



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

August 12, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vanessa Patrick
Human Environment Unit
NC Department of Transportation

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

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report, Upgrade Intersection to Interchange on US 74 at NC
72/NC130, R-5751, PA 18-04-0014, Robeson County, ER 19-2181

Thank you for your June 24, 2019, memorandum transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and concur that the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House (RB0714) and the Giles Stephens Homeplace (RB0715) are not eligible for listing in the National Register for the reasons outlined.

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: 07/11/2019

State Historic Preservation Office



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

To: Renee Gledhill-Earley, NCHPO

ER 19-2181

From: Vanessa E. Patrick, NCDOT

Due -- 8/2/19

Date: June 24, 2019

Subject: *Historic Structures Survey Report. Upgrade Intersection to Interchange on US 74 at NC 72/NC 130, Robeson County, North Carolina. TIP No. R-5751. WBS No. 53087.1.1. PA No. 18-04-0014.*

H-

*2 letters
RSE 7/31/19*

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 R-5751, Robeson County project area (one hard copy and one CD-ROM). Survey photographs, GIS data, and site forms are included on the CD-ROM, and hard copies of the site forms are also provided.

The report considers two resources – the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House (RB0714) and the Giles Stephens Homeplace (RB0715). Both are recommended 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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**HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT
UPGRADE INTERSECTION TO INTERCHANGE
ON US 74 AT NC 72/NC 130
ROBESON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

**TIP PROJECT R-5751
WBS NO. 53087.1.1
PA TRACKING NO. 18-04-0014**

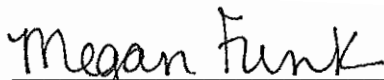
**Prepared for:
The North Carolina Department of Transportation
Environmental Analysis Unit
Century Center A
1020 Birch Ridge Road
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**Prepared by:
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**Megan Funk
*Architectural Historian***

NCR-0799

JUNE 2019



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

06-14-2019

Date

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

Date

**HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT
UPGRADE INTERSECTION TO INTERCHANGE
ON US 74 AT NC 72/NC 130
ROBESON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

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**Megan Funk
*Architectural Historian***

NCR-0799

JUNE 2019

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to upgrade the intersection of US 74 with NC 72 and NC 130 to an interchange in Robeson County, North Carolina. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) equates with the study area and spans from NC 130 to NC 72, which diverge to the west and east, respectively, from US 74. The project is included in the North Carolina State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) as Project Number R-5751 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. Two resources warranted intensive National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility evaluation and are 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 two 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 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 Robeson County Register of Deeds online, in addition to using other online sources. This report recommends the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House and Giles Stephens Homeplace as not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

PROPERTY NAME	HPO SSN	ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION	CRITERIA
Maulsby and Susan Stephens House	RB0714	Not Eligible	-
Giles Stephens Homeplace	RB0715	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 March 2019. Field documentation included notes, sketch maps, and digital photography. Background research was conducted at the Robeson County Register of Deeds online, in addition to using other online sources. This report includes the architectural analysis and in-depth evaluation of two properties in the APE: the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House (RB0714) and the Giles Stephens Homeplace (RB0715). 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 study area is located east of Orrum and touches on the western edge of the Lumber River State Park. It is defined on the west by NC 130 and on the east by NC 72. Both of these roads veer off of US 74, which crosses through the middle of the study area, and all three of the roads are shielded from one another by densely wooded areas. At the time of the survey, the wooded areas were flooded and marshy. Over time, the path of NC 72 has been changed and a small section of the original road extends south from the point where the new section turns west and connects to US 74. This small section of road is separated from US 74 by a buffer of trees and a plowed field. Three small farms, two of which are the focus of this report, are located near the southern and eastern boundaries of the study area. Each contain plowed fields, a dwelling, and agricultural buildings. While all the architectural resources associated with the studied farms are located on the east side of NC 72, the parcel associated with the second farm, the Giles Stephens Homeplace, is composed of seven tracts, which are scattered between the three roads. The third farm is located on the south side of NC 130 near the southern terminus of the study area. Other small dwellings are present on NC 72 including a ca. 1940 dwelling south of the studied parcels and a few small dwellings – one constructed in 1953 and at least two mobile homes – north of the studied parcels. Two ponds exist on the west side of US 74 and additional ponds exist along and just outside of the northern and western boundaries of the study area. There is also a cemetery just beyond the western tree buffer of US 74 on the edge of a plowed field that measures roughly 0.5 acres and is owned by the Stephens Cemetery Trust.²

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

² Robeson County Government Tax Administration Record Search, Electronic document, <http://www.ustaxdata.com/nc/robeson/account.cfm?parcelID=12140101001>, accessed March 11, 2019.

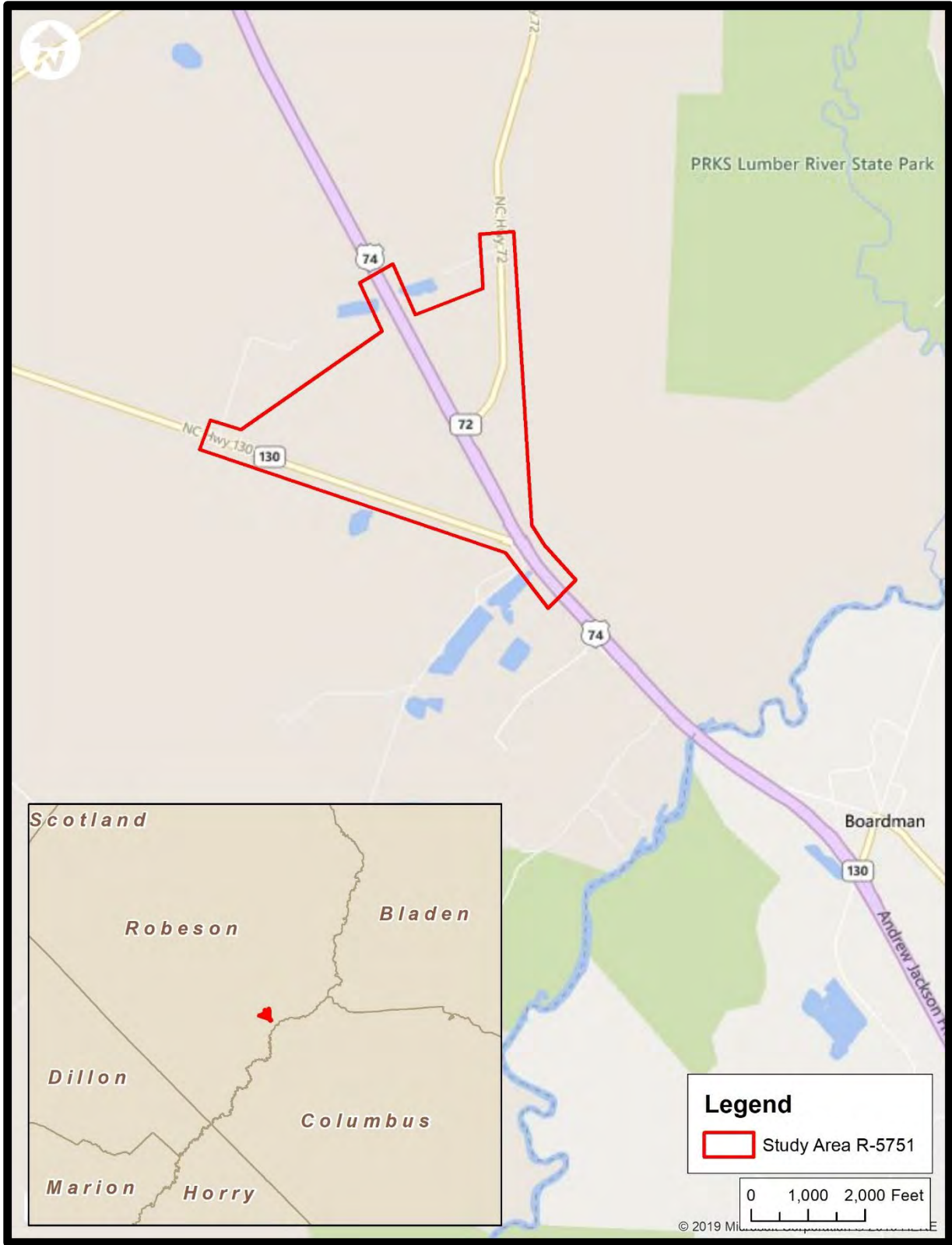


Figure 1: Project Location Map.

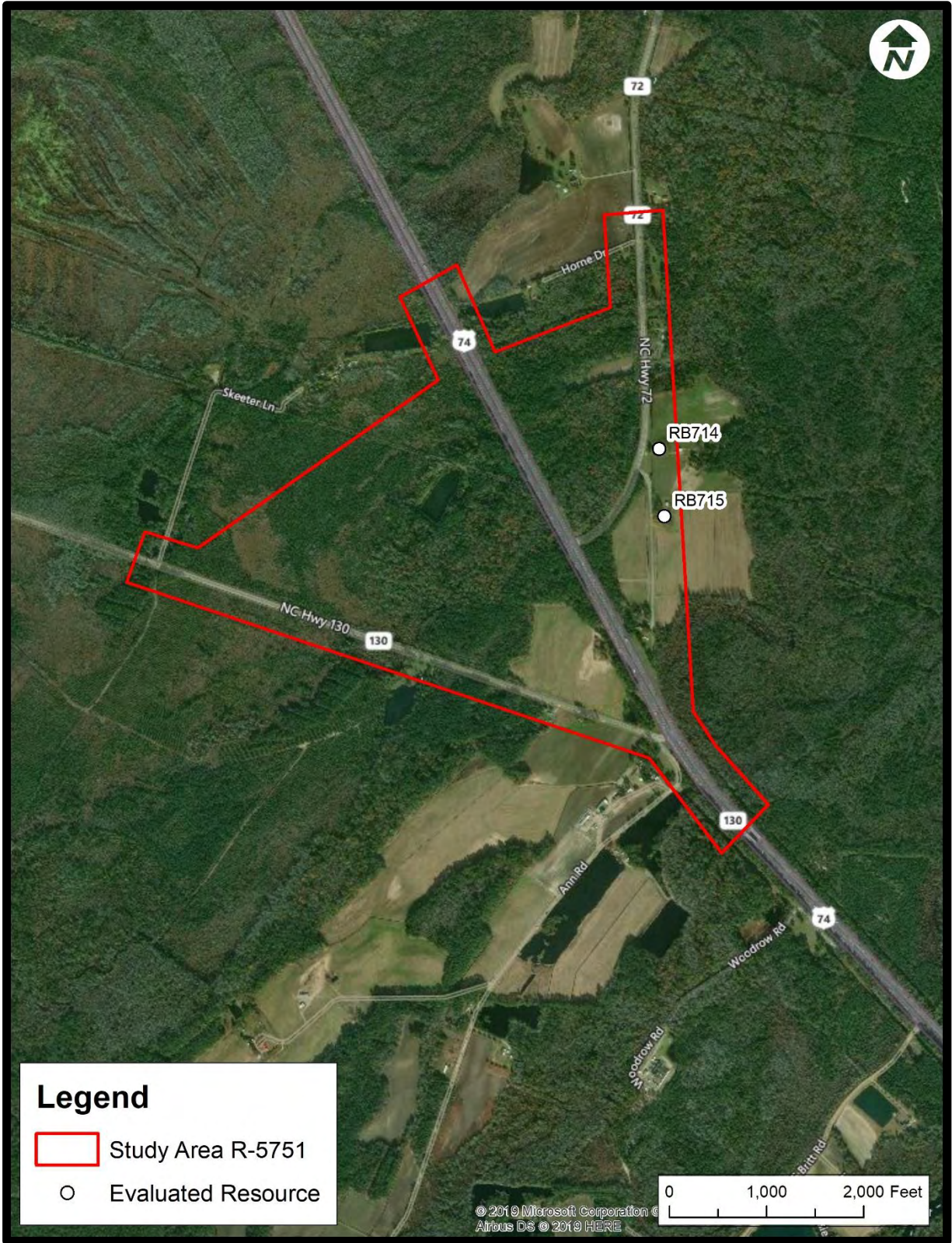


Figure 2: Resource Locations.

PROPERTY INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS

Resource Name:	Maulsby and Susan Stephens House
NCDOT Survey Site Number:	001
HPO Survey Site Number:	RB0714
Location:	16169 E. NC 72
Parcel ID:	020598881100
Dates(s) of Construction:	Late 19th Century
Recommendation:	Not Eligible



Figure 3: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Looking Northeast.

Setting

The property is located on the east side of NC 72 just north of an intersection with US 74. Its primary resource, the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, stands near the center of its western boundary and is set back roughly 140 feet from NC 72. A screen of four evergreen trees partially shields it from the road. The domestic yard is scattered with mature trees, some of which are pecan trees, and four large bushes, including a rose bush, span the front porch. Other bushes are present in the yard and along the edge of the gravel driveway, which passes south of the dwelling toward a collection of agricultural buildings. East of the dwelling is a small temporary dwelling, and a second small dwelling, which is raised to protect it from flooding, stands east of this one, near the packhouse. The packhouse is located roughly 115 feet east of the

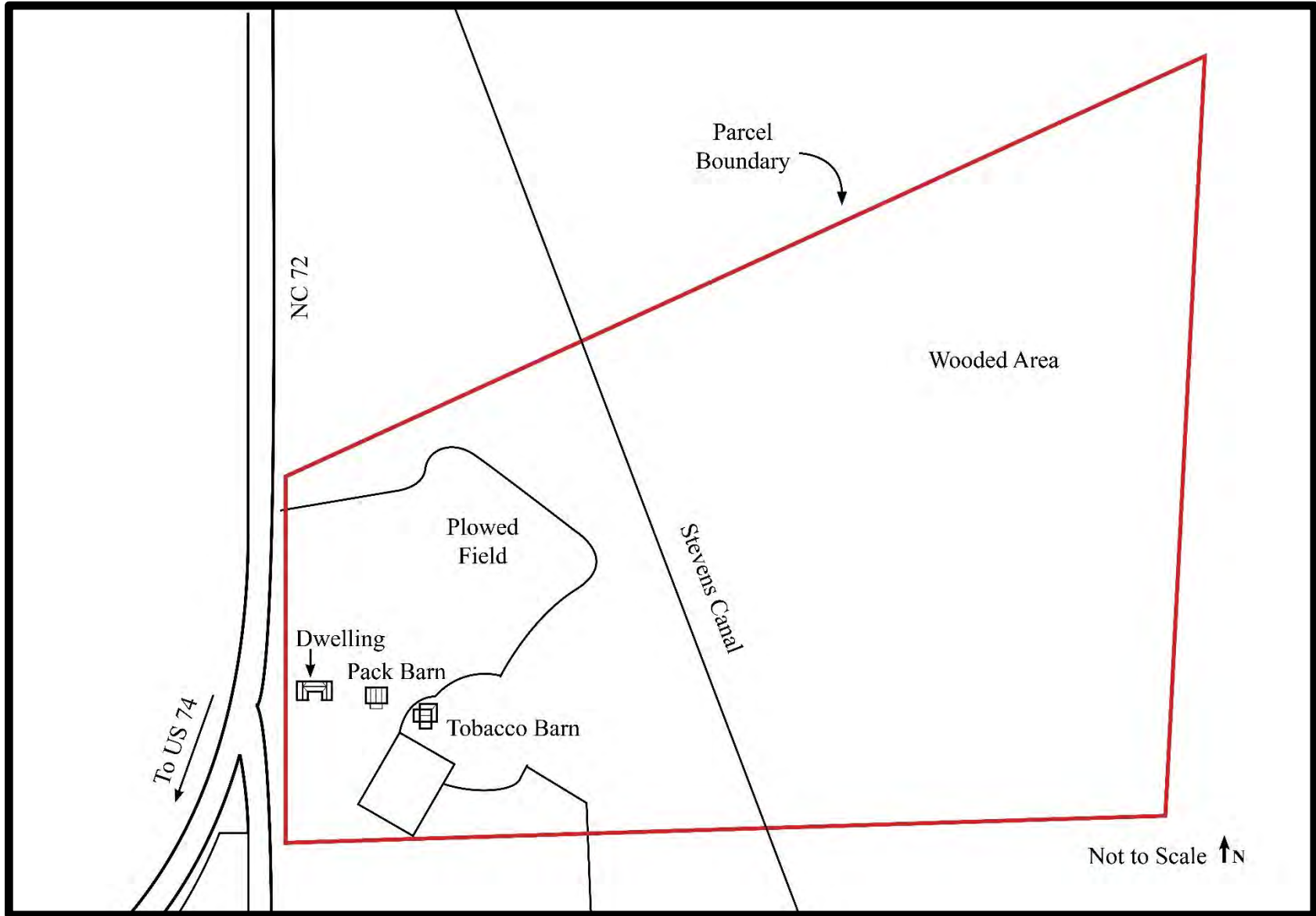


Figure 4: Sketch Map of the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House.

dwelling and faces south. Roughly 125 feet east of the packhouse is a log tobacco barn. North of the structures is an irregularly-shaped ten-acre plowed field and south of the structures is an irregularly-shaped five-acre plowed field. A section cut from the smaller field has been planted with pine trees, likely for harvesting. East of the structures and fields, the remainder of the 123-acre parcel is wooded. A canal, labeled on the Robeson County parcel map as “Stevens Canal” crosses through the wooded area, roughly north to south. East of this, is a section of land labeled as “Sand Island Slough” (Figure 4).

Property Description

Exterior

The small one-story dwelling began as a three-bay, side-gabled structure with a gabled rear wing. It was originally clad with German lap siding, which is still present below a layer of vinyl siding (Figure 5). The dwelling likely rested on brick piers, though it appears they have been sheathed and the spaces between them filled with modern brick (Figure 6). Original windows have also been replaced with vinyl sash windows and the roof has been replaced with asphalt shingles. Over time, a hallway, which may have begun as a side porch, was added to the south elevation of the wing, and a side-gabled addition was added on the east elevation of the wing.

The dwelling's façade is symmetrical and still retains an early wooden entry door with four vertical lights over horizontal panels (Figure 7). It is flanked by paired four-over-four, vinyl sash windows with vinyl shutters (Figure 8). The façade is sheltered by an integral porch supported by battered box columns on brick piers. The upper portion of the columns are clad with metal but may contain the original columns below (Figure 9). The porch is approached by concrete steps flanked by low brick pedestals with concrete caps (Figure 10).



Figure 5: Mulsby and Susan Stephens House, Original German Lap Siding Below Vinyl Siding.



Figure 6: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Foundation and Piers.



Figure 7: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Entry Door.



Figure 8: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Façade Windows.



Figure 9: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Porch Column.



Figure 10: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Porch Steps.

The north (side) elevation of the dwelling has three sections, described west to east. The first section is the gable end of the main block of the dwelling, which contains two six-over-six, vinyl sash windows that are centered below the gable. The second section is the side elevation of the wing with a paired six-over-six, vinyl sash window and two individual six-over-six, vinyl sash windows that are set very close to one another. Though separate, they share one set of vinyl shutters (Figure 11). Evidence on the interior suggests that the original windows on this elevation were enclosed when these were added (see interior photos). The third section is the gable end of the rear addition. It contains three six-over-six, vinyl sash windows, which also share one set of vinyl shutters (Figure 12).

The east (rear) elevation of the dwelling, which belongs to a modern rear addition, contains two sets of individual one-over-one, vinyl sash windows that are set closely together and share one set of vinyl shutters. The windows are placed to the north of the elevation. The rear slope of the addition contains two vents (Figure 13).

The south (side) elevation, like the north, is also composed of three primary sections, also described from east to west. The western section relates to the gable end of the rear addition and contains a squat six-over-six, vinyl sash window. This section projects forward of the middle section of the elevation creating a west-facing elevation that also contains a squat six-over-six, vinyl sash window. The middle section, which may have begun as a side porch, contains an off-center modern entry door flanked by an individual window and a ribbon of four windows on the west and an individual window on the east. All the of the windows have six-over-six, vinyl



Figure 11: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Looking Southeast.



Figure 12: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Looking South.



Figure 13: Mulsby and Susan Stephens House, Looking Southwest. Note Peak of Rear Wing.



Figure 14: Mulsby and Susan Stephens House, Looking North.

sashes and the window on the east has a single shutter on its east side. A small shed-roofed section fills the ell between the middle and main block of the dwelling. It does not contain any apertures. The gable end of the main block of the dwelling contains three six-over-six, vinyl sash windows and likely reflects the original arrangement of the north gable (Figure 14). The only difference is that an exterior brick chimney rises from the center of the south elevation. The chimney is interesting in that it has a stepped base, likely designed to better support the weight of the chimney and prevent it from falling away from the dwelling. This feature could also relate to a renovation or restabilization of the chimney (Figure 15).



Figure 15: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Chimney Base.

Interior

According to a friend of the owner who was interviewed during the site visit, the dwelling has flooded twice in recent years. While this was not apparent from the exterior, it was very apparent from the interior. The damage, however, revealed a large amount of original materials including beadboard walls and ceilings. It also revealed the placement of original windows and doors and helped to make clear distinctions between the original and added portions of the house.

The original core of the dwelling appears to have had a center hall plan with two large rooms at the front and small rooms along the rear (Figure 16). Unpainted beadboard indicates where a dividing wall once separated the south front room from the hall and removed plaster shows where a door once connected this room to a smaller rear room, which was remodeled as a bathroom. The room also contains the only extant fireplace, though it has been stripped of its mantel, likely due to the flood (Figures 17 and 18).

The north front room has a similar form to the second, except that it is still separated from the hall and does not have a fireplace. A large portion of its ceiling has been removed showing how the modern drop ceiling was constructed and revealing the original beadboard ceiling as well as the underside of the roof and some original shake shingles (Figures 19 and 20).

The rear south room retains an original door with five horizontal panels as well as a once-covered window (Figure 21). The rear north room feeds into the rear wing making it larger than the south room. The room has been clad with a wider more decorative paneling that was added over the original flush boards and an original window opening (Figure 22). There is also an original two-over-two, horizontal pane, wooden window sash in the wall between this room and

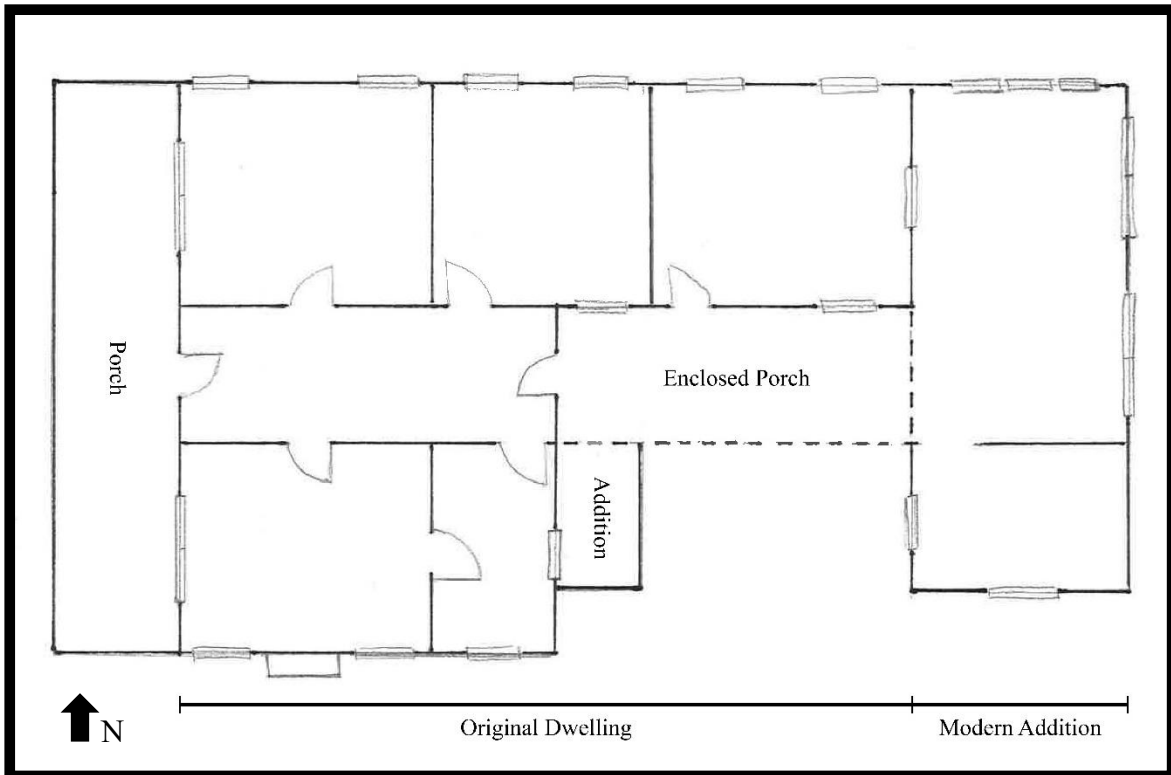


Figure 16: Conjectural Floor Plan of Original Dwelling.



Figure 17: Mulsby and Susan Stephens House, Southwest Room Showing Beadboard, Ghost Mark of Dividing Wall (Mirrored on Opposite Wall), and an Original Doorway.



Figure 18: Mulsby and Susan Stephens House, Southwest Room Showing Original Fireplace.



Figure 19: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Northwest Room Showing Beadboard Ceiling.



Figure 20: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Northwest Room Showing Shake Shingles on Right.



Figure 21: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Original Door and Window Opening.



Figure 22: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Original Flush Boards and Window Opening.

the hall (Figure 23). The rear of the wing was adapted as a kitchen, but the removal of the lower cabinets reveals additional beadboard and another window opening (Figure 24).

Along the side of the rear wing is a hallway that may have begun as a side porch. It leads to a modern side-gabled addition that was constructed against the east (rear) elevation of the wing and is oriented perpendicular to it giving the dwelling a U-shaped footprint. The addition consists of a den/family room space and a smaller space that may have been used as a bedroom (Figure 25).



Figure 23: Malsby and Susan Stephens House, Original Window and Hall to Rear Addition.



Figure 24: Malsby and Susan Stephens House, Rear Wing Adapted as a Kitchen. Note Original Window Openings Below Cabinets.



Figure 25: Malsby and Susan Stephens House, Rear Addition.

Ancillary Buildings

There are two agricultural buildings and two non-traditional dwellings east of the primary dwelling. The structure closest to the primary dwelling was identified as a dwelling by a friend of the owner who was on site. He also shared that it will be removed from the property soon. The structure is considerably smaller than the main house and has a side-gabled standing seam metal roof and vertical wooden sheathing. It faces south and there is a small recessed porch on the façade. The porch shelters the entry door and two four-over-four, vinyl sash windows. It is supported by wooden posts with gallows brackets and has a simple wooden railing. West of the recessed porch there is a pair of four-over-four, vinyl sash windows. The remaining elevations are blind (Figures 26 and 27).

The second structure was also described as a dwelling. It is raised on concrete blocks, roughly 2.5 feet above the ground, likely to protect from flooding. The structure faces west and has a wide entry door flanked by one-over-one, vinyl sash windows. It is sheathed with vinyl siding and has a low-sloped, front-gabled roof covered with corrugated metal. The north and south (side) elevations are lit by one-over-one, vinyl sash windows (Figure 28).

Next to the raised dwelling is a front-gabled packhouse with shed-roofed wings. It is clad with vinyl siding, but the original vertical wooden siding is present on the east and west (side) elevations of the original center bay. The south (front) elevation contains a centered board-and-batten door flanked on the east by a single-pane window. The wings are open on the front though their side and rear elevations are blind. There is also a small board-and-batten door on the rear elevation of the center section (Figures 29 and 30).

East of the packhouse is a structure with a log tobacco barn as its core. The structure faces west, and while its core is front gabled, there is a tall shed-roofed addition that almost completely conceals the façade. The addition is clad with vertical metal sheathing and has a garage-like entrance. Lower, shed-roofed sections extend from the remaining elevations. These sections, like the log portion and front addition are covered with standing seam metal roofs. On the east side of the log core is a small door that was used to add firewood and heat the barn, and on the north side is a small board-and-batten entry door. A large portion of the exterior of the log barn has been clad with metal sheets, but the interior has been left exposed (Figures 31 through 34).



Figure 26: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Secondary Dwelling, Looking North.



Figure 27: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Secondary Dwelling, Looking Southeast.



Figure 28: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Secondary Dwelling, Looking Northeast.



Figure 29: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Packhouse, Looking Northwest.



Figure 30: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Packhouse, Looking Southeast.



Figure 31: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Tobacco Barn and Additions, Looking Southeast.



Figure 32: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Tobacco Barn, Looking Northwest.



Figure 33: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Tobacco Barn, Looking Southwest.



Figure 34: Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, Tobacco Barn, Interior, Looking East.

Historical Background

The property can be traced to December 31st, 1919, when Susan Britt Stephens, a widow, purchased it at a public sale at the Lumberton Courthouse, paying three hundred dollars. The sale was related to court proceedings between her and Richard Stephens, who appears to have been her late husband John “Maulsby” Stephen’s son from his first marriage. As the oldest son, it seems that Richard sued his step-mother for his father’s land.³ The parcel was the same size then as it is today, 123 acres, and was bordered by the property of several others including Lot Britt and a division of land that belonged to Maulsby’s father, A. B. Stephens.⁴ It is likely through this connection, that the land came into Maulsby’s ownership, though it could also have been through connections to the Britt family. An 1884 map of Robeson County shows two Stephens and three Britts in the vicinity of the property (Figure 36).

Though Susan was only married once, Maulsby had been married three times and had children from each marriage. He and Susan, who were married in 1897, had three children, all of whom were daughters.⁵

The 1900 Census shows the couple living in the Britts Township where they owned a home on a farm, free and clear. Maulsby was a farmer and two of his sons, Richard and Edward, lived in his household and worked as farm laborers. Two other children, John and Ora, lived in the household as well. They are all from Maulsby’s earlier marriages.⁶

The 1910 Census shares similar information as the 1900 Census and a note in the margin indicates that the family lived on Ivey Bluff Road, an early name for NC 72.⁷ A 1908 map depicts a dwelling in the location of the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House as well (Figure 37).

The 1908 map also shows the path of a railroad line, labeled as the “Southeastern R.R.,” which ran from Elrod, a community west of the dwelling, through Boardman, east of the dwelling. This railroad appears to have been constructed in the late nineteenth century and crossed the property associated with the Giles Stephens Homeplace (RB0715) just south of the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House. The construction of the line led to the incorporation of the community of

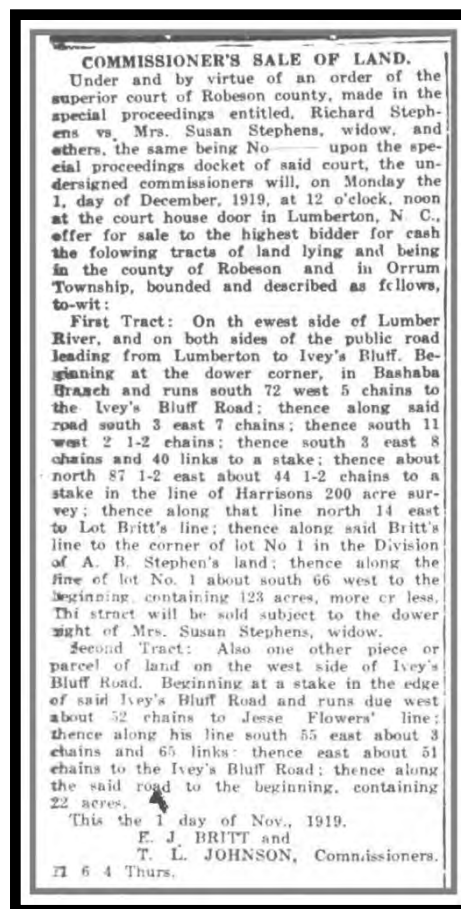


Figure 35: “Commissioner’s Sale of Land,” *The Robesonian*, November 20, 1919, Page 6.

³ Ancestry.com, “John Maulsby Stephens,” Electronic document, <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/24621702/person/342070111649/facts>, accessed March 6, 2019.

⁴ Robeson County Deed Book 7D, page 300.

⁵ Ancestry.com, “John Maulsby Stephens.”

⁶ U.S. Census, 1900.

⁷ U.S. Census, 1910.



Figure 36: Detail of 1884 Map of Robeson County, NC Showing Stephens and Britt Property Owners in the Vicinity of the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House (North Carolina State Archives).

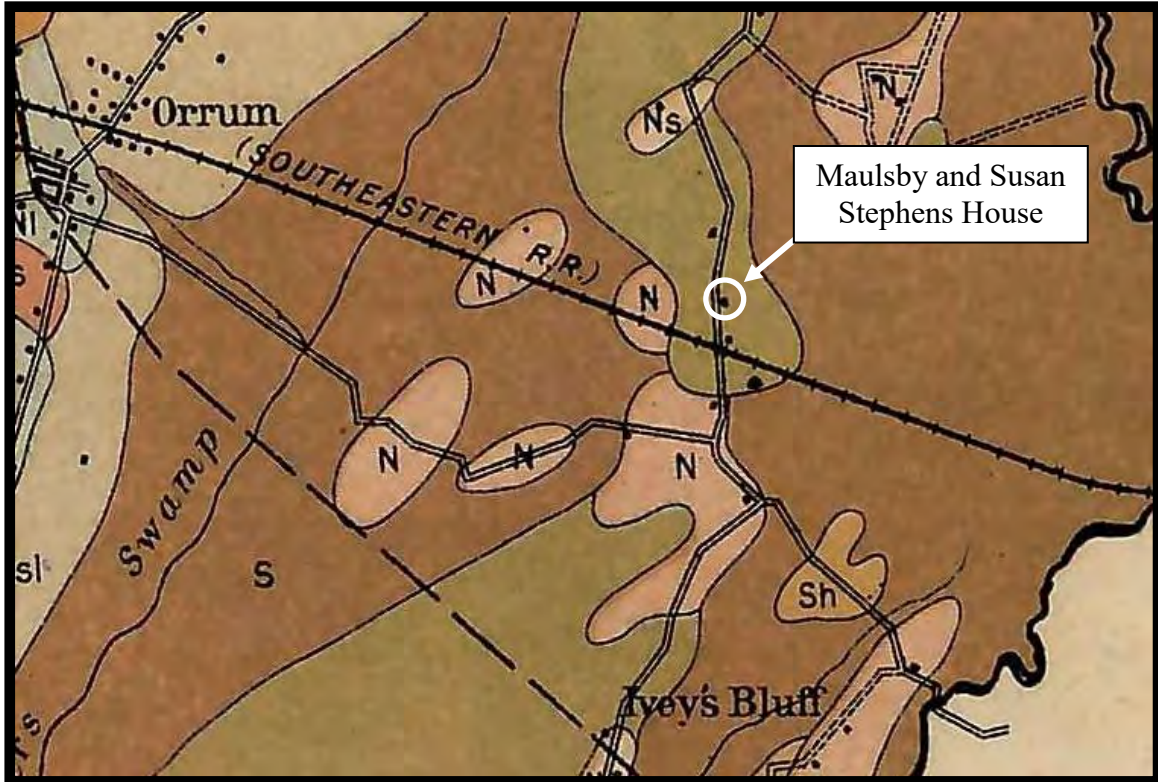


Figure 37: Detail of 1908 Soil Map, North Carolina, Robeson County Showing the Location of the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House (North Carolina State Archives).

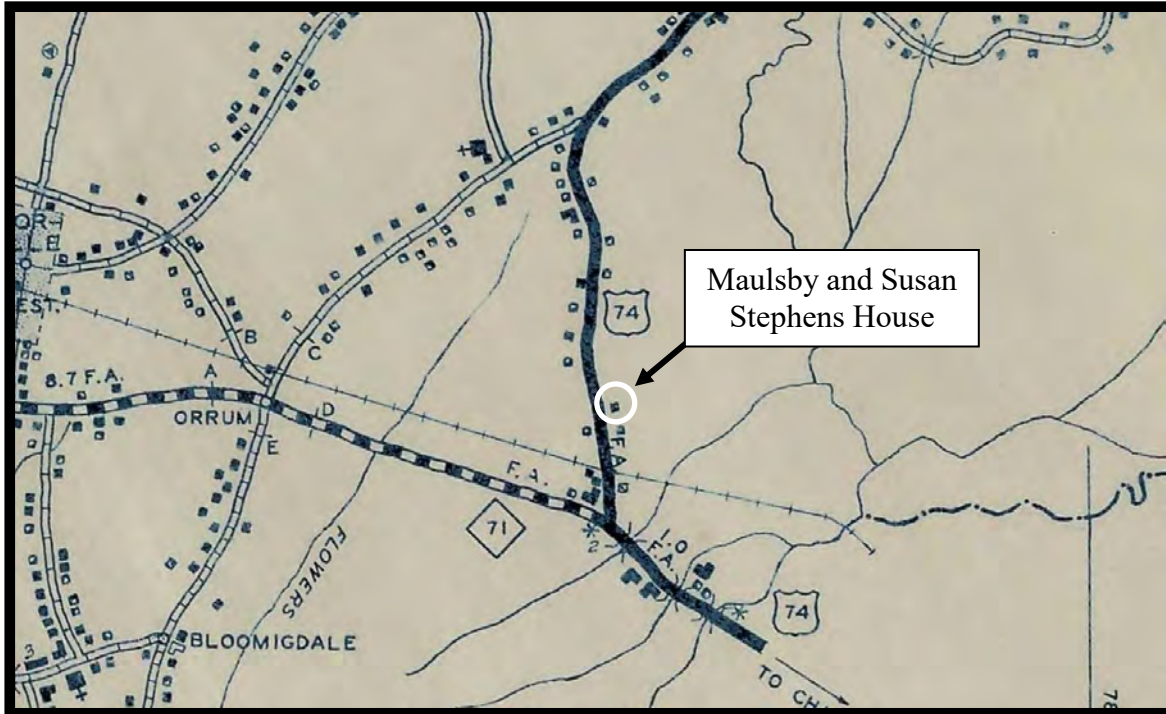


Figure 38: Detail of 1938 Robeson County, North Carolina State Highway Map Showing the Location of the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House (North Carolina State Archives).

Orrum in 1903 and the Orrum Township, which was formed from a portion of the Britts Township.⁸ It was likely around this time or later that the “Stevens Canal” was created east of the dwelling. The canal follows the rail line west from the Lumber River before turning north and crossing the Giles Stephens property then the Maulsby and Susan Stephens property. It was likely created to separate the rail line as well as the Stephens properties and their agricultural fields from the slough to the east and to protect from flooding.

After the sale, the 1920 Census shows Susan living in the household of her step-daughter, Ora Lynch, and son-in-law, Cleve Lynch, along with her and Maulsby’s daughters, Velma, Gertrude, and Thetis. Their residence was located on the Wilmington and Charlotte Highway, another early name for NC 72.⁹ By the next census, Susan lived in a household that belonged to Velma and her husband, Gregory Hardin. Thetis, as well as two of their own children, also lived with them. Though a street is not specified, the residence was located in the Orrum Township and likely relates to the studied property.¹⁰

When Susan passed away in 1938, she left the land to Velma, and in the 1940 Census, Velma’s family is listed as living in the same house they lived in in 1935, further suggesting that they

⁸ William S. Powell, *The North Carolina Gazetteer A Dictionary of Tar Heel Places*, Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968.

⁹ U.S. Census, 1920.

¹⁰ U.S. Census, 1930.

lived on the property.¹¹ In both censuses, Gregory is listed as working as a farmer on his own account.¹²

Velma and Gregory retained the property until 1976 when they conveyed it to their daughters – Hettie, Marguerite, and Sue Ann.¹³ In 1988, Marguerite and Sue Ann, their husbands, and Hettie’s heirs executed a timber deed with the Georgia-Pacific Corporation for “All Merchantable Timber and Pulpwood...” The deed granted the timber company the rights and access to remove timber from a specified area over the next two years (Figure 39).¹⁴

The group retained the property until 1990, when they conveyed it to the current owners, Glen S. and Laurita Bass. Though the deed provides a Kansas address for the family, current property record provides a Texas address.¹⁵ It seems likely that the vinyl siding and rear addition were part of a renovation following the first flood, though they could have been added earlier as well. The second flood rendered the house uninhabitable and a great deal of modern material has been removed. How the house will be treated going forward is unknown.

¹¹ Robeson County Deed Book 7D, page 300 and U.S. Census, 1940.

¹² U.S. Census, 1930 and 1940.

¹³ Robeson County Deed Book 20K, page 238.

¹⁴ Robeson County Deed Book 650, page 497.

¹⁵ Robeson County Deed Book 20K, page 238 and Robeson County Government Tax Administration Record Search, Electronic document, <http://www.ustaxdata.com/nc/robeson/account.cfm?parcelID=121401008>, accessed March 6, 2019.

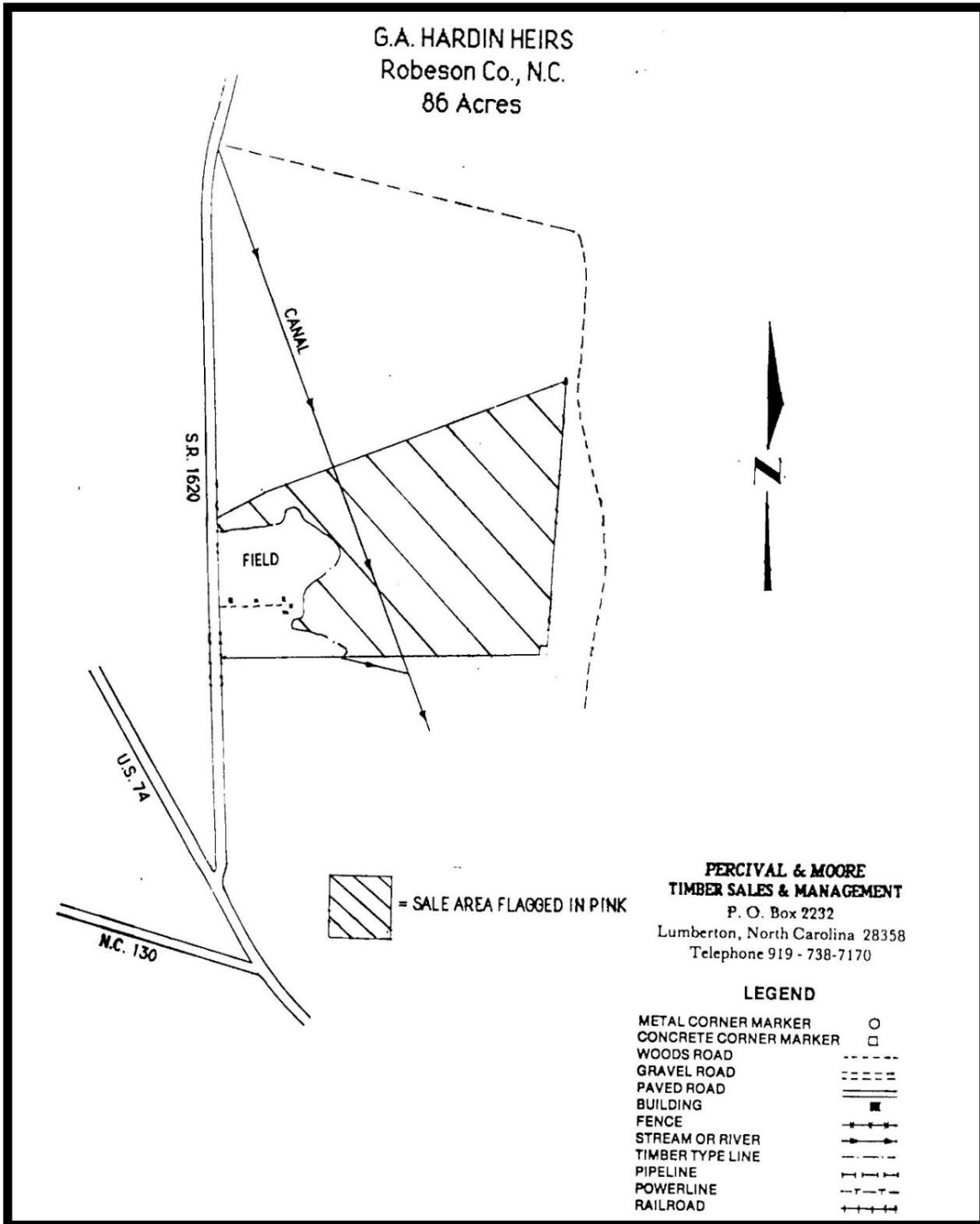


Figure 39: Plat from Timber Deed (Robeson County Deed Book 20K, page 238).

NRHP Criteria Evaluation

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP.

Integrity

The Maulsby and Susan Stephens House remains in its original location within an agricultural setting that has changed little over the past 100 years. The greatest change to its surroundings is the construction of US 74 to its east and the re-routing of NC 72 to connect to the new road. These changes, however, are almost entirely shielded by a wooded area that appears to have been in existence for as long as the house has stood. In terms of materials and workmanship, the house has been greatly damaged by flooding. The flooding, however, revealed a high concentration of original material including beadboard walls and ceilings and helped to distinguish the original layout of the house. Furthermore, the original weatherboard siding is still present behind a layer of vinyl siding. While these materials were compromised, they appear to have withstood the flood better than the modern materials used to conceal them displaying their quality in terms of workmanship and endurance. The dwelling, even clad with vinyl siding, still reads from the exterior as a small, late-nineteenth or early twentieth-century dwelling contributing to its feeling as a residence from that era. Furthermore, its surrounding of plowed fields and retention of two early agricultural buildings affirms its association with the area's late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century agricultural economy.

Criterion A

The Maulsby and Susan Stephens 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 house and property are historically associated with general farming, particularly the cultivation of tobacco, in rural Robeson County and still convey that association through the retention of a tobacco barn, pack house, and plowed fields. However, the buildings, including the dwelling, have lost integrity by being converted to storage spaces and being clad with alternate materials (metal and vinyl). The property is therefore recommended not eligible under Criterion A.

Criterion B

The Maulsby and Susan Stephens 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 members of the Stephens Family, whose productive lives appear to have been spent maintaining the family farm. Though the family was prominent in the area, 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 Maulsby and Susan Stephens House 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 Maulsby and Susan Stephens House is representative of a small rural dwelling constructed near the turn of the nineteenth century and adapted over time with a Craftsman-style porch and modern interior and exterior materials.

To be eligible for the NRHP, it is required that the property have integrity, and in terms of architectural integrity, the property's primary resource, the dwelling, exhibits an interesting mix of characteristics associated with both high and low integrity. The first of these characteristics, and possibly the most visible, is the cladding of the house with vinyl siding and the use of asphalt shingles on its roof. The exterior appearance is also marred by the use of vinyl sash replacement windows. This use of modern materials in place of original or in-kind materials is typically enough to reduce a structure's integrity to a level that is too low to be eligible for the NRHP. However, the existence and partial exposure of historic material below the vinyl siding and below the drywall at least partially counteracts the abundance of modern material. Furthermore, the flood damage revealed original door and window openings. The reveal of original materials and the original configuration of the house suggest that the late-nineteenth-century dwelling is essentially encapsulated by the modern materials and greatly increases the structure's integrity. However, this too is compromised by the flood damage, the exact extent of which is unknown.

Taking into consideration Criterion C's additional criteria, the dwelling embodies some characteristics of the late nineteenth century, such as its small, side-gabled form with a rear ell and the use of beadboard to finish the interior spaces. However, though this form is typical of the time frame, it does not appear to be typical of Robeson County. Windshield survey, the use of Google Streetview, and the review of other environmental review reports for the county suggest that a front-gabled form is more typical of the county (Figure 40).¹⁶ Like the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, these dwellings also exhibit Craftsman-style porches with battered box columns on piers and often retain original doors and/or windows with slender vertical lights.

¹⁶ Dovetail Cultural Resource Group, Penne S. Sandbeck, Emily K. Anderson, Adriana T. Lesiuk, Michelle Salvato, and Heather Dollins Staton, *Architectural Reconnaissance Survey of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project Corridor, Multi County, ER 14-1475*, Electronic document, <https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/historic-preservation-office/PDFs/ER%2014-1475.pdf>, accessed March 10, 2019.



Figure 40: 1084 North Boardridge Road, Orrum, North Carolina, Looking Southeast.

In a way, these houses are not the best comparison to the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House, as they relate more to the period when the Craftsman-style porch was added to the dwelling than to its original construction date. Because of the porch, however, the dwelling, particularly from the exterior, is more reflective of that period and architectural style. This leads to an additional point, that the dwelling does not fully embody a particular architectural style, instead reflecting the early twentieth-century trend of adding Craftsman-style details to otherwise vernacular structures.

A review of HPOWeb for dwellings constructed in the second half of the nineteenth century identified 11 resources. Six are two-story dwellings designed in the Italianate, Gothic Revival, Greek Revival, and Queen Anne styles. The remaining five are one or one-and-one-half story dwellings, two of which are assigned styles – Queen Anne and Italianate/Greek Revival. Google Streetview provided façade views of the three remaining properties and revealed that two are small vernacular structures, while the third is a hip-roofed cottage best described as Queen Anne with Free Classic details. Most of these structures display architectural styles that are truer to the late-nineteenth-century period in which they were constructed and are larger and grander than the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House. The small vernacular dwellings were also ruled out as good comparisons due to being heavily altered and being significantly smaller than the studied house.

One last dwelling that is comparable to the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House in both size and detailing can be found in Lumberton (Figure 41). The dwelling differs in that it features a triple-A form, and while it also has a replacement Craftsman-style porch, its porch is not integral but instead had a shed roof. Though the dwelling could use a fresh coat of paint, it stands out from the studied dwelling with its exposed wooden siding, original wooden entry door, and wooden



Figure 41: 508 Carthage Road, Lumberton, North Carolina, Looking Northeast.

sash windows. It also appears to have retained its original configuration, while the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House has been altered through the boarding over of original windows and opening of new windows.

In conclusion, the material integrity of the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House is questionable due to the amount that is still covered by modern material as well as the unknown extent of the flood damage. This includes one of the dwelling's most distinctive characteristics, its beadboard interiors, which tie it to an early construction date. Aside from material integrity, the dwelling does not serve as a distinctive example of a particular architectural style, type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic value; or represent a significant and distinguishable entity. For these reasons, the Maulsby and Susan Stephens House is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C for architecture.

Criterion D

The Maulsby and Susan Stephens House 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.

Resource Name:	Giles Stephens Homeplace
NCDOT Survey Site Number:	002
HPO Survey Site Number:	RB0715
Location:	16293 SR 2151
Parcel ID:	020597057600
Dates(s) of Construction:	Late 19 th Century
Recommendation:	Not Eligible



Figure 42: Giles Stephens Homeplace, Looking North-Northeast.

Setting

The studied parcel consists of seven tracts that are scattered across the study area. The primary tract, which contains the dwelling and a number of ancillary structures, is located on the east side of SR 2151. This portion of SR 2151 represents the original route of NC 72 prior to the construction of US 74. Just north of the dwelling, SR 2151 intersects with the new route of NC 72 as it curves west to an intersection with US 74. The dwelling and ancillary structures are located in the northwest corner of the primary tract and the dwelling faces west and sits back roughly 115 feet from the road. It is surrounded by a domestic yard with mature oak, pecan and pine trees, and a gravel and dirt driveway extends from the road toward the north side of the dwelling and a barn that stands roughly 75 feet to its north. On the east side of the barn are two large dog pens, one of which is accompanied by a long storage container. South of the dwelling, another dirt driveway angles east-southeast separating the domestic yard from a plowed field. The path fades but worn tracts lead behind the dwelling to a row of vehicles. Bordering the south and east sides of the parcel, is a roughly 22-acre plowed field. The presence of a high

concentration of peanut shells in the domestic yard suggests the fields were last planted with peanuts. East of the field is a roughly 44-acre wooded area. A canal labeled on the Robeson County parcel map as “Stevens Canal” passes through the wooded area, and the faint path of a removed railroad line is visible across the wooded area and the plowed field. Of the remaining six tracts, which are all irregular in shape, only one contains a plowed field. This tract lies on the opposite side of SR 2151 from the dwelling and measures roughly eight acres. The remaining tracts are all densely wooded. Three of these lie north of the intersection of NC 72 with US 74 and two lie west of US 74 between it and NC 130. One of the tracts west of US 74 contains a roughly three-acre pond (Figure 43 and 44).

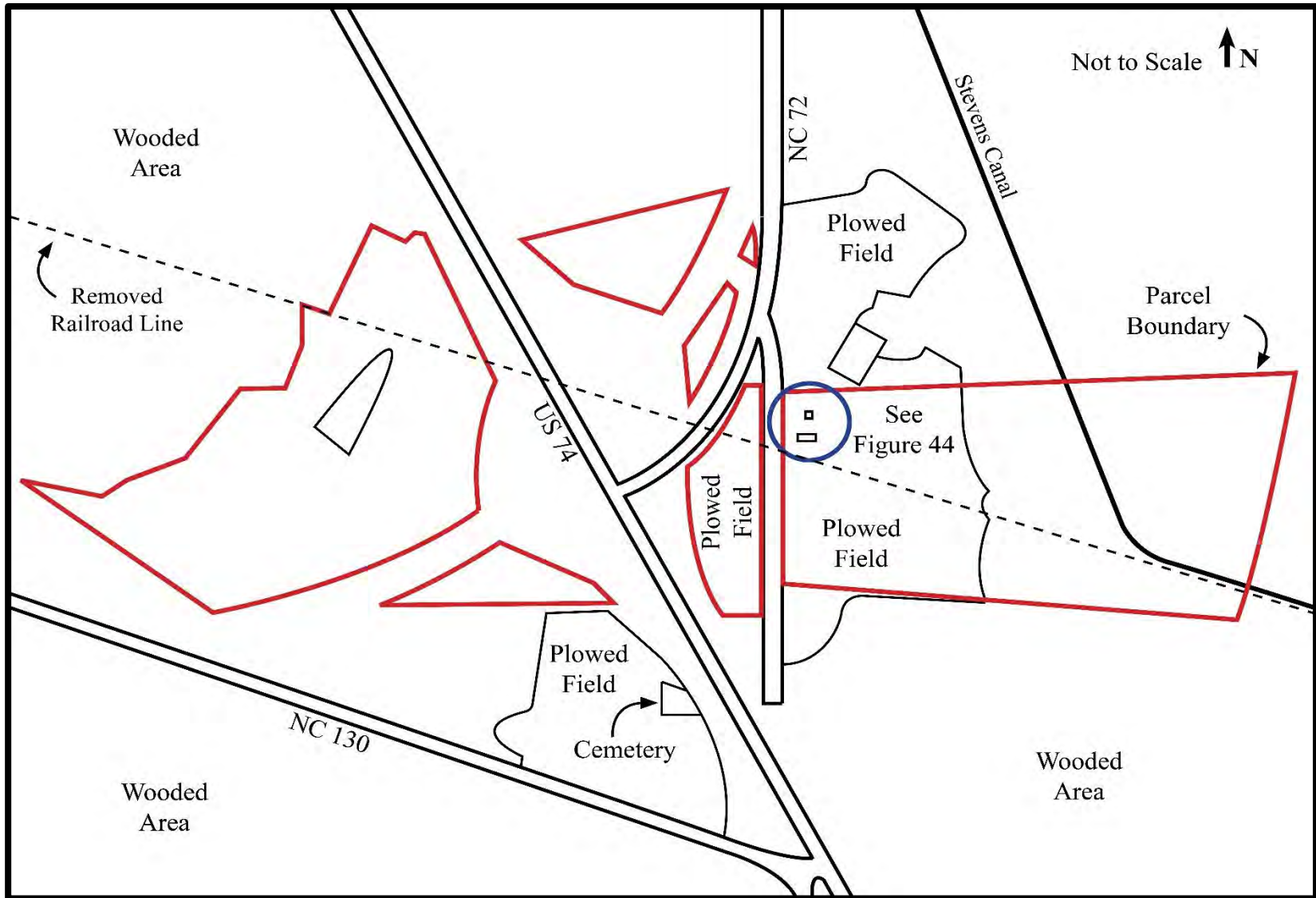


Figure 43: Sketch Map of the Giles Stephens Homeplace.

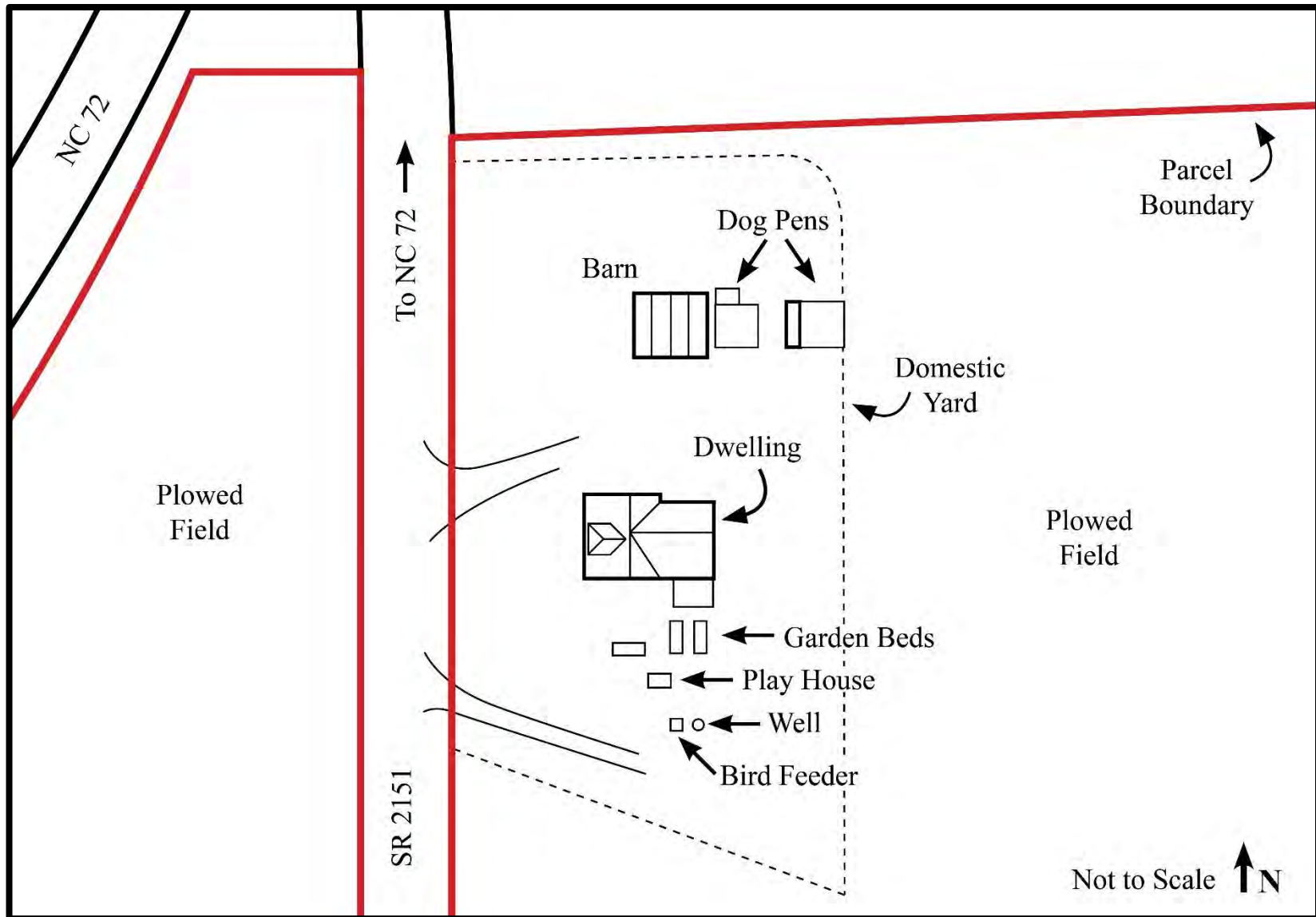


Figure 44: Close-up Sketch Map of the Giles Stephens Homeplace.

Property Description

Exterior

The dwelling appears to have begun as a one-and-one-half story, side-gabled dwelling that has been modified over time with a full-width integral porch and gabled rear wing. Elements that hint at this evolution include a break in the forward slope of the roof and a single cornice return on each gable end. The remnant of a rear shed-roofed section is also present just past the rear eave of the north gable end hinting at what may have predated the wing.

The dwelling retains its original German lap siding and has an asphalt shingle roof. It rests on a parged foundation. Its defining feature is a Craftsman-style porch, which exhibits six battered box columns on parged, likely brick, pedestals that also serve as foundational elements. Below the deck, the space between the piers is filled with parged masonry, and above the deck, it is filled with a simple balustrade. The porch is approached by parged steps flanked by low, parged pedestals and shelters a wooden, six-panel, entry door flanked by paired windows. The windows exhibit wooden sashes with four vertical lights over a single light and are protected by storm windows (Figure 45). A large hip-roofed dormer rests on the forward slope of the roof. It appears to have once contained a set of three windows that are now boarded over (Figure 42).

The north (side) elevation consists of a gable and the side of the rear wing. The gable contains three windows including, from west to east, two six-over-six, wooden sash windows and a pair of six-over-six, wooden sash windows. Above the windows there is a window sized aperture covered with louvered shutters. It is centered below the gable and may have served as a window or as an attic vent. This elevation clearly displays the change in slope of the roof. The rear half



Figure 45: Giles Stephens Homeplace, Original Windows.

of the gable, which includes a cornice return, likely mirrors the original appearance of the front slope as well. It should be noted that there is a similar cornice return below the eave of the roof but it is not an exact match of the rear return. Also, though the Craftsman style is known for deep eaves, this section of the house has relatively shallow eaves with a frieze composed of flush boards. The remnant of a rear shed-roofed porch or addition is also present at the eastern edge of the gable end. The second half of the elevation, the side of the wing, contains a modern entry door flanked on the west by paired six-over-six, vinyl sash windows and on the east by a small six-over-six, vinyl sash window. The door is approached by parged steps flanked by a low parged walls and sheltered by a metal awning (Figure 46).

The east (rear) elevation displays an asymmetrical gable with a significantly longer and shallower south slope. This gable also has a much deeper eave than the front or side gables. Furthermore, on the north side of the gable is the ghost mark of a lower gable with a slope that mirrors the north slope. Centered below the peak of the ghost mark is covered doorway. These details indicate that the original rear wing was smaller and served as an additional entry point to the dwelling. South of the covered doorway is a six-over-six, wooden sash window. The siding around the window suggests that it has been altered as well. Below the window there is a small shed-roofed structure that projects from the elevation, and to its north is a small panel that accesses the crawl space below the dwelling. South of the window, and extending to the corner of the elevation, is a ribbon of six one-over-one, vinyl sash windows (Figures 47 and 48).



Figure 46: Giles Stephens Homeplace, Looking South.



Figure 47: Giles Stephens Homeplace, Looking West.



Figure 48: Giles Stephens Homeplace, Detail of East Elevation Showing Ghost Mark of Lower Gable. Note change in siding from plain weatherboard to German lap siding.



Figure 49: Giles Stephens Homeplace, Looking North.

The south (side) elevation includes the side of the rear wing and a gable end. The side of the rear wing contains a modern, multi-light entry door flanked on the east by a ribbon of three one-over-one, vinyl sash windows and on the west by a pair of six-over-six, vinyl sash windows. A modern deck approaches the entry door. It is roughly square and encompassed by a simple wooden balustrade. Siding east of the windows shows some inconsistency suggesting that an alteration was made in this area. The south gable end is similar to the north gable end except that it contains an exterior brick chimney between the first and second windows and the third window is not paired. The chimney exhibits stepped bricks at its base, likely to prevent it from leaning away from the dwelling. The elevation also has a shuttered window or vent centered below the gable peak and displays a similar configuration of cornice returns. One interesting difference between the two gables is that forward of the chimney the cornice is thinner, though it still exhibits the same flush board frieze (Figure 49).

Interior

Attempts to contact the owner were unsuccessful and the surveyor was unable to gain access to the interior of the house. The exterior of the house, however, and the arrangement of apertures suggest that the original side-gabled section has a center hall flanked by larger rooms along the front of the house with smaller rooms along the rear, similar to the floorplan exhibited by Mulsby and Susan Stephens House (RB0714). The alterations made to the rear wing suggest that at least part of it is original to the house, a feature that furthers the dwelling's similarities with the original plan of the Mulsby and Susan Stephens House. Over time, the wing has been enlarged completely filling the space between the side-gabled section and the original rear wing. It is likely that the original wing contained and still contains small rooms, while the addition is configured as a large room, such as a

kitchen or family room. It is difficult to ascertain whether or not the original interior finishes have been retained but replacement windows suggest some renovation has occurred.

Ancillary Buildings

The domestic yard includes a number of small structures including a play house, a well, a possible bird feeder, and three raised garden beds (Figures 50 through 53). North of the yard is a large barn and dog pens. The barn faces south and has a tall center section with double-leaf, plywood entry and loft doors, both of which are flanked by one-over-one, vinyl sash windows. The center section is flanked by lower, shed-roofed wings. The west wing contains doors like the center section and has a one-over-one, vinyl sash window on its west (side) elevation while the east wing has a large opening with clipped corners and is blind on the east (side) elevation. Though the rest of the barn is sheathed with sheets of asphalt, the east elevation is clad with vertical metal sheets. The north (rear) elevation is lit by two centered one-over-one, vinyl sash windows (one above the other) on the center section and one one-over-one, vinyl sash window on the west wing. The barn rests on tapered concrete blocks (Figures 54 and 55).

East of the barn are two dog pens. Both are surrounded by a chain link fence and the first is covered with a thatch like roof and has a three-sided, metal-clad structure on the north side. The second is adjacent to a long metal storage container (Figures 56 and 57).



Figure 50: Giles Stephens Homeplace, Play House, Looking Northwest.



Figure 51: Giles Stephens Homeplace, Well, Looking North.



Figure 52: Giles Stephens Homeplace, Bird Feeder, Looking South.



Figure 53: Giles Stephens Homeplace, Raised Garden Beds, Looking Northwest.



Figure 54: Giles Stephens Homeplace, Barn, Looking Northeast.



Figure 55: Giles Stephens Homeplace, Barn, Looking Southwest.



Figure 56: Giles Stephens Homeplace, Dog Pen, Looking Northwest.



Figure 57: Giles Stephens Homeplace, Dog Pen, Looking Northwest.

Historical Background

The earliest documented owner of the property is Giles Stephens. Born around 1850 in southern Robeson County, he was the fifth of his parents' nine children. In 1872, he married Mary Lawson and the 1880 Census lists them as living in Britts Township, which predates the current Orrum Township as well as the Orrum post office.¹⁷ Giles's father, Alfred Barnabus Stephens Jr., died just a few years before the census, in 1876, and it is likely Giles received the property through inheritance. This is substantiated by the presence of two Stephens families on an 1884 map of the county as well as a Stephens family cemetery west of the property (Figure 58).

The 1880 Census also shares that Giles was a farmer and that he and Mary had one child, D. R. Stephens, who was seven years old. By 1900, the census listed Giles as owning a home on a farm, free and clear. By now, the family had four children, three of whom were living in the household. The census also lists a servant, Lot Stephens, as living in the household. Lot was twenty-four years old, married, and white.¹⁸

Around this time, a railroad line was extended from Elrod, a community west of the dwelling, through Boardman, east of the dwelling. The rail line was constructed across the Stephens property just south of the dwelling. A 1908 Soil Map shows both the dwelling and the railroad line, which is labeled as the "Southeastern R.R." (Figure 59). The construction of the line spurred the incorporation of the community of Orrum in 1903 and around the same time the



Figure 58: Detail of 1884 Map of Robeson County, NC Showing Two Stephens Families in the Vicinity of the Giles Stephens Homeplace (North Carolina State Archives).

¹⁷ Levi Branson, ed., *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, 1896, Volume VIII*. Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1896.

¹⁸ U. S. Census, 1850, 1880, 1900.

Orrum Township was formed from a portion of the Britts Township (Figure 60).¹⁹ It was likely around this time or later that the “Stevens Canal” was created east of the dwelling. The canal follows the rail line west from the Lumber River before turning north and crossing the Giles Stephens property. It was likely created to separate the rail line as well as the Stephens property and its agricultural fields from the slough located to the north and east and to protect from flooding.

The 1910 Census lists the household, which included Giles, Mary, and Gregory, as living in the Orrum Township on Ivey Bluff Road, an early name for NC 72. Gregory, who was 25, was listed as working in the farm industry and as being a wage earner.

In 1916, Giles passed away leaving a life interest in his homeplace, which contained “about 200 acres” to Mary. His will stipulated that after Mary’s death, the property would pass to Gregory “to be his absolutely and forever.”²⁰ Two years later, in 1918, Gregory married Blanche Bullock, the oldest child of Albert Rowland and Flora Elizabeth Bullock and the 1920 Census shows the newly married couple living with Mary on the Wilmington and Charlotte Highway, another early name for NC 72.²¹ It is possible that the dwelling was remodeled and the Craftsman-style porch was added around this time.

In 1921, Blanche’s mother died giving birth to her last child, a daughter, who was also named Flora Elizabeth. Due to her mother’s death, it appears that Flora was raised by Blanche and Gregory as she is listed as a part of their household in the 1930 Census as an “adopted daughter.” It seems that Mary had passed away by this time as she is not listed in the household and Gregory, instead, is listed as owning the home, which was valued at \$2000. Gregory is also listed as a farmer working on his own account.²²

The censuses indicated that many of Flora’s older siblings continued to live with their father who remarried twice, first to Pearl Humphrey, then to Katie McLeod, with whom he had three additional children. However, despite his living until 1935 when he died of ptomaine or food poisoning, it is unclear if Flora ever lived in his household. According to his obituary, he was a successful warehouseman, working for Bullock, Bristow, & Fennegan then for Lovill, Joyce & Co. warehouse firm, both in Fairmont, as well as owning a substantial amount of real estate in Robeson and the adjoining counties.²³

By the 1940 Census, Flora no longer lived with her sister and brother-in-law and in 1943, two events occurred. First, Flora married Richard Harding Davis, III, in April, then, in July, Gregory passed away.²⁴ In Gregory’s will, which was written in 1936, he devised all his personal property and real estate to Blanche and after her death all of his real estate and land to Flora.²⁵ In

¹⁹ William S. Powell, *The North Carolina Gazetteer A Dictionary of Tar Heel Places*, Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968.

²⁰ Robeson County Will Book 5, Page 553.

²¹ Ancestry.com, “James Gregory Stephens,” Electronic document, <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/110967688/person/280084851496/facts>, accessed March 5, 2019 and U. S. Census, 1920.

²² U. S. Census, 1930.

²³ *Large Throng at Rites for Mr. A. Rowland Bullock*, The Robesonian, Lumberton, N. C., Monday, April 29, 1935.

²⁴ Ancestry.com, “Flora Elizabeth Bullock,” Electronic document, <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/110967688/person/280084850720/facts>, accessed March 5, 2019 and Ancestry.com, “James Gregory Stephens.”

²⁵ Robeson County Will Book 5, Page 553.

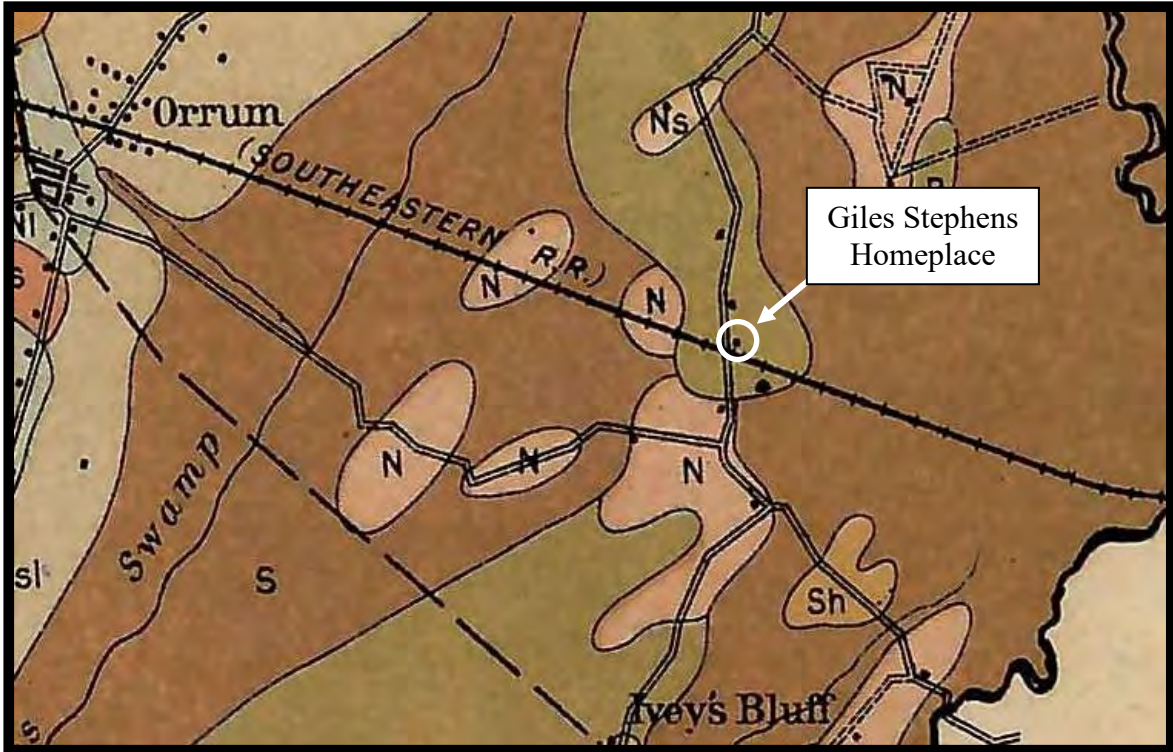


Figure 59: Detail of 1908 Soil Map, North Carolina, Robeson County Showing the Location of the Giles Stephens Homeplace (North Carolina State Archives).

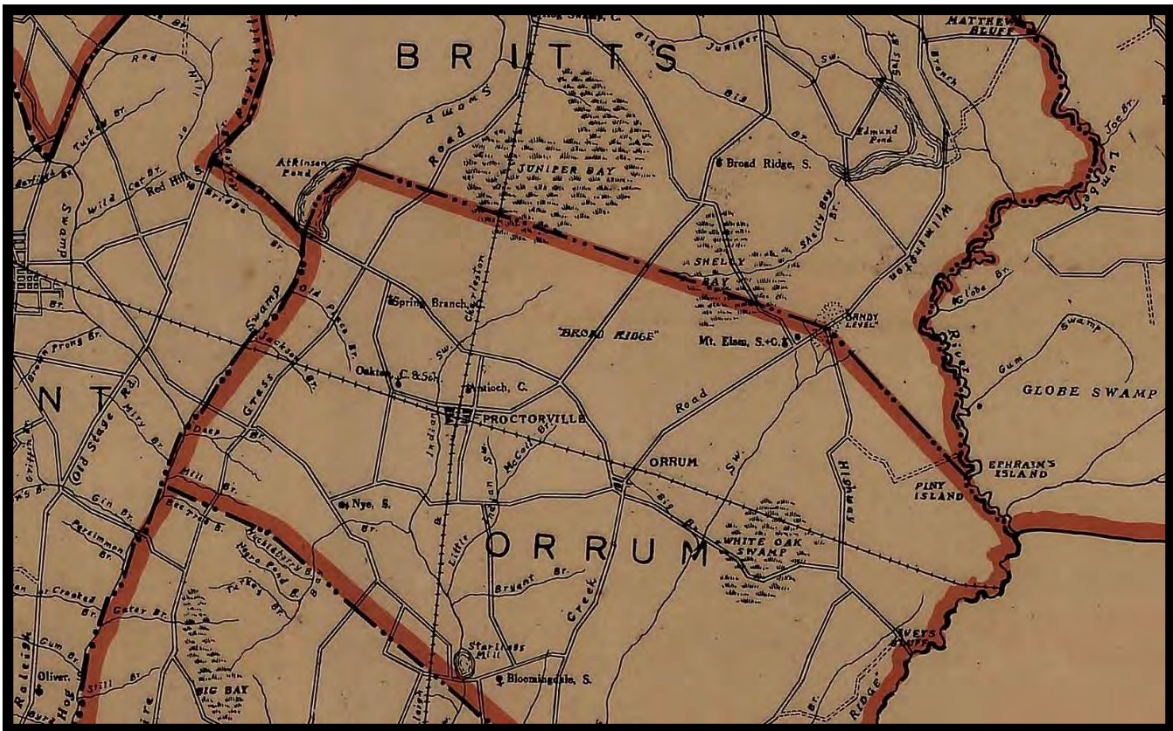


Figure 60: 1922 Map of Robeson County, N. C. Showing the Recently Formed Orrum Township (North Carolina Collection, UNC Library).

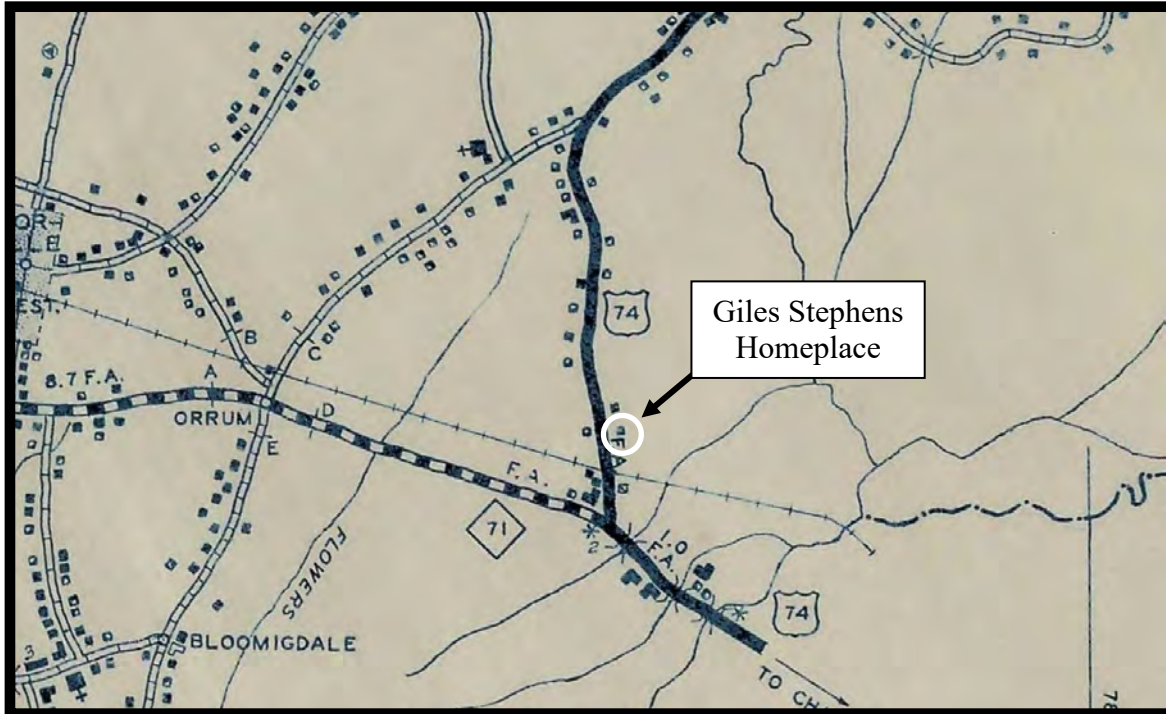


Figure 61: Detail of 1938 Robeson County, North Carolina State Highway Map Showing the Location of the Giles Stephens Homeplace (North Carolina State Archives).

1947, Flora's husband, Richard, passed away and in 1950 she married James Howard Singletary.²⁶ Their wedding announcement shares that Flora attended Campbell College and Kings Business College in Raleigh and was employed at Robeson County Memorial Hospital. James attended the University of North Carolina, was a World War II veteran, and operated G. V. Singletary and Sons with his brother.²⁷

In 1956 Blanche and Flora conveyed 51.7 acres of the tract to the Cape Fear Wood Corporation and in 1968 they entered into two easement and right-of-way agreements with the State Highway Commission.²⁸ Today, the portion sold to the wood corporation appears to be a part of the Lumber River State Park. A plat drawn after Gregory Stephen's death shows the parcel in its entirety, before the execution of the 1968 easement agreements and the construction of US 74 (Figure 62). It should also be noted that the railroad tracks were removed from the property some time prior to the creation of the 1953 State Highway Map, likely due to inactivity.²⁹ It is unclear how the rail line may have affected the property during its existence but the angle of the southern boundary of the domestic yard suggests that it served as a division between the yard and an agricultural field north of the line and an agricultural field south of the line.

²⁶ Ancestry.com, "Flora Elizabeth Bullock."

²⁷ *Mrs. Flora Bullock Davis and James Howard Singletary Exchange Vows*, *The Robesonian* (Lumberton, North Carolina), January 24, 1950, page 2.

²⁸ Robeson County Deed Book 538, page 573.

²⁹ North Carolina Maps, *Robeson County (State Highway and Public Works Commission)*, Electronic document, <https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/ncmaps/id/8029/rec/24>, accessed March 13, 2019.

In 1973, Blanche passed away and the property passed fully to Flora. At the time, Blanche lived in Lumberton and it is uncertain how long she had lived away from the farm as well as how the farm might have been used during this time.³⁰ It is possible that James farmed the land in addition to working with his brother or that the farm and dwelling were rented to another family.

It is unknown where Flora and her first husband lived, but from the time of her marriage to James until her death in 1987, she lived in Whiteville. While there, she served twice as Mayor pro-tem and ran for the North Carolina Senate in 1976.³¹

In 1983, Flora sold the property, as well as one other property, to Neil R. Green and his wife, Anne Jo Stephens Greene.³² Neil and Anne Jo married around 1949 and, despite their long marriage, did not have any children. In 1997, when Neil passed away, the property passed fully to Anne Jo who remarried William Sampson sometime thereafter.³³ William had two daughters, Deborah Sampson and Donna Daniels Wade. After Anne Jo's death in 2016, Donna and William became the co-executors of her estate and in 2017 they sold the property to Anne Jo's niece, Suzanne Stephens Fair.³⁴ In 2018, Suzanne sold the property to William Hector Stephens, who is likely her brother and the nephew of Anne Jo.³⁵ Though Anne Jo's family also has the last name Stephens, no close connection could be found with the Giles and Gregory Stephens' family.

³⁰ Ancestry.com, "Eva Blanche Bullock," Electronic document, <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/110967688/person/280084850725/facts>, accessed March 5, 2019.

³¹ *Active Party Member Join Campaign for N.C. Senate*, The Robesonian (Lumberton, North Carolina), August 6, 1976, page 9.

³² Robeson County Deed Book 538, page 573.

³³ Findagrave.com, "Neil Robert Greene," www.findagrave.com/memorial/167134243, accessed March 9, 2019.

³⁴ *Anne Jo Greene Sampson*, The News Reporter, Electronic document, <https://nrcolumbus.com/obituaries/anne-jo-greene-sampson/>, accessed March 13, 2019.

³⁵ Robeson County Deed Book 2152, page 883.

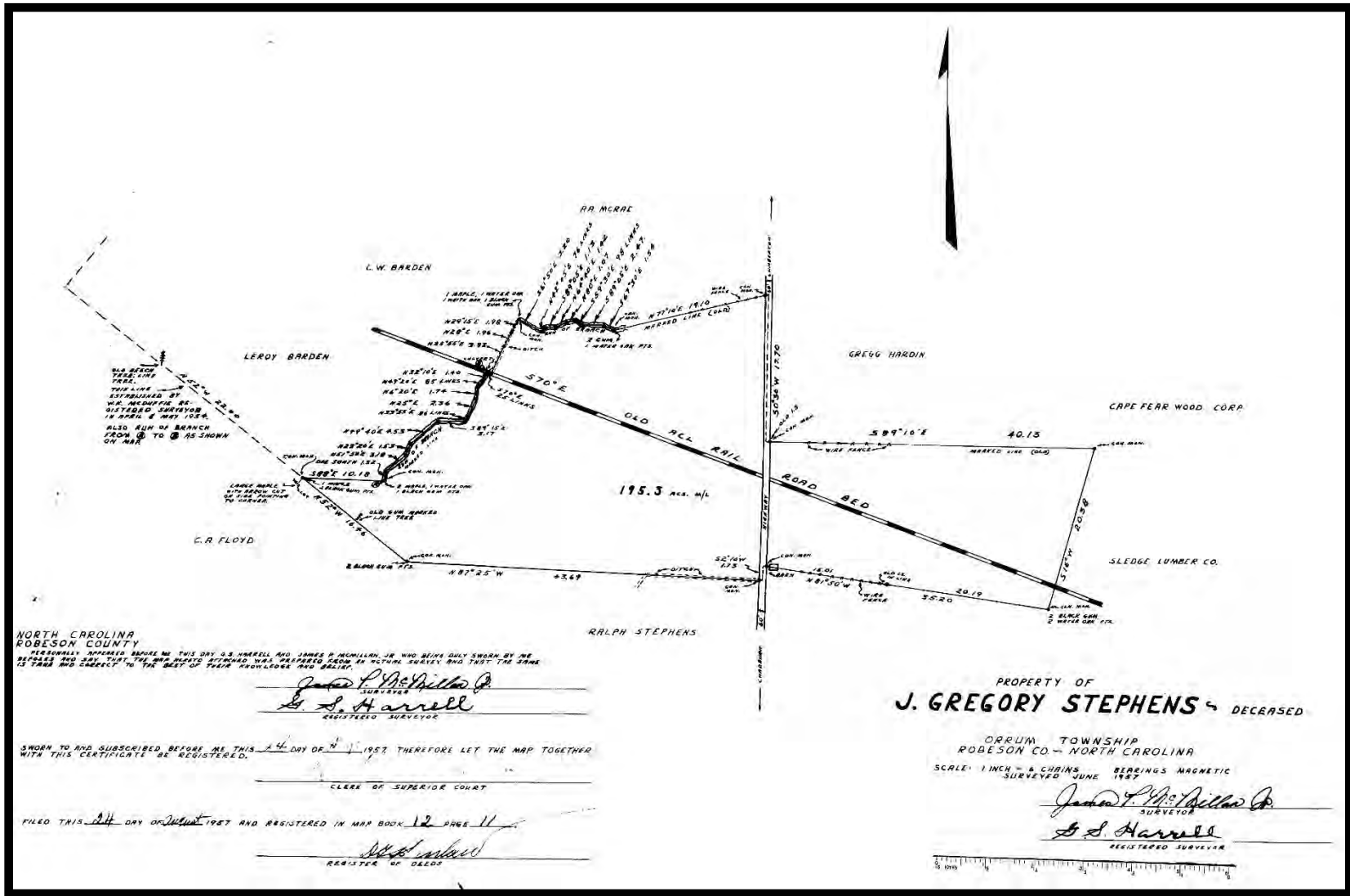


Figure 62: Plat of Property Belonging to J. Gregory Stephens (Plat Book 12, Page 11).

NRHP Criteria Evaluation

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the Giles Stephens Homeplace is recommended not eligible for the NRHP.

Integrity

The dwelling remains in its original location amid an agricultural setting that has changed little over the past century. In terms of design, the dwelling appears to have been constructed as a small traditional/vernacular dwelling in the latter part of the nineteenth century and to have been enlarged and remodeled with Craftsman-style details in the 1920s or 1930s. These details, however, have gained architectural significance due to the 50-plus years that have passed since their execution as well as for being a part of the evolution of the dwelling. The dwelling also retains a significant amount of original material, including German lap siding, wooden sash windows, and its well-executed Craftsman-style porch. At the same time, while similar materials have been used to make alterations and repairs, care was not always taken to match materials such as on the rear elevation where both plain weatherboard and German lap siding are used. These instances have compromised the workmanship displayed by the dwelling, as has the replacement of some of its wooden sash windows with vinyl imitations. Despite the changes made to the dwelling, it does retain the feeling of a rural homeplace as well as an association with the area's late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century agricultural economy.

Criterion A

The Giles Stephens Homeplace 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 Giles Stephens Homeplace is historically associated with general farming in rural Robeson County and through the retention of a barn and actively plowed fields it still retains that association. The barn and dwelling, however, have lost integrity through alterations, such as cladding the barn with asphalt sheets and enlarging the dwelling with additions. For these reasons the property is recommended not eligible under Criterion A.

Criterion B

The Giles Stephens Homeplace 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 members of the Stephens family, whose productive lives were spent maintaining the family farm. Research did not reveal their activities to be historically significant within the local, state, or national historic context. The property is also associated with Flora Bullock Singletary, who in a time when many women were afforded little opportunity, attended college, had a successful career, served as a leader in her community (Mayor pro-tem on two occasions) and ran for the North Carolina Senate. Flora, however, lived most of her productive life in Whiteville. The property, therefore, is recommended not eligible under Criterion B.

Criterion C

The Giles Stephens Homeplace 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 dwelling associated with the Giles Stephens Homeplace stands out in Robeson County for its Craftsman-style porch, large dormer, and side-gabled form. All of these features distinguish it from other historic properties in the county, which are more typically constructed with forward-facing gables and hip-roofed porches, such as the dwelling at 1451 Long Branch Road (Figure 63). Though clad with asbestos siding and altered with replacement windows, the dwelling on Long Branch Road exemplifies a form that was observed throughout the southern



Figure 63: 1451 Long Branch Road, Lumberton, North Carolina, Looking East.

portion of the county. Even its off-center entry door, asymmetrical porch columns, and hip-roofed carport are commonly found in the area. Furthermore, the simple dwelling exhibits additional Craftsman-style features that were not fully incorporated in the remodel of the dwelling on the Giles Stephens Homeplace, including deep eaves and gallows brackets.

While it was constructed as a more traditional-style dwelling and altered with Craftsman-style details, it has lost most of its representation of the earlier style and thus serves as a better example, though not a good example, of the later style. Features that would contribute to it being a more fully articulated example include deep eaves, gallows brackets, exposed rafter and purlin tails, false half-timbering, and other wooden or exposed masonry elements. An urban residence in Lumberton provides an example of a similarly scaled and more fully articulated Craftsman-style dwelling (Figure 64). Like the studied dwelling, the house has an integral front porch supported by battered box columns on masonry piers. It also retains some of its original wooden sash windows with four vertical lights over a single light, its wooden front door filled with artglass, and its wooden weatherboard siding. The house has a small shed-roofed dormer on the forward slope of its roof that, like the dwelling's main roof, is finished with deep eaves, exposed rafter tails, and gallows brackets.

Lastly, the property serves as an example of a rural homestead or farm, replete with a dwelling, a limited collection of ancillary structures, and an active agricultural setting. The homestead, however, is compromised by the loss of a barn along its southern boundary and what may have been a tenant house just south of the railroad line (Figures 62 and 61). Furthermore, the extant barn has been clad with asphalt sheets and vinyl windows have been added to its façade and rear elevation. A property more reflective of a rural homestead can be found on Popes Crossing



Figure 64: 500 Carthage Road, Lumberton, North Carolina, Looking Northeast.

Road (Figure 65). The farm consists of a ca. 1910 dwelling surrounded by three large agricultural buildings, a small barn or secondary dwelling, and over 100 acres of plowed fields.³⁶ Unlike the Giles Stephens Homeplace, the agricultural buildings are clad with wooden materials with one clad with metal sheets and all appearing to be well kept. The dwelling, though simply executed, also appears to be well preserved and to have been enlarged over time representing the evolution of the farmstead from humble beginnings to more prosperous times.

In conclusion, while the Giles Stephens Homeplace as a whole is representative of a small farmstead in rural Robeson County, and its primary resource, a late-nineteenth century dwelling adapted with Craftsman-style details, has been relatively well preserved, the property does not embody distinctive characteristics, represent the work of a master, possess high artistic value or represent a significant and distinguishable entity. For these reasons, the Giles Stephens Homeplace is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C for architecture.



Figure 65: 1693 Popes Crossing Road, Lumberton, North Carolina, Looking Northeast.

³⁶ Robeson County Government Tax Administration Record Search, Electronic document, <http://www.ustaxdata.com/nc/robeson/building.cfm?ownerID=&parcelID=24010101303A&groupParcel=>, accessed March 6, 2019.

Criterion D

The Giles Stephens Homeplace 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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