



**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 29, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mary Pope Furr
Office of Human Environment
NCDOT Division of Highways

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

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report, Replace Bridge 37 on NC Hwy 86 over New Hope Creek, BR-0092, PA 18-09-0065, Orange County, ER 19-2357

Thank you for your July 27, 2019, letter transmitting the above-reference report. We have reviewed the report and concur that the following resources are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for the reasons cited in the report.

- Gas Station, Log Barn, Original Store, and Mobile Home Park (OR3174)
- Tapp House 1 (OR3175)
- Tapp House 2 (OR3176)
- Farmstead, Post Office, and Tobacco Barn (OR3177)
- Allen and Son Barbecue (OR3178)
- Blackwood Station Historic District (OR0487)

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.

Received: 07/30/2019
State Historic Preservation Office



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

July 27, 2019

ER 19-2357

Ms. Renee Gledhill-Earley
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4617

Due -- 8/21/19

Dear Renee:

rye
H- 8/22

RE: Replace bridge 37 on NC 86 over New Hope Creek, Orange County, TIP# BR-0092, WBS# 67092.1.1, PA# 18-09-0065

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project. Please find attached two copies of the Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, which meets the guidelines for survey procedures for NCDOT and the National Park Service. This report concludes that there are no properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) that are listed on or eligible for the National Register:

Please review the survey report and provide us with your comments. If you have any questions concerning the accompanying information, please contact Ms. Mary Pope Furr, Historic Architecture Team, (919) 707-6068.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Pope Furr".

Mary Pope Furr
Historic Architecture Team

Attachments

Cc: Tierre Peterson, NCDOT Structures Management Unit

Mailing Address:
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1020 BIRCH RIDGE DRIVE
RALEIGH, NC 27610

Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report

Replacement of Bridge No. 37 on North Carolina Highway 86 over New Hope Creek

Orange County, North Carolina

TIP No. BR-0092

WBS No. 67092.1.1

PA No. 18-09-0064

Report prepared for

**North Carolina Department
of Transportation**

Report prepared by

**Mead
& Hunt**

www.meadhunt.com

July 2019

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HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES REPORT

**Replacement of Bridge No. 37 on North Carolina Highway 86 over
New Hope Creek**

**Orange County
North Carolina Department of Transportation**

**TIP No. BR-0092
WBS No. 67092.1.1
PA No. 18-09-0064**

Report prepared for:
North Carolina Department of Transportation, Environmental Analysis Unit
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699-1598

Report prepared by:
Mead & Hunt, Inc.
2440 Deming Way
Middleton, WI 53562

July 2019



Emily Pettis, Principal Investigator
Mead & Hunt, Inc.

7/17/2019

Date

Mary Pope Furr, Historic Architecture Supervisor
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

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Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 37 on North Carolina Highway (NC) 86 over New Hope Creek in Orange County. The project area is located northwest of the unincorporated community of Blackwood, which is in the southeast portion of the county. The Area of Potential Effects (APE)/Study Area for the proposed project includes those properties adjacent to the subject bridge, and includes properties lining NC 86 extending 0.13 miles to the north and 0.19 miles to the south.

In April 2019 the NCDOT requested Mead & Hunt, Inc. (Mead & Hunt) to complete an intensive historical architectural resources evaluation of six resources in the study area. The scope of work included preparation of a written report with photographs of the component buildings, structures, and landscapes, architectural and historic context of the project area, and National Register of Historic Places (National Register) evaluations. Mead & Hunt identified one additional historic-age resource (Tapp House 2), which is included in this report. The project was undertaken to comply with requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, other state and federal regulations, and NCDOT's current *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products* (October 2015) and the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office's (NCHPO's) *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina*.

Information was provided by the NCHPO regarding previously surveyed resources near the project, which included commercial buildings and residences. A Microsoft Access shell database was provided by the NCHPO with database entries of previously recorded resources, which was updated and added to by Mead & Hunt. Geospatial data of properties within the APE/Study Area was also prepared as part of the project.

As a result of the intensive evaluation, Mead & Hunt recommends that none of the identified properties are eligible for the National Register (see the table below).

Property name and site number	Address or streets	PIN	NRHP eligibility recommendation
Gas Station, Log Barn, Original Store, and Mobile Home Park (OR3174)	6117 NC 86 S	9871850238	Not eligible
Tapp House 1 (OR3175)	6113 NC 86 S	9871769758	Not eligible
Tapp House 2 (OR3176)	6023 NC 86	9871863608	Not eligible
Farmstead, Post Office, and Tobacco Barn (OR3177)	1910 Mt. Sinai Road	9871960563	Not eligible
Allen & Son Barbecue (OR3178)	6004 Millhouse Road	9871844888	Not eligible
Blackwood Station Historic District (OR0487)	Junction NC 86 and Mt. Sinai Road/SR 1718	Multiple	Not eligible

The project was undertaken to comply with requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800 (Section 106); the NCDOT's *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products* (October 2015); and the NCHPO's standards for historic structure survey reports and eligibility determinations.

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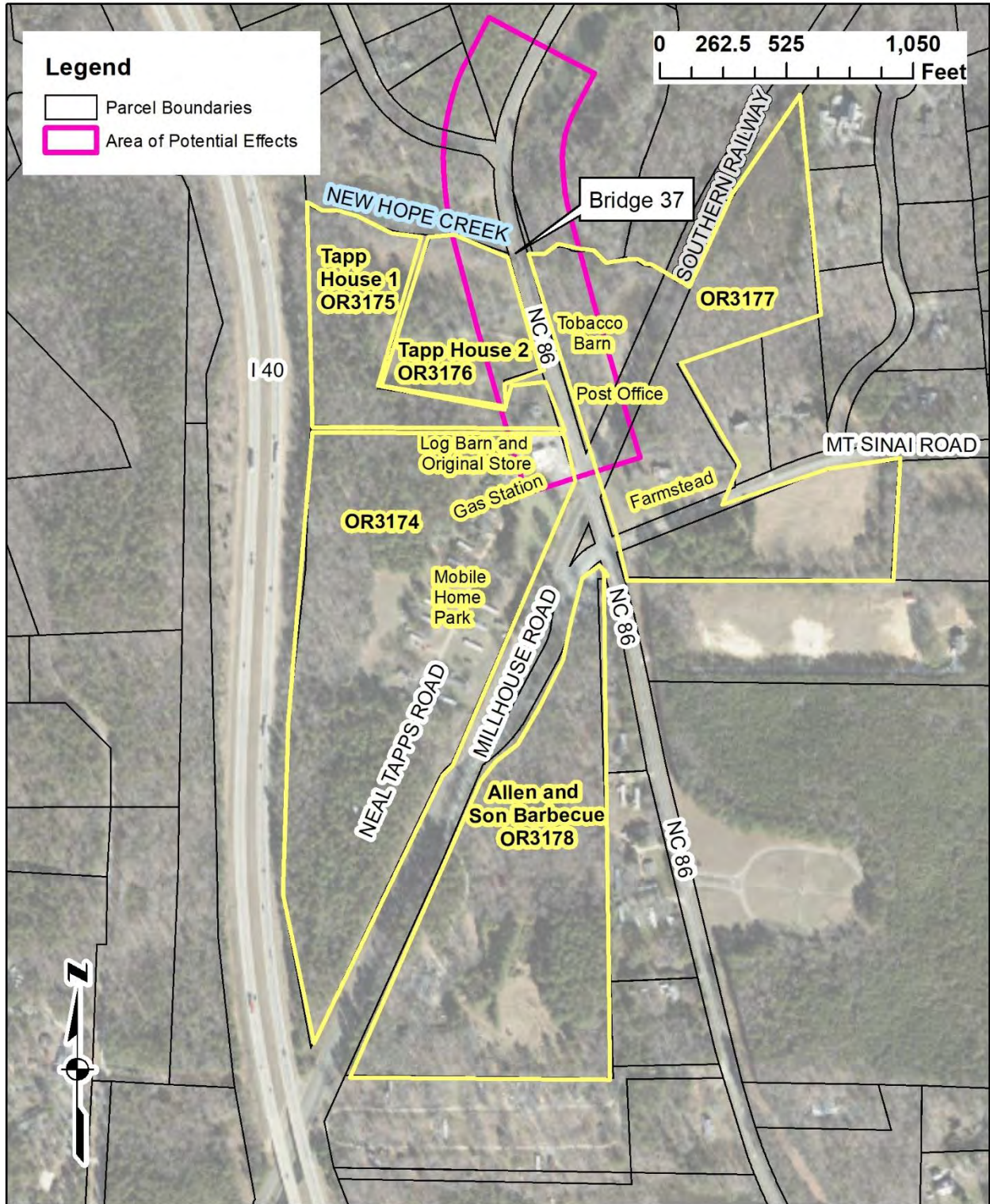
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2. Area of Potential Effects

This project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/NCSHPO/FHWA/USFS 2015). An NCDOT Architectural Historian defined an Area of Potential Effects (APE) and conducted a site visit to identify and assess all resources of approximately fifty years of age or more within the APE. The NCDOT architectural historian concluded that four resources warranted an intensive National Register eligibility evaluation and they are the subject of this report (see Section 5 for information on these resources). A fifth tax parcel containing Allen & Son Barbecue was also evaluated due to its proximity to the APE/Study Area and inclusion in the potential Blackwood Station Historic District. NCDOT Architectural Historians determined that all other properties and districts are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity. The APE/Study Area is depicted in Figure 2.



Layer Credits: ESRI

Figure 2. Project APE/Study Area map.

3. Project Description and Methodology

A search of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NCHPO) mapping system revealed one previously recorded resource in the APE/Study Area on a North Carolina Multiple Structures Form: Blackwood Station (OR 487). This form identified a potential district comprised of buildings on five parcels within the Blackwood community, but did not include a recommendation for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). Thus, the five previously recorded properties, plus one additional resource identified by Mead & Hunt, were evaluated for National Register eligibility individually and also as a potential historic district. Summaries of the individual and historic district evaluations and recommendations are included in Section 5 of this report.

Preliminary work prior to field survey included consultation of the Orange County GIS. Prior to the field survey, parcel data and year-built dates from the county GIS were examined and these properties were reviewed in the field. Mead & Hunt historians exceeding the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for history and/or architectural history as outlined in 36 CFR Part 61 conducted fieldwork from April 15-17, 2019. Historians identified, photographed, and recorded five properties and one potential district with resources that were more than 50 years in age located within the APE/Study Area. One business owner and one property owner were interviewed during fieldwork.

Mead & Hunt requested an NCHPO shell database, which included the one previously recorded property—Blackwood Station (OR 487)—within the APE/Study Area. This record was updated based on the field survey, including narrative descriptions and significance assessments for each property (see Section 5).

Based on the properties identified in the APE/Study Area, project research focused on the history of the project area and the development patterns in the unincorporated community of Blackwood. Archival research was conducted at the following libraries and special collections: the Orange County Public Library, the Orange County Historical Society, and online through the Orange County Deeds Office website. Comparable historic properties were researched in the Blackwood area, nearby communities of Efland and Cedar Grove, and statewide through the NCHPO website and GIS viewer.

Primary and secondary resources include:

- Previous historic surveys and site forms for properties in the APE/Study Area
- Historic plat maps and aerial images
- Newspapers
- Online materials
- Special collections and manuscripts at local archives
- Secondary sources and historic contexts on the history of Orange County and North Carolina architecture

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4. Historic Context

The unincorporated community of Blackwood in Orange County consists of properties centered on the intersection of NC 86 and Mt. Sinai Road/CR 1718. The Blackwood area was settled as early as the 1760s and 1770s and two large properties (north of present-day Mt. Sinai Road, one east of NC 86 and one west) remained largely intact throughout its history. During this period, the Stroud and later Kirkland families owned the western tract and the Robson family the eastern tract; the Blackwood family owned land both west and north of present-day Blackwood.¹

The isolated nature of the landscape promoted sustenance farming. After the Revolutionary War and through the mid-nineteenth century, the Orange County landscape generally consisted of small farms, with very few large plantations. By 1850 only one-quarter of the county's farms were larger than 100 acres. A number of support industries, including grist mills, blacksmiths, tanneries, and wagon shops, catered to area farmers.²

Lacking navigable rivers, railroad development emerged as a transportation solution providing connections to Piedmont products and industries. The North Carolina Railroad line was completed across Orange County in 1855, connecting Durham, Hillsborough, and Greensboro (see Figure 3).³



Figure 3. 1898 Map of North Carolina showing the North Carolina Railroad and the spur through Blackwood.⁴

¹ "Compilation Map of Original Grants, Blackwood Vicinity," 1700s, Orange County Registrar of Deeds.

² Mattson, "History and Architecture of Orange County," 10.

³ Catherine W Bishir and Michael T Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 19.

⁴ Rand McNally and Co., "North Carolina" (Rand McNally & Co., 1897), David Rumsey Historical Map Collection, <https://www.davidrumsey.com>.

After the Civil War, many Orange County farmers turned to large-scale cash crops, growing and consolidating their operations, others practiced “semi-subsistence farming” through the early twentieth century.⁵ These small general farms—both farmer-owned and tenant-rented—persisted near Blackwood.⁶

Roads remained generally poor in the study area; however, completion of a North Carolina Railroad spur between University City (to the northeast) and Carrboro (to the southwest) in 1882 provided access to growing markets (see Figure 3). The railroad encouraged development of a community beyond just agricultural properties, which eventually became known as Blackwood. During this period the William G. Robeson family owned property on both east and west tracts. Robeson is listed in the 1870 census as a 29-year-old farmer and white North Carolina native married to America S. Robson, also from North Carolina. Research also suggests that Robson owned Robeson Station, a depot (nonextant) east of the project area.⁷ Soon after the railroad arrived, William Lloyd and Morris King acquired three acres on New Hope Creek for a steam saw and grist mill, which was located to the northeast.⁸ A post office was established at Blackwood in 1883, with Morris King as its first postmaster.⁹ A c.1885 frame store was also constructed in this era, west of the railroad and road. Early Blackwood construction was typical of rural hamlets of the era, where log construction of commercial, residential, and outbuildings persisted due to available materials. Frame L- or T-plan farmhouses were also built, such as the c.1885 example on the Farmstead (OR3177) in Blackwood (see Figure 4).¹⁰

⁵ Mattson, “History and Architecture of Orange County,” 39.

⁶ It is possible to deduce who was a tenant farmer in the 1870 census because it lists the monetary value of any real estate that people own. United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *1870 United States Federal Census* (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1870), Roll M593_1153 Page 166B, 161A, ancestry.com.

⁷ “Deed, William G. Robson to William R. Lloyd and Morris King,” March 4, 1882, Vol. 49, Page 491, Orange County Registrar of Deeds; “Deed, William G. Robson & William R. Lloyd and T.J. Burghs to Morris King,” April 14, 1886, Vol. 62, Page 285, Orange County Registrar of Deeds; George W. Tate and T.W. Moore, “Map of Orange County, N.C.,” 1.5 Inches = 1 Mile (Bingham School N.C.: George W. Tate, 1891), Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3903o.la000590/>.

⁸ “Deed, William G. Robson to William R. Lloyd and Morris King.”

⁹ J.D. Lewis, “Orange County, NC Post Offices - 1785-1971,” *Carolina.Com*, 2007, <http://www.vahighways.com/ncannex/route-log/nc086.html>.

¹⁰ Bishir and Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, 43.



Figure 4. c.1885 L-plan Farmhouse (OR3177) in Blackwood.

With the designation of the U.S. Highway system in 1926, US 14 (later renamed NC 86), a north-south highway established approximately two miles west of Blackwood through Orange and Caswell Counties, provided connection from Chapel Hill through Hillsborough and Yanceyville, and on to the state line at Danville, Virginia. In the late 1920s a graded B-class County Highway ran north-south through Blackwood providing connection as part of an earthen and gravel rural network (see Figure 5).



Figure 5. 1930 Orange County map detail showing rural roads near Blackwood in relation to US Highways 10 and 14 (later renamed NC 86).¹¹

Even before the Great Depression, Blackwood's population started to dwindle. Whether due to free rural mail delivery or decreasing population, Blackwood's post office closed in 1927.¹² By the late 1920s

¹¹ US Bureau of Public Roads, State Highway Commission, and State Tax Commission, "Orange County" (Raleigh, North Carolina: The Tax Commission, 1930).

¹² Lewis, "Orange County, NC Post Offices - 1785-1971."

overproduction and low crop prices strained farmers, and the Great Depression worsened farm tenancy, poverty, and emigration.¹³ The Blackwood community of the 1920s reflected typical architectural forms of the day, including residential bungalows.¹⁴ The Tapp residence (OR3175), constructed c.1925, is a one-and-one-half story frame bungalow with a full-width porch. The c.1885 farmhouse (OR3177) east of the Southern Railway Chapel Hill Spur gained a bungalow-type porch during this period. Due to the availability of materials, vernacular frame and log outbuildings remained popular in rural areas.

By 1958 the alignment of NC 86's shifted east and ran north from US 15A/501A in Chapel Hill through Blackwood, and on to US 70 A in Hillsborough.¹⁵ This designation brought increased automobile traffic and visitors through the community, and in 1957 a Mobil gas station (OR3174) was constructed west of the highway just north of the rail line. Located on the site of the earlier frame store, this oblong-box type gas station with modest modern stylistic influences featured a market, two service bays, and a separate pump island to meet the needs of the traveling public and locals alike. It is unknown whether the original store continued as a commercial establishment for a period of time, or served as an outbuilding. In 1959 Neal Tapp and his wife Betty acquired the portion of the family land that included the store.¹⁶ In 1961 a barbecue restaurant opened west of NC 86, south of the rail line. A decade later, Keith Allen leased it and operated the second location of Allen & Son Barbecue (OR3178).¹⁷ Research did not reveal when the depot ceased to operate in an official capacity for the railroad; however, the building hosted a number of business ventures such as a fertilizer store and a weaving shop.

Residential developments in postwar Blackwood reflect national trends. The community gained a modest Ranch style home (OR3176) north of the gas station in 1959.¹⁸ A mobile home park, known as the Old Farm Mobile Home Park, was also established south/southwest of the gas station c.1965.

In the 1970s Interstate 40 (I-40) was extended from Raleigh to meet I-85 at Hillsborough, bypassing Blackwood 0.21 miles to the west. In the 1980s NC 86 became a local or alternative route between Chapel Hill and Hillsborough.

¹³ Bishir and Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, 70–72.

¹⁴ Bishir and Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, 74.

¹⁵ North Carolina State Highway Commission, "Orange County" (Orange County: North Carolina State Highway Commission, 1957).

¹⁶ "Deed, FS Tapp and Mary Bell Tapp to HR Tapp," January 21, 1921, Vol. 76, Page 553., Orange County Registrar of Deeds.

¹⁷ John Shelton Reed, Dale Vorberg Reed, and William KcKinney, "On the Fault Line: Allen & Son, Chapel Hill," in *Holy Smoke: The Big Book of North Carolina Barbecue* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: The University of North Carolina Press, 2008), <https://uncpressblog.com/2018/12/19/interview-with-keith-allen-owner-of-allen-son-barbecue-restaurant-in-chapel-hill-on-the-occasion-of-its-closing/>.

¹⁸ "Orange County GIS," *Orange County, North Carolina*, 2019, <https://gis.orangecountync.gov:8443/orangencgis/default.htm>.

5. Results and Recommendations

A. Gas Station (currently New Hope Market), Log Barn, Original Store, and Mobile Home Park – 6117 NC 86

Resource Name	Gas Station (currently New Hope Market)
NCHPO Survey Site Number	OR3174
Street Address	6117 NC 86, Chapel Hill NC 27514
PIN	9871850238
Construction Date(s)	1957, c.1885, c.1885, and c.1960-1980
National Register Recommendation	Not Eligible



Figure 6. Gas Station, view facing northwest.

Description

This property is located at 5916 Neal Tapps Road on the west side of NC 86. It is on the northwest corner of its intersection with Mt. Sinai Road (SR 1718) on an approximately 31-acre parcel. In the Tapp family since 1902, the property contains a former Mobil gas station (Gas Station, OR3174) at the northeast corner, two outbuildings to the west, and the Old Farm Mobile Home Park to the south (see Figure 7 for a site plan). The gas station building and an original light pole near the northeast corner of the building overlook a gravel parking lot. A gravel surface drive known as Neal Tapps Road extends west from the parking lot around the north elevation of the gas station, then continues south. A grouping of frame and log outbuildings and mature trees faces the west side of Neal Tapps Road west of the subject building. A pond lined with trees is to the south on the east side of the drive, and the Old Farm Mobile Home Park fronts the road further south. The parcel is bordered to the north by a 7.29-acre parcel, also owned by the Tapp family, and to the south by the Southern Railway Chapel Hill Spur.



Layer Credits: ESRI

Figure 7. OR3174 site plan.

Gas Station

This one-story, rectangular-plan gas station building was constructed in 1957 and is oriented facing east (see Figures 6 and 8). A market and office occupied the north portion of the building and two service bays occupied the south portion. Of concrete-block construction, the building has a flat roof with tile coping on the low flat parapet. Walls are clad in brick veneer, and windows are generally fixed in wood or metal frames or wood double-hung sash with security bars. A shed-roof sunroom addition is located on the south elevation.

Plantings in metal containers and pots define a small concrete entry patio on the east-facing facade. A projecting wall and flat metal awning frame the main entrance, which is comprised of two full-light doors with transoms. Fixed windows in a two-over-one configuration are located north of the entry and the former bay openings to the south. The former bay openings have concrete-block with brick-veneer knee walls underneath the fixed windows, which significantly alters the building's integrity of design. A sign that reads "New Hope Market" flanked by "Garden-grow" and "Grill-eat" is painted above the former bay openings. A secondary full-light door provides entry to the sunroom addition.

A fixed window with a two-over-one configuration is located near the northeast corner of the side (north) elevation. An angled decorative screen wall partially supports the flat metal awning with tie rods over the window. This elevation has no other fenestration. A frame shed-roof addition is located near the northwest corner and has a metal roof and wood panel wall cladding. The opposing side (south) elevation is dominated by a modern, metal-frame, shed-roof sunroom addition that has fixed metal windows and corrugated metal walls. Also on the south elevation, the main body of the subject gas station has small, wood, double-hung windows, and a secondary entrance with transom and large fixed multi-pane metal window are located inside the sunroom. A metal shed-roof patio cover with wood posts is near the southwest corner. The rear elevation has three small, wood, double-hung windows and lacks the parapet visible on other elevations.

The interior of the Blackwood Station/New Hope market has been opened up into one large main room that serves as multi-use restaurant and commercial space (see Figure 9). The northeast portion has shelving for merchandise displays, and large refrigerators at the northwest corner hold take-out food and beverages. The former auto service bay area is an eat-in dining area with the kitchen and restrooms occupying the southwest corner of the building.



Figure 8. 1957 gas station, view facing southwest.



Figure 9. Interior of the gas station, showing dine-in area (at right), service counter (at left), and merchandise area (in the distance).

Outbuildings and the Old Farm Mobile Home Park

Two outbuildings are located west of the gas station and Neal Tapps Road: a log barn and a frame store building (see Figure 10). A frame garage to the north is on the adjacent lot. The Old Farm Mobile Home Park is south of the former gas station and outbuildings (see Figure 11). The interiors of the above named buildings were not accessed due to lack of owner permission, although they had been notified.

The small, c.1885, rectangular-plan barn has a front-gable roof with wide eaves and exposed rafter tails. Logs exhibit V-notches; the sill log rests on a stone perimeter foundation. Double vertical plank doors flanked by smaller single doors provide access on the facade (east). A wood-plank hay-loft door in the gable end opens onto a small platform with a central wood post support tied to the central roof ridge. A

large bay opening on the north elevation lacks a door. Alterations include new seamed metal covering the roof and removal of doors on the rear elevation. Walls and doors show general deterioration, and the barn is vacant or used for storage.

The c.1885, rectangular-plan store building features a wide shed-roof porch with log supports on the facade (north); the porch floor appears to have been removed. The building has a front-gable roof covered in corrugated metal and walls clad with asphalt siding. Windows are three-over-one double-hung sash with one square fixed window on the south elevation. The main entrance is a wood-panel door, and a secondary entrance is on the south addition. A frame shed-roof addition with vertical board walls is on the south elevation, and the siding and windows are not original. The building has been vacant for some time and is deteriorating.

The Old Farm Mobile Home Park on the southern portion of the parcel consists of 17 single-wide mobile homes fronting Neal Tapps Road that range in age from c.1960 to c.1980. The small park lacks an office or other specific design features, such as cohesive landscaping. Mobile homes within the park are modest and generally have rectangular plans, with flat or shallow-barrel roofs, and walls clad in metal siding. Windows are generally metal or vinyl hung sash, with a few bay windows, and one example has a clerestory window. Some residences have frame additions and many have frame or prefabricated sheds.



Figure 10. The c.1885 store building (left) and log barn (right), view facing southwest.



Figure 11. Representative image of the c.1960-1980 Old Farm Mobile Home Park, view facing south.

Historical Background

The property that became the gas station was first settled in the 1760s and 1770s by the Stroud and later Kirkland families.¹⁹ The isolated rural nature of the tracts suggests the Stroud's and Kirkland's were subsistence farmers, growing what they needed and a little extra to barter or possibly take to market.

Following the Civil War, agriculture remained important to Orange County. Cultivation of cash crops such as bright-leaf tobacco and cotton was on the rise, and some farmers grew and consolidated their operations while others practiced "semi-subsistence farming" through the early-twentieth century.²⁰ These small, general farms, both farmer-owned and tenant-rented, persisted in the Blackwood area.²¹ In 1867 William G. (W.G.) Robson inherited this farm from his father, William Robson. By the 1880s W.G. owned the subject farm and the tract to the east where the Southern Railway Chapel Hill Spur came through in 1883.²² The original c.1885 store and a c.1885 barn were likely constructed on the farm during this period. The original store was constructed where the gas station is, and was probably oriented towards the road and railroad in its initial location.

By the turn of the twentieth century this farm changed hands several times as part of a foreclosure and was held in trust for W.R. Tapp and his children Henry and Neal in 1902. A c.1885 log barn on the property pre-dated the Tapps' ownership, as did the original store constructed c.1885 (in the current location of the gas station). The 1910 census records show the Tapps were white, general farmers who were born in North Carolina. They undoubtedly raised livestock and cultivated crops, with increasing emphasis on cash crops. The location of an original farmhouse is unknown, and the family built a Craftsman-inspired bungalow c.1915 (Tapp House 1, OR3175) and a frame outbuilding.²³

The Tapp property evolved in the mid-twentieth century from agricultural to mixed use, with residential lots subdivided. According to census records, the Tapps were general farmers in 1910 and 1940, which indicates the property remained predominantly agricultural through the mid-twentieth century. The original store building was moved to make way for the subject gas station south of Tapp House 1 in 1957.²⁴ The farm was subdivided in 1958 and 1959, creating two new parcels: Tapp House 2 (OR3176)

¹⁹ "Deed, Earl of Granville to John Stroud," 1760, Vol. 3, Page 275, Orange County Registrar of Deeds; "Deed, John Stroud Sr to Thomas Kirkland," 1770, Vol. 3/452, Orange County Registrar of Deeds.

²⁰ Mattson, "History and Architecture of Orange County," 39.

²¹ It is possible to deduce who was a tenant farmer in the 1870 census because it lists the monetary value of any real estate that people own. United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *1870 United States Federal Census*, Roll M593_1153 Page 166B, 161A.

²² "Deed, William G. Robson to William R. Lloyd and Morris King"; "Deed, William Robson to His Son William G Robson," January 1, 1867, Vol. 37, Page 410, Orange County Registrar of Deeds.

²³ While the assessor's records note an 1872 built date, the oldest residence on the original farm parcel (Tapp House 1) dates to c.1915.

²⁴ The frame building was noted on the 1993 inventory as an old store; however, its original use is unknown. Census records do not list the Tapp family as proprietor's

to the north and the gas station (OR3174) to the south. Also in the 1960s, the Tapps established the Old Farm Mobile Home Park south of the gas station along Neal Tapps Road.

Blackwood Station/New Hope Market

Automobile ownership spiked sharply in the late 1940s and 1950s as mass production of vehicles made them more affordable, and most households had at least one family car. This surge in automobile ownership resulted in the construction of vehicle repair shops, tire stores, and service stations. While repair shops and tire stores were constructed simply, with concrete-block exteriors and brick facades, gas stations often utilized Modernist designs meant to attract passing motorists.²⁵ When constructed in 1957, the Mobil service station in Blackwood exhibited both simple concrete block construction (with brick veneer) and limited modernist details in the standard oblong-box design.²⁶ After serving as a service station until approximately 1995, the building was subsequently converted to a variety of commercial uses, such as a market, flea market, and restaurant. The pump island and pumps were removed at an unknown date.²⁷ The sunroom addition was constructed after 2016.²⁸

Comparable Properties

Searches on the NCHPO GIS Viewer did not find any individually eligible or listed gas stations in Blackwood, nearby Hillsborough, or Orange County. As a property type, historic-age gas stations and automotive service stations are routinely modernized and altered to keep up with architectural trends and to attract customers. It can be difficult to find intact stations that represent the styles and forms of the 1940s, 1950s, or 1960s. However, comparable gas stations of the same style and age with better integrity than the subject property were found using Google Earth Street View on East Chatham Street in Cary in nearby Wake County. Modern Service Automotive Specialists (158 E. Chatham Street, see Figure 12) is one such example. Built c.1955, the gas station canopy and pumps have been removed; however, the structure retains the service bays and intact corner portion that likely served as a store and office for the business. Despite updates, it retains an auto-service use and the appearance and function of a 1950s automotive service station.

²⁵ M. Ruth Little, *Post World-War II and Modern Architecture in Raleigh, NC: Non-Residential Architecture 1945-1975* (North Carolina SHPO, July 16, 2018), <http://www.ncmodernist.org/2018ModernRaleighSurveyCommercial.pdf>.

²⁶ Dwayne Jones, David W. Moore, and Shonda Mace, *A Field Guide to Gas Stations in Texas* (Texas Department of Transportation, Environmental Affairs Division, Historical Studies Branch, 2016), 73.

²⁷ R Little and K Lally, "OR 487 Blackwood Station Site Form" (North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, April 1, 1992), North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Office of Archives and History; North Carolina.

²⁸ A Google Street View capture in 2016 shows the Blackwood Station/New Home Market before the sunroom was constructed.



Figure 12. Modern Service Automotive Specialists at 158 E. Chatham Street in Cary, Wake County. Google Street View image.

Another comparison property with better integrity than the subject property is West Lee Street Tire and Auto (159 E. Chatham Street, see Figure 13). Built c.1955, it has multiple service bays as well as an office/small store. The structure does not retain the original gas station pumps or canopy, but the service portion of the building remains intact and operates with four service automobile bays.



Figure 13. West Lee Street Tire and Auto at 159 E. Chatham Street, Cary, Wake County. Google Street View image.

National Register Evaluation

The former gas station, original store, log barn, and Old Farm Mobile Home Park at 5916 Neal Tapps Road were evaluated under National Register *Criteria A, B, C, and D*.

Under *Criterion A: History*, the property must be associated with events or trends that have made a significant contribution to local, state, or national history. Research did not indicate this individual automotive gas station building was important to the commercial development of Blackwood or growth of the automotive industry or along NC 86, or larger Orange County. While at one time the original store had an association with commerce, the property no longer represents its historic function or association with early Blackwood commerce. Due to its move to a secondary position behind the gas station and its current vacant and deteriorated condition, its commercial context is lost. Similarly, at one time the log

barn had an association with agriculture; however, the property no longer represents its historic function or association with an intact farmstead. Due to the loss of an earlier farmhouse, other domestic and agricultural outbuildings, and subdivision of the farm, its agricultural context is lost. Other surveyed resources such as the determined-eligible 1910 barn on Tee Top Farm, Harnett County (HT0378), which is on an intact farmstead as part of the full complement of outbuildings, does convey agricultural significance. The Old Farm Mobile Home Park is a common property type in the Piedmont region and Orange County and does not stand out compared to other mobile home parks. Therefore, the former gas station, original store, log barn and Old Farm Mobile Home Park do not possess significance under *Criterion A*.

Under *Criterion B: Significant Person*, a property must to be associated with the lives of individuals who have made a significant contribution to local, state, or national history. While the former gas station has been a local business in operation from 1957 through the present, historic research did not indicate the owner and operators made important contributions to the automotive industry or commercial development along NC 86, in nearby Hillsborough, or in Orange County. Additionally, research did not reveal an association between the original store, log barn, or Old Farm Mobile Home Park with individuals who made important contributions to local, state, or national history. Therefore, the property does not possess significance under *Criterion B*.

To be eligible under *Criterion C: Architecture*, a property must represent the work of a master, possess high artistic value, and/or embody the distinctive characteristics of type, period, or method of construction. The former gas station's modernist details are limited and this building does not represent a distinctive architectural style under *Criterion C*. The original store is a simple vernacular building that does not display any particular architectural features unique to its role as a store. The log barn is a modest V-notch example, the most common type of a form of outbuilding that persisted into the early twentieth century in the Piedmont region of North Carolina. The barn does not appear to stand out among other log barns of the era. The Old Farm Mobile Home Park lacks a unifying design, features, or amenities, and is not a representative example of the mobile home property type. Therefore, this property does not exhibit significance under *Criterion C*.

The property is unlikely to yield information about the past not otherwise accessible from other resources and written records, making it ineligible for the National Register under *Criterion D*.

Integrity

The former gas station, log barn, and Old Farm Mobile Home Park all occupy their original location and retain integrity of location; however, the original store has been moved and has lost this aspect of integrity. The former gas station, old store, and log barn have poor integrity of design, materials, and workmanship due to extensive alterations and, in the case of original store and log barn, deterioration. The old store has replacement windows, asphalt siding, and a removed porch floor, and the log barn has a new metal roof and removed rear doors. The former gas station has been altered to accommodate a new use, including enclosure of its service bays and a sunroom addition. Further, removal of the pump island results in a loss of integrity of feeling and association. The original store and log barn also have diminished integrity of feeling and association due to changes to the lot and loss of context. While the

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Old Farm Mobile Home Park appears to retain good integrity, as a whole the buildings on the parcel lack integrity.

Recommendation

Due to lack of significance (Old Farm Mobile Home Park) and both significance and integrity (former gas station, original store, and log barn), this property is recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register under *Criteria A, B, C, or D*.

B. Tapp House 1 – 6113 NC 86

Resource Name	Tapp House 1
NCHPO Survey Site Number	OR3175
Street Address	6113 NC 86, Chapel Hill NC 27514
PIN	9871769758
Construction Date(s)	c.1915, c.1930
National Register Recommendation	Not Eligible



Figure 14. Tapp House 1, facade (east) and side (north) elevation, view facing west/southwest.

Architectural Description

Tapp House 1 (OR3175) is located in the unincorporated community of Blackwood.²⁹ The house is on the west side of NC 86 approximately 0.08 miles north of its intersection with Mt. Sinai Road (SR 1718) on a 7.29-acre parcel that extends up a wooded hillside to the northwest. A gravel driveway extends from NC 86 to the house, which is set back from the roadway overlooking a grassy yard with large deciduous and evergreen trees with a wood picket fence to the east. A shed in ruins is north of the house, and a garage and barn are behind to the west (see Figure 15 for a site plan). The property is bordered to the north by a 4.75-acre parcel and to the south by a 31.69-acre parcel, both owned by the Tapps. A former gas station on the southern lot now houses a restaurant and commercial shop.

²⁹ Mead & Hunt assigned the Tapp House 1 designation to this c.1915 house associated with the Tapp family and Tapp House 2 to the 1959 house (also associated with the Tapp family) on a separate parcel to the north.



Layer Credits: ESRI

Figure 15. OR3175, Tapp House 1 site plan.³⁰

³⁰ Although the garage is on the parcel to the south, it is believed to be historically related to Tapp House 1 and is therefore included with this property.

The one-and-one-half-story, irregular-plan bungalow was constructed c.1915 and is oriented facing east (see Figures 14 and 16). A side-gable roof with wide eaves is covered with asphalt shingles; an exterior brick chimney is located on the side (south) elevation. Walls are clad in vinyl siding. A gable dormer with three windows is centrally located on the facade. Fenestration generally consists of paired, vinyl, replacement, double-hung sash windows, with one six-light awning window on a west facing dormer. A large rear addition features one fixed irregular-shaped window, and a commercial exhaust system. The interior was not accessed because no one was at home, although the owner had been notified.

A full-width porch that dominates the facade is heavily altered. Square brick columns cut off at porch level support new square wood posts. The main entry, a replacement full-light door, is accessible by concrete steps flanked by brick knee walls. A new double entry on the side (south) elevation consists of glass doors in a wood frame. The interior of Tapp House 1 was not reviewed due to lack of access.

Three modest outbuildings are located behind the house:

- A c.1930 wood-frame shed is located to the north of the house. It has a rectangular plan with vertical wood plank walls and a corrugated metal roof. In poor condition, the building has collapsed at the west end (see Figure 17).
- A c.1915 barn is located to the west of the house. It has a rectangular plan; front-gable corrugated-metal roof with shed-roof ells on either side; and vertical wood plank walls (see Figure 18).
- A c.1930 garage is located to the north of the house. It has a rectangular plan, vertical wood plank walls, and the altered facade (east) has wood panel walls, a fixed picture window, and metal overhead door. It is capped with a front-gable, corrugated-metal roof (see Figure 19).



Figure 16. C.1915 Tapp House 1 side (south) elevation, view facing west.



Figure 17. C.1930 shed, view facing north.



Figure 18. C.1915 small barn, view facing west.



Figure 19. C.1930 garage, view facing west.

Historical Background

Following the Civil War agriculture remained important to Orange County. Although cultivation of cash crops such as bright-leaf tobacco and cotton was on the rise, and some farmers grew and consolidated their operations, others practiced “semi-subsistence farming” through the early twentieth century.³¹ These small, general farms—both farmer-owned and tenant-rented—persisted in the Blackwood area.³² In 1867 W.G. Robson inherited the subject parcel.³³

Just prior to the twentieth century the Robson farm was in foreclosure and changed hands several times until 1902, when J.S. Manning held the property in trust for William R. Tapp and his children: Henry, Mary Bell, and Fister.³⁴ The Tapp family constructed the subject Craftsman-inspired bungalow on the property c.1915. The Craftsman-style bungalow was a common form used for farmhouses in the rural Piedmont on small and mid-sized farms; this reflected national trends.³⁵ The Tapp children inherited the farm and, in 1921, Henry and his wife Lillian bought out Fister and Mary Bell’s portions.³⁶ Henry and Lillian subsequently farmed and raised two sons, Neal and Homer, on the property.

The Tapp property evolved in the mid-twentieth century from agricultural to mixed use, with residential lots subdivided. According to the 1910 and 1940 census records, the Tapps were general farmers, indicating the property remained predominantly agricultural through the mid-twentieth century. The original store building was moved to make way for a gas station south of Tapp House 1 in 1957.³⁷ The farm was subdivided in 1958 and 1959, creating two new parcels: Tapp House 2 (OR3176) to the north; and the gas station (Blackwood Station/New Hope Market, OR3174) to the south. Also in the 1960s, the Tapp’s established the Old Farm Mobile Home Park south of the gas station along Neal Tapps Road.

By 1992 Tapp House 1 was converted to commercial use and housed the Heartwood Realty office. Subsequently, the building housed a catering business; a large addition constructed on the rear elevation features a commercial exhaust system for the kitchen. Other alterations include replacement siding, windows, doors, and re-built front porch with altered posts.

³¹ Mattson, “History and Architecture of Orange County,” 39.

³² It is possible to deduce who was a tenant farmer in the 1870 census because it lists the monetary value of any real estate that people own. United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *1870 United States Federal Census*, Roll M593_1153 Page 166B, 161A.

³³ “Deed, William G. Robson to William R. Lloyd and Morris King”; “Deed, William Robson to His Son William G Robson.”

³⁴ “Deed, Edgar E Thompson and Wife Josephine S Thompson to JS Manning in Trust for WR Tapp and Children.”

³⁵ Bishir and Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, 42. Note: although the Orange County Assessor’s data reflects an 1872 construction date for this property, the current residence dates to c.1915.

³⁶ “Deed, FS Tapp and Mary Bell Tapp to HR Tapp.”

³⁷ The frame building was noted on the 1993 inventory as an old store; however, its original use is unknown. Census records do not list the Tapp family as proprietor’s

Comparable Properties

Searches on the NCHPO GIS Viewer did not find any individually eligible or listed Craftsman bungalow residences in Hillsborough or Orange County. As a property type, Craftsman bungalows constructed from the 1910s to 1930s exhibited a low, one- or one-and-one-half-story profile, with emphasis on natural materials and a high degree of workmanship. Although unevaluated, a nearby Craftsman bungalow with better integrity is found at 3715 US 70 in Efland, Orange County. Constructed c.1935, this one-and-one-half-story brick bungalow exhibits multiple gables with wide eaves, windows in pairs and triples, and a prominent porch with brick post-on-pier columns (see Figure 20).



Figure 20. c.1935 Craftsman bungalow at 3715 US 70, Efland, Orange County.

Another example in Orange County is a contributing residence within the National Register-listed Hillsborough Historic District. Built in 1921, the Weldon Riley House (OR3012) has a side-gable roof with a gable dormer, wide eaves, brackets, and exposed rafter tails. Other details include a full-width porch with tapered posts on brick piers and paired or triple windows. This comparable has a higher degree of integrity than Tapp House 1 (see Figure 21).



Figure 21. Weldon Riley House at 811 Eno Street, Hillsborough, Orange County.³⁸

National Register Evaluation

Tapp House 1 at 6113 NC 86 S was evaluated under National Register *Criteria A, B, C, and D.*

Under *Criterion A: History*, the property must be associated with events or trends that have made a significant contribution to local, state, or national history. Research did not indicate that this individual residence was important to the growth or development of Blackwood, Orange County, or North Carolina. As such, the property does not possess significance under *Criterion A.*

Under *Criterion B: Significant Person*, a property must be associated with the lives of individuals who have made a significant contribution to local, state, or national history. While this house was owned by the Tapp family since its c.1915 construction, historic research did not indicate they made important contributions in agriculture or other themes within the context. Therefore, the property does not possess significance under *Criterion B.*

To be eligible under *Criterion C: Architecture*, a property must represent the work of a master, possess high artistic value, and/or embody the distinctive characteristics of type, period, or method of construction. This altered bungalow is a modest example of a common form, which is not a representative example of the style under *Criterion C.* While the house has some Craftsman-inspired elements, details are limited and do not fully express the style. Likewise, the property does not represent a type, period, or method of construction, and does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value. Thus, this property does not possess significance under *Criterion C.*

The property is unlikely to yield information about the past not otherwise accessible from other resources and written records, making it ineligible for the National Register under *Criterion D.*

³⁸ "811 Eno Street," *Open Range*, 2017, <https://openorangenc.org/buildings/811-eno-st>.

Integrity

Tapp House 1 has incompatible alterations, such as replacement siding, windows, doors, and a rebuilt front porch with altered posts, which results in a loss of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The house retains integrity of location and setting; however, the comparable properties represent residences of the same style and era that are more intact than the subject property.

Recommendation

Tapp House 1 at 6113 NC 86 is recommended not eligible for listing in the *National Register* under *Criteria A, B, C, and D*.

C. Tapp House 2 – 6023 NC 86

Resource Name	Tapp House 2
NCHPO Survey Site Number	OR3176
Street Address	6023 NC 86, Chapel Hill NC 27514
PIN	9871863608
Construction Date(s)	1959, c.1960, c.1965
National Register Recommendation	Not Eligible



Figure 22. 1959 Tapp House 2, view facing northwest.

Description

Tapp House 2 (OR3176) is located in the unincorporated community of Blackwood.³⁹ The house is on the west side of NC 86 approximately 0.14 miles north of its intersection with Mt. Sinai Road (SR 1718) on a 4.75-acre parcel that extends up a wooded hillside to the northwest. A gravel driveway extends from NC 86 to the house, which is set far back from the roadway overlooking an open grassy lawn surrounded by deciduous and evergreen trees; low bushes line its east-facing facade. A garage, open shed, and pump house stand behind the house and beyond them is a circular clearing (see Figure 23 for a site plan). This property is bordered to the south by a separate 7.29-acre tract owned by the same family. The Tapps also own a 31.69-acre parcel further south, on which a former gas station currently houses a restaurant and commercial shop.

³⁹ Mead & Hunt assigned the Tapp House 2 designation to this 1959 house associated with the Tapp family and Tapp House 1 to the c.1915 house (also associated with the Tapp family) on the adjacent parcel to the south.



Laver Credits: ESRI

Figure 23. OR3176, Tapp House 2 site plan.

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The one-story, rectangular-plan, raised 1959 Ranch house is oriented facing east. It is clad in red brick and capped by an asphalt-shingled hip roof, which features hipped projections on the facade and rear (west) elevation, a central chimney, and wide overhanging eaves accented by a vinyl fascia. Fenestration generally consists of evenly spaced, metal replacement, elevated horizontal sliding windows with decorative brick header sills, with one fixed picture window with one-over-one sidelights on the facade. Double-hung, one-over-one, steel-frame replacement windows are present on a rear addition as well as a basement window with a window well on the side (south) elevation.

A recessed entry porch at the southeast corner has a decorative wrought-iron post. The original wood door is accessible by brick steps with wrought iron railings. A curved brick accent wall and steps topped with lantern-style light fixtures extend from the south end of the side (north) elevation and connect to the concrete entry sidewalk. A brick planter spans across the south half of the facade beneath the fixed picture window. The house is built into a hillside, allowing for a basement-level, integrated, one-car garage on the side (north) elevation. A corrugated metal attached carport with metal posts has been added at an unknown date. The rear (west) elevation features a bumpout addition at the southwest corner of the house, secondary entrance, and raised wooden deck (see Figures 22 and 24). The interior of Tapp House 2 was not viewed because no one was at home, although the owner was notified.

Three modest outbuildings are located behind the house:

- A c.1960 open shed is located to the southwest of the house. It has a rectangular plan with a wood frame, two exterior wood walls, and is topped with a side-gable corrugated metal roof (see Figure 25).
- A c.1960 red brick pumphouse is located to the west of the house. It has a rectangular plan with an opening covered in painted plywood. It is capped by a corrugated-metal shed roof (see Figure 26).
- A c.1965, concrete-block, two-bay garage is located to the northwest of the house. It features a front gable roof with overhanging eaves and two garage bays (see Figure 25).



Figure 24. 1959 Tapp House 2 facade (east) and side (north) elevation , view facing southwest.



Figure 25. C.1960 open shed and c.1965 garage, view facing southwest.



Figure 26. C.1960 pumphouse, view facing southwest.

Historical Background

This property was once part of a larger farm that was owned by W.G. Robson in the 1860s. In the late 1890s the Robson farm was in foreclosure and changed hands several times until 1902, when J.S. Manning held the property in trust for William R. Tapp and his children: Henry, Mary Bell, and Fister.⁴⁰ The children inherited the farm and, in 1921, farmers Henry and his wife Lillian bought out Fister and Mary Bell's portions.⁴¹

The Tapp property evolved in the mid-twentieth century from agricultural to mixed use, with residential lots subdivided. According to census records, the Tapps were general farmers in both 1910 and 1940,

⁴⁰ "Deed, Edgar E Thompson and Wife Josephine S Thompson to JS Manning in Trust for WR Tapp and Children."

⁴¹ "Deed, FS Tapp and Mary Bell Tapp to HR Tapp."

indicating the property remained predominantly agricultural through the mid-twentieth century though they also ran a general store on the site. The farm was subdivided in 1958 and 1959, creating two new parcels: Tapp House 2 (OR3176) to the north, which is the subject property; and the gas station (Gas Station/New Hope Market, OR3174) to the south. In the 1960s the Tapps established the Old Farm Mobile Home Park south of the gas station along Neal Tapps Road.

In the postwar years increased national standards for design and construction shaped building practices.⁴² The Ranch house, characterized by a one-story horizontal form and low-pitched roof, with an off-center front entry and an attached garage or carport, gained popularity. Postwar houses were often mass-produced in subdivisions or on large rural lots like the subject property by builder-contractors. The Ranch house was the most common form for new construction across the country by the 1950s.⁴³ In 1959 Neal and his wife Betty chose this popular style for the house on this parcel, which is like numerous other homes constructed in the era. The Tapps resided here until Neal's death in 2008; Betty deeded the property to Richard Tapp in 2019.⁴⁴

Comparable Properties

Searches on the NCHPO GIS Viewer did not find any individually eligible or listed Ranch style residences in Hillsborough or Orange County. As a property type, Ranch houses represent a common form constructed prolifically between 1950 and 1970 and are routinely updated to meet the needs of current residents. It can be difficult to find intact examples that represent the style; however, comparable homes of the same style and age with better integrity than the subject property were found in the National Register-listed Hillsborough Historic District. Images obtained through Google Earth Street View identify 313 N. Hassel Street as one such example (see Figure 27). Built c.1965, the Ranch house exhibits a gable-on-hip roof with wide eaves, recessed corner entry, and integrated planters.



Figure 27. 313 N Hassel Street, Hillsborough. Google Street View image.

⁴² Bishir and Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, 76.

⁴³ Heather Wagner Slane, *Hillsborough Architectural Survey* (Hillsborough: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, September 13, 2017), 27, <https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/historic-preservation-office/survey-and-national-register/surveyreports/HillsboroughSurveyUpdate-2017.pdf>.

⁴⁴ "Orange County GIS."

Another comparison property with better integrity than the subject property is at 210 W. Union Street, also in Hillsborough (see Figure 28). Built c.1955, this Ranch house exhibits a side-gable roof with wide eaves and a prominent chimney, a recessed porch, and a multi-pane picture window. While these comparables do not rise to the level of individual significance to be eligible for the National Register, they are in a concentration of homes constructed in similar styles and era and as a collection retain enough integrity to convey a 1950s-1960s subdivision.



Figure 28. 210 W. Union Street, Hillsborough. Google Street View image.

National Register Evaluation

Tapp House 2 at 6023 NC 86 was evaluated under National Register *Criteria A, B, C, and D.*

Under *Criterion A: History*, the property must be associated with events or trends that have made a significant contribution to local, state, or national history. Research did not indicate that this individual residence was important to the growth or development of Blackwood, Orange County, or North Carolina. As such, the property does not possess significance under *Criterion A.*

Under *Criterion B: Significant Person*, a property must to be associated with the lives of individuals who have made a significant contribution to local, state, or national history. While the residence was owned by the Tapp family from 1959 through the present, historic research did not indicate that they made important contributions in agriculture or other themes within the context. Therefore, the property does not possess significance under *Criterion B.*

To be eligible under *Criterion C: Architecture*, a property must represent the work of a master, possess high artistic value, and/or embody the distinctive characteristics of type, period, or method of construction. This Ranch house is a modest example of a common form, one of numerous examples constructed in the late 1950s. While it displays a corner entry porch with iron railing, incorporated planters, and picture window, these features are limited and this house does not stand out compared to other Ranch houses in the vicinity, Orange County, or North Carolina. The comparable properties are within a National Register-listed district, and while they may not have individual eligibility, collectively they represent a grouping of

buildings of the same style and era that are more intact than the subject property. As an individual Ranch house, Tapp House 2 does not rise to the level of National Register significance under *Criterion C*.

The property is unlikely to yield information about the past not otherwise accessible from other resources and written records, making it ineligible for the National Register under *Criterion D*.

Integrity

Tapp House 2 generally retains good integrity of location, setting, feeling, materials, and workmanship, with slightly diminished integrity of design due to alterations such as the attached carport and rear addition.

Recommendation

Tapp House 2 at 6023 NC 86 is recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register.

Potential Tapp Family Rural Historic District

A potential Tapp Family Rural Historic District was considered. While the family has owned the farm west of NC 86 since 1902, the property was subdivided into three separate parcels with discontinuous development resulting in a loose collection of buildings. The gas station, outbuildings, and Old Farm Mobile Home Park parcel contains modest buildings dating from c.1885 to c.1980; several have been heavily altered and/or are in poor condition, and one has been moved. Likewise, the Tapp House 1 property contains buildings dating from c.1915-c.1930, including a heavily altered farmhouse that has been converted to commercial use, and modest outbuildings, one of which is in ruins. The Tapp House 2 property has a modest 1959 Ranch house with outbuildings of the same period. Overall, buildings on the three properties do not represent a cohesive grouping due to the disparity in dates of construction (1885 to c. 1980), lack of significance, and changes in materials, location, and historic association, which have diminished the integrity of the properties as a rural historic district.

D. Farmstead, Post Office, and Tobacco Barn – 1910 Mount Sinai Road

Resource Name	
NCHPO Survey Site Number	OR3177
Street Address	1910 Mount Sinai Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
PIN	9871960563
Construction Date(s)	c.1885, c.1885, c.1875
National Register Recommendation	Not Eligible



Figure 29. The c.1885 main house on the farmstead with the railroad in the foreground, view facing southeast.

Description

This property is located at 1910 Mt. Sinai Road on the east side of NC 86. It is on the northeast corner of its intersection with Mt. Sinai Road (SR 1718) on an approximately 20-acre parcel. The irregular parcel is trisected by Mt. Sinai Road and the Chapel Hill Railroad corridor (railroad), a spur of the Southern Railway. A portion at the southeast corner of NC 86 and Mt. Sinai Road has no built features. North of Mt. Sinai Road and south of the railroad is a farmstead with a house and several outbuildings. North of the railroad on the east side of NC 86 is a post office/store building (post office) and, north of that, a tobacco barn. Figure 31 presents a site plan of the parcel, which is largely wooded with some clearings, particularly in front of the main house and along the railroad by the post office. Each portion of the property is described in more detail below.



Layer Credits: ESRI

Figure 30. OR3177 site plan.

Farmstead

The farmstead (OR3177) consists of a house, main barn, smaller sheds and outbuildings, well, grape arbor, and segment of the historic Mt. Sinai Road alignment. The farmhouse, situated on the corner of NC 86 and Mt. Sinai Road, has a deep setback and the facade (west) is oriented toward the railroad (see Figure 29). A gravel driveway that forks from Mt. Sinai Road onto the property provides vehicular access to the house and outbuildings.

Built c.1885, the house is one-and-one-half stories and has an L-plan with a large c.1950 shed-roof addition in the “L” at the southeast corner of the structure (see Figures 31 and 32). It displays a cross-gable, metal-clad roof with a large central dormer on the facade, central brick chimney, and vinyl soffits under the eave overhangs. The house is clad in vinyl and rests on a stone foundation. Windows are generally six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl replacements with vinyl surrounds and shutters; the central dormer has a replacement multi-light sliding window. A full-width shed-roof porch extends from the roofline and is supported by square posts with brick bases and vinyl-clad tapered piers. The brick supports and central dormer, which give a bungalow-style appearance to the facade, were likely added in the early twentieth century. The porch foundation is sheathed in vinyl and brick stairs lead to the central entryway. Secondary entrances are located along the side (north) and rear (east) elevations. The interior of the house was not accessed as no one was at home, although the owner was notified.

A well stands to the south of the house (see Figure 31); it is capped in wood and covered by a wooden, gable-roof structure constructed in 1947 by former owner “E.E. Turrentine,” who painted an inscription under the roof. The well itself likely dates earlier than that. A wooden grape arbor stands southeast of the house and well.

A collection of outbuildings is located to the east of the house. The main outbuilding is a c.1900 wood-frame and vertical-wood-clad barn with a front-gable metal roof (see Figure 33). Cutaway portions are located on the first story, where it is open along the facade (west) and rear (east) and side (south) elevations. Large openings in the gable ends provide access to a loft area. A shed-roof addition on the side (north) elevation is clad in corrugated metal on some portions. Additional structures include a c.1885 log tobacco shed with a front-gable metal roof (see Figure 34), c.1925 wood-clad vehicular shed with a metal roof and two garage bays (see Figure 35), c.1950 metal-clad shed resting on a concrete foundation with a metal roof (see Figure 36), and small c.1950 concrete-block building that likely serves as a pumphouse (see Figure 37).

A segment of the historic Mt. Sinai Road alignment is located just north of the house; the original grading and cleared area is present along this short segment (see Figure 38). Some large boulder stones that would have historically formed retaining walls are located along either side of the road.



Figure 31. The side (south) elevation of the c.1885 main house, including shed-roof addition, and well, view facing northwest.



Figure 32. The side (north) elevation of the c.1885 main house, view facing southwest.



Figure 33. C.1900 main barn outbuilding, view facing west.



Figure 34. C. 1885 tobacco shed, view facing northwest.



Figure 35. C.1925 vehicular shed, view facing southwest.



Figure 36. C.1950 metal-clad shed, view facing north.



Figure 37. C.1950 concrete pumphouse, view facing northwest.



Figure 38. C.1875 Mt. Sinai Road Segment, view facing east.

Post Office

The post office building, which also served as a store, refueling stop, and possibly grain depot at different points in history, is set far back from NC 86 in a clearing and oriented toward the railroad (see Figure 39). A railroad siding extends from the railroad approximately 500 feet north of the post office to provide train access to the building. A gravel driveway leads to a curving, paved, front walkway with brick and metal pole posts that would have once held an entry gate or sign for the building.

This 1883 structure is one-and-one-half stories and displays a rectangular plan (see Figure 40). The side-gable metal roof features a large brick chimney on the side (east) elevation (see Figure 41). It rests on a post-and-beam foundation that is shored up with stone and concrete blocks. The building is clad in vertical wood siding. Fenestration consists of replacement, vinyl, one-over-one, double-hung sash on the facade (south) and one historic-age, six-pane fixed window in the gable end of the side (west) elevation; all have simple wood surrounds. A full-width, shed-roof porch extends across the facade and is supported by simple wood posts with replacement railing and floorboards. The porch foundation is clad in brick with a central brick stairway leading to the central entry, which has wood surrounds and a vinyl, glazed entry door. The door and windows along the facade are covered in modern metal grates. Wood cladding on the east elevation has been partially removed, revealing a brick and wood-frame structure underneath. An addition to the structure along the rear (north) elevation has been removed; all that is left is the rubblestone foundation (see Figure 42). The interior of the post office was not accessed as no one was present, although the owners were notified.



Figure 39. 1883 post office building as viewed from railroad siding, view facing southwest.



Figure 40. 1883 post office building facade (south) and side (west) elevation, view facing northeast.



Figure 41. 1883 post office building side (east) elevation, view facing west.



Figure 42. 1883 post office building, rear elevation, view facing southwest.

Tobacco Barn

This building stands northwest of the post office and immediately east of NC 86 with only a few feet of setback from the road (see Figure 43). Built c.1875, it is a one-story, rectangular-plan, flue-cured tobacco barn with a metal front-gable roof (see Figure 44). It rests on a chinked stone foundation and is made of square notched logs held together with mortar chinking. The gable ends feature vertical wood cladding with central loft openings. A central door opening is located on the facade (west). The rear (east) elevation has a small shed-roof projection; it also features a central exterior chimney with brick base and metal cylindrical flue (see Figure 45). The interior of the building has a central brick hearth, tarpaper walls, and a loft area that may have been added later (see Figure 46). Insulation is visible around the door opening.



Figure 43. C.1875 tobacco barn with NC 86 in the foreground, view facing northeast.



Figure 44. C.1875 tobacco barn, view facing southeast.



Figure 45. C.1875 tobacco barn, rear elevation, view facing northwest.



Figure 46. Tobacco barn, interior with brick hearth.

Historical Background

Of the structures currently extant on this property—the farmhouse and outbuildings, post office, and tobacco barn—the tobacco barn was likely the first to be constructed in the 1870s. Though there is no evidence of major tobacco production on this parcel, the log barn reflects the post-Civil War trend of farmers maintaining a small barn or shed for tobacco production to supplement their income. Nearby Durham was a thriving tobacco manufacturing town, providing an easy market for crops.⁴⁵ By the 1870s the method of flue-curing tobacco (rather than using a wood or charcoal fire) had become widespread.⁴⁶ The tobacco barn on this parcel displays many common features of early flue-cured tobacco barns including its shallow setback from the road, small scale of approximately 16 square feet, metal roof, log construction with mortar chinking, and brick chimney flue.⁴⁷ Its short height and generally horizontal massing is a characteristic of early flue-cured tobacco barns; later examples of the type were typically much taller.⁴⁸ For these reasons, the barn is identified as having been used for tobacco curing (though no research was found to definitively confirm this) and the construction date is estimated at c.1875.⁴⁹

The parcel's first recorded owner, W.G. Robson, sold portions of the land and his half interest in the local steam saw and grist mill to William R. Lloyd and Morris King. A William Lloyd who appears in the 1870 and 1880 census was likely the Lloyd referenced on the deed. Lloyd, who was 54 at the time of the 1880 census, was a white North Carolina native and farmer married to Nancy Lloyd, also from North Carolina, with whom he had six children. By 1870 he owned \$400 worth of real estate; the portion of this parcel would have been in addition to that.⁵⁰ In 1886 Robson, Lloyd, and a third owner, T.J. Burghs, sold the remainder of the land, and possibly the other half of interest in the mill, to Morris and Emma King.⁵¹ Morris King appears in the 1880 census. A farmer and 34-year-old white North Carolina native, he and his wife Emma had four children.⁵²

⁴⁵ Mattson, "History and Architecture of Orange County," 40.

⁴⁶ Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 2005), 359.

⁴⁷ Annie Rubel, "Standing Tall: The Endangered North Carolina Flue-Cured Tobacco Barns," *The Historic Dimension Series*, Fall 2012, <http://pahistoricbarns.org/pdfs/Tobacco%20Barn%20Brief%20Final1.pdf> Note that while this article describes tobacco barns as "endangered," it also says there are approximately 40,000 extant across the state.

⁴⁸ Clayton Thomas Johnson, "Put That in Your Pipe and Smoke It!": Documenting the Vernacular Structures of a Historic Flue-Curing Tobacco Farming Practice" (Clemson University, 2017), 51–53, https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3648&context=all_theses.

⁴⁹ A search of Federal Census Non-Population (Agricultural) Schedules from 1850-1880 for Orange County did not reveal further information about the property.

⁵⁰ United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *1870 United States Federal Census*, Roll M593_1153 Page 161A; United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *Tenth Census of the United States, 1880* (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1880), Roll 976 Page 209B.

⁵¹ "Deed, William G. Robson to William R. Lloyd and Morris King"; "Deed, William G. Robson & William R. Lloyd and T.J. Burghs to Morris King."

⁵² United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *Tenth Census of the United States, 1880*, Roll 976 Page 199A. A search of Federal Census Non-Population (Agricultural) Schedules from 1850-1880 for Orange County did not reveal further information about the property.

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In addition to the tobacco barn, the other two main buildings on this parcel—the post office and farmhouse—are oriented toward the railroad. They were therefore built after the Southern Railway Chapel Hill Spur was completed through Blackwood in 1882. The railroad encouraged development of a community beyond just agricultural properties. A depot constructed east of the tracks was called Robeson Station (nonextant) after the landowner. A central element of this was the post office that was constructed at Blackwood in 1883, with landowner Morris King serving as the postmaster.⁵³ An 1891 map shows the Blackwood area with the Blackwood Post Office marked (see Figure 47).⁵⁴ The post office closed in 1927 but the building has had many other uses over the years.⁵⁵ Randy Varnamore, manager of the New Hope Market on the west side of NC 86, said in an interview that the structure used to be a grain depot; however, research was not able to substantiate that claim.⁵⁶ In a previous 1992 architectural survey, the then-owner said that the building historically served as a post office, fertilizer store, and refueling stop for the railroad. At that time it housed the Sun Mountain Weaving Shop. It is currently unoccupied.



Figure 47. 1891 map image of Blackwood showing the location of the post office. Note that Robeson Station is nonextant.⁵⁷

⁵³ Lewis, "Orange County, NC Post Offices - 1785-1971."

⁵⁴ Tate and Moore, "Map of Orange County, N.C."

⁵⁵ Lewis, "Orange County, NC Post Offices - 1785-1971."

⁵⁶ Randy Varnamore, interview with Mead & Hunt, Inc., April 16, 2019.

⁵⁷ Tate and Moore, "Map of Orange County, N.C."

The farmstead on this parcel dates to c.1885 and was likely built by Morris and Emma King. The farmhouse displays a style consistent with other frame L- and T-plan farmhouses around the Piedmont region of North Carolina built in the late nineteenth century. These were typically one to two stories with an ell to the rear, which is where the kitchen and sometimes dining room were located; a layout that conforms to the subject property.⁵⁸ The main barn and tobacco shed outbuildings were likely constructed by the Kings. In an interview for the subject property's evaluation, current owner John Maultsby indicated that the small log outbuilding was a tobacco shed.⁵⁹

In February 1910 Morris and Emma King sold the property to Eugene O. Turrentine.⁶⁰ As indicated in the 1910 census, 42-year-old Eugene Turrentine was married to Theodosia Turrentine and they had two children: Ernest and Pearl. The entire family was white and native to North Carolina.⁶¹ The Turrentine family would occupy the farmstead until at least the mid-twentieth century, with son Ernest becoming the owner in 1927.⁶² Census records indicate that the family farmed the land and that theirs was a "general farm" without any special focus.⁶³ Extant outbuildings support this designation. It can be surmised that the Turrentine family altered the facade of the farmhouse, adding a bungalow-style, full-width porch with tapered porch supports and the large central dormer window. These alterations likely date to c.1915. The Turrentine family also likely constructed two sheds for vehicles and equipment. The current owners of the parcel and several surrounding parcels are John and Anne Maultsby.

Comparable Properties

The parcel generally consists of small-scale, general-purpose farm buildings, including the farmhouse, of which there are many extant in Orange County. A search on the NCHPO GIS viewer for farms in Orange County returns 120 results, mostly from the late-nineteenth or early-twentieth centuries. These searches in combination with review of Richard Mattson's 1996 *History and Architecture of Orange County, North Carolina* context found several other farmsteads in the county that have more architecturally detailed farmhouses and better collections of outbuildings with stronger overall integrity. These include the Cates-Dodson-Minnis Farm (OR 0417), located at 923 Arthur Minnis Road south of Hillsborough; the Sidney W. Crabtree Farm (OR 0366), located at 1301 Smith Lee Road, Chapel Hill; and the T. Marvin Phelps Farm (OR 667), located at 2400 NC 57 north of Hillsborough.

The Cates-Dodson-Minnis Farm is located just west of the project area and was added to the Study List in 2005. Built in 1881, it features a side-gable Greek Revival farmhouse with rear addition and several

⁵⁸ Bishir and Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, 42–43.

⁵⁹ John Maultsby, interview with Mead & Hunt, Inc., April 16, 2019.

⁶⁰ "Deed, Morris King and Emma King to E.O. Turrentine."

⁶¹ United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910* (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1910), Roll T624_1126 Page 9A.

⁶² "Deed, E.O. Turrentine & Wife Theodosia to Ernest Eugene Turrentine," January 18, 1927, Vol. 90, Page 169, Orange County Registrar of Deeds.

⁶³ United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930* (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930), Census Place Chapel Hill, Orange, North Carolina Page 14A. A search of Federal Census Non-Population (Agricultural) Schedules from 1850-1880 for Orange County did not reveal further information about the property.

outbuildings. The farmhouse, which displays original wood siding, windows, and two masonry chimneys, has better integrity than the subject property (see Figure 48).



Figure 48. The Study-Listed Cates-Dodson-Minnis Farm has a farmhouse with strong integrity. Google Street View image.

The Sidney W. Crabtree Farm, which dates to c.1910, had a determination of eligibility in 2000 but its eligibility status was not noted in HPOWEB. The farm consists of an intact farmhouse and a cohesive collection of six domestic and agricultural outbuildings and it better represents a small farmstead (see Figure 49).



Figure 49. Crabtree Farm showing cohesive grouping of outbuildings. Google Street View image.

The T. Marvin Phelps farm dates to c.1900 and was added to the Study List in 1993. It consists of an L-plan farmhouse with an outstanding collection of frame and log outbuildings including barns, a well house, tenant house, smokehouse, and tobacco barns (see Figure 50). With its more varied and cohesive collection of agricultural outbuildings, this property better represents turn-of-the-century farmstead than the subject parcel.



Figure 50. T. Marvin Phelps farm with a strong collection of outbuildings including frame and log barns.
Google Street View image.

Tobacco barns are still very common across the state. North Carolina tobacco-related resources listed in the National Register include larger tobacco warehouses and factories, such as the American Tobacco Company Manufacturing Plant or Bull Durham Tobacco Factory, both in Durham, or the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company in Winston-Salem. In general buildings related to small-scale agricultural production of tobacco, such as the tobacco barn on this site, do not convey agricultural significance at the level of the National Register.

An early log, flue-cured tobacco barn located on the Duke Homestead and Tobacco Factory site (DH 0008, see Figure 51) in Durham, a National Historic Landmark, retains more characteristic features than the subject property. These include a side shed and wood shingle roof. Moreover, it displays better integrity because it is still located within the 1852 Duke Family farm complex, an intact and cohesive farmstead.⁶⁴

⁶⁴ Sarah Crump, "A Trip to Duke Homestead: A Lesson in Tobacco's Legacy," *In the Field Blog: The People & Programs of the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services*, June 29, 2015, <http://info.ncagr.gov/blog/2015/06/29/a-trip-to-duke-homestead-a-lesson-in-tobaccos-legacy/>.



Figure 51. Log tobacco barn at Duke Homestead in Durham. Photo from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services “In the Field” Blog.⁶⁵

The post office stands out architecturally in comparison to other examples of similar buildings across Orange County and North Carolina. The National Register-listed Cedar Grove Rural Crossroad Historic District (OR1424, see Figure 52) in Orange County has a mid-twentieth-century post office. Like the subject property, it is small in scale and was used locally in a rural area; however, it is a much later example. The Rural Hall Depot (FY0543, see Figure 53) in Forsyth County west of the subject property is an 1888, one-story, frame building related to the railroad. It is listed in the National Register under *Criteria A* and *C*; however, it is a passenger depot whereas the post office on this property had more of a community role as a post office and store.

⁶⁵ Crump, “A Trip to Duke Homestead: A Lesson in Tobacco’s Legacy.”



Figure 52. Post office in Cedar Grove, Orange County.



Figure 53. Rural Hall Depot in Forsyth County. Photo from Historic Preservation Office Web Browser (HPOWEB).

National Register Evaluation

The farmstead, post office, and tobacco barn at 1910 Mt. Sinai Road were evaluated under National Register *Criteria A, B, C, and D.*

Under *Criterion A: History*, the property must be associated with events or trends that have made a significant contribution to local, state, or national history. The tobacco barn and farmstead, as general farm structures that are very common across North Carolina, the Piedmont region, and Orange County, do not stand out in the area of Agriculture to possess significance under *Criterion A.*

The post office, constructed upon the completion of the Southern Railway Chapel Hill Spur, represents the importance of this community as a connector on the line. It was constructed just as the community was growing beyond its agricultural roots into a railroad crossroads. As such, the post office possesses significance under *Criterion A* in the area of Community Planning and Development.

Under *Criterion B: Significant Person*, a property must be directly associated with the lives of individuals significant in local, state, or national history. The former owners of this parcel were all general farmers. Some owned portions of a saw and grist mill in the late-nineteenth century, and Morris King served as the postmaster for Blackwood for an unspecified amount of time. These roles – which were common in rural communities around North Carolina – do not stand out as singularly influential or historically significant. Therefore, the property does not possess significance under *Criterion B*.

To be eligible under *Criterion C: Architecture*, a property must represent the work of a master, possess high artistic value, and/or embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The tobacco barn on this property is one of an estimated 40,000 still standing across North Carolina, and while it displays characteristic features of an early flue-cured tobacco barn, it does not stand out in comparison to other similar examples.⁶⁶ The post office is a simple side-gable structure and, other than its location along the railroad, does not display any particular architectural features unique to its role as a post office, refueling station, and store. The farmstead does not display a strong collection of outbuildings that convey agricultural significance; buildings other than the main barn are small-scale and reflect common regional farming practices. Therefore, this property does not exhibit significance under *Criterion C*.

The property is unlikely to yield information about the past not otherwise accessible from other resources and written records, making it not eligible for the National Register under *Criterion D*.

Integrity

The farmstead, post office, and tobacco barn all occupy their original location at the intersection of NC 86 and Mt. Sinai Road and retain integrity of location. The post office and farmhouse buildings have poor integrity of materials, design, and workmanship due to extensive alterations. The post office has replacement porch posts and railings, as well as vinyl replacement windows and door with metal grates covering the window and door openings on the facade. Much of the original foundation is missing with portions supported by concrete block, and original siding has been removed leaving the frame structure exposed on the east elevation. Additionally, the rear portion of the building is entirely demolished with composite material covering the open portion of the rear elevation. The farmhouse also has a replacement porch in addition to siding, doors, windows, and a large addition. The other buildings, however, including the tobacco barn, main barn, tobacco shed, and equipment storage structures generally retain good integrity of materials, design, and workmanship.

The historic setting for all buildings has changed significantly since their construction with the realignment and modernization of NC 86 and construction of New Hope Market and Allen & Son Barbecue across the

⁶⁶ Rubel, "Standing Tall: The Endangered North Carolina Flue-Cured Tobacco Barns."

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street. Feeling and association have similarly been compromised as none of the buildings retain their original function and the tobacco barn and farmstead outbuildings are no longer in use. Overall the property has poor integrity and the post office – which is the only structure recommended historically significant – does not retain the integrity to convey its significance as a post office and railroad stop in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century.

Recommendation

Due to lack of significance (tobacco barn and farmstead) and integrity (post office), this property is recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register under *Criteria A, B, C, or D*.

E. Allen & Son Barbecue – 6203 Millhouse Road

Resource Name	Allen & Son Barbecue
NCHPO Survey Site Number	OR3178
Street Address	6203 Millhouse Road, Chapel Hill NC 27514
PIN	9871844888
Construction Date(s)	1961
National Register Recommendation	Not Eligible

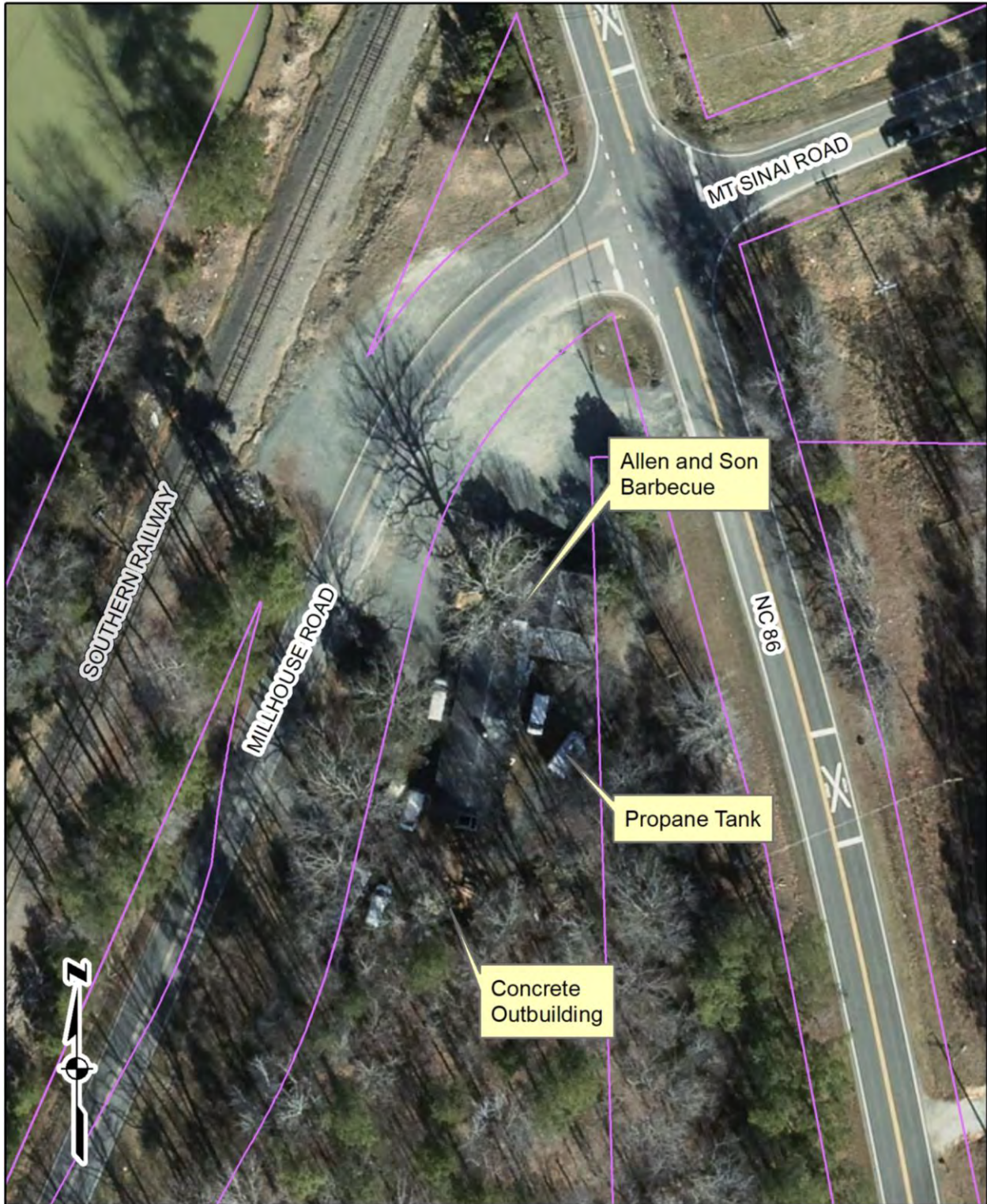


Figure 54. Overview of building with dining room and kitchen, breezeway, and smokehouse, view looking southeast. Millhouse Road is visible in the foreground.

Description

The former Allen & Son Barbecue building (OR3178) is located at 6203 Millhouse Road.⁶⁷ It stands on the west side of NC 86 on the southeast corner of its intersection with Millhouse Road/Mt. Sinai Road (SR 1718) on an approximately 23-acre parcel that is shaped like a triangle. Surrounded by mature deciduous trees, the southern portion of the parcel is heavily wooded. It opens to a clearing where a propane tank, concrete outbuilding, and wood pile are located. The northern apex of the triangular parcel is a gravel driveway and parking lot that is accessible to the east and west from NC 86 and Millhouse Road. Figure 55 presents a site plan of the parcel.

⁶⁷ As of December 2018 Allen & Son is no longer operating and the building is currently vacant; thus, the survey team had limited interior access. The front dining room and kitchen were locked but the rear smokehouse was open and accessible. No one was available to answer questions about dates or building functions.



Layer Credits: ESRI

Figure 55. OR3178 site plan.

Originally built in 1961, Allen & Son Barbecue is an L-plan, one-story, concrete-block structure (see Figure 54). It has an irregular roofline covered in asphalt shingles and rests on a concrete foundation. Windows are a mix of fixed with plain wood surrounds and double-hung sash with some multi-pane originals and one-over-one replacements. The building is made up of two parts. The northernmost portion at the front is the dining room and kitchen. The southernmost portion at the rear is the smokehouse. A covered breezeway connects the two, creating an “L.” Each section is described in more detail below.

The dining room and kitchen have a generally rectangular plan with a cross-gable roof that has vertical wood beams in the gable ends and a full-width hipped projection along the facade (north) with wide eave overhangs. A side-gable addition is located on the side (west) elevation. The facade features fixed windows with simple wood surrounds and a central projecting entry vestibule clad in vertical wood boards (see Figures 56 and 57). Ramps to either side with simple wood railings lead to the multi-light doors, one of which is original wood and the other replacement vinyl. The side (east and west) elevations feature fixed windows and, on the east elevation, original six-over-six, double-hung, wood windows. A trailer is located alongside the west elevation. The rear (south) elevation has three multi-pane, six-over-six, double-hung, wood windows on its east end and vertical wood cladding and rear entrances with replacement doors and a vestibule closet on a projected section that extends underneath the covered breezeway to the west. The interior of the dining room was visible during field survey from the windows as this portion of the building was locked. It has many features that appear to be original, including linoleum floors, wood paneling, and an order counter (see Figures 58 and 59 for interior photographs from Yelp.com).

The covered breezeway is supported by two steel I-beams that run between the two portions of the building. Fluorescent lights are mounted on the underside of the roof covering. This area has a concrete pad floor with large metal trap door that may lead to a storm shelter.

The rear smokehouse is rectangular in plan with a front-gable roof that continues back from the breezeway and features wide eave overhangs and a large hood vent. Fixed windows with simple wood surrounds line the east and west elevations, and entrances are located at the facade and west elevation. A massive concrete block chimney that extends almost the entire width of the structure dominates the south elevation (see Figure 60). The interior of the smokehouse features a large central hearth at the rear of the building flanked by pits on either side where coals burned to cook meat on metal grates (see Figure 61). The remainder of the space is largely an open prep area with a concrete pad floor. A concrete outbuilding and wood pile are located to the rear of the building (see Figure 62)



Figure 56. Facade (north) of the dining room/kitchen component, view looking south.



Figure 57. Facade (north) and side (east) elevation of the dining room/kitchen component, view looking northwest.



Figure 58. Dining room interior in 2016. Photo from Yelp.com.



Figure 59. Dining room, order counter, and kitchen in 2012. Photo from Yelp.com.



Figure 60. Side (south) elevation of the smokehouse component showing the massive chimney, view looking north.



Figure 61. Hearth and barbecue pit in smokehouse.



Figure 62. Concrete outbuilding and wood pile to the rear of the building, view looking south.

Historical Background

This building was constructed in 1961 as a purpose-built barbecue restaurant at the intersection of NC 86 and Mt. Sinai Road; the location was likely chosen for its proximity to ever-increasing automobile traffic.⁶⁸ In the late 1950s the alignment of NC 86 shifted east to this location. NC 86 ran north from US 15A/501A in Chapel Hill through Blackwood and on to US 70A in Hillsborough.⁶⁹ This new alignment brought increased traffic and customers through Blackwood Station.

In 1970 or 1971 Keith Allen began leasing the property and operating it as the second location of Allen & Son Barbecue. Allen's father had started the original Allen & Son restaurant, located approximately 25 miles south in Pittsboro, when Allen was a teenager. By 1971 Keith Allen was aware of the barbecue restaurant at this location.⁷⁰ As he described, "I made the comment to my friend, I said it looks like the guy could do better than this. And my friend told me, he said, well, if you think you're so smart you buy it – you do it. Well, I did."⁷¹ He began leasing the property soon after and operated it for the next 48 years as pitmaster. Keith Allen was the sole pitmaster at this location with his father operating the Pittsboro location separately. Allen had a signature hands-on operational style; he would arrive at the restaurant at approximately 3 a.m. to light the hickory wood fire and begin preparing various sides.⁷² He would then run the pit for about nine hours, until 12 p.m. Each afternoon he chopped wood and readied the pits for the next morning.⁷³

⁶⁸ Reed, Reed, and KcKinney, "On the Fault Line: Allen & Son, Chapel Hill."

⁶⁹ North Carolina State Highway Commission, "Orange County."

⁷⁰ Allen's passing mention of the original barbecue restaurant in this interview is the only information on it that research was able to uncover. It operated for approximately 10 years at this location.

⁷¹ Reed, Reed, and KcKinney, "On the Fault Line: Allen & Son, Chapel Hill."

⁷² Drew Jackson, "NC Has Lost One of Its Historic Barbecue Joints, Which Just Quietly Closed," *Raleigh News and Observer*, December 6, 2018, <https://www.newsobserver.com/living/article222718535.html>.

⁷³ Reed, Reed, and KcKinney, "On the Fault Line: Allen & Son, Chapel Hill."

Allen employed a traditional cooking method that involved hand-splitting hickory logs behind the restaurant with a steel wedge. He sourced the hickory wood locally and regionally, often hauling felled trees for free.⁷⁴ Allen burned the wood in the smokehouse fireplace, creating coals that he then transferred into the pits on either side of the fireplace. The meat—largely pork, but also sometimes chicken and beef ribs—cooked on grates mounted above the pits. Their dripping juices created smoke that then infused the meat with flavor. This cooking method was increasingly rare by the 2000s; Jim Early, founder of the North Carolina Barbecue Society Historic Barbecue Trail and author of *The Best Tar Heel Barbecue: Manteo to Murphy*, noted in his 2002 book that “there are few Eastern North Carolina-style barbecues still using wood or charcoal. Allen & Son is the only place that I know of that splits its own wood.”⁷⁵ Allen himself noted that even among wood-burning barbecue pits, many others had moved away from hickory wood to use maple, oak, dogwood, and others, but insisted that the hickory imparted a unique flavor so he continued to seek it out.⁷⁶

Allen combined two regional barbecue styles in his cooking process. He generally used Piedmont-style pork shoulder meat, as opposed to the whole hog cooked in other areas of the state.⁷⁷ Allen then added Eastern-style vinegar-based barbecue sauce to the meat.⁷⁸ The restaurant’s location in the middle of the state puts it near the transition point from traditional eastern vinegar-based to western tomato-based barbecue sauce. The dividing line between these two styles is located “somewhere near Durham,” which is just 12 miles east on Mt. Sinai Road.⁷⁹ *Southern Living* magazine described that Allen & Son’s “marriage of vinegar sauce with Western NC pork shoulder cookery befits a Piedmont town in the middle of the state.” (see Figure 63 for a menu from 2015).⁸⁰

⁷⁴ Reed, Reed, and KcKinney, “On the Fault Line: Allen & Son, Chapel Hill.”

⁷⁵ Jim Early, “Allen & Son Barbecue, Chapel Hill,” *NCBS Historic Barbecue Trail*, 2002, http://ncbbqsociety.com/trail_pages/allen_son_large.html.

⁷⁶ Reed, Reed, and KcKinney, “On the Fault Line: Allen & Son, Chapel Hill.”

⁷⁷ Nicholas Graham, “Barbecue,” in *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: NC Digital Heritage Center, 2010), <https://www.ncpedia.org/culture/food/barbecue>.

⁷⁸ Robert Moss, “The South’s Top 50 Barbecue Joints 2018,” *Southern Living*, 2018, <https://www.southernliving.com/travel/bbq-restaurants?slide=535955#535955>.

⁷⁹ Bishir and Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, 406.

⁸⁰ Jennifer V. Cole and Hunter Lewis, “The Perfect Pit Stop,” *Southern Living*, n.d., <https://www.southernliving.com/travel/south-east/allen-son-barbecue?slide=4859#4859>.

Allen & Son

BAR-B-QUE

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RT. 1, Pittsboro, NC
542-2294

ALLEN & SONS # 2
Rt. 2, Chapel Hill, NC
942-7576

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COMPLETE CATERING
ALL LOCATIONS

OPEN FOR BREAKFAST
SATURDAY 7:00 A.M.

DAILY SPECIAL
Tea or Coffee Included
\$6.70



WE NO LONGER DO SUBSTITUTIONS
OUR HICKORY COOKED SPECIALTIES

Bar-B-Que Plate.....	6.95
B-B-Q w/FF or Potato Salad.....	9.25
Extra Large B-B-Q Plate.....	10.00
Combination - Stew & B-B-Q.....	10.00
Child's Combination Plate.....	8.10
Stew Plate.....	6.65
Stew Bowl w/ Hushpuppies.....	6.55
Stew Plate w/French Fries.....	8.75
Chicken Fingers w/ French Fries.....	8.45
1/2 B-B-Q Chicken w/Slaw, Choice of FF or Potato Salad.....	9.40
B-B-Q Pork Ribs w/ Slaw, Choice of FF or Potato Salad.....	11.25
Chef Salad.....	4.70

FRESH SEAFOOD

Flounder Plate.....	9.40
Grilled Flounder Plate w/Slaw Choice of FF or Potato Salad.....	9.90
Shrimp Plate.....	9.40
Seafood Combination Plate.....	10.10
Fried Catfish w/FF, Slaw & Hushpuppies.....	9.65

CHILDREN'S PLATES

Shrimp Plate.....	4.50
Chicken Fingers.....	4.50
Hot Dog w/FF.....	3.30

HOMEMADE PIES AND CAKES

- Cream Cheese Pound Cake w/Cream Cheese Icing • Pecan Pie • Coconut Chess Pie • Blueberry Pie • Peanut Butter Pie
- Chocolate Pie • Klondike Pie • Cobblers • Bread Puddings
- Cookies • Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream

SIDE ORDERS

Baked Beans.....	2.40
French Fries.....	2.20
Onion Rings.....	2.20
Potato Salad.....	2.30
Hushpuppies.....	1.55
Cup of Stew w/Hushpuppies.....	3.10
Order of Slaw.....	2.30
Salad.....	2.30
Fried Okra.....	2.40

WE NO LONGER DO SUBSTITUTIONS

The following served with your choice of one side order
Baked Beans, Onion Rings, French Fries, Potato
Salad, Hushpuppies, Salad, Slaw, Fried Okra

(EAT IN ONLY)

B-B-Q Sandwich.....	5.35
Hamburger w/Mustard Onions & Chili (1/2 lb.).....	4.85
Cheeseburger w/Mustard, Onions & chili (1/2lb.).....	5.35

SERVED WITHOUT SIDE ORDER

B-B-Q Sandwich.....	4.55
Hamburger w/Mustard Onions & Chili (1/2 lb.).....	4.45
Cheeseburger w/Mustard, Onions & Chili (1/2lb.).....	4.60
Bacon Lettuce & Tomato.....	3.85
Hot Dog.....	2.25
Fish Sandwich.....	4.25
Boneless Chicken Breast w/Lettuce & Tomato.....	4.25
Country Ham w/Lettuce & Tomato.....	4.55
Grilled Cheese Sandwich.....	2.55

Lettuce & Tomato .25 Extra

Hamburger Steak Plate.....	8.80
Rib-Eye Steak Plate w/Lettuce /Tomato & FF.....	7.60

DRINKS

Bottled Water.....	1.00
Iced Tea or Coffee (Free refills).....	1.00
Coke..... Small.....	.95
..... Large.....	1.05
Sprite..... Small.....	.95
..... Large.....	1.05
Diet Coke..... Small.....	.95
..... Large.....	1.05
Fresh Homemade Lemonade..... Small 1.15.....Large 1.40	
Milk..... Pint.....	.95
Apple Cider..... Hot Cup.....	.95
.....Cold Mug.....	1.40

CARRY OUT DINNERS

Pound of B-B-Q.....	8.75
Slaw..... Pint.....	3.70
..... Quart.....	6.40
Stew..... Pint.....	4.70
..... Quart.....	8.80
Hushpuppies by Dozen.....	2.25
Potato Salad..... Pint.....	3.70
..... Quart.....	6.40
Baked Beans..... Pint.....	3.70
..... Quart.....	6.40
Fried Okra..... Pint.....	3.70
..... Quart.....	6.40
3 PC. Of Chicken Fingers.....	4.45
1 lb. of B-B-Q Pork Ribs.....	9.75
1/2 B-B-Q Chicken.....	4.30

Figure 63. Allen & Son menu in 2015. Photo from Yelp.com.

Barbecue stands and restaurants emerged in North Carolina in the early twentieth century, and many family-run businesses from as early as the 1910s and 1920s are still running.⁸¹ Articles and reviews over the years described the Allen & Son's architecture and aesthetic as "old-fashioned" and "classic," displaying common features of a barbecue restaurant. As Jim Early wrote, "Allen & Son looks like a barbecue place...It has vinyl tile flooring...The walls are painted cinder block and paneling. This place has the right feel."⁸² *Southern Living* described the aesthetic as "tackle shop meets BBQ joint." The separate smokehouse with breezeway connector was built for the purpose of smoking barbecue.⁸³ Many of these features can be found in other barbecue restaurants across the state that are still in operation.

Allen & Son Barbecue won many accolades over the years. It was one of 23 restaurants on the North Carolina Historic Barbecue Trail, made up of barbecue pits in operation for more than 15 years and where

⁸¹ Graham, "Barbecue."

⁸² Early, "Allen & Son Barbecue, Chapel Hill."

⁸³ Cole and Lewis, "The Perfect Pit Stop."

the meat is cooked over pits of charcoal or wood.⁸⁴ In 2007 the Southern Foodways Alliance granted Keith Allen its Tabasco Guardian of the Tradition Award.⁸⁵ As recently as 2018, *Southern Living* magazine named Allen & Son the fifth best barbecue restaurant in the south.⁸⁶ They closed quietly, however, in December 2018, and kitchen and barbecue equipment was auctioned off. The building is currently vacant.⁸⁷

Comparable Properties

Searches on the NCHPO GIS Viewer did not find any individually eligible or listed barbecue restaurants in North Carolina. One possible comparison property is the original location of Allen & Son Barbecue in Pittsboro, which is still extant and operational (see Figure 64). It has run as a franchise through owner Jimmy Stubbs for the past 20 years and the barbecue meat is no longer cooked over wood.⁸⁸ Therefore, its association with the Allen family and the traditional barbecue cooking methods they used is diminished. Keith Allen's father ran this location, with the younger Allen building his reputation as a pitmaster at the subject Allen & Son location. Moreover, the building, a c.1900 front-gable structure with vinyl siding, a large "ell" addition across the facade, and full-width hip-roof porch with replacement supports and railings, does not retain the physical integrity to convey any potential significance.

⁸⁴ Bryan Mims, "Running on Full: The North Carolina Historic Barbecue Trail," *Our State Magazine*, January 29, 2016, <https://www.ourstate.com/north-carolina-historic-barbecue-trail/>.

⁸⁵ Reed, Reed, and KcKinney, "On the Fault Line: Allen & Son, Chapel Hill."

⁸⁶ Moss, "The South's Top 50 Barbecue Joints 2018."

⁸⁷ Jackson, "NC Has Lost One of Its Historic Barbecue Joints, Which Just Quietly Closed."

⁸⁸ "About Us," *Stubbs & Son BBQ*, 2019, <http://stubbsandsonbbq.com/us/>; Reed, Reed, and KcKinney, "On the Fault Line: Allen & Son, Chapel Hill."



Figure 64. Allen & Son Barbecue in Pittsboro in 2012. Photo from Yelp.com.

Other comparison properties include those identified by Jim Early on the North Carolina Historic Barbecue Trail. The two closest to the subject Allen & Son location are Hursey's Barbecue at 1834 Church Street in Burlington to the northwest and Stephenson's Barbecue at 11964 NC 50 in Willow Spring to the southeast.⁸⁹ These both serve as good comparisons due to their purpose-built architecture, mid-twentieth-century design, and locations in the middle of North Carolina, where eastern and western barbecue traditions intersect.

Hursey's Barbecue was founded in 1960 and is also a family business passed down through the Hursey family (see Figures 65 and 66). Hursey's cooks its barbecue over open pits and uses a mix of hickory and oak wood to flavor the meat.⁹⁰ The c.1960 building is a side-gable, brick-clad structure with a shed-roof entry vestibule, fixed front windows with diagonal wood paneled details, and a massive brick chimney with corbelling and three parapet-style projections. Architecturally, its design displays greater decorative detail than the concrete block Allen & Son, and as it still functions as a barbecue restaurant, it retains better integrity of feeling and association.

⁸⁹ "The NCBS Historic Barbecue Trail," *North Carolina Barbecue Society*, n.d., <http://www.ncbbqsociety.com/bbqtrail.html>.

⁹⁰ Jim Early, "Hursey's Barbecue, Burlington," *NCBS Historic Barbecue Trail*, n.d., http://ncbbqsociety.com/trail_pages/hurseys_large.html.



Figures 65 and 66. Hursey's Barbecue. Google Street View images.

Stephenson's Barbecue was founded in 1958 (see Figures 67 and 68). Owner Paul Stephenson, Jr. was a hog farmer who started a small barbecue stand with meat from his own hogs. He prepares the meat in thick-walled brick pits; the pork cooks over coals initially and then smokes overnight.⁹¹ The current building is a c.1965, side-gambrel, concrete-block structure with vertical wood siding in the gable ends. A shed-roof vestibule entrance extends from the center of the building and multi-light fixed windows line the facade. The smokehouse is located in a rear bumpout. This restaurant is larger in scale than Allen & Son and displays comparable physical integrity and better integrity of feeling and association since it still functions as a barbecue restaurant.

⁹¹ Jim Early, "Stephenson's Barbecue, Burlington," *NCBS Historic Barbecue Trail*, n.d., http://ncbbqsociety.com/trail_pages/stephensons_large.html.



Figure 67. Stephenson's Barbecue. Photo from the NCBS Historic Barbecue Trail website.⁹²



Figure 68. Stephenson's Barbecue. Google Street View image.

National Register Evaluation

Allen & Son Barbecue at 6203 Millhouse Road was evaluated under National Register *Criteria A, B, C, and D*.

Under *Criterion A: History*, the property must be associated with events or trends that have made a significant contribution to local, state, or national history. Research did not indicate that Allen & Son Barbecue was important in the areas of Social History or Entertainment/Recreation, or that the restaurant made any contributions that impacted historical patterns in the barbecue world. Though it was recognized for its high-quality food, it was not found to represent new trends or approaches to barbecue that would distinguish it from other North Carolina barbecue restaurants historically. The Allen & Son

⁹² Early, "Stephenson's Barbecue, Burlington."

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approach to barbecue was similar to that of more than 20 other restaurants on the North Carolina Historic Barbecue Trail. As such, it does not possess significance under *Criterion A*.

Under *Criterion B: Significant Person*, a property must be directly associated with the lives of individuals significant in local, state, or national history. While Keith Allen is recognized as a barbecue pitmaster, he is one of many with that designation across the state and does not stand out as singularly influential in the barbecue community. His “old-fashioned” method of cooking barbecue in pits over wood or coals is shared by other restaurants and pitmasters, including more than 20 on the North Carolina Historic Barbecue Trail. Therefore, the property does not possess significance under *Criterion B*.

To be eligible under *Criterion C: Architecture*, a property must represent the work of a master, possess high artistic value, and/or embody the distinctive characteristics of type, period, or method of construction. While purpose-built as a barbecue restaurant, Allen & Son is one of many early-to-mid-twentieth-century barbecue stands and restaurants extant across the state, some of which date to the 1910s and 1920s. It does not stand out architecturally from other, similar examples in Burlington and Willow Spring, which possess greater architectural detail and continue to function as barbecue restaurants. Therefore, it does not exhibit significance under *Criterion C*.

The property is unlikely to yield information about the past not otherwise accessible from other resources and written records, making it not eligible for the National Register under *Criterion D*.

Integrity

Allen & Son Barbecue occupies its original location at the intersection of NC 86 and Millhouse Road and retains integrity of location. The property generally retains integrity of materials, design, and workmanship because it still has its original concrete-block construction with wood cladding, fixed windows with wood surrounds, and multi-light, double-hung windows; however, some doors have been replaced, slightly diminishing these aspects. It has not been significantly added on to or altered since its construction. The historic setting is intact because the property occupies its original lot and surrounding buildings have not changed significantly since 1961. Feeling and association, however, have been compromised by the closing of the Allen & Son restaurant in late 2018 and the fact that it is currently unoccupied and no longer in use as a barbecue restaurant.

Recommendation

Due to lack of significance, Allen & Son Barbecue at 6203 Millhouse Road is recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register under *Criteria A, B, C, or D*.

F. Blackwood Station Historic District

Resource Name	Blackwood Station Historic District
HPO Survey Site Number (SSN)	OR0487
Address	N/A
PIN	Various
Construction Date(s)	c.1875-1959
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible

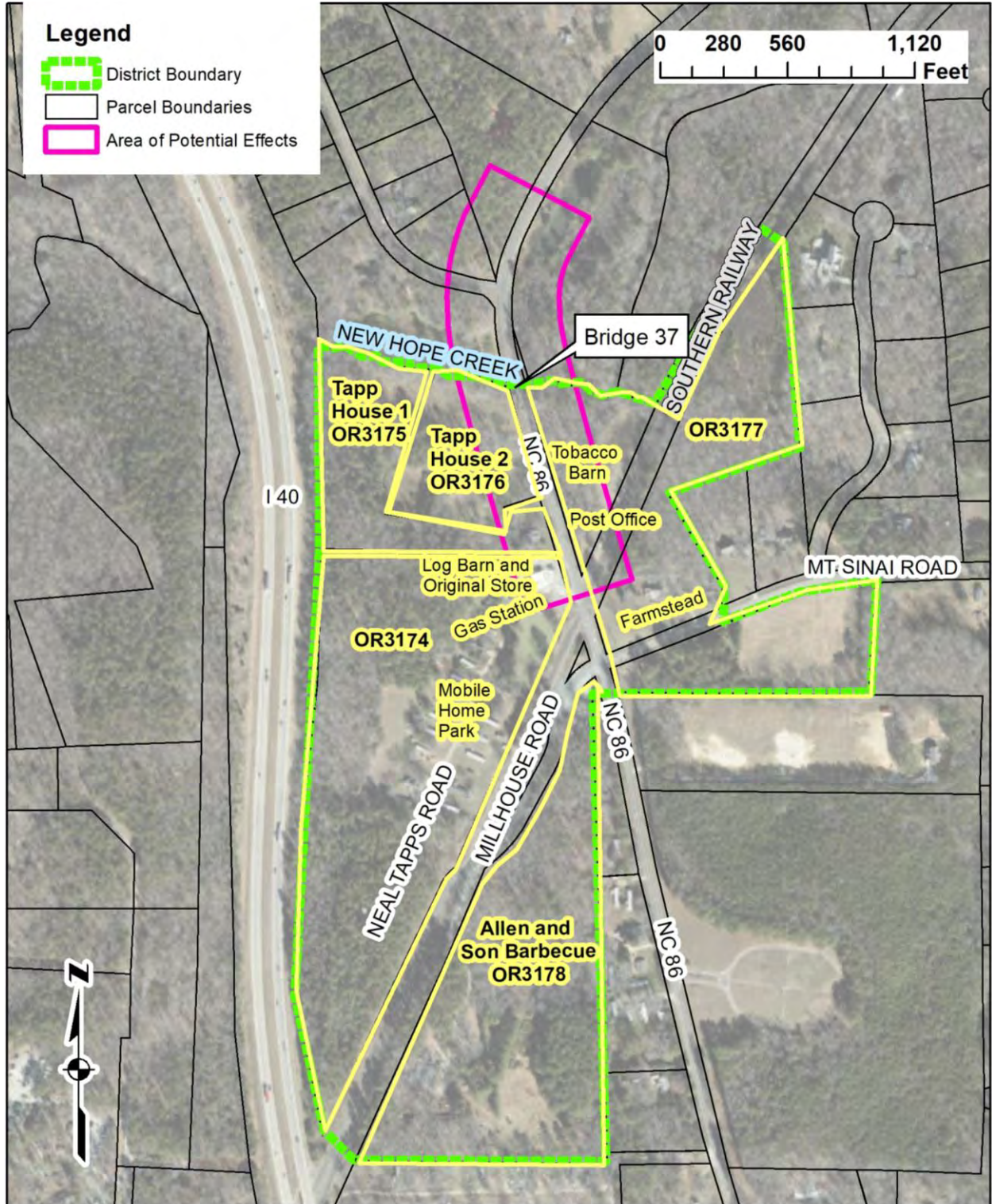
The unincorporated community of Blackwood (Blackwood Station, OR487) was initially surveyed in 1992 and recorded on a North Carolina Multiple Structures Form. Six resources on three parcels were recorded, including those shown in the previously recorded resources table below. A National Register determination of eligibility was not completed for this potential historic district in 1992. As a result of the subject project the buildings recorded on the initial 1992 site form were evaluated for individual significance and as a potential historic district below. Two additional local properties (Allen & Son Barbecue and Tapp House 2) have since passed the 50-year benchmark for consideration, and were included in the potential district evaluation. These newly recorded resources are listed in the table below. A map showing the location of all of the resources in the potential Blackwood Station Historic District is provided in Figure 69.

Previously Recorded Resources

Resource Name (initial form/current forms)	SSN	Address
Sunrise Market/Gas Station	OR3174	5916 Neal Tapps Road
Old Store/Original Store	OR3174	5916 Neal Tapps Road
Log Barn	OR3174	5916 Neal Tapps Road
Bungalow/Tapp House 1	OR3175	6113 NC 86
Sun Mountain Weaving Shop/Post Office	OR3177	1910 Mt. Sinai Road
Bungalow/Farmstead	OR3177	1910 Mt. Sinai Road

Newly Recorded Resources

Allen & Son Barbecue	OR3178	6004 Millhouse Road
Tapp House 2	OR3176	6023 NC 86



Layer Credits: ESRI

Figure 69. OR0487, potential Blackwood Station Historic District map.

Description

The potential Blackwood Station Historic District is located in south/central Orange County along NC 86 at its intersection with Mt. Sinai Road. A railroad spur, originally the Southern Railway Chapel Hill Spur, bisects the community from northeast to southwest, north of Mt. Sinai Road. The area is a mix of commercial and residential uses with buildings ranging in date from c.1875 to 1961. Abbreviated descriptions of individual properties are included below; see the individual property evaluations for complete property histories and descriptions.

One historic property east of NC 86 and north of Mt. Sinai Road includes a farmstead with a farmhouse, multiple agricultural outbuildings, and a train depot/post office building (see Figures 70-73). The farmhouse is oriented towards the rail spur, which signifies the important role it once played in the community. Constructed c.1885, the farmhouse is heavily altered with large additions to the rear and ell, vinyl siding, and a Craftsman porch addition. The former post office building is also heavily altered, with a replacement door and windows, and reconstructed porch. Although a rear addition is missing and the building is deteriorating, it is used for storage.



Figures 70-73. Resources at 1910 Mt. Sinai Road (OR3177). Clockwise from top left: Farmhouse, barn, train depot/post office, and tobacco barn.

Three historic properties that line the west side of NC 86, and north of Mt. Sinai Road were once part of a large parcel. The Tapp family owned the parcels occupied by these properties since 1902. They historically comprised a general farm that was subdivided in the 1950s to include one mixed residential and commercial parcel (Gas Station) and two residential parcels (Tapp Houses 1 and 2). A 1957 Mobil

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gas station at 5916 Neal Tapps Road was adapted to new use in the 1990s (see Figure 74). The station's pump island was removed and the service bays were enclosed to create commercial space. By 2016 a sunroom addition was added to the side elevation. The building now houses the New Hope Market - a restaurant and commercial store.



Figure 74. Former gas station (OR3174) at left and Tapp House 1 (OR3175) at right. View facing northwest.

Also at 5916 Neal Tapps Road are the original store, log barn, and Old Farm Mobile Home Park (see Figures 75 and 76). The original store was once located where the former Gas Station/New Hope Market now sits, and was moved c.1957 to the west and reoriented away from the road/railroad to make way for the new building. This modest c.1885 building has been heavily altered and is currently vacant and in a deteriorated condition. The log barn is also west of the former gas station. This small livestock barn is a common V-notch example of a small log barn, which also exhibits alterations and deterioration. Further, research suggests the property ceased to operate in an agricultural capacity in the 1950s and any associated structures have since been removed.



Figures 75 and 76. Views of original store and log barn at left and mobile homes within Old Farm Mobile Home Park at right.

The two residential parcels include an altered c.1915 Craftsman bungalow (Tapp House 1, Figure 77) and a 1959 Ranch house (Tapp House 2, Figure 78). The bungalow was converted to an office in the 1990s and more recently to a catering business. A large rear addition served as the commercial kitchen; the

building is currently vacant. The modest ranch house was the residence of Betty and Neal Tapp; their son, Richard Tapp, now owns the parcel.



Figures 77 and 78. Tapp House 1 (OR3175) at left and Tapp House 2 (OR3276) at right.

South of Mt. Sinai Road and the railroad tracks is the 1961 Allen & Son Barbecue restaurant (OR3178, see Figure 79). The dining room and side-prep kitchen was in the front building, and a separate smokehouse to the rear is attached by a large breezeway. Keith Allen began to lease the restaurant in 1970 and continued its operation until late 2018. The building is currently vacant.



Figure 79. Allen & Son Barbecue (OR3178), view facing southwest.

Historical Background

The overall project study area coincides with the potential historic district. Therefore the context developed for the overall project area also serves as the historic context for the potential historic district. See Section 4 of this report for the complete context.

Comparable Historic Districts of Crossroads Communities

One comparable National Register-listed district in Orange County that represents a rural crossroads community is the Cedar Grove Historic District (OR1424, see Figure 80). Listed in 1998, the Cedar Grove Historic District represents an intact crossroads community with buildings of the same era concentrated around the intersection of Efland-Cedar Grove Road and Carr Store Road. Resources include commercial, religious, and public buildings such as a post office and school, as well as residential buildings that date from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries that form a cohesive grouping that conveys significance as a rural community in Orange County.



Figure 80. Streetscape in Cedar Grove Historic District (OR1424), view facing west.

National Register Evaluation

To be eligible for the National Register under *Criterion A*, the property or district must be associated with events or trends that have made a significant contribution to local, state, or national history. The Blackwood Station Historic District developed from the 1870s to the 1960s. While it does retain properties dating to the earliest development of the area, some properties are closely tied to railroad development, and others are more closely related to the development of highways. Thus resources developed during different time periods and related to different events in history. The disjointed and scattered nature of development results in a loose collection of buildings that are geographically spread-out, versus buildings constructed closely together in a cohesive concentration. The end result is that Blackwood lacks association as a railroad town and as a crossroads community, and the extant buildings do not comprise a cohesive collection of resources that would comprise a small rural community. Therefore, the potential district is not eligible for listing in the National Register under *Criterion A*.

National Register *Criterion B* requires a property to be associated with the lives of individuals who have made a significant contribution to local, state, or national history. While the names and occupations of many individuals living and working in this area are known, research did not indicate that any played an important role in the history of this area. Further, while the Tapp family have been involved in farming and commerce in Blackwood since 1902, their arrival post-dates early Blackwood development, and research did not reveal that any members made important contributions to the agricultural history or commercial development of this area, as required for the district to be listed under *Criterion B*. Therefore, the District is not eligible for the National Register under *Criterion B*.

Under *Criterion C*, a historic district can be considered significant as a cohesive collection of residential and commercial businesses that represent an important developmental period of a community. Research indicates that the area included in the Blackwood Station Historic District originated as a rural community and developed from the 1880s to the 1960s. The area retains a post office/depot, store (original), former gas station, former restaurant and a few residences and outbuildings; however, it lacks the full range of commercial, public, religious and residential buildings needed to convey significance as a cohesive rural

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community The buildings included in this potential Blackwood Historic District do not include the full range of resources needed to be representative of a rural community and do not have significance under *Criterion C*.

A property may be eligible for the National Register under *Criterion D* for its potential to yield information significant to human history or prehistory. No properties identified as part of the project are likely to contain information about the past not otherwise accessible from other resources and written records, making it ineligible for the National Register under *Criterion D*.

Integrity

Most buildings within the district have been heavily altered with additions, replacement windows and doors, vinyl siding, and other improvements – and one has been moved. And two structures in this area have been left abandoned and deteriorating. These changes have diminished the integrity of design, setting, feeling materials, workmanship, and association of the area.

Recommendation

Due to lack of significance and integrity, the district is recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

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