

**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

July 2, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vanessa Patrick
Human Environment Unit
NC Department of Transportation

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

SUBJECT: Improve SR 1603 from Green Hills Road to SR 1770 & Replace Bridge 154 on SR 1603 over US 64 & Widen SR 1770 from SR 1003 to SR 1603, Rocky Mount, U-5996 & R-5720, PA 18-10-0022, Nash County, ER 19-1848

Thank you for your June 4, 2019, memorandum transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and concur that Embro Bass Farm (NS1389) is not eligible for listing in National Register of Historic Places for the reasons outlined 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.

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

Received: 06/04/2019

State Historic Preservation Office



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

ER 19-1848

To: Renee Gledhill-Earley, NCHPO

From: Vanessa E. Patrick, NCDOT

Due -- 6/28/19

Date: June 4, 2019

Subject: *Historic Structures Survey Report for TIP Nos. U-5996 and R-5720, Improve SR 1603 (Old Carriage Road) from Green Hills Road to SR 1770 (Eastern Avenue), Replace Bridge No. 154 on SR 1603 over US 64, and Widen SR 1770 (Eastern Avenue) from SR 1003 (Red Oak Road) to SR 1603 (Old Carriage Road) in Rocky Mount, Nash County, North Carolina. WBS No. 47133.1.1. PA Tracking No. 18-10-0022.*

H- ER letters
6/28/19

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project. Enclosed for your review is a report presenting the evaluation of historic architectural resources in the U-5996 and R-5720, Nash County project area (one hard copy and one CD-ROM). Survey photographs, GIS data, and a site form are also included on the CD-ROM, and a hard copy of the site form is also provided.

The report considers one resource, the Embro Bass Farm (NS1389) and recommends it as not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. 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

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1020 BIRCH RIDGE DRIVE
RALEIGH, NC 27610

Website: www.ncdot.gov

**HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT
IMPROVE SR 1603 (OLD CARRIAGE ROAD) FROM GREEN HILLS ROAD TO
SR 1770 (EASTERN AVENUE), REPLACE BRIDGE NO. 154 ON SR 1603 OVER US 64,
AND WIDEN SR 1770 (EASTERN AVENUE) FROM SR 1003 (RED OAK ROAD) TO
SR 1603 (OLD CARRIAGE ROAD),
ROCKY MOUNT, NASH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

**TIP PROJECT U-5996 and R-5720
WBS NO. 47133.1.1
PA NO. 18-10-0022**

**Prepared for:
VHB Engineering NC, P. C.
Venture 1
940 Main Campus Drive, Suite 500
Raleigh, NC 27606**

and

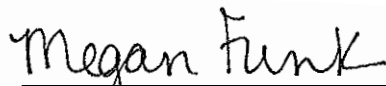
**North Carolina Department of Transportation
Division 4**

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

**Megan Funk
*Architectural Historian***

NCR-0798

MAY 2019



**Megan Funk, Principal Investigator
Commonwealth Heritage Group**

05-29-2019

Date

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

Date

**HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT
IMPROVE SR 1603 (OLD CARRIAGE ROAD) FROM GREEN HILLS ROAD TO
SR 1770 (EASTERN AVENUE), REPLACE BRIDGE NO. 154 ON SR 1603 OVER US 64,
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**Megan Funk
*Architectural Historian***

NCR-0798

MAY 2019

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to add a center turn lane and evaluate interchange operations on SR 1603 (Old Carriage Road) from Green Hills Road to SR 1770 (Eastern Avenue), replace Bridge No. 154 on SR 1603 over US 64, and widen SR 1770 (Eastern Avenue) from SR 1003 (Red Oak Road) to SR 1603 (Old Carriage Road) in Rocky Mount, Nash County, North Carolina. The combined Area of Potential Effects (APE) is based on two study areas associated with U-5996 and R-5720. The study area of U-5996 extends along SR 1603 (Old Carriage Road) from just north of the intersection with Green Hills Road to the intersection with SR 1770 (Eastern Avenue). The study area of R-5720 extends from the intersection of SR 1603 (Old Carriage Road) and SR 1770 (Eastern Avenue) along SR 1603 (Old Carriage Road) to just west of the intersection with SR 1003 (Red Oak Road). The project is included in the North Carolina State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) as Project Numbers U-5996 and R-5720 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. One resource warranted intensive National Register eligibility evaluation and is the subject of this report. 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 one property located within the APE for these projects, 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 property in the study area. Field documentation included notes, sketch maps, and digital photography. Background research was conducted at the Nash County Library and the Nash County Register of Deeds, both online and on site. Additional background research was conducted using online sources. This report recommends the Embro Bass Farm as not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

PROPERTY NAME	HPO SSN	ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION	CRITERIA
Embro Bass Farm	NS1389	Not Eligible	-

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METHODOLOGY

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. One resource warranted intensive National Register eligibility evaluation and is the subject of this report. 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.

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 February 2019. Field documentation included notes, sketch maps, and digital photography. Background research was conducted at the Nash County Register of Deeds online, in addition to using other online sources. This report includes the architectural analysis and in-depth evaluation of one property in the APE: the Embro Bass Farm (NS1389). 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 North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office's (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 APE is located west of the City of Rocky Mount near the community of Westry and contains pockets of commercial, industrial, residential and institutional development. At the western end of the study area, this development includes fast food, auto parts, banking, and insurance establishments as well as one retirement community and two grocery stores – a Food Lion and a Walmart Supercenter. There is also a moderately sized residential neighborhood between Eastern Avenue and U. S. Highway 64 and a single residential street, Forest View Drive, that extends south of Eastern Avenue, along the edge of the Walmart Supercenter parcel. The neighborhoods appear to have been developed in the 1970/80s and 1950s, respectively. East of this section is a pocket of development that includes mini storage, rental truck, and farm equipment sales among others. The businesses are primarily housed in metal-clad buildings with forward-facing gabled roofs. Those on the south side of Eastern Avenue are set back an equal distance from the road and display very similar forms. Additional metal-clad buildings stand behind these but display more variety in orientation and scale. The center of the APE, the focus

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

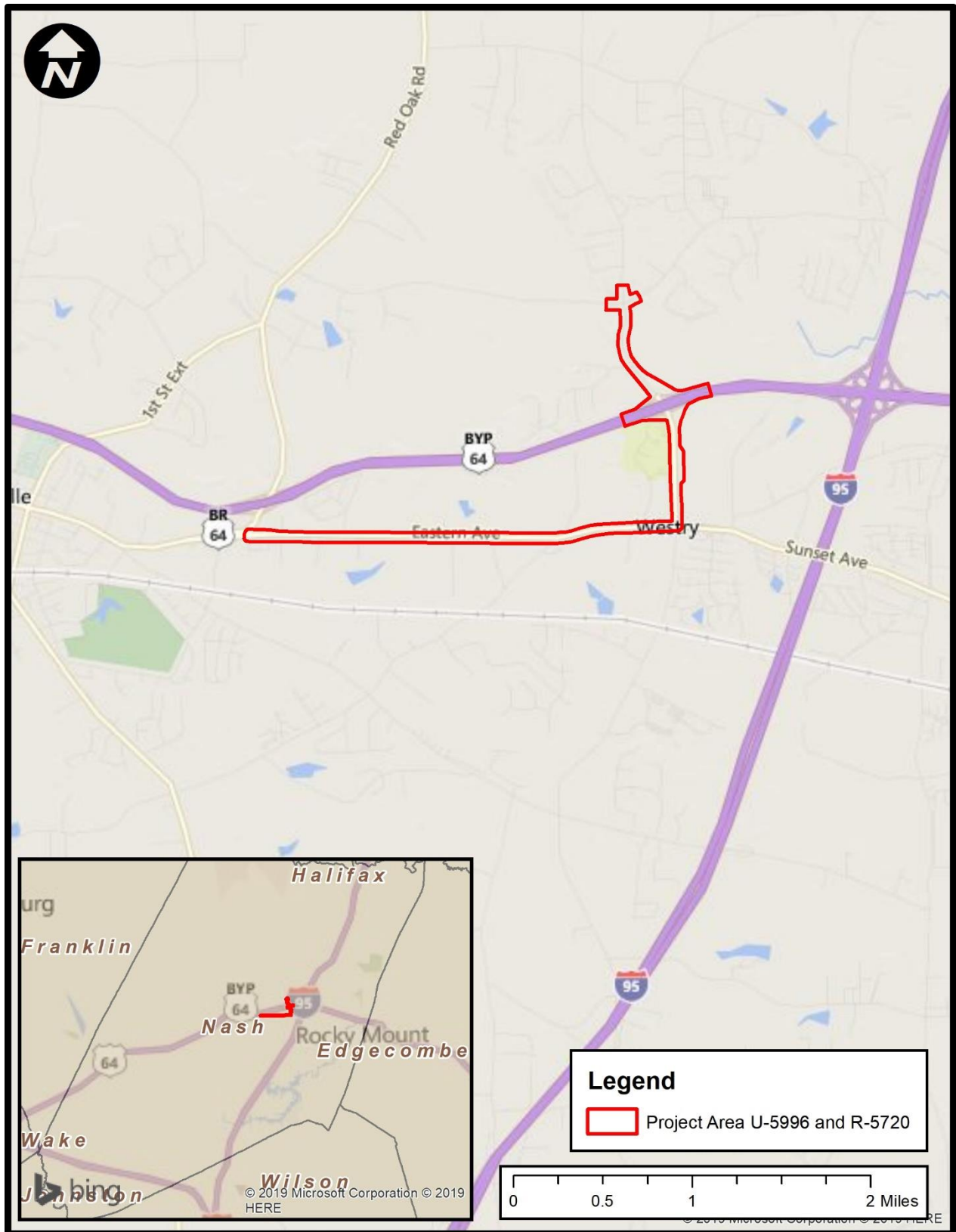


Figure 1: Project Location.

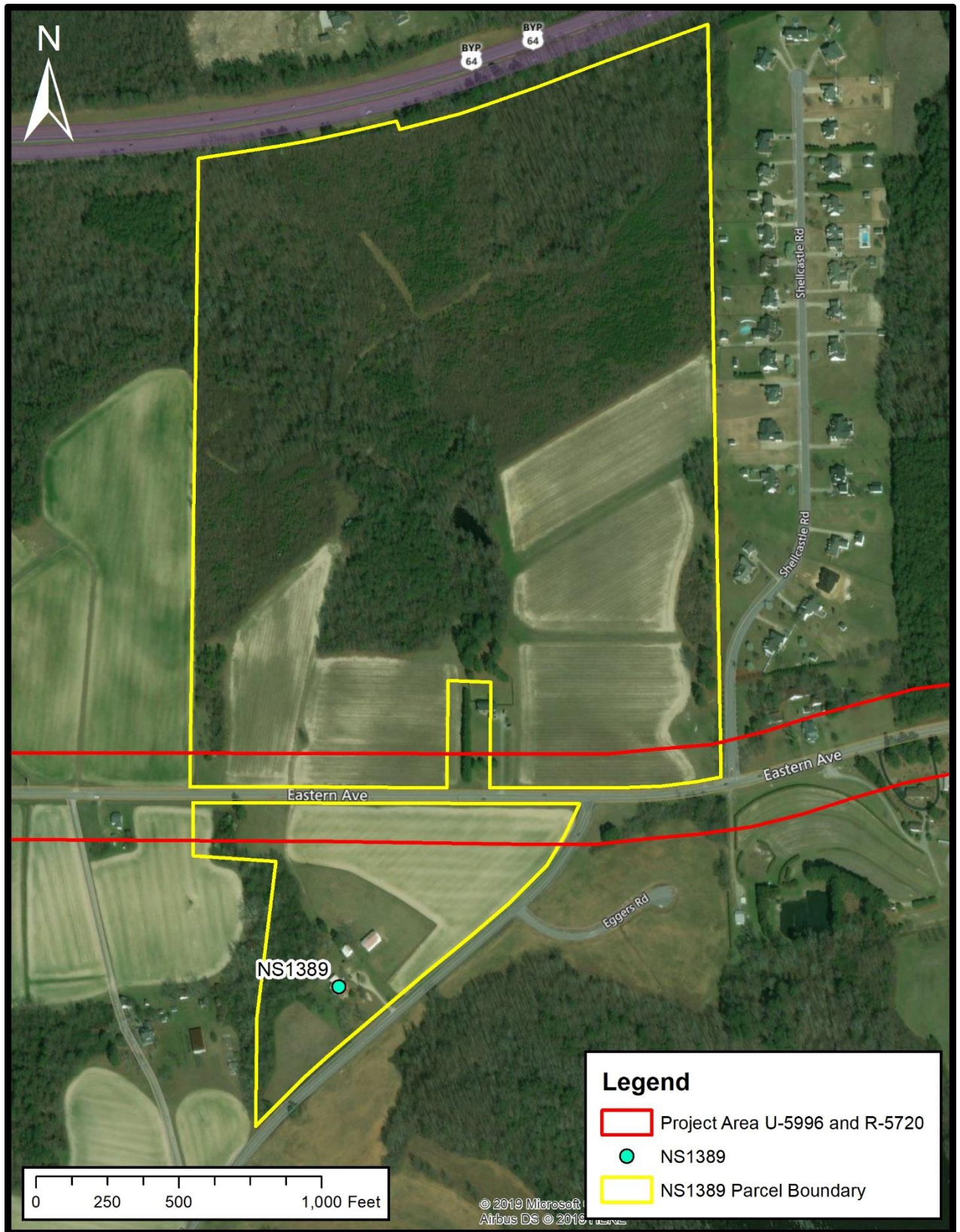


Figure 2: Project Area and Resource Location.

of this report, includes the Embro Bass Farm (NS1389). This area is characterized by rural development, including plowed fields, wooded areas, and dwellings, both modern and historic, situated on large parcels. Shellcastle Road, which is populated with ca. 2000 dwellings, extends north of Eastern Avenue, just east of the studied parcel and presents the largest collection of modern development in this section of the APE. The neighborhood, however, is largely blocked from view by vegetation. The APE continues to be rural in character until reaching the intersection of Eastern Avenue and Old Carriage Road, which includes two large gas stations, a car sales lot, and a fast food restaurant. Southeast of this intersection is a large residential development. North of the intersection, along Old Carriage Road, there are additional plowed fields and wooded areas, as well as Nash Community College, which occupies a roughly 75-acre parcel. U. S. Highway 64 crosses the APE just north of the college. The section of the APE north of the highway and south of Green Hills Road contains large swaths of wooded areas broken by plowed fields. A small commercial building, the ca. 1985 Old Carriage Road Baptist Church, and two residences from the 1980s and 1990s stand on the west side of the road. The intersection of Old Carriage Road with Green Hills Road, the northern terminus of the APE, is primarily wooded with dwellings set away from the intersection corners.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Nash County area was settled by Europeans as early as 1729 and by 1741 was a part of Edgecombe County. In 1777, 254 inhabitants of western Edgecombe County petitioned the North Carolina General Assembly to form a new county and on December 24 of that year, their wish was granted. Nash County was named for General Francis Nash of Hillsborough who was killed during the American Revolution while serving with George Washington at the Battle of Germantown.

The county seat of Nashville was originally called Nash Court House and the first permanent courthouse was constructed there in 1788. Despite this early establishment, the town was not officially laid out until 1815 when it was incorporated. The 1788 courthouse served the county until 1834 when it was replaced with a new building.

Due to the presence of the Tar River and the accompanying well-drained soil, the county was ideal for cotton, tobacco, peanuts and corn and in the early days of the county agriculture employed 95 percent of its inhabitants. A majority of these individuals operated small subsistence farms while a handful operated large, for-profit ventures. The presence of the river led to the rise of another industry in the county: milling. Placed along the river and its many tributaries, at least 27 grist mills were operated in the county by 1777 and at least 46 by 1800.

By 1800, the population of Nash County was 6,975 persons and by 1820 it was 8,187 with 3,447 persons, or roughly 42 percent, being slaves.² The agricultural census of 1820 reported that 2,527 persons were engaged in agriculture and by 1840 it reported 3,133.³ As in other southern and eastern North Carolina counties, this period was characterized primarily by cotton production with tobacco sales contributing to a large portion of the county's income as well. Other industries included turpentine, flour and meal production, tobacco processing, lumber, and textiles. In 1860, the agricultural census reported the total number of farms as 683 with 81,045 acres of improved farm land. The majority of the farms, 308, measured below 100 acres while 284 measured between 100 and 499 acres.⁴

Though no battles of the Civil War occurred in Nash County, the county was still greatly affected by the loss of men who served in the war and the devastating demands it had on the county's resources and economy. One of the most visible effects was the breaking up of large farms due to increased operating costs and taxes and an increase in tenant farming. By 1880, at least one-third of the farms in North Carolina were operated by tenants with a majority operating as sharecroppers, as opposed to cash tenants or renters. Also, though more European Americans worked as tenant farmers than African Americans, a higher percentage of the African American population was engaged in the practice. This new system, which ostensibly allowed African Americans to be their own employer, also required them to obtain their own equipment and supplies and often left them indebted to store and property owners. By 1900, the number of

² IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, 1800 Census, www.nhgis.org, accessed February 28, 2019.

³ Historical Census Browser, 1820 and 1840 Agricultural Censuses, Electronic document (Printed), <http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/index.html>, accessed September 9, 2016.

⁴ Historical Census Browser, 1860 Agricultural Census, Electronic document (Printed), <http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/index.html>, accessed September 9, 2016.

farms in the county had increased nearly five times from before the Civil War to 3,237 while the number of improved acres in farms had increased just under four times to 308,317. At the same time, the average farm size decreased from roughly 175 acres to 95 acres.⁵

In 1871, citizens of both Nash and Edgecombe Counties advocated to move the county line eastward into Edgecombe County making the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad line, which ran from Halifax to Wilson County, the new county line. The move brought some of the first railroad lines into Nash County and also facilitated the sharing of maintenance costs for the bridge at the Falls of the Tar between the two counties.⁶

A number of towns, including the commercial center of both counties, Rocky Mount, straddle the county line. Rocky Mount was incorporated only a few years earlier in 1867, and by 1890 had a population of 650 people. Early industries in the city included the Rocky Mount Mills and the Emerson Shops, a railroad maintenance facility that would later become the largest employer in the dual-county area.⁷

Adding to the county's newly acquired tracts, construction soon began on an east-west track to connect Rocky Mount with Raleigh. By 1889 the new tracks reached from Rocky Mount to Spring Hope, passing just south of the project area and studied parcel. This line, which was a part of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, became the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad in 1900.⁸

By 1920, tobacco production overtook cotton and by 1930 the county produced 22,552,637 pounds of tobacco. Cotton was still a major crop with 19,232 bales produced that year. Other common crops included barley, oats, wheat, peanuts, and sweet potatoes and livestock sales served as a significant source of income for the county as well.⁹ Many agriculture related industries contributed to the economy of the county in the early 1900s. Some of these perpetuated trades that had existed in the county since the settlement era, like its grist mills, and many still relied on the presence of the Tar River and its tributaries. These industries included cotton oil mills and gins, lumber mills, tobacco factories, cord plants, and textile mills.

The first half of the twentieth century saw tremendous growth in the county with the population doubling from 25,478 in 1900 to 55,608 in 1940.¹⁰ The number of farms increased to over 5,000 with an average size of 56 acres and over half of the workforce was employed by the agriculture industry, a large percentage of whom were still a part of the tenant system.

With the election of Governor Cameron Morrison in 1921, the county and state experienced improvements to its transportation system. Morrison advocated for the connection of the state's county seats and major towns with hard-surfaced roads, a plan that led to the rerouting of the

⁵ Historical Census Browser, 1900 Agricultural Census, Electronic document (Printed), <http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/index.html>, accessed September 9, 2016.

⁶ Richard L. Mattson, Jan Michael Poff, *The History and Architecture of Nash County North Carolina*, (Nashville, North Carolina: Nash County Planning Department, p. 46-54.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid and Historical Census Browser, 1930 Agricultural Census, Electronic document (Printed), <http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/index.html>, accessed September 9, 2016.

¹⁰ U. S. Census, 1900 and 1940.

road between Rocky Mount and Nashville, a portion of which comprises the R-5720 study area. The improvements made it easier for farmers and rural dwellers to access the markets and businesses in larger towns and led to Rocky Mount being the third largest tobacco market in the state in 1939.¹¹

Over the second half of the twentieth century, the economy of Nash County has diversified with the growth of the health care, education, and manufacturing industries including North Carolina Wesleyan College, which opened in 1960; Nash Community College; Pfizer; Honeywell; and Cummins Engine Plant.¹²

¹¹ Mattson, p. 54.

¹² Nash County North Carolina, Nash County Economic Development, <https://www.nashcountync.gov/503/Economic-Development>, accessed March 1, 2019.

PROPERTY INVENTORY AND EVALUATION

Resource Name:	Embro Bass Farm
NCDOT Survey Site Number:	001
HPO Survey Site Number:	NS1389
Location:	4300 E. Old Spring Hope Road
Parcel ID:	382117119260
Dates(s) of Construction:	Ca. 1900
Recommendation:	Not Eligible



Figure 3: Embro Bass Farm, Looking North.

Setting

The parcel on which the Embro Bass Farm stands is divided into three sections by Eastern Avenue and East Old Spring Hope Road. The largest section, which measures roughly 100 acres, is bordered by Eastern Avenue on the south, farmland and woodlands to the west, U. S. Highway 64 to the north and a residential street to the east. The section is primarily wooded with plowed fields along the southern edge. A 1.28-acre parcel containing a ca. 1992 dwelling has been cut from the larger parcel at the center of the southern boundary. The second largest section of the parcel measures roughly 15 acres. It is located south of Eastern Avenue and fills the wedge-shaped space created by Eastern Avenue and East Old Carriage Road. This section

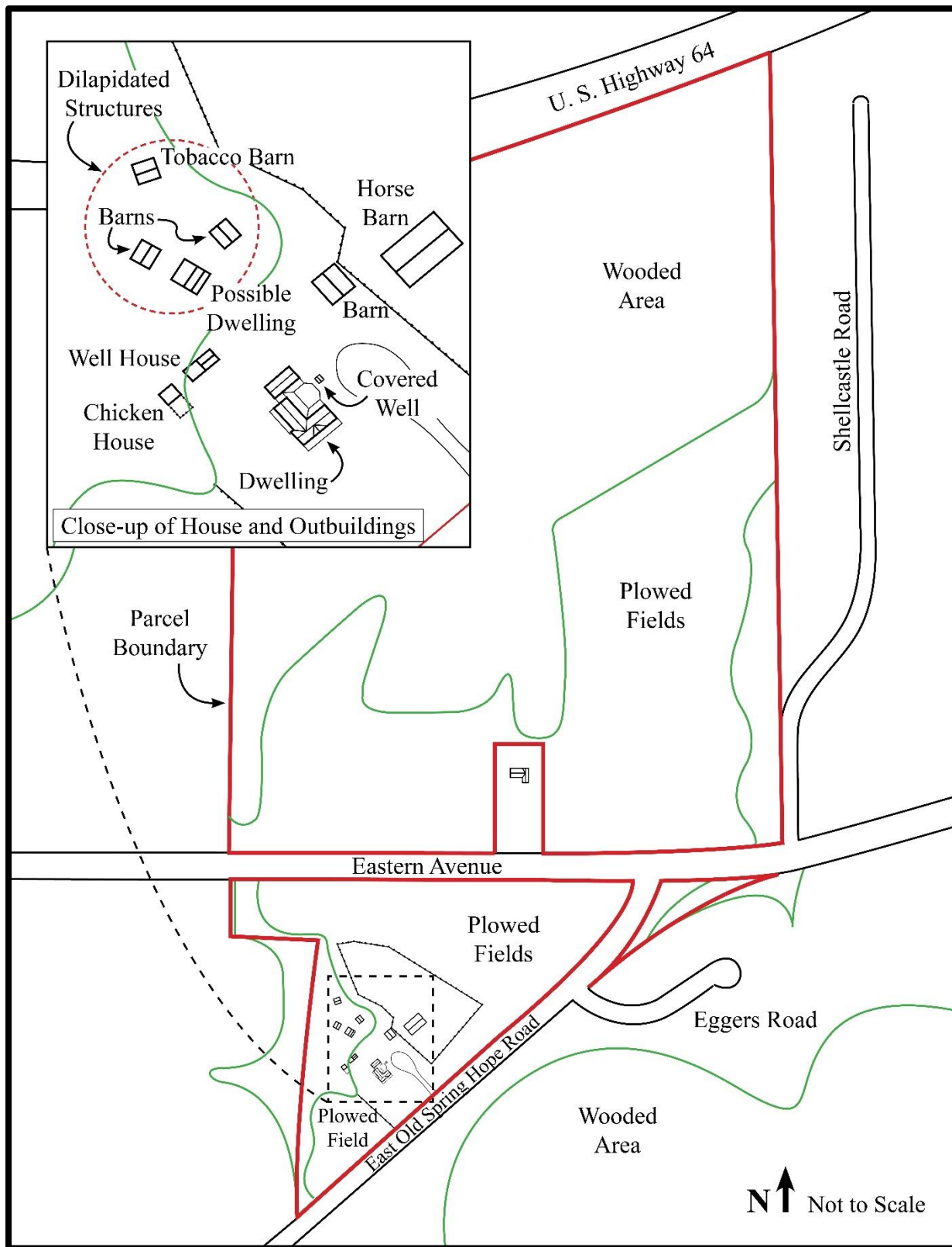


Figure 4: Sketch Map of Embro Bass Farm.

contains the Embro Bass House as well as a variety of well-kept and dilapidated agricultural buildings and a possible second dwelling. A large plowed field fills the northeast corner of the section while the western edge is consumed by a heavily wooded area that contains the dilapidated buildings. The Embro Bass House stands near the center of the parcel and faces southeast toward East Old Spring Hope Road. It is accessed from the road by a gravel driveway that extends past the northeast side of the dwelling and makes a loop around a large tree. The more well-kept agricultural buildings are located at the edge of the house's domestic yard, which is filled with scattered mature trees. A second plowed field fills the southern corner of the wedge-shaped section. At the northwest corner of the section is an address point for 3033 Eastern Avenue suggesting that a dwelling once stood in the area as well. Today the corner is characterized by a wooded buffer on the west and a mowed section. A sign for "Awe Home Repair & Construction" stands in this area as well. The last section of the parcel measures approximately one acre and is located on the eastern side of East Old Spring Hope Road, opposite of the second parcel. It is partially mowed and partially wooded. Beyond the boundaries of the parcel and its associated sections, the area is rural in nature with plowed fields and dwellings situated on large lots. One residential area extends north from Eastern Avenue, but it is largely shielded from view by a vegetative buffer.

Property Description

4300 East Old Spring Hope Road

Exterior

The Embro Bass House appears to have begun as a one-story side-gabled dwelling with a gabled rear wing and likely a center-hall plan. At some point, it was expanded with a second side-gabled section that connects to the north corner of the rear wing. Each section of the dwelling – the main body, rear wing, and second side-gabled section – retains a weathered standing-seam metal roof. Though difficult to discern, it is possible that the sections are contemporaneous with the second side-gabled section originally serving as a kitchen house. The placement of this section, which is offset from the wing yet very close to it, suggests that some form of alteration, maybe moving the small structure closer to the dwelling, occurred over time (Figure 5).

The main body of the dwelling has a triple-A form with brick exterior chimneys at the gable ends. One of the chimneys retains its corbelled cap while the other is slightly truncated and undecorated. The forward-facing gable contains a paired window with narrow vertical panes. Below the roofline, the façade is spanned by a full-width Craftsman-style porch supported by battered box columns on parged pediments. The pediments extend below the plane of the porch acting as foundational piers as well, and a parged foundation wall encompasses the porch. At its center, the porch is accessed by a set of concrete steps flanked by parged piers, the first and second sets of which are connected with a smooth curve, while the third set stands individually at the top step. The top surfaces of the piers and connecting elements are capped and painted white. Two decorative brackets reflective of Queen Anne-style architecture rest below the eave of the porch roof where it meets the dwelling. Though reflective of the earlier style, the brackets do not appear to be original. The porch shelters a symmetrical façade with a centered entry door flanked by six-over-six vinyl sash windows. This section of the dwelling, as well as the rear sections, is clad with vinyl siding (Figures 3 and 6).

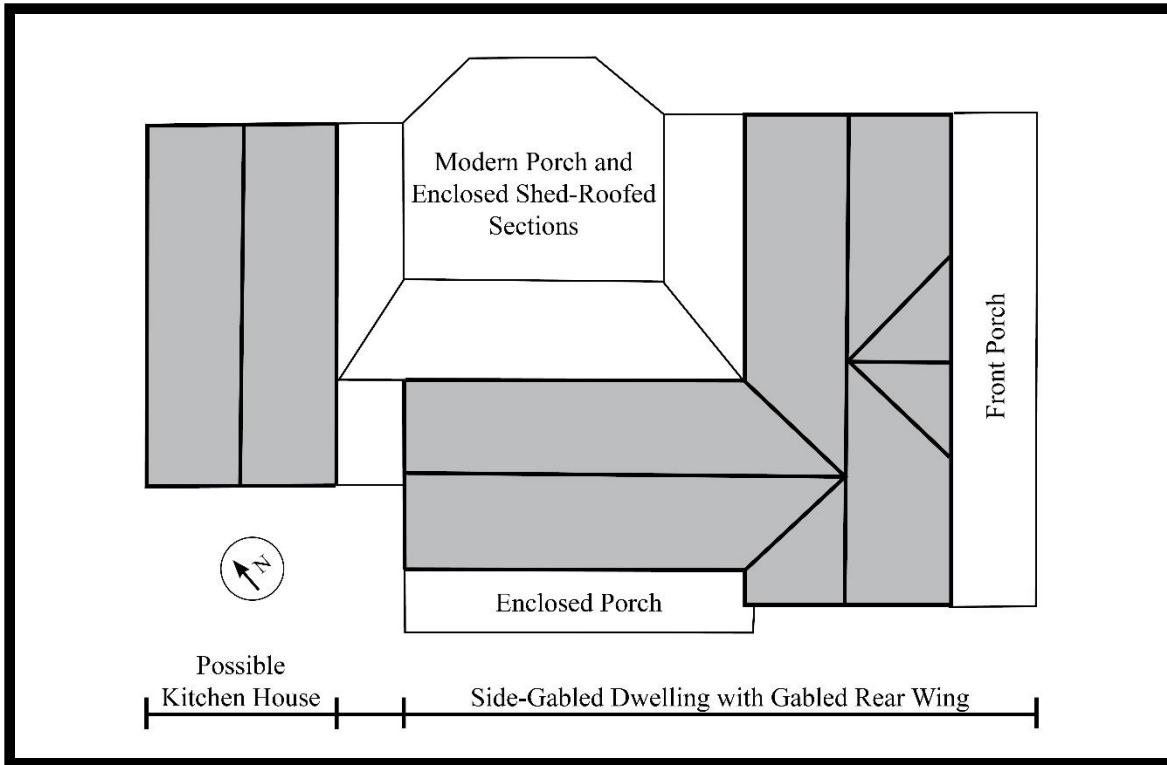


Figure 5: Embro Bass Farm, Sections of Dwelling.



Figure 6: Embro Bass Farm, Detail of Porch Brackets.

The northeast (side) elevation of the dwelling begins with the side of the main body of the dwelling, including the corbelled chimney which is flanked by a single six-over-six vinyl sash window on the east. The side of a shed-roofed section that spans both the northwest (rear) elevation of the main body of the dwelling and the northeast (side) elevation of the rear wing is also visible. This section likely served as a rear porch but is now entirely enclosed. Spanning the center of the elevation, the section contains an entry door flanked by six-over-six vinyl sash windows and open onto a frame deck. The deck fills space between the front and rear sections of the dwelling and is somewhat curved extending past the two elevations. Wooden steps access the porch on the east side. The northeast elevation of the rear section is gabled but has an asymmetrical form due to an enclosed shed-roofed section along its southeast elevation. This section is lit by an off-center six-over-six vinyl sash window (Figure 7).

The northwest (rear) elevation of the rear section contains two off-center six-over-six vinyl sash windows. A small vent rises from the rear slope of



Figure 7: Embro Bass Farm, Looking Southwest.



Figure 8: Embro Bass Farm, Looking Southeast.

the roof, but there are no chimneys or indications that a chimney once rose from the roof. This could indicate that the structure did not serve as a kitchen or that its historic material has been lost over time, such as the replacement of its wooden weatherboard siding with vinyl siding. Its roof, however, does appear to be early, if not original. This section of the dwelling rests on a concrete foundation (Figure 8).

The southwest (side) elevation of the rear section contains an off-center window. Like its northeast elevation, it is asymmetrical due to a small hyphen that connects with the rear wing of the main body of the dwelling. The roof of the hyphen slopes southwest, perpendicular of the slope of the rear section's roof. Its elevation contains a small hexagonal window. West of the juncture of the hyphen and rear wing is a squat six-over-six vinyl sash window (Figure 9).

The southwest (side) elevation of the rear wing is spanned by a shed-roofed screened-in porch with an enclosed section at its southern end. The porch shelters an entry door with two squat six-over-six vinyl sash windows to its west. A six-over-six vinyl sash window lights the enclosed section. A tall, narrow brick chimney rises from the west slope of the wing near the northwest gable. The porch and rear wing appear to rest on a poured concrete foundation. The southwest (side) elevation of the front section of the dwelling is similar to its northeast (side) elevation with an exterior brick chimney flanked on the east by a six-over-six vinyl sash window. This section of the dwelling differs from the rear sections with a parged foundation (Figure 10).



Figure 9: Embro Bass Farm, Looking East.



Figure 10: Embro Bass Farm, Looking Northeast.

Interior

Attempts to contact the owner were unsuccessful and the surveyor was unable to gain access to the interior of the house.

Ancillary Buildings

The dwelling is surrounded by five ancillary buildings. The structure closest to the dwelling is a covered well that stands just north of the deck on the northeast side of the dwelling. It has a gabled standing seam metal roof upheld by two posts that rise from a square base. Both the base and the gables of the roof are clad with vinyl siding though brick is visible below the lowest span of siding (Figure 11).

Along the northwest side of the domestic yard are two frame structures with plain weatherboard siding and standing seam metal roofs. The first is a squat structure with a gabled roof that projects over a small board and batten entry door with metal strap hinges. Diagonal wooden braces support the gable. Though the door of the structure was locked, it was possible to see into the upper gabled section which appears to have a floor. The low ceiling makes it unlikely that the structure was used for storage and may have instead served as an animal shelter or well house. The structure has a brick foundation and an open, shed-roofed section spans the southwest (rear) elevation (Figures 12 and 13).

The second structure likely served as a chicken house or a shelter for other small animals. It has a shed roof that is higher in the front and lower in the rear. On the southeast (front) elevation, the façade is left open between the purlins providing ventilation for the structure. Below, there is a door cut from a single plane of wood and flanked on the west by a long, screened window that



Figure 11: Embro Bass Farm, Covered Well, Looking West.

is divided into four sections by segments of lumber. A fenced in section constructed of two-by-fours, chicken wire, and chain-link fencing with a chicken wire roof extends from the front of the structure (Figures 14 and 15).

Northeast of the dwelling are two barns. The first is front gabled with a shed-roofed section along the southwest (side) elevation. It is clad with wooden weatherboard siding and has a standing seam metal roof. The structure rests on both brick and concrete block piers and has two sets of steps to access its two front entrances. The main body of the barn has a centered board-and-batten entry door with a board-and-batten loft door centered above it. Both doors are flanked on the east by four-over-four vinyl sash windows. The shed-roofed section also contains a centered board-and-batten door. On the northeast (side) elevation of the barn is a long off-center opening without a window sash. A second shed-roofed section spans the northwest (rear) elevation of the barn. It is clad with a different material on each of its three elevations – plywood on the southwest elevation, wooden weatherboard siding on the northwest elevation, and vertical metal sheathing on the northeast elevation – and has a large garage-sized entrance on its southwest elevation (Figures 16 and 17).

The last ancillary structure on this parcel is a large transverse crib barn used to house horses. The barn is front gabled and faces southwest toward the dwelling. It has a standing seam metal roof, wooden weatherboard siding, and a concrete block foundation. Its front façade is characterized by a large centered entrance flanked on the west by a board-and-batten door that likely accesses a storage area. Above the centered entrance is a set of board-and-batten doors that access a hay loft. There are five cribs along the southeast side of the interior of the barn, each of which have a small window with a board-and-batten covering. Two similar cribs with windows exist on the northwest side of the barn this side appears to be used more for storage rather than animals. A set of sliding board-and-batten doors permit access to the northeast gable end of the barn and paired board-and-batten loft doors exist above the entrance (Figures 18 and 19).



Figure 12: Embro Bass Farm, Ancillary Structure, Looking South.



Figure 13: Embro Bass Farm, Ancillary Structure, Looking North.



Figure 14: Embro Bass Farm, Animal Shelter, Looking West.



Figure 15: Embro Bass Farm, Animal Shelter, Looking West Northwest.



Figure 16: Embro Bass Farm, Barn, Looking West.



Figure 17: Embro Bass Farm, Barn, Looking East-Northeast.



Figure 18: Embro Bass Farm, Horse Barn, Looking North.



Figure 19: Embro Bass Farm, Interior Horse Barn, Looking East.

3063 Eastern Avenue

Tax records for the parcel show three address points on the parcel indicating that there were likely three residences at some point in time (Figure 20). The second address point, 3063 Eastern Avenue, is fenced off from the dwelling and agricultural buildings associated with 4300 East Old Spring Hope Road. This section of the parcel is accessed from Eastern Avenue and includes at least four dilapidated structures, one of which was likely a residence. The structures, however, are greatly overgrown making them inaccessible. A review of historical imagery, including the 1977 USGS quadrangle for Rocky Mount, North Carolina, does not indicate the existence of a dwelling in the area and aerial images show the structures in a densely wooded area making it difficult to determine the building types (Figure 21). From what is visible, the collection includes a tobacco barn, shed/small barn, possible dwelling, and an unidentifiable structure (Figures 22 through 24). The tobacco barn is tall with a gabled metal roof, horizontal wooden siding in the gables, and vertical seamed metal for siding. Though surrounded by dense vegetation, it appears to be the most stable of the structures on this portion of the parcel. On the edge of the vegetated area is a partially collapsed structure that may have served as a storage shed or small barn. It has a gabled metal roof, wooden weatherboard siding, and appears to have been open on the east (front) elevation. Two structures are located southwest of this structure within the vegetated area. The first stands out from the other structures because it is painted white and composed of narrower strips of weatherboard. It appears to have a side-gabled metal roof and to have had a porch along the east (possibly front) elevation, indicating that it may have been a dwelling. To its west, the roof of another structure is visible but difficult to distinguish from the trees and limbs that surround it. It may, however, have a chimney and appears to have been taller than the possible dwelling.



Figure 20: Southern Portion of Parcel with Address Points (Source: Nash County GIS).



Figure 21: 1977 USGS Quadrangle, Nashville, North Carolina (Source: Topoview).



Figure 22: Embro Bass Farm, Tobacco Barn, Looking Southwest.



Figure 23: Embro Bass Farm, Shed/Small Barn, Looking West.



Figure 24: Embro Bass Farm, Possible Dwelling (Foreground) and Unidentifiable Structure (Background), Looking Northwest.

3033 Eastern Avenue

The last address point associated with the parcel is 3033 Eastern Avenue, which is also the address provided on the scope of work for this project. According to the Nash County GIS site, the associated structure was located on the south side of Eastern Avenue at the northwest corner of the lower portion of the parcel. The 1977 USGS quadrangle shows a dwelling in this location as does a 1998 aerial of the parcel (Figures 21 and 25). However, by 2006, the location, which was only sparsely vegetated in 1998, is shown completely overgrown and today there is no visible structure at the site (Figure 26).



Figure 25: 1998 Aerial Image Showing Dwelling at 3033 Eastern Avenue (Source: Google Earth Pro).



Figure 26: Location of 3033 Eastern Avenue, Looking Southwest.

Historical Background

The parcel containing the Embro Bass Farm can be traced to 1896, when S. A. Batchelor and his wife, Mary B. Batchelor, sold 212 acres on Stony Creek and the Nashville Road to Embro Bass for \$1000.¹³ Embro was the son of Goodman D. and Mary F. Bass and was born in 1867. The Bass family lived in western Nash County in an area populated by the Bass, Lindsey (his mother's maiden name), Batchelor, Turner and Vester families. Embro was the fourth of their six sons and grew up on the family farm. He is listed in early censuses as a farm laborer.¹⁴

A few years before purchasing the land from the Batchelors, Embro married Joanna Georgiana Turner.¹⁵ In the deed, the parcel is described as adjoining the land of J. R. Harper and the J. J. Barnes Estate and was known as a part of the Westray Land, or, more particularly, as lot #21, the log woods tract, in the division of the homeplace (Figure 27).¹⁶ A plat drawn in 1894 shows two small buildings and a pond at the center, just southeast of lot #21, but does not indicate any structures on the discussed parcel. Nonetheless, by the time of the 1900 Census, Embro and Joanna are listed as living on a farm, owned free and clear, in the Stony Creek Township, which at the time, encompassed the parcel.¹⁷

It is possible that the couple originally constructed and lived in the dilapidated structure associated with address point 3063 Eastern Avenue before constructing the dwelling associated with address point 4300 East Old Spring Hope Road. This theory is substantiated by the presence of a dwelling on the 1902 USGS Map of Rocky Mount, which could represent the dwelling at 3063 Eastern Avenue, and by the county property records, which list the year built of the dwelling at 4300 East Old Spring Hope Road as 1915 (Figure 28).¹⁸ However, as is often the case, it's possible that the information in the county's records is an estimate and that the current dwelling was constructed before 1902. This scenario is supported by the dwelling's triple-A form, which was very common in the late nineteenth century. An earlier construction date also provides for the passage of time before the alterations (Craftsman-style porch and connection of rear structure) occurred. In this case, the second dwelling likely served as a tenant house.

In 1909, Embro purchased a second tract of land along the bank of Stony Creek. This tract, which measures 43 acres and lied west of Bass's property, had passed through the ownership of D. J. and Nora Price and J. T. and Ella E. Barnes before being purchased by Bass.¹⁹

Though the 1920 Census shares similar information to the 1900 Census, it places the family in the newly formed Oak Level Township.²⁰ Around this time, the original route of U. S. Highway 64 was constructed as a more direct link between Nashville and Rocky Mount. The new road

¹³ Nash County Deed Book 97, p. 287.

¹⁴ U. S. Census, 1880 and Ancestry.com, "Embro Bass," Electronic resources, <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/3997/person/1670454286/facts>, accessed February 20, 2019.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Nash County Deed Book 97, p. 287.

¹⁷ U. S. Census, 1900.

¹⁸ Nash County GIS, ParID: 021048, <https://nashcounty.connectgis.com/Map.aspx>, accessed February 27, 2019.

¹⁹ Nash County Deed Book 184, p. 91 and Nash County Deed Book 120, p. 311.

²⁰ U. S. Census, 1920. Oak Level Township was formed by the North Carolina General Assembly in February 1911 from parts of Stony Creek, Cooper's, and Nashville Townships (Public Laws and Resolutions of the State of North

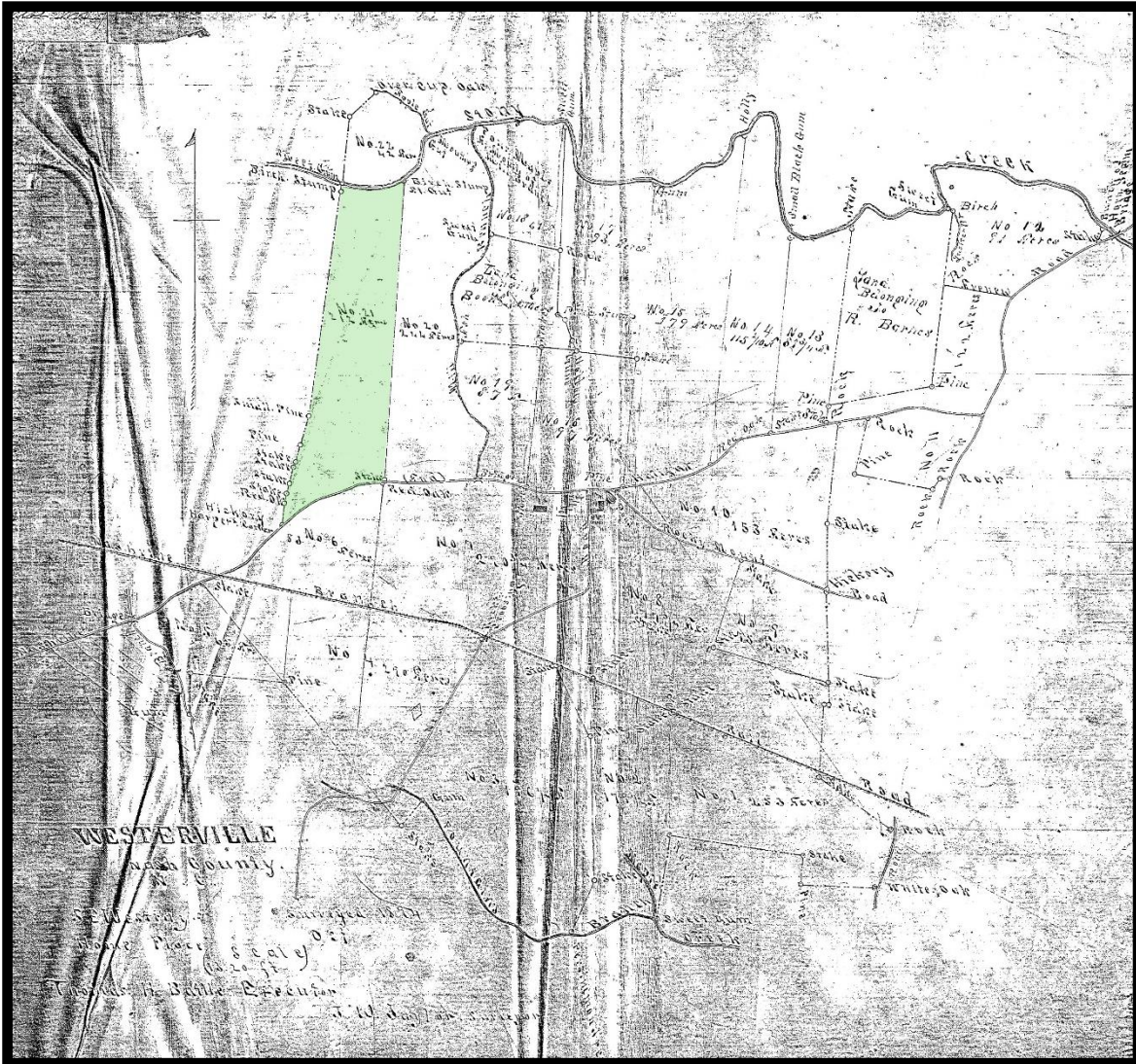


Figure 27: Plat of Westray Land. Note: Originally only one road touched the parcel, the old Rocky Mount-Nashville Road, at the parcel’s southern boundary (Source: Nash County Map Book 90, p. 369).

Carolina Passed by the General Assembly at its Session of 1911, Edwards and Broughton Printing Company, State Printers and Binders: Raleigh, NC, Electronic document, <https://books.google.com/books?id=WqQ4AAAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>, accessed February 20, 2019).

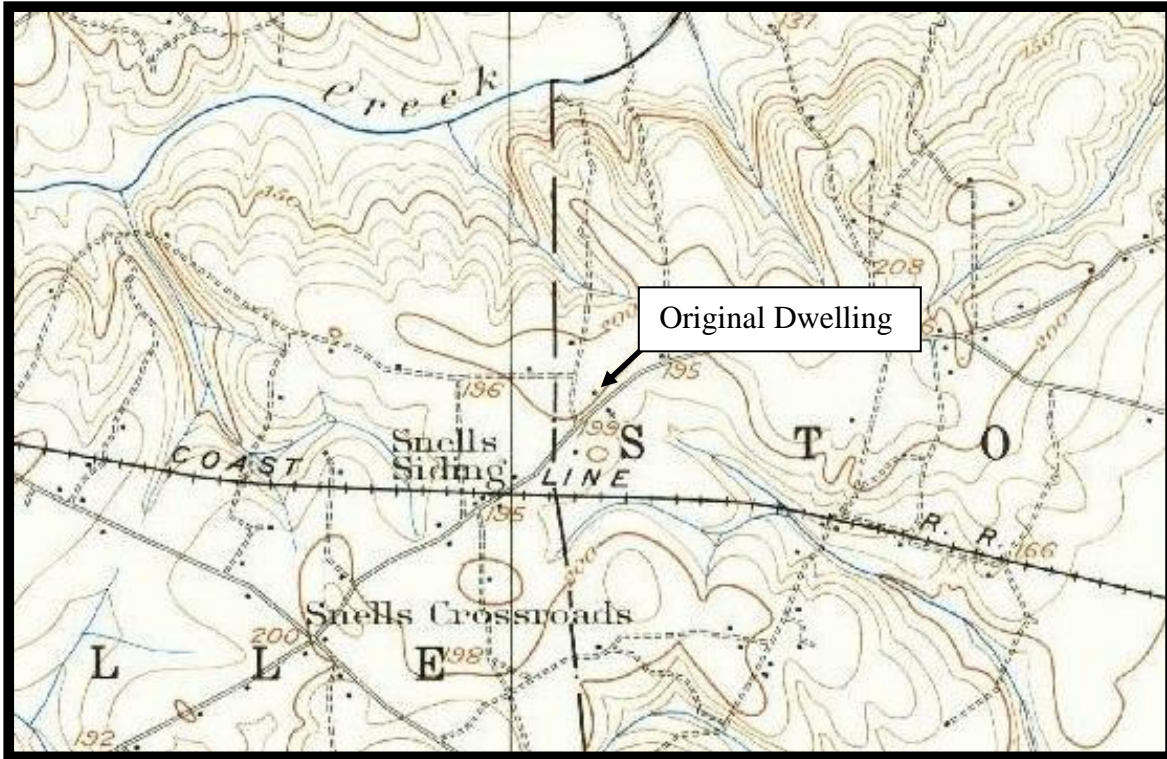


Figure 28: 1902 USGS Map of Rocky Mount, Nash County, North Carolina (Source: North Carolina State Archives).

crossed the parcel owned by Embro dividing the lot into two sections. The new road was likely constructed in the 1920s as a part of Governor Cameron Morrison’s plan to connect North Carolina’s county seats and larger towns with hard-surfaced roads.²¹ The earliest map found that depicts its existence is the 1926 Soil Map of Nash County (Figure 29). The dwelling associated with address point 3033 Eastern Avenue (old U. S. Highway 64) stands near the newly extended road and is also shown on the 1926 map suggesting that it was constructed around the same time as the road.

Over time, Embro and Joanna had three children, Mamie, Lonnie and Ollie. In 1935, Joanna passed away and in 1939 Embro conveyed “all the real estate owned by the grantor situate in Nash County to the North of the railroad tracts of the Rocky Mount-Spring Hope Branch of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company” to Mamie. The conveyance excepted a 3.55-acre tract on the north side of the old Rocky Mount-Nashville Road as well as a property on Howard Street in the City of Rocky Mount. The transaction was also “subject to a life estate reserved in the grantor.” Furthermore, the deed does not specify an acreage amount or reference prior deeds. It is reasonable, however, to presume that the tract included all of the 212-acre parcel purchased from the Batchelors and the 43-acre parcel purchased from the Prices, for a total of 255 acres.²² Mamie’s husband, Thomas Edward Parker, was from Gates County, North Carolina and the 1920 and 1940 Censuses show that the couple lived in that area after their marriage in 1918.²³ Embro

²¹ Mattson, p. 54.

²² Nash County Deed Book 435, p. 464.

²³ U. S. Census, 1920 and 1940.

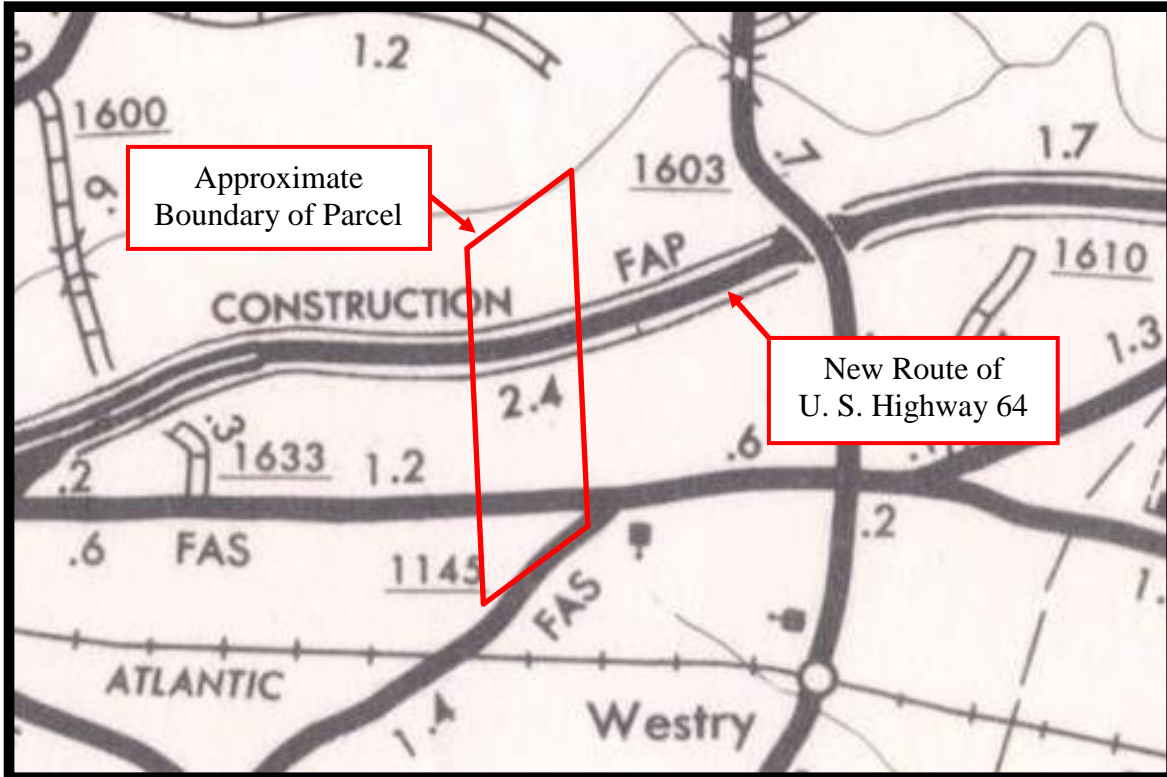


Figure 30: 1962 Highway Maintenance Map of Nash County, North Carolina (Source: North Carolina State Archives).

Two months after the sale, in March 1964, C. C. sold the land to his son, A. J. (Andrew Jackson) Harper.²⁷ Over time, it appears that A. J. sold off the northern section and possibly other portions reducing the parcel to its current 116 acres. The only post-1964 deed pertaining to the tract that could be located through the county's indexes details the sale of a 1.38-acre tract on the north side of Eastern Avenue to A. J.'s stepdaughter, Carolyn R. Eggers, and her husband, Ronald E. Eggers.²⁸ The parcel contains a ca. 1992 dwelling and is surrounded entirely by the larger tract (Figures 31 and 32). Today, Carolyn owns the 116-acre parcel associated with the farm, which is made up of the three southern sections (south of U. S. Highway 64) (Figure 33). Carolyn also owns a 60-acre parcel that adjoins the western edge of the southernmost section.

²⁷ Nash County Deed Book 815, p. 561.

²⁸ Nash County Deed Book 1359, p. 605.

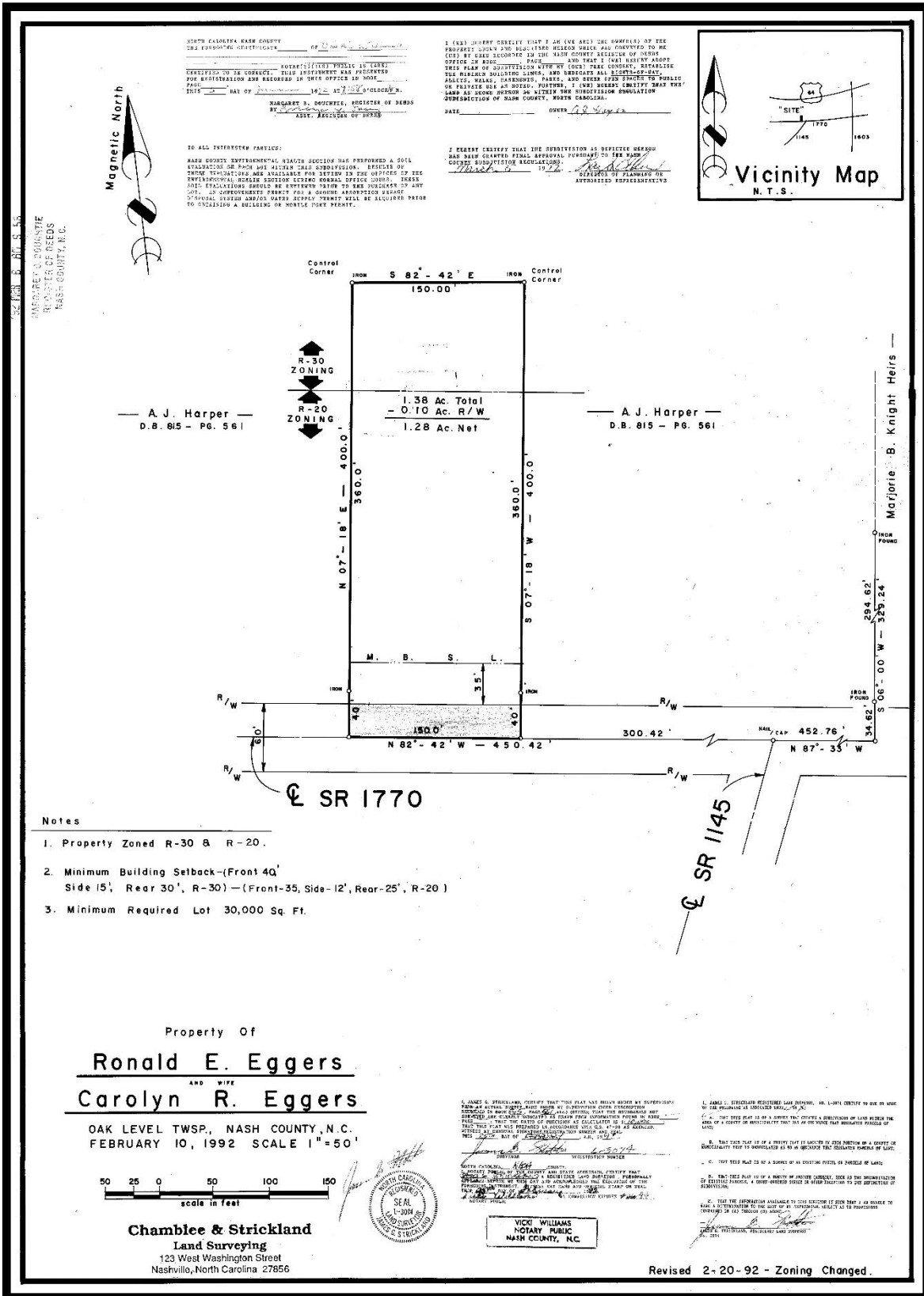


Figure 31: Plat of Parcel Sold to Carolyn R. and Ronald E. Eggers Note: Parcel is surrounded by the property of A. J. Harper (Source: Nash County Map Book 20, p. 270).



Figure 32: 3196 Eastern Avenue, Looking Northwest.



Figure 33: Parcel 021048 (Source: Nash County GIS).

NRHP Criteria Evaluation

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the Bass House is recommended not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

Integrity

The Embro Bass Farm remains in its original location and though the landscape around it has been altered with the construction of Eastern Avenue (old U. S. Highway 64) its rural setting including agricultural buildings, plowed fields and wooded areas remains similar to when the house was constructed. The original form and design of the house is distinguishable despite rear alterations including the enclosure of the porch, though some original materials, such as the dwelling's weatherboard siding and windows, have been replaced. These alterations have diminished the dwelling's workmanship, swapping handcrafted elements for machine made counterparts. Furthermore, a number of structures on the property that complement or possibly pre-date the Embro Bass House have been removed or are in a dilapidated state. Despite the abandonment of these structures and the alterations made to the primary dwelling, the property still embodies the feeling of an early-twentieth-century farmstead through the preservation of the barns nearest the house and the continued use of its plowed fields. For these reasons, it also maintains its association with its period of significance and with Nash County's early agricultural industry.

Criterion A

The Embro Bass Farm 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.

While the Embro Bass Farm is associated with late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century agricultural practices in Nash County and does retain a variety of agricultural outbuilding with good integrity, such as the two barns nearest the dwelling and the small ancillary structures to its west, it is not associated with a specific event or trend and did not make a significant contribution to the development of the area. The property, therefore, is recommended not eligible under Criterion A.

Criterion B

The Embro Bass Farm 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 Bass Family, particularly Embro Bass, whose productive life was spent maintaining the family farm. Research did not reveal his 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 Embro Bass Farm is recommended not 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 extant dwelling and outbuildings on the Embro Bass Farm are typical of late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century structures in North Carolina. In particular, the dwelling's triple-A form and rear wing are found throughout the county and state. The pattern of alterations made to the dwelling, including the replacement of its original Queen Anne-style details with Craftsman-style details and the connection of the original portion to a smaller structure, is also typical of the period. The outbuildings, as well, particularly the larger barns, display forms that had consumed the rural landscape by the early twentieth century, while the tobacco barns display a form special to North Carolina and the smaller shelters exhibit vernacular interpretations of common building types.

Though finished with a Craftsman-style porch, the dwelling is more accurately described as vernacular or traditional due to its common triple-A form with a gabled rear wing. Additionally, the form was easily adapted to the needs, wants and means of its dwellers by increasing its footprint or height or by adding decorative details. For this reason, the type is found throughout Nash County in both rural areas, such as the vicinity of the Embro Bass Farm, and in more densely populated areas like the county seat of Nashville. A rural dwelling that is very similar to the dwelling found on the Embro Bass Farm is located at 4194 West Old Spring Hope Road near the community of White Oak. Like the studied dwelling, this house has a triple-A form with a gabled rear wing. It differs in that it has only one end chimney and appears to have had an interior chimney where a patch is present in the metal roof. It is also finished with lightly-applied Queen Anne details including turned porch supports and shaped shingles in the front gable, which has a slightly steeper pitch than that on the Embro Bass dwelling. The dwelling also retains its wooden weatherboard siding, though like the Embro Bass dwelling, its windows are vinyl replacements and its porch appears to have been altered with an added balustrade (Figure 34).

In the early twentieth century, the studied dwelling was given a Craftsman-style porch complete with battered-box columns on piers and a new set of steps. These new details are typical of the period as both original and newly added features and can be found on many small and large dwellings in Nash County. Located on a parcel west of the Embro Bass Farm is a ca. 1935 dwelling (NS1493) that more fully articulates the Craftsman style. The dwelling is one-and-one-half stories in height and has an integral porch, that like the Embro Bass dwelling, has battered-box columns on piers. Unlike the Embro Bass dwelling, the porch's piers are constructed of exposed brick. The dwelling also retains exposed rafter tails, a feature that is quintessential to the Craftsman style, and has windows with small panes above a large single pane, hinting that



Figure 34: 4194 West Old Spring Hope Road.

the windows contain their original sashes. Furthermore, the dwelling has a large shed-roofed dormer centered on the forward slope of its side-gabled roof. In contrast to the triple-A form, which can be associated with a variety of styles beginning with the most simplistic vernacular styles to more detailed Queen Anne or Italianate examples, the centered dormer is almost always associated with the Craftsman style. In addition to retaining more of its original materials and being a more fully articulated example of an architectural style, this dwelling also retains a number of agricultural outbuildings including a hay barn, meat house, summer kitchen, well house, chicken coops, tobacco barns, and various multipurpose buildings.²⁹ It also stands on a roughly 60-acre parcel, the majority of which is characterized by plowed fields, amid a domestic yard with mature trees (Figure 35).

The Embro Bass Farm contains a variety of structures from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, some of which retain a moderate level of integrity and others of which have fallen into disrepair. Those architectural resources that remain intact display architectural styles and forms that are common to both the county and state. Nonetheless, the primary resource on the property, the ca. 1900 dwelling, has lost a great deal of integrity due to the removal of its wooden weatherboard siding and the replacement of its wooden sash windows. Other examples of both vernacular triple-A forms and more fully articulated Craftsman-style dwellings, as well as more complete farms, are present in rural Nash County, including the two dwellings discussed above. For these reasons, the Embro Bass Farm is not a significant example of an architectural

²⁹ Heather Dollins Staton and LeeAnne Brooks, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group, Architectural Reconnaissance Survey of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project Corridor, Northampton, Halifax, Nash, Wilson, Johnston, Sampson, Cumberland, and Robeson Counties, North Carolina, Addendum, February 2016, p. 41-43.



Figure 35: 4170 East Old Spring Hope Road (NS1493).

style, nor does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and is therefore not recommended eligible under Criterion C.

Criterion D

The Embro Bass Farm 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.

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