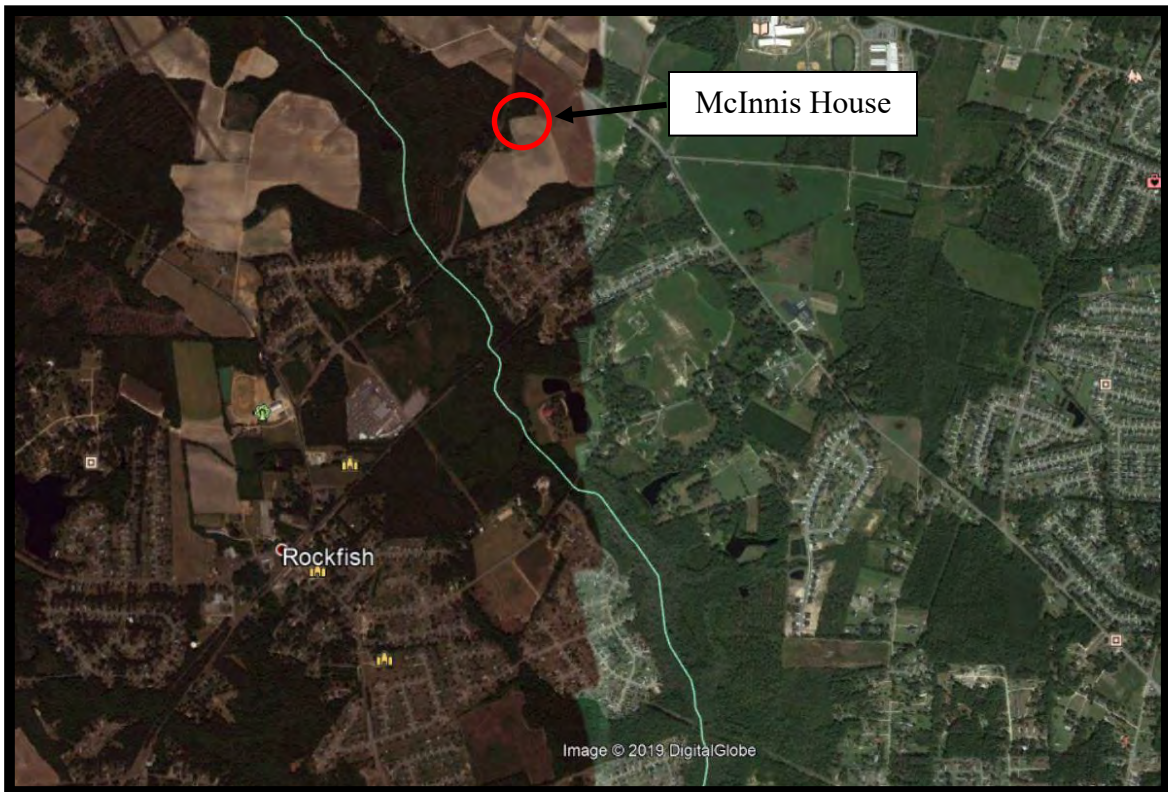


Figure 79: 2018 Aerial Image (Google Earth Pro).

NRHP Criteria Evaluation

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the McInnis House is recommended eligible for the NRHP.

Integrity

The dwelling remains in its original location and the area surrounding around it is now characterized by minimal commercial development to the north and planned neighborhoods to the south, its immediate setting has changed very little. The house retains a moderate level of historic integrity regarding design, materials, and workmanship. Although the house does contain additions, the overall massing and form of the home remains intact and visibly differentiated from the small-scale modern additions which are mostly located on the rear or side elevations of the house, minimally impacting its overall design. Original six-over-nine wood sash windows were removed and replaced with modern one-over-one windows throughout the house sometime after 1998, negatively impacting the integrity of the home. Intact features such as decorative lattice work porch, wooden siding, and overall roof shape with corbelled chimneys are still expressed. The existing site file for the McInnis House states that a detached kitchen and dining room was located south of the dwelling and was connected by a lattice breezeway. A one-bay wing and carport that was added in the 1990s located on the south elevation of the home, minimally changing the appearance of the façade. A centrally located rear addition was added roughly in the same area as the former detached kitchen, though it is not known when this addition was added. The area immediately surrounding the house is still utilized for farming, but no outbuildings survive from the historic period with the exception of a ca. 1940 structure behind the house. The lack of outbuildings compromises its association with early twentieth-century agricultural practices and its feeling as a rural homestead but does not detract from the architectural integrity of the dwelling alone.

Criterion A

The McInnis House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP 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 prehistory or history or pattern of events or historic trends 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.

The McInnis Farmstead is historically associated with general farming in Cumberland County, resulting in an expectation of both animal and crop storage facilities as well as agricultural fields. Cultivated fields still exist, but no outbuildings from the historic period are extant or retain sufficient integrity in order to allow the McInnis farmstead to convey historic farming practices. The effect is a loss of historic integrity relating to setting and design of a farm complex. Therefore, this resource is not a good embodiment of historical agricultural activity in Cumberland County. No other pattern of events was identified for the property and therefore it is recommended not eligible under Criterion A.

Criterion B

The McInnis House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP 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.

The property is historically associated with the McInnis family, whose productive life was spent maintaining the family farm. Research did not reveal their activities to be historically significant within the local, state, or national historic context. Therefore, the property is recommended not eligible under Criterion B.

Criterion C

The McInnis House is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C (design/construction). 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.

The McInnis House is representative of an early example of a Greek Revival cottage with a center-hall plan and a symmetrical hipped roof. This style was particularly popular in this part of the county in the mid-nineteenth century. The modest dwelling differs from typical Greek Revival-style dwellings in that it is only one-story and is a more modest interpretation of the style rather than elaborate multi-story Greek Revival dwellings found in the area. Despite changes and alterations described in the integrity section above, the dwelling retains integral early twentieth-century features like its lattice work porch, original wooden siding, corner pilasters, wide frieze boards, and sidelights and transom in the entryway.

HPOWeb lists 16 Greek Revival-style resources in Cumberland County, all of which are located in Fayetteville or on the western or northern boundaries of the county, most of which are listed on the NRHP. Many of these serve as larger, more articulated versions of the style with more stylized details and more than one story. Additionally, none of these examples were similar in composition to the McInnis House as a hip-roofed, one-story cottage. In an effort to find a more similarly scaled example, surrounding counties were also searched for similar criteria. One example was identified in Bladen County and is the Robeson-Stevens House (BL0233) located 437 Lloyd Road in Council (Figure 80). Constructed ca. 1839, the dwelling is an example of a one-story, hip-roofed, frame Greek Revival residence. The house, however, appears to be less well preserved than the McInnis House, and was possibly vacant at the time it was visited by the surveyor. It has a hip-roofed front and side porch, differing from the McInnis House in this way. The porch is supported by square pilasters on the primary façade, and Doric columns on the side elevation. It has a central entry door with flanking sidelights and a five-pane transom. Like the McInnis House, it still maintains its original siding. Unlike the McInnis House, it also retains its original windows. Additionally, the Robeson-Stevens house appears to have additions placed on the rear elevations, but is still considered eligible under Criterion C. The dwelling retains many

Greek Revival-style features and serves as a similar, though slightly larger and possibly earlier example of the style.



Figure 80: Robeson-Stevens House (BL0233), Looking Northwest.

Another similar example was found in Scotland County. Recorded in HPOWeb as the James L. Cooley House (SC0039), this residence is a similar example in that it is a one-story frame Greek Revival dwelling with a hipped roof. The Cooley House shares several architectural characteristics of the McInnis House including a hipped roof, transom and sidelights, and a shed-roofed porch (Figure 81). The house is located within the Spring Hill Historic District. It differs from the McInnis House in that it is slightly larger and retains many of its associated outbuildings and appears to still function in an agricultural capacity. The home appears to retain its original weatherboard siding, porch details, and chimneys, much like the McInnis House. This house also appears to have one-over-one replacement windows.



Figure 81: James L. Cooley House (SC0039), Looking Northeast.

Each of these examples displays slightly different interpretations of the popular Greek Revival style in the area surrounding Cumberland County. Additionally, they are both exemplary of mid-nineteenth-century dwellings which have been modified with new materials but in doing so have retained of their original character.

As for the outbuildings, the ca.1940 outbuilding appears to be in a state of disrepair with deteriorated siding and substantial vegetative overgrowth, while the garage and other outbuildings do not appear to date from the historic period. However, the house alone retains sufficient integrity in conveying its architectural significance as an early and intact example of a Greek Revival-style cottage. Additionally, the existing survey file for this resource indicates it was evaluated in 1998 in the Fayetteville Outer Loop Historic Structures Survey Report and recommended eligible (with HPO concurrence) under Criterion C as “...an extremely rare surviving example of nineteenth-century rural domestic architecture in Cumberland County...”⁹³ Though some changes has been made since this evaluation, Commonwealth maintains that this property is still eligible for the NRHP.

For these reasons, the McInnis House is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C for architecture.

⁹³ HPO, Survey File, CD0213.

Criterion D

The McInnis Farmstead is recommended not eligible for the NRHP 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 and prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.

The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design and technology and is therefore not recommended eligible under Criterion D.

NRHP Boundary Justification

The NRHP boundary for the McInnis House (Figure 82), 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 dwelling, landscape, and associated outbuildings that contribute to the property's setting. The NRHP boundary is identified as the current parcel 9485-27-1543 (Cumberland County PIN's). The boundary contains approximately 86 acres.

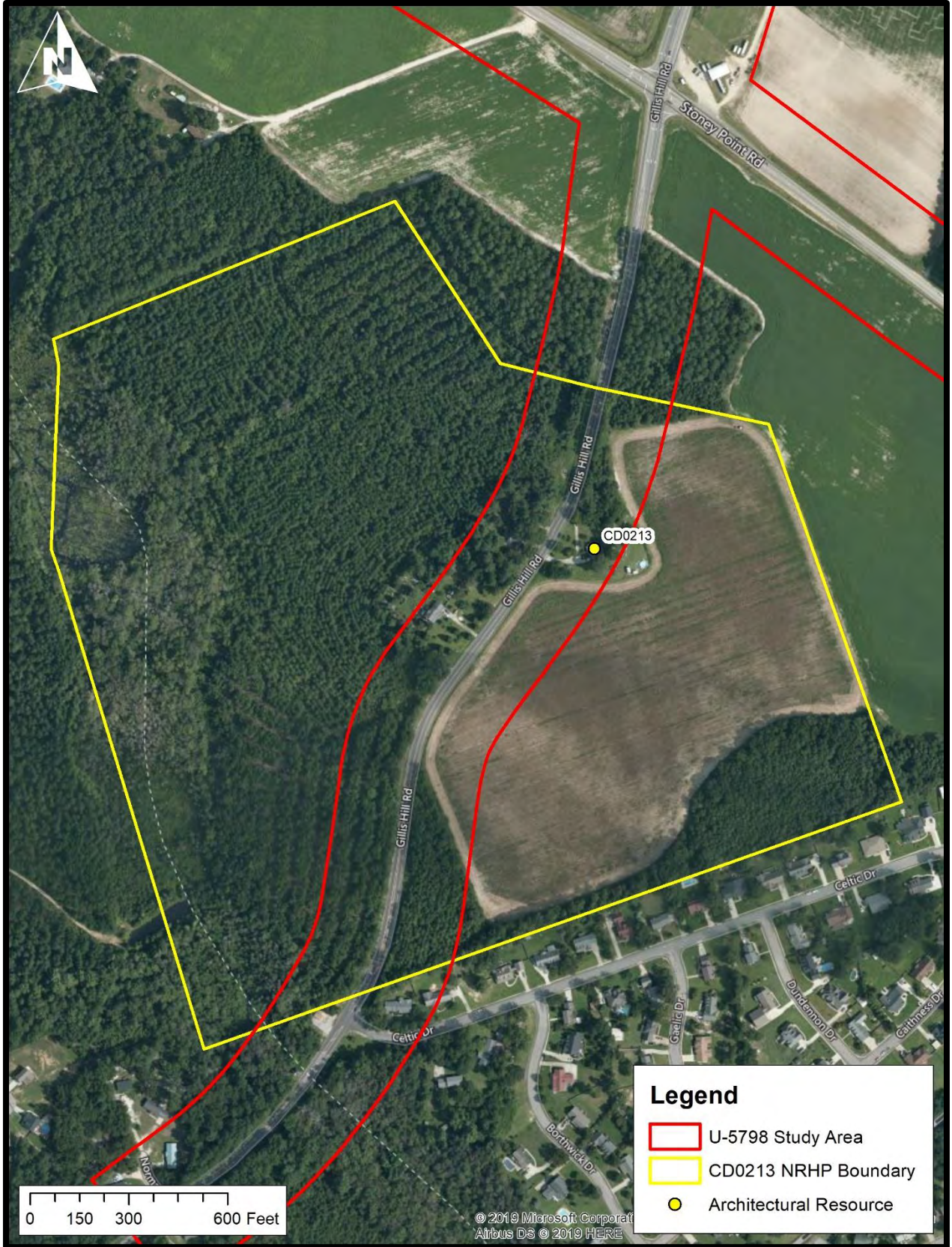


Figure 82: McNinnis House, NRHP Boundary.

Resource Name:	Gillis Cotton Gin
NCDOT Survey Site Number:	003
HPO Survey Site Number:	CD0792
Location:	Stoney Point Road, Fayetteville, NC 28115
Parcel ID:	9485-47-4430
Dates(s) of Construction:	Ca. 1920
Recommendation:	Not Eligible



Figure 83: Gillis Cotton Gin, Structure, Looking Southwest.

Setting

This abandoned cotton gin complex is located on the southwest side of Stoney Point Road just north of an intersection with Strickland Bridge Road and the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad line (Figure 83). The complex consists of a collection of outbuildings that begin approximately 200 feet from Stoney Point Road. A partially cleared path extends about 150 feet from the road toward the complex. The path terminates in a clearing before the area surrounding the buildings becomes overgrown and largely inaccessible. Opposite of the cluster of buildings on Stoney Point Road are large tracts of agricultural fields. To the southeast, across the railroad line, is a concentration of modern buildings, including a furniture repair store. A ca. 1990 residential development is located to the southwest of (behind) the cotton gin complex and is visually separated from the agricultural buildings by a heavily forested section of the parcel (Figures 84 and 85).

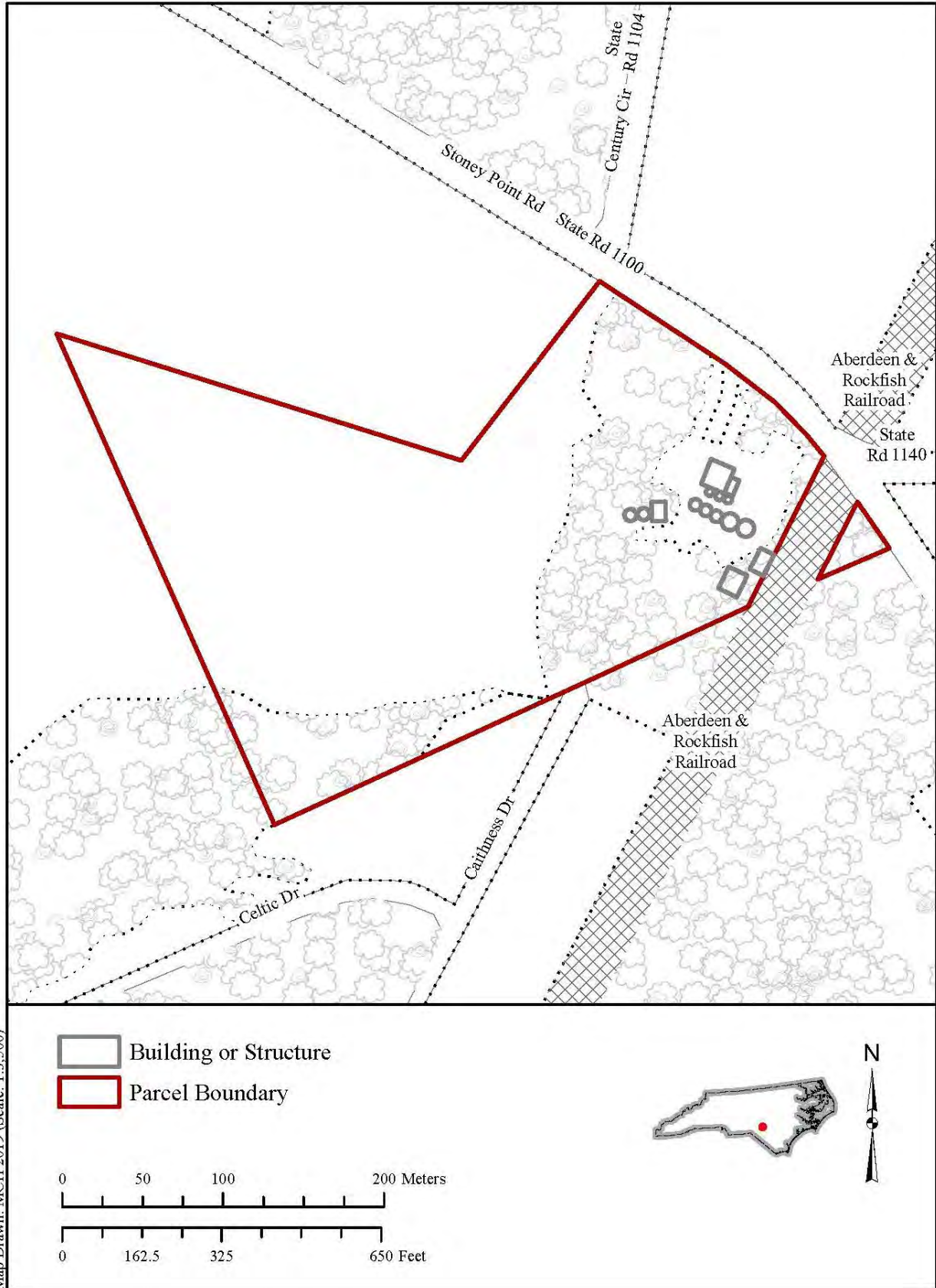


Figure 84: Gillis Cotton Gin Sketch Map.

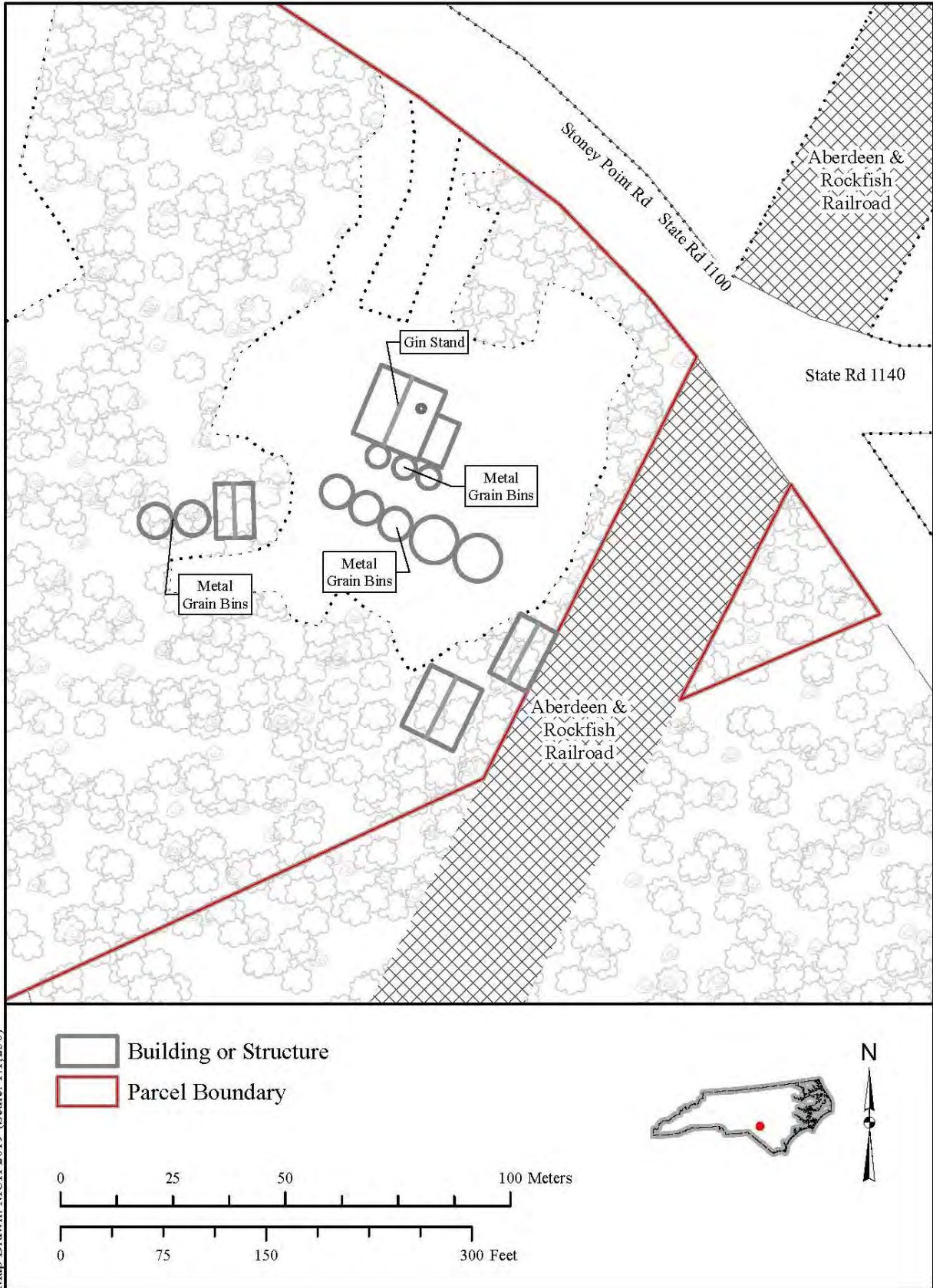


Figure 85: Gillis Cotton Gin, Close-Up of Structures Sketch Map.

Property Description

Gin Stand Exterior

The largest structure on the property is a one-story cotton gin stand shelter with a vertical metal clad exterior and a metal clad roof. The structure is front gabled with its primary access point facing northeast toward Stoney Point Road (See Figure 83). A slightly recessed sliding door provides access to the interior of the main room of the structure, and a roof projection extends from the eastern roof slope. On the eastern elevation, a smaller enclosed projection and a dropped shed roof open-air wing span much of the elevation (Figure 86). The northwest elevation contains a continuous shed roof projection with a secondary opening, not accessible from the exterior (Figure 87). The rear (south) elevation is obstructed by metal storage bins and vegetation (Figure 88) and is not visible from any angle.



Figure 86: Gillis Cotton Gin, Open Air Wing on Eastern Elevation, Looking Southeast.



Figure 87: Gillis Cotton Gin, Gin Stand Shelter, Looking Southeast.



Figure 88: Gillis Cotton Gin, Metal Storage Bins, Looking Northwest.

Interior

The interior of the cotton gin shelter was accessible through the primary entrance by a set of wooden steps. This entrance opens into the main room of the structure containing various pieces of machinery associated with the gin (Figures 89 and 90). Wooden and metal cladding appear newer, but the structure does appear abandoned. Electrical sockets also appear throughout the structure suggesting it was updated sometime in the mid-to-late twentieth century. This room is connected through an opening in the eastern wall to a smaller secondary room containing a funnel-like structure (Figure 91). Some wood on the interior does appear to be modern, suggesting it was stabilized in the recent past.



Figure 89: Gillis Cotton Gin, Interior Main Room, Looking Southwest.



Figure 90: Gillis Cotton Gin, Interior Main Room and Machinery, Looking West.



Figure 91: Gillis Cotton Gin, Interior Secondary Room, Looking Southwest.

Ancillary Buildings

Ancillary structures associated with the cotton gin include a front-gabled shelter, a total of eight visible metal storage bins of various sizes, and two extant structures that were inaccessible and essentially not visible due to severe overgrowth of vegetation. The structure that was not completely visually obstructed was only visible from its southeastern elevation adjacent to the railroad. Based on previous survey documentation, it appears that this structure is possibly the old seed house.⁹⁴ The gabled structure is clad in ribbed metal siding, but multiple panels are missing revealing the wooden frame structure beneath. It sits on a raised brick pier foundation. The roof is also clad in metal. The northwest façade is completely obstructed by vegetation and its current state is not known, however, the building overall exhibits severe deterioration (Figure 92). Based on recent aerials of the parcel, two additional extant structures and two metal storage bins are located to the southwest and northwest of the primary building on the complex. However, neither of these structures were accessible, and at best, were only partially visible from areas on the site (Figures 93 and 94). Other structures documented in the 1998 survey, including a feed shed, general purpose shed, and tobacco barn, appear to no longer be extant.



Figure 92: Gillis Cotton Gin, Possible Seed House, Looking West.

⁹⁴ HPO, Survey File, CD0792.



Figure 93: Gillis Cotton Gin, Partial View of Inaccessible Structure, Looking South.



Figure 94: Gillis Cotton Gin, View of Inaccessible Structure and Additional Storage Bins (based on aerials), Looking South.

Historical Background

The Gillis Cotton Gin is located in western Cumberland County, which officially formed in 1754 from a political division of Bladen County to the south. At the time, the area's residents were primarily subsistence farmers who planted vegetables, grains, and cotton and raised stock for their own consumption and use. Cotton, however, was the dominant industry. By 1884, several cotton factories were present in the area including the Bluff Cotton Factory, Beaver Creek Cotton Factory, and the Hope Mills Cotton Factory (Figure 95). These were all present several decades prior to the supposed construction of the Gillis Cotton Gin. Today the Gillis Cotton Gin sits on approximately 23 acres of land. The existing survey file for this property contains little information outside of a sketch map showing the location of extant buildings in relation to the nearby railroad. Many of these buildings appear to be no longer extant or are no longer accessible.

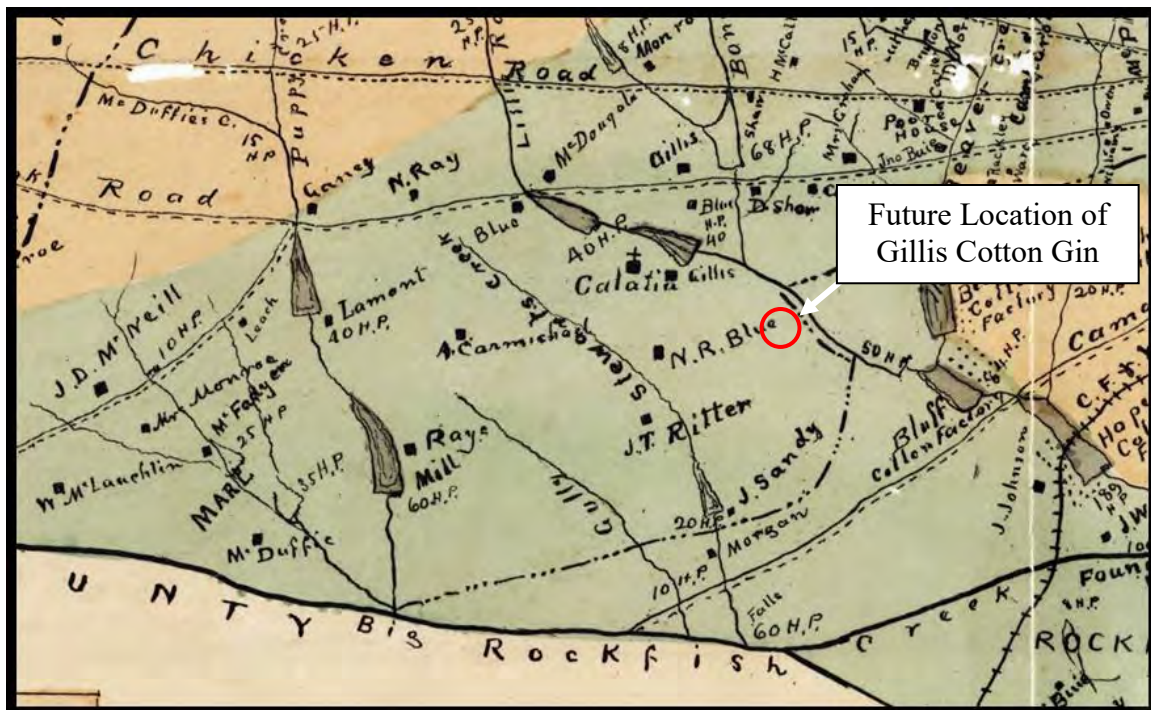


Figure 95: McDuffie's Map of Cumberland County, North Carolina, 1884 (North Carolina Maps).

Also, uncertain, is when cotton gin was constructed. According to Mr. John Davis Gillis II, a relative of the present owners of the property, this particular gin dates to ca. 1920.⁹⁵ Based on historic maps, it appears that the site that would eventually be occupied by the Gillis Cotton Gin was originally part of the N. R. Blue property as early as 1884. A structure is present on a 1922 soil map of Cumberland County (Figure 96), suggesting that John Gillis is accurate in his statement.

⁹⁵ John Davis Gillis II, Interview with surveyor, May 7, 2019.

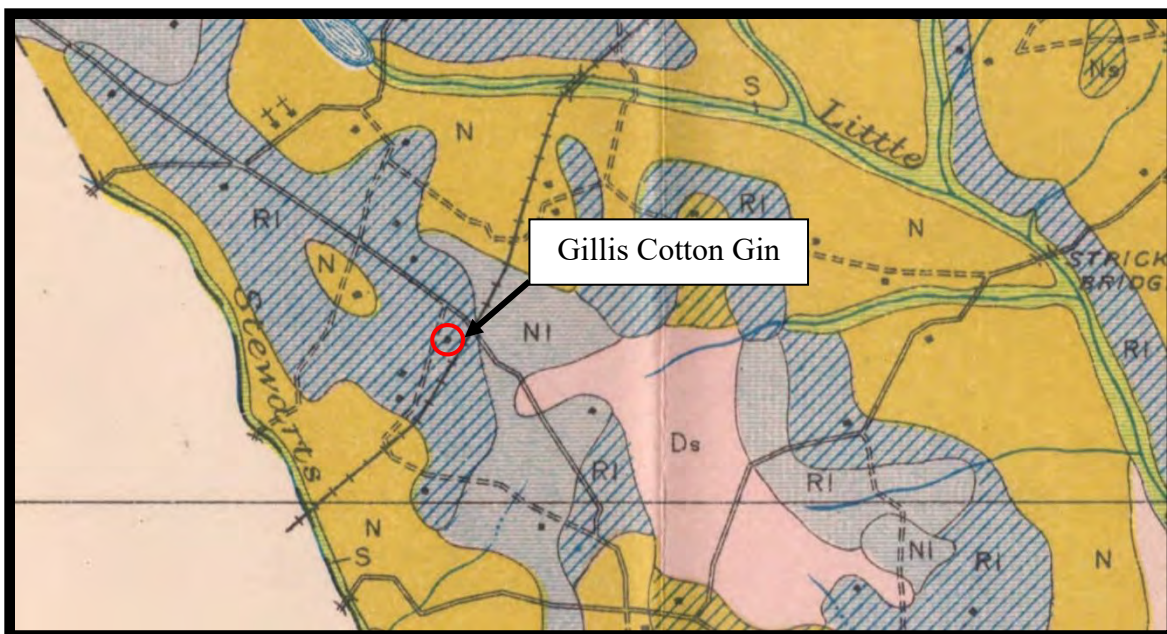


Figure 96: Soil Map, North Carolina, Cumberland County, 1922 (North Carolina Maps).

The land that the cotton gin stands on today originally belonged to N. R. Blue. The Blue property likely belonged to Neill R. Blue, who was the owner of a plot of land recorded as early as 1859.⁹⁶ Born in 1821, he was a farmer in 1870 and owned his land which was valued at \$1200 and his personal estate was valued at \$750.⁹⁷ He is shown as living in Cumberland County in the Rockfish vicinity, owning and farming land, as early as 1850.⁹⁸ Neill R. Blue died in 1891 and divided much of his land among his children including his oldest son, Daniel A. Blue, and his youngest son, Kenneth A. Blue, who was said to have constructed the McInnis House (CD0213).⁹⁹ This land is also described in the evaluation of the McInnis House, which is located just west of the Gillis Cotton Gin. In 1898, it was noted that a portion of the land bequeathed to Daniel and Kenneth was deeded to Angus McInnis.¹⁰⁰ It appears that Angus deeded the eastern portion of this land to the branch of the Gillis family that started the gin.

A deed from 1925 conveyed land from Angus McInnis and his wife Mary E. McInnis to M.D. Gillis.¹⁰¹ M. D. Gillis was likely Malcolm Dobbins Gillis, who was born around 1885 and died

⁹⁶ Cumberland County Deed Book 54, page 614.

⁹⁷ Bureau of Census, *Ninth Census of the United States*, 1870.

⁹⁸ Bureau of Census, *Sixth Census of the United States*, 1850.

⁹⁹ HPO, Survey File, CD0213.

¹⁰⁰ Cumberland County Deed Book 97, page 587.

¹⁰¹ Cumberland County Deed Book 322, page 320.

in 1936 at the age of 52.¹⁰² His wife, Elizabeth Harmon Gillis, lived until 1983.¹⁰³ The two were married in 1910 in Cumberland County.¹⁰⁴

The gin, supposedly constructed around 1920, is larger than most of the older gins in the surrounding area. Post-Civil War cotton ginning was widely characterized by a shift from small plantation oriented ginning practices to public gins that served large numbers in the surrounding community.¹⁰⁵ This would be typical of a cotton gin complex during this time period to have multiple functions acting on a single site. After the passage of the United States Warehouse Act in 1916, federally regulated cotton warehouses under private ownership were constructed throughout the southeast. While some ginning operations included seasonal work, such as ice manufacturing in the summer and coal in the winter, others also operated grist and sawmills.¹⁰⁶

Based on the 1938 Cumberland County Highway Map, the latter seemed to be the case for the Gillis Cotton Gin (Figure 97). Additionally, a 1916 newspaper article mentions the incorporation of the Gillis-Ray Company, a general mercantile and ginning business. Its authorized capital was \$20,000 and the incorporators were M.D. Gillis, W.J. Gillis (possibly William John Gillis of CD0211), and M.G. Ray.¹⁰⁷ A “Ray Mill” is also shown on the 1884 map of Cumberland County (see Figure 84) and the two were likely neighbors with established families. Though this incorporation date is slightly earlier than the deed to Malcolm Gillis and the suggested date of the gins’ construction, it seems likely that this company is associated with the Gillis Cotton Gin in question here.

By 1938, the Cumberland County Highway Map also indicates that the site was functioning as a small business establishment with a saw mill, a farm unit, and a non-farm or tenant house (see Figure 97).¹⁰⁸ In 1959 and 1960, Malcolm D. Jr., son of Malcom D. Gillis and Elizabeth Harmon Gillis, was listed in the Fayetteville City Directory as operating Southern Ginning and Grain Company on RD 3.¹⁰⁹ Also referred to as Southern Gin and Grain, the company was started by the Gillis family in 1957. The store sold “pet supplies and food, animal feed, lawn and garden

¹⁰² “Malcolm Dobbins Gillis,” Find-A-Grave, accessed May 21, 2019

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/68304934>

¹⁰³ “Malcolm Dobbins Gillis,” Find-A-Grave, accessed May 21, 2019

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/683049344>

¹⁰⁴ “MD Gillis and Elizabeth Harmon,” North Carolina, Marriage Records, 1741-2011, Accessed May 21, 2019,

[https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-](https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?dbid=60548&h=4182317&indiv=try&o_vc=Record:OtherRecord&rhSource=60525)

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¹⁰⁵ Charles Aiken, “The Evolution of Cotton Ginning in the Southeastern United States,” *Geographical Review* Vol 63 No. 2 (April 1973), 196-224.

¹⁰⁶ Aiken, “The Evolution of Cotton Ginning in the Southeastern United States,” 196-224.

¹⁰⁷ “Incorporations,” *The State Journal*, February 11, 1916, page 2.

¹⁰⁸ Cumberland County Highway Map Key, 1938, North Carolina Maps.

¹⁰⁹ “U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995” for Malcom D Gillis 1959, accessed May 21, 2019,

https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/2469/12413594?pid=716751642&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?dbid%3D2469%26h%3D716751642%26indiv%3Dtry%26o_vc%3DRecord:OtherRecord%26rhSource%3D60548&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&_ga=2.45673124.1047514447.1559166251-2147483140.1529504647

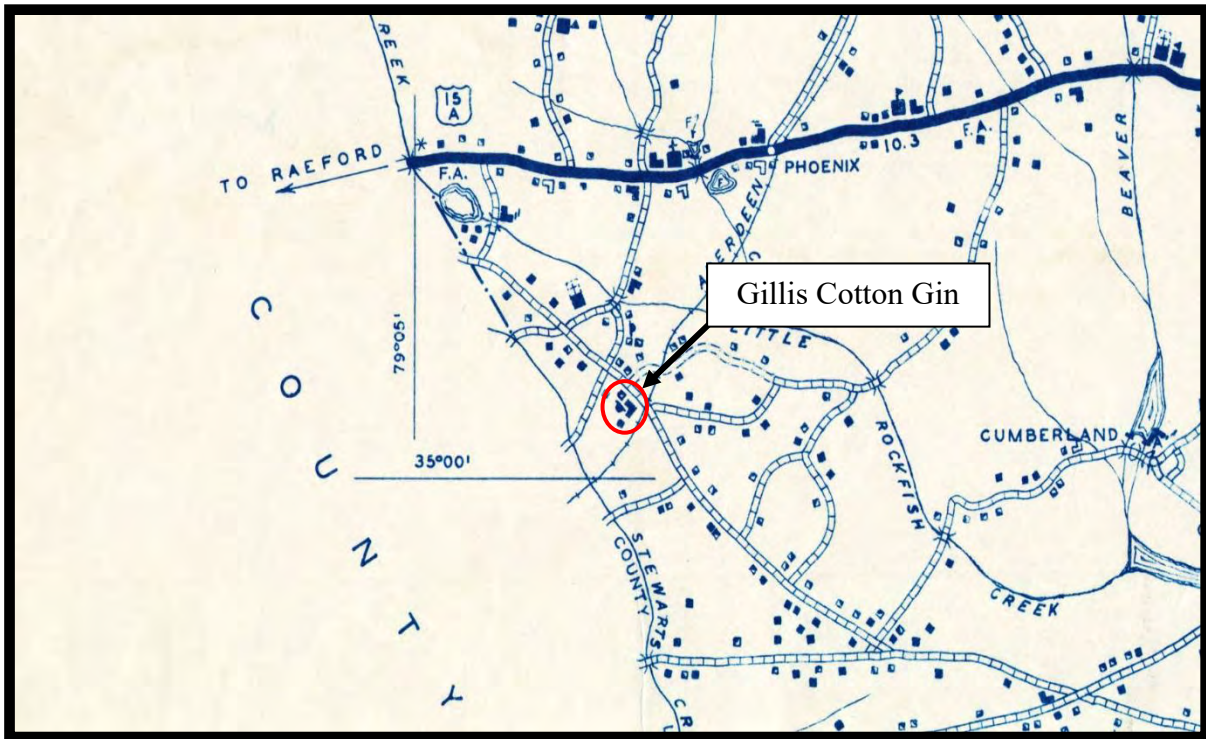


Figure 97: Cumberland County Highway Map, 1938 (North Carolina Maps).

chemicals, lawn mowers and power equipment, chain saws, clothes, overalls and boots.”¹¹⁰ Though closed permanently based on its current website, the location for this particular business was 121 South C Street in Fayetteville. It seems likely that the modern Southern Gin and Grain Company was an outgrowth of the early twentieth century Gillis-Ray Company.

A 2018 deed describes the 23 acres in question as being formerly known as “John McGinnis Land.”¹¹¹ It’s unclear if John McGinnis is a misspelling of McInnis, who’s property also grew out of N. R. Blue’s land, or if John McGinnis is in fact a different character who came into ownership of the land. A later deed explains that “There is excepted from the aforesaid described 23 acres the following described tract of land known as the Gin Tract...” and is said to have been conveyed by John D. McInnis to M. D. Gillis in 1993.¹¹² Based on these accounts, it seems as though the McGinnis spelling is simply a technical error in certain documents. The present owner of the land is Malcolm R. Gillis, son of Malcolm D. Gillis Jr. who died in 2013.¹¹³ After his death, the site appears to have fallen into disrepair based on aerials.

Between the early 1990s and mid-2000s, the pace of commercial and residential development began to increase, primarily to the south of the parcel (Figures 98 and 99). Today, the parcel measures 23 acres and contains four agricultural outbuildings, only one of which is accessible, and as many as ten metal storage bins. As previously mentioned, a number of ancillary

¹¹⁰ “Live Wire: State seized Southern Gin assets,” *The Fayetteville Observer*, accessed May 21, 2019, <https://www.fayobserver.com/article/20160529/News/305299950>.

¹¹¹ Cumberland County Deed Book 10395, page 197.

¹¹² Cumberland County Deed Book 4093, page 287.

¹¹³ “Malcom Gillis Obituary,” accessed May 21, 2019, <https://www.rogersandbreece.com/notices/Malcolm-Gillis>.



Figure 98: 1993 Aerial Image (Google Earth Pro).

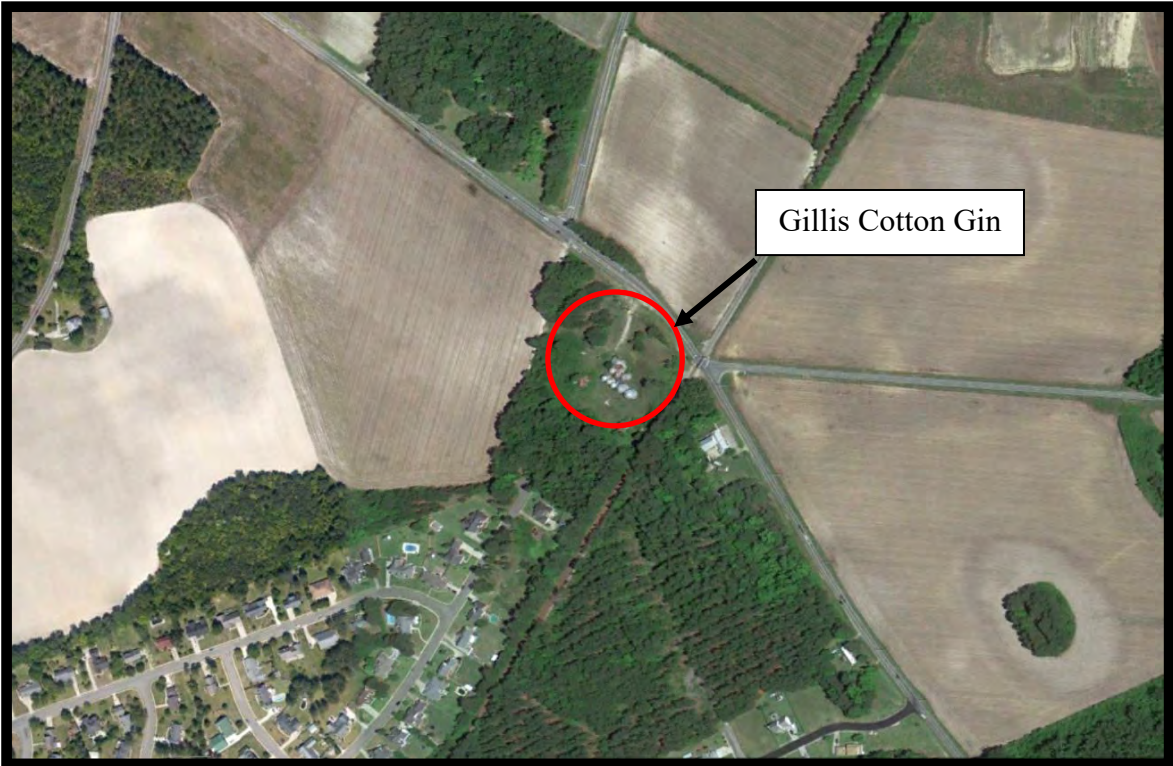


Figure 99: 2013 Aerial Image (Google Earth Pro).

structures remain on the property but were not accessible due to apparent unsafe conditions and substantial overgrowth in vegetation. Certain buildings, like the tobacco barn and “shed” that were located east of the railroad, are no longer extant.

NRHP Criteria Evaluation

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the Gillis Cotton Gin is recommended not eligible for the NRHP.

Integrity

Many of the original structures associated with the property are either no longer accessible and appear severely deteriorated based on their limited visibility or are no longer extant. In addition to this lack of physical integrity, the area around the gin is now characterized by commercial development and planned neighborhoods. The largest building on the property appears to have been reconstructed sometime in the recent past as evidenced by modern looking lumber. Despite this, the site appears to have been abandoned as early as the mid-2010s when significant overgrowth and the loss of clear circulation paths become apparent on aerials. None of the buildings retain a sufficient level of historic integrity in regard to design, materials, and workmanship. The deterioration of existing buildings, the loss of integral structures and the fact that the property has been abandoned and is no longer being used for agricultural purposes has compromised its association with early twentieth-century agricultural practices and its feeling as a ca. 1920 cotton gin. Furthermore, an existing recommendation dating to 1998 for this property states that “Although surviving early twentieth-century cotton gin buildings are rare in the region, the Gillis complex no longer retains sufficient integrity for National Register eligibility.”¹¹⁴ Integrity has only decreased since this time, and the complex remains unable to serve as an example of such a resource without sufficient integrity.

Criterion A

The Gillis Cotton Gin is recommended not eligible for the NRHP 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 prehistory or history or pattern of events or historic trends 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.

The Gillis Cotton Gin is historically associated with cotton ginning, potentially a saw mill, and agricultural processing and storage. Though the cotton gin and a few other outbuildings remain and still suggest an agricultural connection, the buildings do not retain integrity and are characterized by overgrown vegetation with no visible circulation. The effect is a loss of historic integrity relating to setting and design of a cotton gin complex. Therefore, this resource is not a good embodiment of historical agricultural activity in Cumberland County. No other pattern of events was identified for the property and therefore it is recommended not eligible under Criterion A.

Criterion B

The Gillis Cotton Gin is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B (Person). For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be

¹¹⁴ HPO, Historic Structures Survey Report for Fayetteville Outer Loop Cumberland, Robeson, and Hoke Counties, U-2519, 1998.

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.

The property is historically associated with the Gillis family, whose productive life was spent maintaining the family farm. Research did not reveal their activities to be historically significant within the local, state, or national historic context. Therefore, the property is recommended not eligible under Criterion B.

Criterion C

The Gillis Cotton Gin is not recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C (design/construction). 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.

While certain structures are extant on the property, only the cotton gin is partially accessible while others have limited visibility and no pedestrian access due to vegetation overgrowth. The interior of the cotton gin does contain some machinery that may be associated with the early or mid-twentieth century complex but appears to be in a state of disarray inside its shelter. The entire complex is characterized by severe deterioration and loss of physical integrity.

HPOWeb lists no other cotton gins in Cumberland County. However, one other is located at the former site of CD0793, the Gillis Saw Mill. Since its initial survey, the saw mill has been moved, but the ca. 1911 cotton gin has remained in the same location and as part of this evaluation has been resurveyed as the Gillis Cotton Gin 2, CD1492 (Figure 100). This cotton gin, though also showing signs of deterioration, appears to retain more physical integrity and is associated with a larger and more intact farmstead complex (the William John Gillis Farmstead and William John Gillis House, CD0211).



Figure 100: Gillis Cotton Gin No. 2, Looking Northeast.

In an effort to find more examples with which to compare the Gillis Cotton Gin, surrounding counties were searched for similar criteria including size and construction date. This search revealed a number of examples. One such example is the O. J. Smith Cotton Gin in Nash County (Figure 101). It is characterized as “c. 1935 1-story side gabled building clad in corrugated metal” and includes a cotton gin building, a seed house, and a well. Similar to the Gillis Cotton Gin complex from the early to almost-mid twentieth century, this complex was recommended eligible under Criterion A and C. The complex itself remains intact with a large number of integral outbuildings all with sufficient integrity to collectively illustrate historic practices which took place at the complex.

The Davenport Cotton Gin (Figure 102) is located in Edgecombe County and was constructed in the 1930s. It is similar in scale and size to the Gillis Cotton Gin, though it differs in exterior cladding. This structure, though not formally evaluated, appears to retain far more physical integrity than the Gillis complex.



Figure 101: O. J. Smith Cotton Gin, NS0513, Looking North.



Figure 102: Davenport Cotton Gin, ED0646, Looking Northwest.

Each of these examples display how early twentieth century cotton gins throughout the state have withstood development and neglect over the years. They are also exemplary of cotton gins constructed in the early twentieth century when the industry was moving away from small independent gin operations and moving toward large factory scaled operations.¹¹⁵ These examples have been slightly modified with new materials but in doing so have preserved more of their original character. The Gillis Cotton Gin retains some original elements that have not been well-maintained and as a result the site as a whole has been compromised. For these reasons, the Gillis Cotton Gin is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C for architecture.

Criterion D

The Gillis Cotton Gin is recommended not eligible for the NRHP 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 and prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.

The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design and technology and is therefore not recommended eligible under Criterion D.

¹¹⁵ Cardno, Inc. *Historic Structures Survey Report, Replace Bridge No. 41 on NC 33 Over I-95, Nash County, North Carolina*. Raleigh, North Carolina. 2009.

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