

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

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary D. Reid Wilson

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary, Darin J. Waters, Ph.D.

October 8, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Shelby Reap, Architectural Historian slreap@ncdot.gov
NCDOT/EAU/Historic Architecture Group

From: Ramona M. Bartos *RMB for Ramona M. Bartos*
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Re: Historic Structures Survey Report, Improve Intersection of NC 11 and SR 1169
(Woodrow School Rd), Tip # W-5701H, Hertford County, ER 21-2175

Thank you for your September 16, 2021, letter transmitting the above-referenced report. Having read the report, we offer the following comments.

We do not concur that the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House (HF1694) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C for architecture or under any other criteria. The bungalow style is a common property type. Although in good condition on the exterior, the interior integrity is unknown other than the verbal account by the owner. The property does not stand out as one in the county to the level of significance needed under Criterion C for an individually listed property.

We do concur that the Roberta Parker Copeland House (HF1695) and Vera Parker Copeland House (HF0801) are not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

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.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

September 16, 2021

Ms. Renee Gledhill-Earley
Environmental Review Coordinator, State Historic Preservation Office
North Carolina Department of Natural & Cultural Resources
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4617

Dear Renee:

RE: Historic Structures Survey Report, Improve Intersection of NC 11 and SR 1169
(Woodrow School Rd) Hertford County TIP# W-5701H PA# 21-03-0011, WBS#
47104.1.1

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes improve the intersection of NC 11 and SR 1169 (Woodrow School Rd) in Hertford County. NCDOT contracted AECOM to determine if there are any properties in the project area which are eligible for National Register listing.

The report and survey materials are enclosed for your review and comment per 36CFR.800. Please let me know if you have any additional questions regarding this project. I can be reached at (919) 707-6088 or by email at sleap@ncdot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelby Reap".

Shelby Reap
Historic Architecture Team

Attachments

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT

Improve Intersection of NC 11 and SR 1169 (Woodrow School Rd)
Hertford County, North Carolina

TIP # W-5701H
WBS # 47104.1.1
PA # 21-03-0011

Prepared For:

Environmental Analysis Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Prepared By:

AECOM Technical Services of North Carolina, Inc.
5438 Wade Park Boulevard
Raleigh, NC 27607

Sarah Potere, Principal Investigator
Marvin A. Brown

August 2021

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August 2021



August 30, 2021

Sarah Potere, Principal Investigator
AECOM Corporation - North Carolina

Date

Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor
Environmental Analysis Unit, Historic Architecture Team
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects between the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (NCHPO), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the United States Forest Service (USFS) of 2020. 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. Only three resources warranted an intensive National Register eligibility evaluation and are the subject of this report. NCDOT Architectural Historians determined that all other properties and districts are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity.

The project involved the evaluation of three resources located within the APE in support of NCDOT’s proposed intersection improvement of NC 11 and SR 1169 (Woodrow School Rd), Hertford County (TIP No. W-5701H; WBS No. 47104.1.1; PA No. 21-03-011). As part of this project, AECOM intensively evaluated the resources and provided a written report that includes photographs of the resources and landscapes; historic and architectural contexts (as needed); an evaluation of NRHP eligibility; comparisons to similar types of resources; and carefully delineated and justified NRHP boundaries, as appropriate.

AECOM completed this report in August 2021. As a result of its analyses, AECOM recommends the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House (HF1694) as eligible for NRHP listing. The following table identifies the resources requiring evaluation and summarizes the recommendations regarding their eligibility:

RESOURCE NAME	NC HPO SURVEY SITE #	NRHP ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION AND CRITERIA
Raleigh Blowe Sr. House	HF1694	Recommended NRHP eligible under Criterion C
Roberta Parker Copeland House	HF1695	Recommended Not Eligible for NRHP listing
Vera Parker Copeland House	HF0801	Recommended Not Eligible for NRHP listing

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AECOM architectural historian Sarah Potere, who meets the Secretary of Interior’s qualifications for architectural history (CFR 36 CFR Part 61), conducted fieldwork and research, analyzed the resources, and drafted this report. As part of this effort, she visited, documented, and photographed the resources and conducted supplementary research. This effort included reviewing Hertford County deeds, GIS data, plat maps, property and tax records; conducting limited research at the Hertford County library; studying the Hertford County files of the North Carolina HPO; reviewing architectural histories and reports, and partially surveying Hertford County for comparable resources; and conducting online historical and genealogical research. In-person access to Hertford County archival materials was limited due to COVID-19 closures and restrictions.

The project’s APE and the evaluated resources are entirely within Hertford County and their locations are depicted at Figure 2.

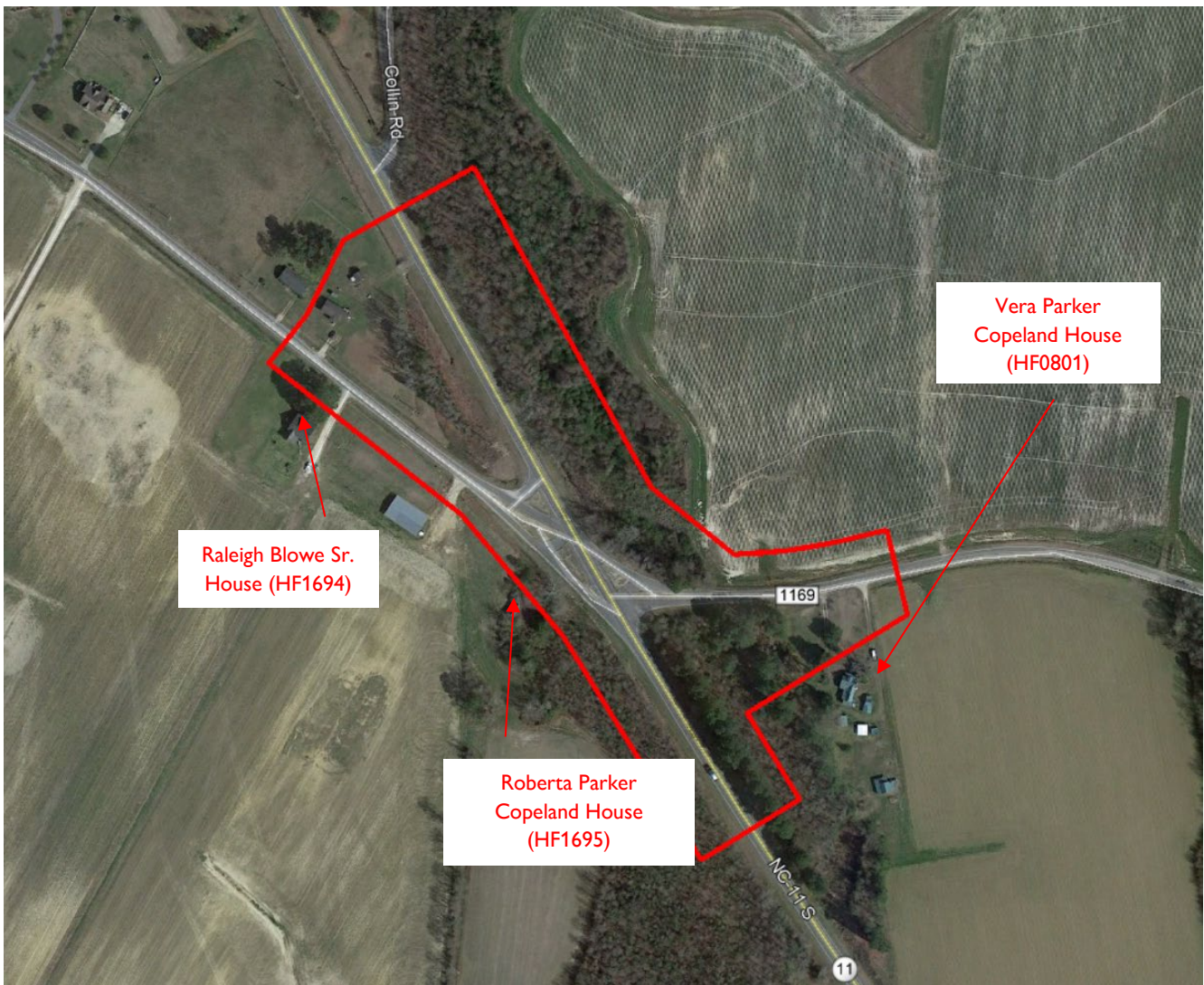


Figure 2: Project APE outlined in red (Basemap Source: Google Earth).

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Situated in central Hertford County, the project APE lies along SR 1169/Woodrow School Road and extends both east and west of the road's intersection with NC 11. The road corridor falls entirely within Murfreesboro Township and lies just under three miles south of the town of Murfreesboro. Although bisected by the modern state highway during the late-twentieth century, the small state route continues to serve as a connector between SR 1160 to its west and SR 1167 to its east.

One of North Carolina's earlier established counties, Hertford was formed in 1759 as a result of land annexes from neighboring Chowan, Bertie, and Northampton counties (Vocci 2006). In the opening essay of the publication, *West of the Chowan: The Historic Architecture of Hertford County, North Carolina*, Daniel Pezzoni briefly recounts Hertford's earlier years (Pezzoni, ed. 2016:xi-xii):

In 1728 Native Americans still represented a sizable proportion of the area's population... European settlers were already numerous, however, and before long the area contained many African Americans as well, primarily slaves but also some free blacks. These pioneering non-native agriculturalists cleared patches of farmland in the virtually uninterrupted forests. Wooded land far exceeded cleared land as late as the Civil War...

Towns followed settlement. Winton, the county seat, dates to 1766, not long after the county's establishment in 1759. Murfreesboro was established at a ferry on the Meherrin River in 1787 and quickly rose to prominence in the Atlantic trade, attracting New England merchants and supporting the construction of fine residences, stores, [etc.]... Many smaller communities sprang up during the nineteenth century, principal among them the village of Harrellsville. Ahoskie, laid out on a major rail line around 1890, quickly surpassed other communities to become the county's most populous town in the early twentieth century, a status it has maintained for over a century...

Despite its late-eighteenth-century incorporation and its critical role in early Hertford County trade, the town of Murfreesboro has remained small in both physical size and population throughout its 250-year life, with a 2010 recorded population of just 2,835 residents (Town of Murfreesboro 2021). As a result, the area surrounding Murfreesboro has remained largely undeveloped. The SR 1169 corridor, including the APE, is no exception to this trend and has been rural throughout its history.

One of the earliest looks at this part of Hertford County comes from the 1863 Campbell Map (Figure 3). In addition to natural features, the map denotes roadways and property owners within the county. By the time of the map's creation the region's major road network had developed, with two roads leading south from Murfreesboro. The westernmost road depicted leaving Murfreesboro follows a similar footprint to present-day SR 1160/Benthall Bridge Road and the footprint of the eastern road departing the town bears a close resemblance to the present-day road network of SR 1167/Tom Browne Road/US 158. The 1863 map additionally depicts a small road running east to west that connects these future state routes, much in the same way as SR 1169 functions today. This modestly drawn connector follows a different path than modern-day SR 1169 in that it is drawn more southerly

and additionally arches to the north as opposed to bending to the south as the current SR 1169 does. It is unclear if this connector road is an earlier iteration of SR 1169 or an entirely different route altogether. No residences or landowners are recorded on either side of the roadway. Notable surnames found within the broader vicinity of this road APE include Parker, Denning, Vaughn, and Bridges.

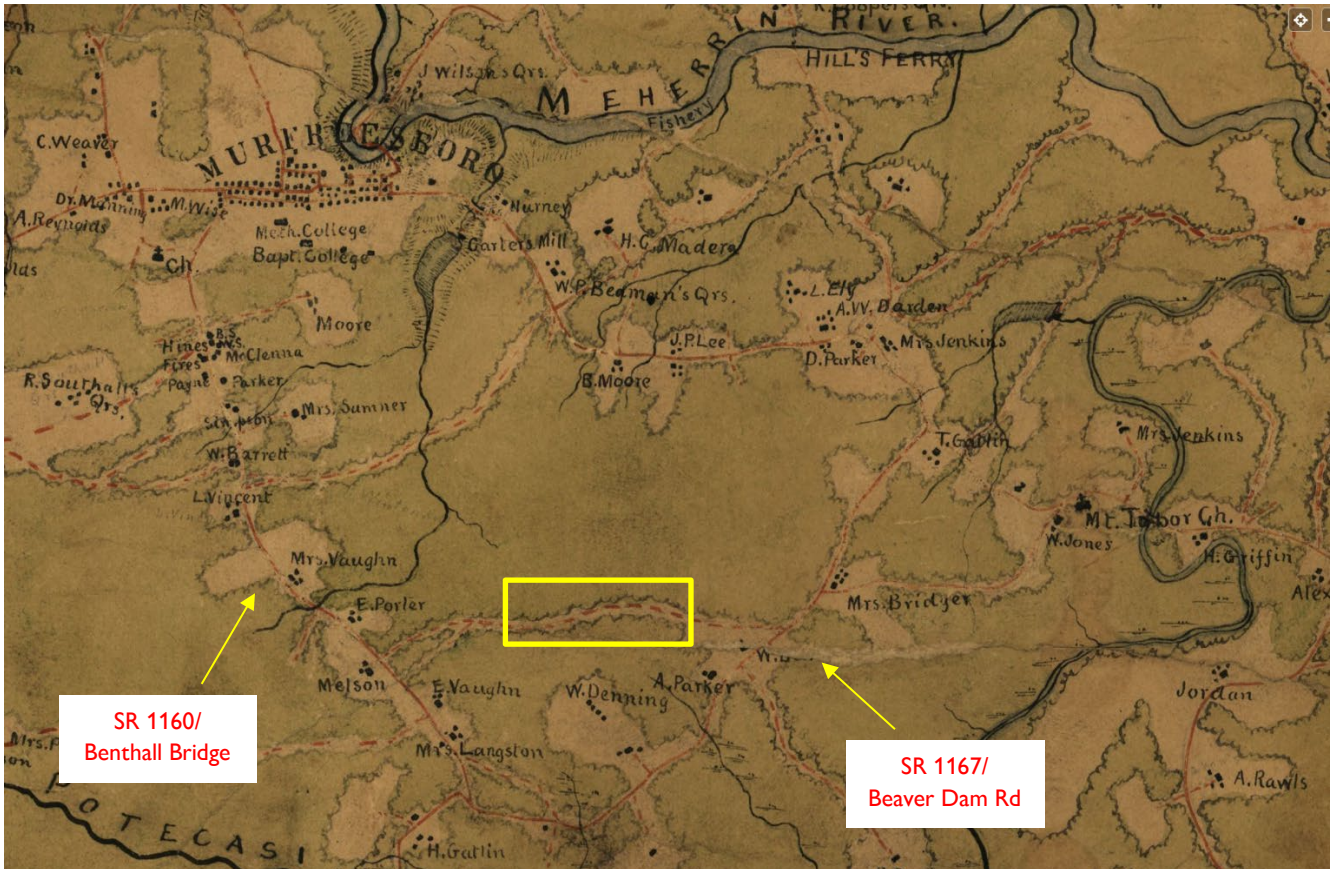


Figure 3: Campbell's 1863 Map of Hertford and Part of Northampton and Bertie Counties, N.C. Approximate location of APE outlined in yellow (Source: Library of Congress Online Collection).

Although its population remained small and its economy agricultural, significant infrastructure improvements occurred within Hertford County between the end of the nineteenth and the start of the twentieth century. A 1910 rural delivery route map shows the continued growth and evolution of the county's road network and provides the next glimpse into the project area (Figure 4). Since the publication of the 1863 map, a clearly delineated road connecting SR 1160 and SR 1167 had been created. This was the current SR 1169/Woodrow School Road. The path of the meandering thoroughfare is almost identical to the route of the present-day road, with the exception that NC 11 does not yet bisect it. Instead, SR 1169 is shown intersecting with a smaller road leading from Murfreesboro. The footprint of this precursor to NC 11 appears to include portions of modern-day Chowan College Road and Colin Road. A 1966 highway map labels it as former SR 1179 (Figure 6). This reveals a significant reconfiguration of roadways to allow for the construction of NC 11 when it

was finally built during the mid-twentieth century. Lying within the main postal route from Murfreesboro, multiple residences are depicted on both the north and south sides of this original version of SR 1169 shown in the ca. 1910 map – all new or at least newly identified since the 1863 map. The surname Parker is found at the bend in the road, at the intersection of SR 1169 and the NC 11 predecessor. Two of the three resources surveyed as part of this project, the Vera Parker Copeland House and the Roberta Parker Copeland House, are also depicted on the 1910 map. The Raleigh Blowe Sr. House had not yet been constructed, but rather appears for the first time on a 1938 Hertford County highway map (Figure 5).

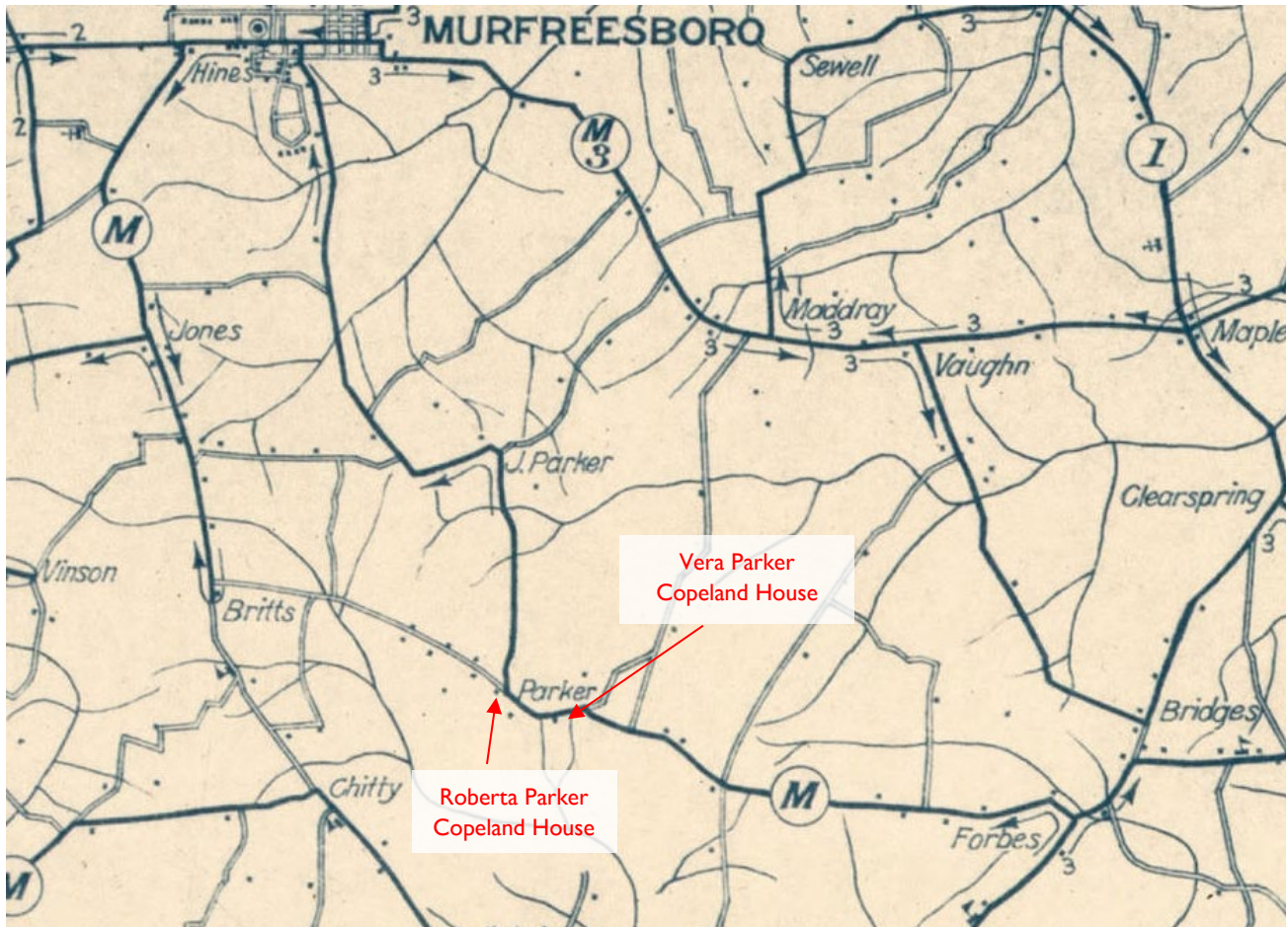


Figure 4: Ca. 1910 Map of Rural Delivery Routes, Hertford County, N.C. (Source: North Carolina Maps Online Collection).

With the exception of some rural residential development, little change occurred within the vicinity of the APE during the first half of the twentieth century, as seen on both the 1938 and 1966 highway maps of Hertford County (Figure 5 and Figure 6). Growth within neighboring Murfreesboro continued at a slow rate, and the APE followed the same trend. Around 1972 the APE experienced significant change with the construction of NC 11, as seen in the 1973 USGS Murfreesboro topographic map (Figure 7). Built to streamline the connection between Murfreesboro/US 158 and the southern part of the county, NC 11 effectively bisected SR 1169 and resulted in the creation of East Woodrow School

and West Woodrow School roads. As result of this road development, the setback of the Roberta Parker Copeland House decreased significantly. Construction efforts also appear to have resulted in the demolition of multiple houses along the north side of SR 1169, as seen through the comparison of the 1966 and 1973 maps. In contrast, houses were quick to pop up along the newly constructed highway, almost a dozen new buildings were scattered along both sides of NC 11 just north of its intersection with Woodrow School Road. Since this brief initial housing burst, development along NC 11 in the vicinity has been slow, allowing the area to retain a largely rural setting.

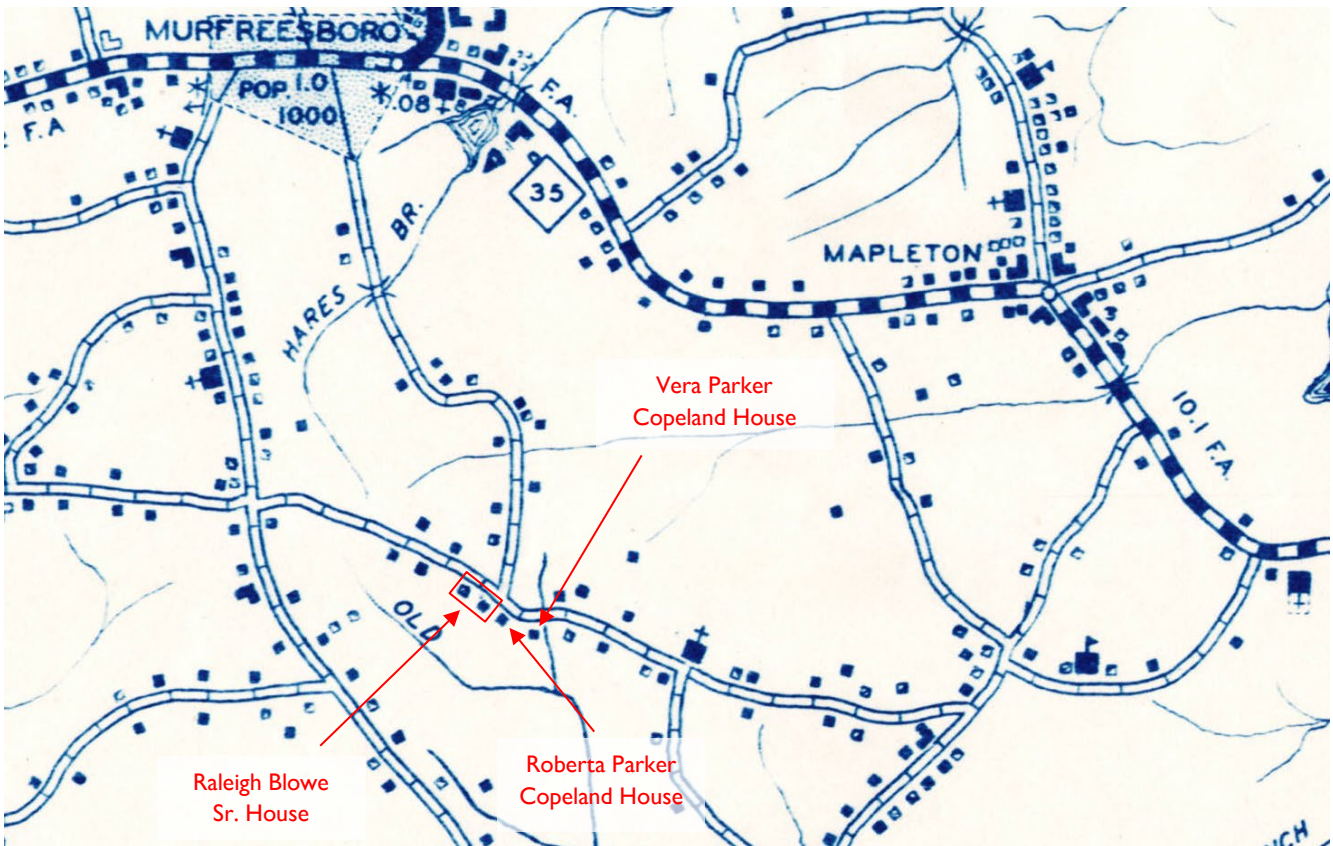


Figure 5: 1938 Hertford County State Highway Map (Source: North Carolina Maps Online Collection).

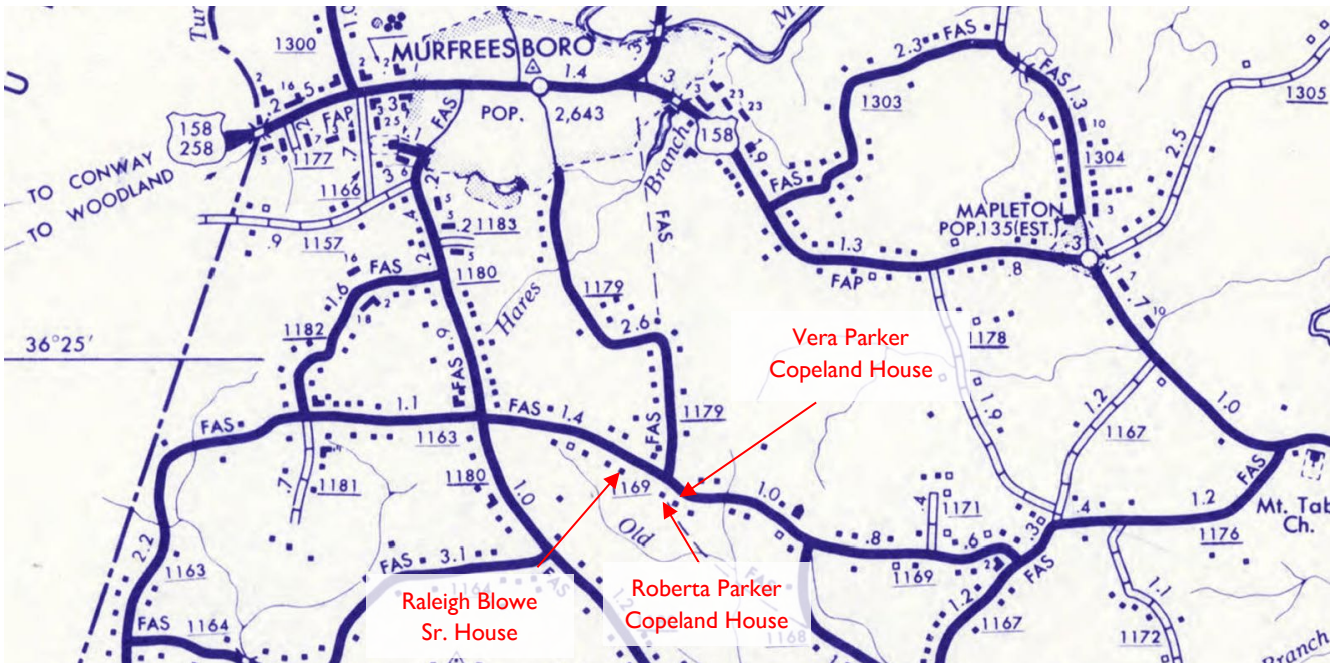


Figure 6: 1966 Hertford County State Highway Map (Source: North Carolina Maps Online Collection).

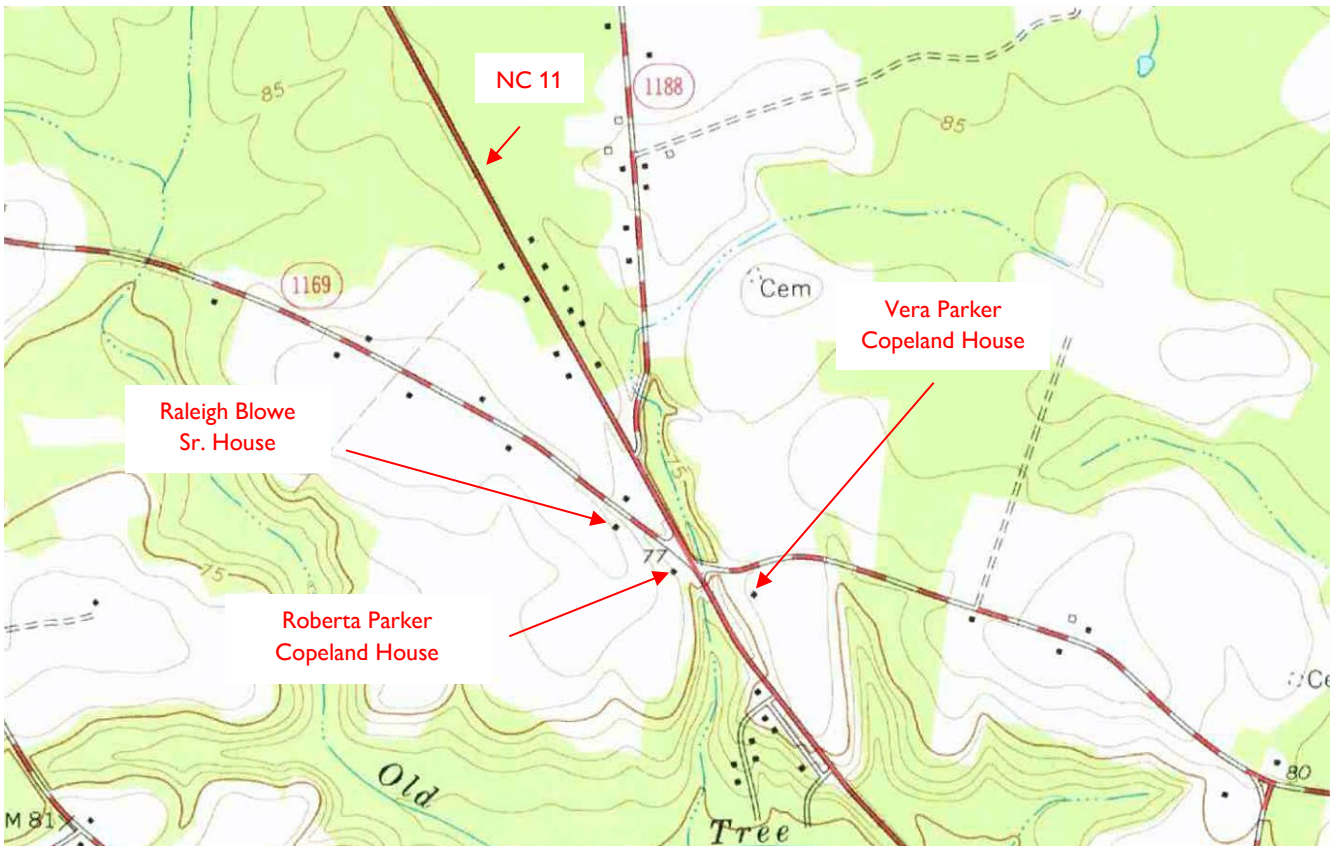


Figure 7: 1973 USGS Map of Murfreesboro quadrant, 1:24,000 scale (Source: USGS TopoView).

III. INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS

RALEIGH BLOWE SR. HOUSE



RESOURCE NAME	Raleigh Blowe Sr. House
HPO SURVEY SITE #	HF1694
LOCATION	111 West Woodrow School Road, Murfreesboro vicinity
PIN	5967-31-9884
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	Ca. 1920-1930
RECOMMENDATION	Recommended NRHP eligible under Criterion C

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The early-twentieth-century Raleigh Blowe Sr. House is centrally placed on an approximately one-acre-square lot of land, roughly three miles south of the Murfreesboro town center. The house sits on the south side of West Woodrow School Road/SR 1169, and is just over 100 yards west of the state route’s intersection with NC 11. Once the seat of a modest tobacco farm, the bungalow now stands as the only building on its parcel, which has decreased significantly in size over recent decades. Its associated agricultural buildings, which at one time included an assortment of barns and packhouses, were largely demolished between 1998 and 2005 at the instruction of current property owner Lawrence Martin.¹ The house’s associated parcel is open and void of trees or notable vegetation. It is bordered to its west and south by actively cultivated fields, portions of which were historically part of the building’s associated land holdings.² To the east, the property is bordered by a large, open agricultural parcel which features a large equipment shed at its front (north) end. The house is bounded to the north by East Woodrow School Road (Figure 8 and Figure 9).

¹ Personal interview with Mr. Lawrence Martin, July 23, 2021. Historic aerial images viewed on Google Earth following this interview provided a defined date range for building demolitions, as Mr. Martin was unable to remember the exact dates of these changes. An additional historic 1955 aerial image of the property provides a clearer view of these buildings and their relationship to the house. Due to copyright restrictions, this image was unable to be included within this report, but may be accessed and viewed at: <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer> (search criteria: 111 W Woodrow School Road, Murfreesboro).

² 1977 Plat of Raleigh H. Blowe Estate, Hertford County Plat Book 9, Page 9.



Figure 8: Left, view of Raleigh Blowe Sr. House from across East Woodrow School Road, facing northwest; right, view of house from neighboring parcel with equipment shed in the foreground, facing north. (Note: equipment shed lies on separate, unassociated parcel).



Figure 9: Left, context view facing north on West Woodrow School Road toward Raleigh Blowe Sr. House (out of image) from Roberta Parker Copeland House (HR1695); right, facing toward intersection of West Woodrow School Road and NC 11 from front yard of house.

RALEIGH BLOWE SR. HOUSE

The frame Craftsman-style bungalow stands one-and-a-half-stories tall and is L-shaped in plan. Information garnered through both historic research and a personal interview with the current property owner suggests the house was constructed sometime between 1920 and 1930. The residence is divisible into two distinct sections: an original square-shaped, double-pile, side-gabled, front block and a smaller, single-story, gabled, rear ell, which is original or an early addition. Both blocks are clad in original weatherboards and edged with cornerboards (Figure 10).



Figure 10: Left, northeast-facing facade of Raleigh Blowe Sr. House, facing southwest; right, oblique of northeast and southwest elevations of house, facing south.

Oriented northeast toward West Woodrow School Road, the original front block is three-bays wide and rests on brick piers which were later filled in to create a continuous brick foundation (Figure 11, left). The building’s roof is clad in standing-seam-metal and features exposed rafter tails at its ends and decorative kneebraces at its gables (Figure 11, right and Figure 12, right). Two chimneys project from the building’s roof ridge, the eastern chimney being exposed brick and the western clad with a metal chimney cap (Figure 10). A shed-roof dormer is centrally placed atop the front block’s roof. Like that block, the dormer is clad in original weatherboards and capped with a standing-seam-metal roof featuring exposed rafter tails and decorative kneebraces. A band of three double-hung, four-over-one, wood-sash windows is centrally placed on the dormer’s facade. The dormer windows, which appear to be original, retain their wooden surrounds (Figure 12).



Figure 11: Left, view of Raleigh Blowe Sr. infilled foundation, facing southeast; right, detail of original windows, facing southeast.



Figure 12: Left, detail of Raleigh Blowe Sr. House dormer, facing southwest; right, detail of weatherboard siding, cornerboard, and exposed rafter tails.

A five-bay engaged front porch spans the entire width of the facade. Six battered wood columns atop six tall brick piers provide support for the porch. The piers and columns appear to be original, despite sitting on a replacement, poured-concrete, porch deck. The deck is clad on either end by brick veneer (Figure 13, right) and approached by a set of centrally placed concrete stairs. The stairs are framed on either side by short brick knee-walls topped with poured-concrete caps (Figure 13, left). Centered beneath the porch is the building’s primary entrance which is composed of an original wood-panel door flanked on either side by large, vertical, single-light sidelights. The door unit features original wood surrounds (Figure 13, left). A pair of four-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash windows with original wood surrounds flanks the doorway on either side (Figure 10).



Figure 13: Left, detail of Raleigh Blowe Sr. original front entrance, facing southwest; right, detail of front porch, facing northwest.

The northwest and southeast side elevations of the original block are simple in their design, as seen at Figure 14. The northwest elevation features five windows, all of which are original and of the same style as those windows found at the facade. A set of paired windows is found at the elevation's southwestern corner and a single window found at its northwest. Two windows of the same style, although slightly smaller in scale, are found evenly spaced in the elevation's gable. The building's southeast elevation features this same fenestration pattern; however, its southeastermost window opening(s) has been covered over.



Figure 14: Left, northwest elevation of Raleigh Blowe Sr. House, facing southeast; right, southeast elevation, facing northwest.

Extending from the southwest corner of the original main block, the building's gabled rear ell features the same cladding materials as the original block. An interior brick chimney projects through the block's southwestern roof slope and a now partially enclosed porch, approached by a wooden wheelchair ramp, is attached to the southeastern elevation of the rear ell. Windows of the same style as the facade are also found on the ell's southwestern and southeastern elevations(Figure 15).

In addition to the rear ell, a small, single-bay, shed-roofed block extends from the southeastern corner of the main house and holds a four-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash window (Figure 15, right). Its size and placement suggest it may hold an early-added bathroom.



Figure 15: Left, oblique of northwest and southwest elevations, facing northeast; right, oblique of southwest and southeast elevations of Raleigh Blowe Sr. House, facing northwest.

Interior access to the building was not provided at the time of survey. However, Mr. Martin stated that the house retains original pine floors, paneled doors, and moldings throughout. He additionally noted that the residence's upper living space has been closed off for multiple decades and retains original finishes and material.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

According to current homeowner, Mr. Lawrence Martin (90 years old), the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House was constructed ca. 1920-1930 by his father-in-law, Raleigh Herbert Blowe Sr., for whom the house is named. Mr. Martin has been the sole occupant of the residence since the passing of his wife Ruth in 2003.³

Raleigh Herbert Blowe Sr. (1897-1976) was the second son born to Hertford County natives George M. and Ida Liverman Blowe. Living in the Murfreesboro vicinity at the time of the 1900 census, George was recorded as a farmer working for his own account and residing in a house he owned. His household included himself, his wife, and six children, including then two-year-old Raleigh. Raleigh worked as a farm laborer with his father and elder brother. He attended school and lived with his parents until his marriage to Nannie Ruth Liverman (1898-1975) in April 1918 (North Carolina, U.S. Marriage Records, 1741-2011). Following their nuptials, the newlyweds lived on "Murfreesboro-Union Road" in Murfreesboro Township with their newborn daughter, Mary, at the time of the 1920 U.S. Census. Although listed as a homeowner and farming on his own account, the census data suggests that Raleigh and his family did not reside in the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House as of 1920. At the time of this census, the Blowe's are listed several pages apart from William and Roberta Copeland who are known to have occupied the Roberta Parker Copeland House (which historically was the direct neighbor of the Blowe property to the east) by this time. This reveals 1920 to be the earliest potential date of construction for the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House (U.S. 1920 Census).

In the year 1919, Raleigh's father George made several land purchases within Murfreesboro Township, much of this being along SR 1169. Historic deeds describe most of these lands as "Parker Lands," having formerly belonged to the Frank Parker Estate (Hertford County Register of Deeds, various). A 1977 deed of sale involving the present-day Raleigh Blowe Sr. House property describes the Blowe House property as being former "Parker Lands." This suggests that George gifted Raleigh the land on which the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House was constructed, although no deed recording this transaction was found (Hertford County Register of Deeds, Book 390, Page 412).

Between 1920 and 1930, Raleigh had the bungalow constructed. He and his family, which now included a second daughter (Annie) are listed as direct neighbors to the William Copeland family at this time. This reveals that the house was finished by 1930 and Raleigh and his family lived in it (U.S. 1930 Census). Presumably, Raleigh was responsible for a small number of supporting agricultural buildings which historically accompanied the house.⁴ Still listed as a farmer in 1930, he continued to reside in the house until 1936. At that time, he and his family relocated to a house in town, according to his son-in-law,

³ Personal interview with Mr. Lawrence Martin, July 23, 2021.

⁴ See historic 1955 aerial image of the property at: <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer> (search criteria 111 W. Woodrow School Road).

Lawrence Martin.⁵ The 1940 census places Raleigh and his family on High Street within the city limits of Murfreesboro. Their home was valued at \$3,500. His occupation merely states “Proprietor” (U.S. 1940 Census). In 1950, Raleigh and Nannie’s youngest daughter, Ruth (1932-2003) married Lawrence Martin after a two-year courtship. During the July 2021 interview, Mr. Martin fondly recalled farming tobacco on the farmland originally, but no longer, associated with the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House. A 1993 Google Earth aerial photograph shows multiple agricultural buildings that once stood to the south of the house, providing visual context for these former land holdings (Figure 16).



Figure 16: 1993 aerial image showing Raleigh Blowe Sr. House and associated outbuildings prior to their demolition.

Although Mr. Martin was unclear on the house’s ownership history during the mid-twentieth century, a 1978 deed of sale reveals that the house and its associated lands were granted to Lawrence’s wife Ruth (Blowe) Martin following the death of her father in April 1976. The deed describes the property as containing 72.4 acres of land and bordering the Copeland lands to the east. A 1977 plat shows the

⁵ Personal interview with Mr. Lawrence Martin, July 23, 2021.

property bounds but does not provide an outline of the house (Figure 17). Since at least 1977 Lawrence and Ruth lived in the house. Between 1993 and 2005 Lawrence oversaw the demolition of the agricultural buildings once associated with the property, as previously seen in the 1993 Google Earth aerial. By 2001 all but one acre of land had been parceled off and sold. Interest in the remaining single acre was divided and gifted to Lawrence and Ruth’s two surviving sons who continue to own the property today; however, Lawrence continues to reside in the house.

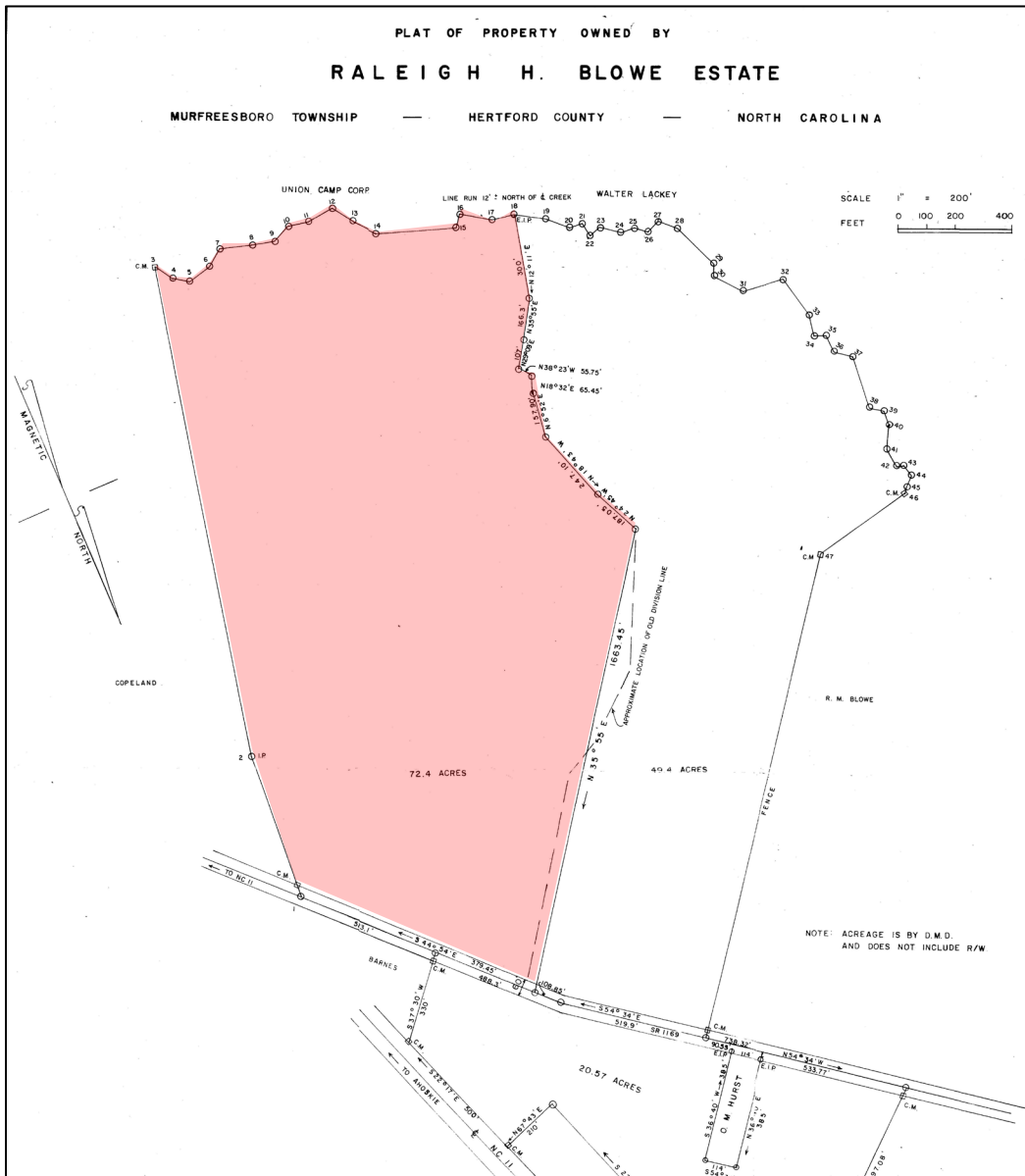


Figure 17: 1977 Plat of Raleigh H. Blowe Estate. Land deeded to Ruth Blowe Martin shaded in red (Hertford County Plat Book 9, Page 9).

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

A general survey Hertford's early-twentieth-century rural housing stock revealed many Craftsman-style bungalows, many of which serve (or served) as seats to small farm operations, not unlike the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House. In *West of the Chowan*, Pezzoni concluded that:

The most common bungalow type in Hertford County is the one-and-a-half-story side-gabled version... Bungalows suited North Carolina's needs and habits. Their broad eaves and deep porches fit the warm climate, and their open plans, which typically lacked formal hallways, may have reminded owners of traditional hall-parlor plans (Pezzoni, ed. 2016:60).

The Raleigh Blowe Sr. House fits these criteria. A road survey, guided by the entries in *West of Chowan* and a list of previously identified resources of the same type contained within the NCHPOWeb database, revealed a number of comparable residences. Many of these retain a high degree of material integrity and a notable number of supporting agricultural buildings.

The William G. Lawrence House (HF0784), located in the Como vicinity at 327 Parkers Ferry Road, stands as an excellent example of the building type. The one-and-a-half-story Craftsman-style bungalow was built ca. 1926 according to NCHPOWeb and sits amidst a setting of actively cultivated fields. Built of frame, the house retains its original weatherboard siding and wooden cornerboards. A sweeping side-gabled roof tops the house and features exposed rafter tails and bracketed kneebraces. A shed-roof dormer tops the roof and is pierced by two replacement windows. An engaged porch with original tapered columns fronts the building and rests on a continuous brick foundation. At least three early/mid-twentieth century agricultural buildings are found to the rear (north) of the building (Figure 18).



Figure 18: William G. Lawrence House (HF0784) at 327 Parkers Ferry Road, Como vicinity.

Located southeast of Cofield, the Simmons House (HF0967) stands at 451 Thomas Bridge Road. Data found at the NCHPOWeb online database lists a ca. 1948 construction date for the building; however, the residence appears to have been constructed slightly earlier. The one-and-a-half story Craftsman-style bungalow features the characteristic sweeping, side-gabled roof under which is housed a recessed porch (Figure 19). Two original interior brick chimneys stand atop its roof ridgeline and two large

front-gabled dormers are centered on the front and rear roof slopes. The residence displays a high degree of material integrity and retains original weatherboard siding, exposed rafter tails, and six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows with original surrounds. A single-story ell extends to the rear. The bungalow retains its rural setting and is surrounded by actively cultivated fields. It is accompanied on its parcel by at least one supporting agricultural building.



Figure 19: Simmons House (HF0967) at 451 Thomas Bridge Road, Cofield vicinity.

The Grant Otwell House was built ca. 1928 and stands at 750 Menola St. John Road. It too is surrounded by cultivated fields. The Craftsman-style bungalow retains a high degree of material integrity including original weatherboard siding and cornerboards, exposed rafter tails and decorative kneebraces, a recessed front port, and two interior ridgeline chimneys. A large front-gabled dormer is centrally placed on the building's front roof. Between eight and ten supporting agricultural buildings accompany the house and stand to its rear. These buildings, which include various barns and sheds, retain a degree of material integrity similar to that of the house (Figure 20).



Figure 20: Grant Otwell House (HF0893) at 750 Menola St. John Road, Ahoskie vicinity.

Constructed ca. 1920, the house (HF0805) at 210 Benthall Bridge Road near Murfreesboro was recorded as part of the Hertford countywide survey (Figure 21). The rural residence displays many original Craftsman-style features such as a recessed porch supported by double-tapered columns; a

large front-gabled dormer centered on the building's facade roof; two brick chimneys; original three-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash windows arranged as both single and paired units; and an original door with Craftsman-style window design. A small number of supporting outbuildings, appearing to date largely to the mid-twentieth century, are found to the rear (west) of the residence.



Figure 21: House (HF0805) at 210 Benthall Bridge Road, Murfreesboro vicinity.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION

Due to its rural setting and historic function as the seat of a small tobacco farm, the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House was evaluated for NRHP listing under Criterion A in the area of agriculture but determined not eligible. Although the resource largely maintains its broader rural setting, and the house itself retains a high degree of material integrity, the property has lost all of its supporting agricultural buildings. As result, the resource no longer manifests as an early/mid-twentieth century farm. Additionally, during the project survey, numerous other examples of comparable houses were identified within Hertford County, many of which retain notable numbers of supporting outbuildings. (Some of these are noted above.) For these reasons, the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House does not merit NRHP listing under Criterion A.

The Raleigh Blowe Sr. House was determined not NRHP eligible under Criterion B as it has no known connections with any significant or notable persons of our past.

The resource was additionally evaluated for NRHP eligibility under Criterion C. It is recommended eligible for listing under this Criterion in the area of architecture. Although the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House no longer reads as a twentieth-century farm, the house itself stands as an excellent example of a rural Craftsman-style bungalow. The house retains a high degree of material integrity: it retains its original windows, siding, recessed porch, and modest decorative elements including brackets and kneebraces. Numerous examples of this building type were identified and examined in order to place the resource within the broader context of Hertford County's architectural narrative. Following these evaluations, the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House stood out as one of the best intact rural examples of this house type. As

result, the resource is recommended eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C as a good representative example of early-twentieth-century Hertford County Craftsman-style architecture.

Finally, the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House is not likely to yield important historical information on the basis of its appearance or construction, and is therefore recommended as not eligible as an architectural resource under Criterion D.

RALEIGH BLOWE SR. HOUSE		
ELEMENT OF INTEGRITY	LEVEL OF INTEGRITY	ASSESSMENT
LOCATION	High	The house stands on the site where it was built.
DESIGN	High	The basic form of the front block of the house remains intact and has not been altered. A small porch at its ell has been enclosed.
SETTING	High	The house retains its historic rural agricultural setting, even though it no longer has any supporting agricultural buildings and the surrounding farmland is no longer directly associated with it.
MATERIALS	High	The house retains a high degree of material integrity and retains original siding, windows, doors, porch, front-gabled dormer, decorative kneebraces, and exposed rafter tails.
WORKMANSHIP	High	The retention of significant original material including exterior cladding, original windows and doors, and original porch results in a high level of workmanship integrity.
FEELING	High	The Raleigh Blowe Sr. House retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. It therefore has a high degree of integrity of feeling.
ASSOCIATION	High	The Raleigh Blowe Sr. House retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. It therefore has a high degree of integrity of association.

PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES BOUNDARY

The recommended National Register boundary of the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House is all of its approximately one-acre parcel (PIN 5967-31-9884), which is historically associated with the house. This boundary contains the house and its remaining associated lands and is believed to provide the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House with sufficient historic context to support its significance under Criterion C

in the area architecture. At its north, the boundary does not extend into the NCDOT right-of-way, but rather terminates at the interior edge of the NCDOT-maintained ditch separating the property from the road (See Figure 22).

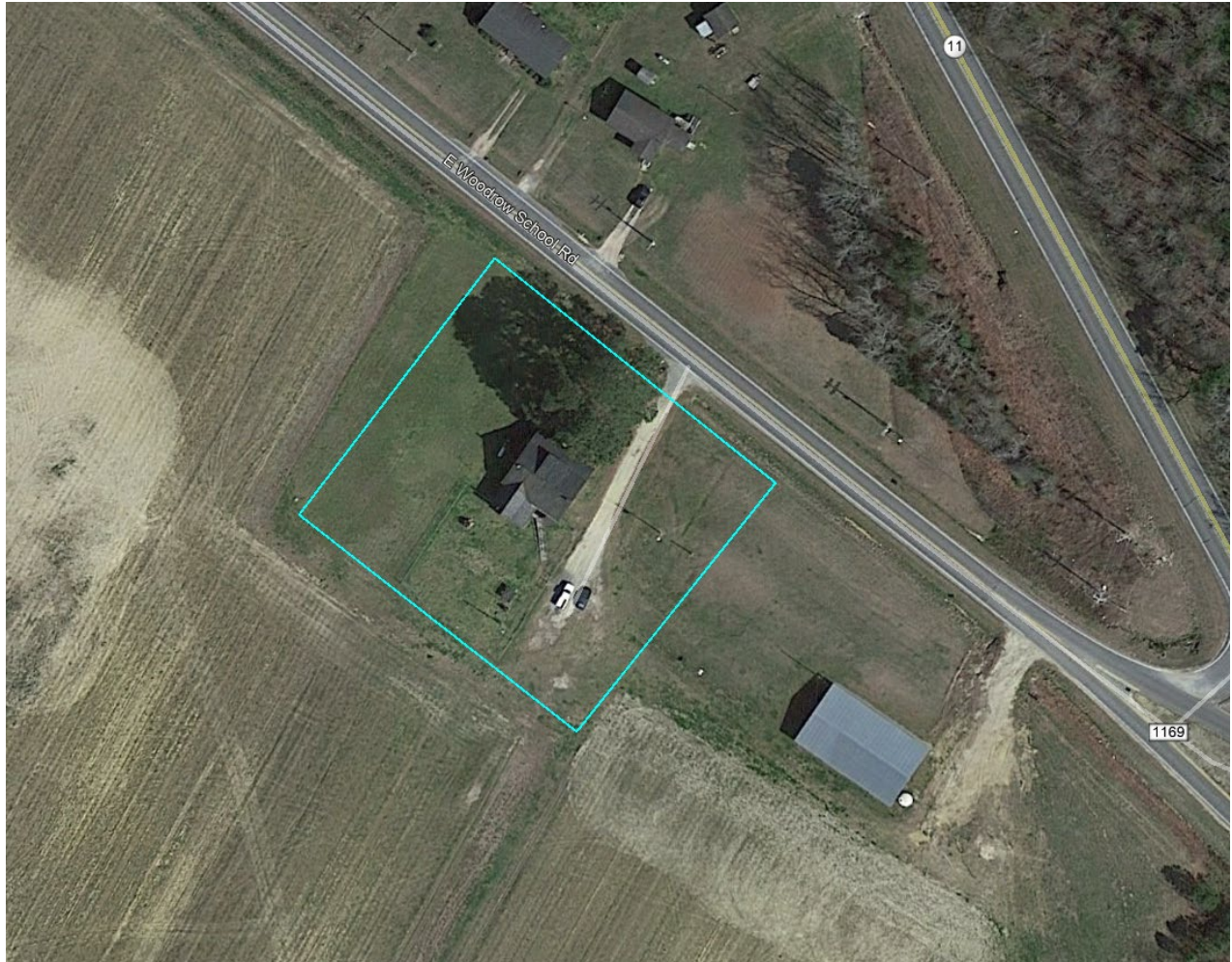


Figure 22: Proposed NRHP boundary for the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House denoted in blue.
(Basemap source: Google Earth).

ROBERTA PARKER COPELAND HOUSE



RESOURCE NAME	Roberta Parker Copeland House
HPO SURVEY SITE #	HF1695
LOCATION	South side of NC 11, just east of 111 W. Woodrow School Road, Murfreesboro vicinity
PIN	5967-42-6461
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	Ca. 1875-1900
RECOMMENDATION	Recommended not eligible for NRHP listing

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Roberta Parker Copeland House sits at the northwest corner of a 43-acre parcel of land at the south side of the intersection of SR 1169/Woodrow School Road and NC 11. According to aerial imagery, the building historically featured a large setback from the road.⁶ However, following the construction of NC 11 in the early 1970s, the setback of the house was reduced significantly so that it now sits less than 30 yards from the intersection. The resource is bounded to the north by NC 11, to the west by the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House property and open fields, to the east by the Vera Parker Copeland House property, and to the south by dense woods (Figure 23 through Figure 25). The residence currently sits vacant and completely open to the elements, and as a result is significantly deteriorated.



Figure 23: Left and right, views showing Roberta Parker Copeland House in relation to E Woodrow School Road/NC 11 intersection, facing southwest.

⁶ See historic 1955 aerial image of the property at: <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer> (search criteria 111 W. Woodrow School Road).



Figure 24: Left, view of Roberta Parker Copeland House, facing southeast; right, view of Raleigh Blowe Sr. House (HF1694) from Roberta Parker Copeland House, facing northwest.

ROBERTA PARKER COPELAND HOUSE

Oriented to the northeast and the road, the Roberta Parker Copeland House is built of frame and is one-story tall. Due to significant overgrowth and deterioration, many architectural and stylistic features of the late-nineteenth-century residence have been lost. Archival research, in conjunction with remaining architectural elements and a comparison of the house to similar residences found throughout Hertford County, suggests a ca. 1875-1900 date range of construction. Based on information garnered from aerial imagery, the house appears to feature an original L-shape plan, which includes a three-bay, single-pile, front block with rear-extending ell. The southeastern portion of the “L” was later infilled, resulting in the building’s present-day square footprint (Figure 25).



Figure 25: 2014 Google Earth aerial image of Roberta Parker Copeland House, providing clearer picture of building plan.

The single-story, single-pile, front block of the Roberta Parker Copeland House is rectangular in plan and symmetrical. It rests on a foundation of stone piers. A low-sloped, side-gable roof tops the frame block. It is edged by a deep-set cornice and cornice returns underpinned by a large, unadorned frieze board. Although the building is modest in size, these architectural details suggest the house's builder, likely a member of the locally prominent Parker family, was of comfortable means. The block has been stripped of its original weatherboards, save for the top of its gabled ends, exposing original wood lath, plaster, and machine-sawn studs (Figure 26).



Figure 26: Detail of the house's northwest cornice and returns, facing southeast, at left, and northeast, at right.

The building's facade retains two early or original two-over-two, double-hung, wood-sash windows set in wood surrounds (Figure 27 and Figure 28). The windows are symmetrically placed on either side of the house's centrally located primary entrance. Over time, the building's original door has been lost or removed, but its surround remains. Sidelights are found to either side of the doorway and consist of a single, rectangular light resting above a single, recessed wooden panel. The unit is topped by a rectangular transom which appears to be divided into three rectangular lights (Figure 28). Ghost marks indicate a porch once embraced the facade.



Figure 27: Left, view of facade, facing southwest; right, detail of southeastern end of facade, facing southwest.



Figure 28: Left, detail of front entrance, facing southwest; right, detail of northwestern end of facade, facing southwest.

Windows of the same style as the facade are found centrally placed on the secondary (northwest and southeast) elevations of the main block (Figure 30, left and Figure 29, left) in addition to the northwest elevation of the rear ell (Figure 29). The rear ell likely displayed similar window openings on its northeastern elevation; however, this wall is now enclosed by a later frame addition (see below for further discussion). An interior brick chimney rises from the ridgeline of the rear ell near the wing’s juncture with the main building block. Remnants of a smaller, second interior chimney project through the northwest roof of the rear ell (Figure 29).



Figure 29: Left, view of northwest elevation, facing southeast; right, view of northwest elevation, facing northeast.

Likely during the early-twentieth century, a single-story frame addition was added to the house, connecting to the rear (southwest) elevation of the main block and the side (northeast) elevation of the rear ell. This effectively transformed the house’s original L-shaped footprint into a square. Like the main block of the house, the addition has lost all of its original weatherboard siding. It does, however, retain an unusual feature on its southeastern elevation: a large wooden parapet wall finished like an entablature. This decorative element spans the length of the addition’s southeast side, and suggests a flat roof lies behind. (Aerial imagery, partially obscured by trees, appears to confirm this.) The parapet

would have been visible to those traveling west on Woodrow School Road, suggesting that the addition may once have held a store. Beneath the parapet lies a single and a paired set of three-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash windows (Figure 30 and Figure 31).



Figure 30: Left, northeast corner of main block of the Roberta Parker Copeland House, facing northwest; right, view of southeast elevation, with parapeted addition at left, facing southwest.



Figure 31: Left, view of southeast elevation of the Roberta Parker Copeland House's parapeted addition, facing northeast; right, view of southeast elevation and parapet, facing southwest.

A secondary shed-roofed addition extends across the rear elevation of the house, attached to both the parapeted addition and the rear ell. Like the other sections of the house, it lacks its original siding, although its framing suggests that its southeastern end may have been open, creating a small, partially enclosed porch space. The secondary addition partially hides the house's third chimney. Affixed to the gabled end of the ell, the brick chimney rises through the addition's roof (Figure 32).



Figure 32: Left, looking northwest at secondary ell and southeast corner of the house; right, southwest corner of ell and secondary addition, facing southeast.

The house is vacant and deteriorated, restricting access. Views into the main front block were not possible due to a combination of window coverings, the presence of a beehive within the walls of the facade, and safety protocols. Images taken through open windows of the rear ell revealed original beadboard paneled walls partially covered by asbestos tile, as well as mid-twentieth-century kitchen fixtures. Original or early, four-paneled doors with original door surrounds were also observed (Figure 33). Views into the secondary addition revealed doors of the same style in addition to slightly later moldings and hardware, suggesting an early/mid-twentieth-century period of construction (Figure 33).



Figure 33: Left and right, interior views through rear ell windows of the house, facing southeast.



Figure 34: Left and right, interior views through secondary addition of the house, facing northwest.

SHED [FIGURE 35]

A small, single-story, frame shed sits a few yards to the southeast of the Roberta Parker Copeland House (Figure 35). The rectangular side-gabled building is clad in German siding and edged with cornerboards. It rests on a brick-pier foundation and its roof is clad in metal sheathing with exposed rafter tails. A modern shed-roof addition extends from the building's southern end. A centrally placed door opening on the shed's western elevation has been boarded-up. A four-over-four, double-hung, wood-sash window is off-centered on the shed's southern elevation. Originally utilized for agricultural purposes, today the building appears to operate as a hunting cabin.



Figure 35: Left, view of converted shed, facing northeast; right, view of converted shed, facing southwest.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The original builder and construction date of the Roberta Parker Copeland House is unknown. Archival research, in conjunction with the building's remaining architectural details and a comparison of the similar residences found within Hertford County, suggests a ca. 1875-1900 date of construction. The house and its historically affiliated lands have been under the ownership of the locally prominent Parker family, from whom the house partly derives its name, since at least the beginning of the twentieth century.

Roberta Parker (1880-1965) was the first child born to George Q. (1852-1925) and Martha (Louise) Story [Storey] Parker (1859-1896). At the time of her birth, infant Roberta and her young parents lived with her paternal grandparents, Isaac and Levinia Parker, who were long-time residents of Hertford County and landowners of moderate means (1880 U.S. Census). Isaac died in 1888 and in his will bequeathed to his son, George Q., 75 acres of Parker land in Hertford County. This gift did not include the Isaac Parker homestead—that was given to George Q.'s elder brother, Charles (Last Will and Testament of Isaac Parker). According to Hertford County tax records, George Q.'s land holdings within the county would continue to grow throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century.

Martha Parker died in 1896. The 1900 U.S. Census found the widowed George Q. living in Murfreesboro Township with Roberta and her two younger siblings, George C. (1882-1901) and Cellie (1890-1943). Both father and son were listed as farm laborers working on land they owned (1900 U.S. Census). In 1903 George Q. married again, to Sallie Deans (1874-1930) who was just over 20 years his junior (North Carolina, U.S. Marriage Records, 1741-2011). Two children were born of their union, a daughter named Vera (1905-1985) and a son, John Albert (1910-1970).

In 1912 Roberta Parker married William Harvey Copeland (1885-1971), the son of James V. and Lucy Storey Copeland. Like the Parker family, the Copeland surname dates back multiple generations within Hertford County. In 1917 Roberta's father deeded the couple both the land and the Roberta Copeland House. The couple already lived in the house, for the deed includes "that small lot of land upon which the said Roberta Parker Copeland now resides and bounded on the North by the public road leading from Murfreesboro to Knights Bridge" (Hertford County Deed Book 59, Page 563). When between 1912 and 1917 they moved into the house is not known. Whether George Q. or another member of the Parker family built the house is also unknown. Roberta and William may have added the pedimented and/or shed-roofed additions to the house, but they did not build it, for it appears on the 1910 Hertford County Rural Delivery Map (Figure 4).

The 1920 U.S. Census found Roberta and William, who is recorded as a farmer, living in Murfreesboro Township with their two young sons, Rorie "Harvey" (1913-1994) and George A. (1919-1997). The young family is listed as neighbors to Roberta's father and stepmother. By 1930 George Q. had died and Roberta and William were then listed as direct neighbors to the west with Raleigh Blowe, who had purchased lands from George Q. and subsequently constructed the Raleigh Blowe Sr. House. William's brother, Samuel Copeland, and his wife, Vera Parker Copeland (Roberta's half-sister), are listed as neighbors to the east.

Roberta and William continued to live in and retain ownership of the house and its associated land until their deaths in the late-twentieth century. The couple is likely responsible for the construction of the small collection of farm buildings which once accompanied the house to its rear (southwest) as partly seen in a 1993 Google Earth image (Figure 36)⁷. William outlived Roberta by six years and continued to reside in the house along until his passing 1971, a year before the completion of the SR 1169/NC 11 intersection. The house and associated property, the expanse of which is unknown as no deeds were found specifically detailing the transaction, passed into the hands of William and Roberta's two sons, George A. and Rorie. Limited views into the house's interior suggest the most recent updates to the building occurred during the mid-twentieth century, the kitchen appearing to date to the 1950s. This suggests that neither son lived in the house following their parent's death. Both men died in the 1990s and the house and associated lands passed in equal parts to their various descendants, all of whom continue to own a share of the property.

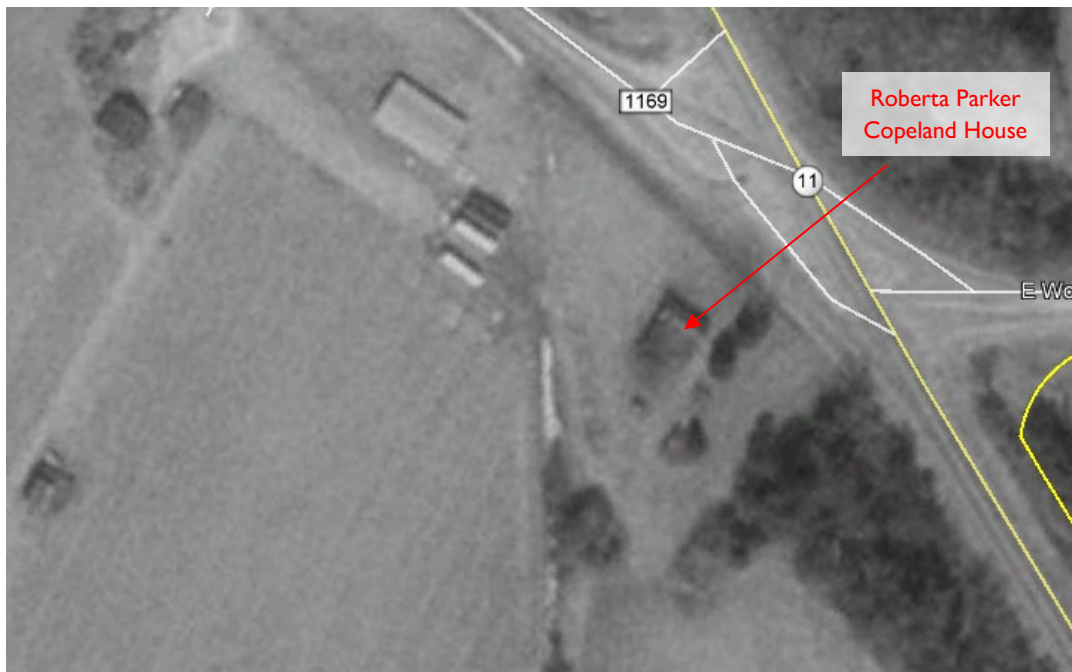


Figure 36: 1993 aerial image showing Roberta Parker Copeland House and associated outbuildings prior to their demolition.

⁷An additional historic 1955 aerial image of the property provides a clearer view of these buildings and their relationship to the house. Due to copyright restrictions, this image was unable to be included within this report, but may be accessed and viewed at: <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer> (search criteria: 111 W Woodrow School Road, Murfreesboro).

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

In order to place the Roberta Parker Copeland House within the broader context of Hertford County's late-nineteenth-century rural architecture, comparable resources were identified utilizing the NCPHOWeb online database and entries in *West of the Chowan* (Pezzoni, ed. 2016). This high-level survey revealed a large number of previously surveyed, still-extant, single-story rural residences scattered throughout the county. Almost all of the resources identified as comparable and selected for survey retain a higher degree of material integrity than the Roberta Parker Copeland House, and some additionally retain supporting agricultural buildings.

The Johnson House (HF0846) stands at the center of a large agricultural parcel at 802C Pine Tops Road in the Murfreesboro vicinity. Constructed ca. 1900 according to NCHPOWeb, the resource stands one-story tall, is of frame, and retains a high degree of material integrity. A side-gabled roof tops the building and features a plain cornice with shallow eaves, while a shouldered brick chimney embraces the building's gable end. The modest residence retains its original weatherboard cladding and stands atop a brick pier foundation. A three-bay hipped-roof porch supported by wooden posts shades the facade. The resource retains at least one early/mid-twentieth-century outbuilding, which stands to its rear (Figure 37).



Figure 37: Johnson House (HF0846) at 802C Pine Tops Road, Murfreesboro vicinity.

Constructed ca. 1900, the house (HF0895) at 351 S. Early Station Road near Ahoskie presents a similar form (Figure 38) to the Roberta Copeland House. The frame building stands one-story tall and is arranged in an L-shape plan, with a rectangular front block and rear ell. The front block is three bays wide and topped with a side-gabled roof featuring deep eaves and cornice returns. A hipped-roof porch supported by wood posts fronts the building, which retains its original weatherboard siding. Two-over-two, double-hung, wood-sash windows are found on all elevations of the main block. The residence also features a small shed-roof rear addition. No outbuildings accompany the resource.



Figure 38: House (HF0895) at 351 S. Early Station Road, Ahoskie vicinity.

The previously surveyed house (HF0831) that stands at 143 Boones Bridge Road in the Como vicinity is one-story tall and topped with a side-gabled roof (Figure 39). Original weatherboards clad the building and a four-bay hipped-roof porch embraces the facade. Small four-over-four, double-hung, wood-sash windows found at the building's facade, along with the cornice and returns, suggests the building may date earlier than the ca. 1900 date assigned to it in the NCHPOWeb database. The house retains a rural setting; however, due to overgrowth it is unclear if any secondary structures accompany it on its lot.



Figure 39: House (HF0831) at 143 Boones Bridge Road, Como vicinity. Left, present-day photo; right, undated image found at NCHPOWeb online collection.

The ca. 1880 Minton House (HF0557) is located at 477 Godwin Town Road in the Ahoskie vicinity (Figure 40). Standing one-story tall, the frame residence is three-bays wide at its facade and features a shed-roof addition at its rear. Shouldered exterior-end, brick chimneys bracket the house's gable ends. A hipped-roof porch embraces its facade. Replacement vinyl units occupy the window and door openings. The building is accompanied by a large collection of mid-twentieth-century outbuildings associated with tobacco farming, including a large packhouse and multiple barns.



Figure 40: Minton House (HF0557) at 477 Godwin Town Road, Ahoskie vicinity.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION

Due to its rural setting and retention of associated farmland to its rear (south), the Roberta Parker Copeland House was evaluated for NRHP listing under Criterion A in the area of agriculture and determined not eligible. Although the resource largely maintains its broader rural setting, the house boasts a low degree of material integrity and additionally has lost all but one of its supporting agricultural buildings. A contextual survey identified comparable rural resources within Herford County, many of which retain notable numbers of supporting outbuildings and present much higher degrees of material integrity (both with regard to the house and outbuildings). For these reasons, the house does not merit NRHP listing under Criterion A.

The Roberta Copeland House was determined not NRHP eligible under Criterion B as it has no known connections with any significant or notable persons of our past.

The resource was additionally evaluated under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The house has lost a significant amount of original building materials including almost all of its exterior cladding, its original front door and porch, and some windows. Due to these material losses it is no longer able to convey the historic character of a late-nineteenth-century rural residence. As result, it does not merit NRHP listing under Criterion C.

Finally, the Roberta Parker Copeland House does not merit NRHP eligibility under Criterion D as it is unlikely to yield important information based on its appearance or construction.

ROBERTA PARKER COPELAND HOUSE		
ELEMENT OF INTEGRITY	LEVEL OF INTEGRITY	ASSESSMENT
LOCATION	High	The house stands on the site where it was built.
DESIGN	Low	The Roberta Parker Copeland House has lost a significant amount of original material. It therefore has extremely low integrity of design..
SETTING	Medium	The house retains a large amount of associated farmland to its rear; however, it has lost all but one of its original farm buildings. Additionally, the development of the intersection of NC 11 and Wilson School Road immediately in front (northeast) of the house has negatively impacted its integrity of its setting.
MATERIALS	Low	The house has lost a significant amount of original material including almost all of its exterior cladding, its original front door and porch, and some windows. It therefore has an extremely low degree of material integrity.
WORKMANSHIP	Low	The house has lost a significant amount of original material including almost all of its exterior cladding, its original front door and porch, and some windows. It therefore has low integrity of workmanship.
FEELING	Low	Due to the house's extremely low integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, it has lost its integrity of feeling.
ASSOCIATION	Low	Due to the house's extremely low integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, it has lost its integrity of association.

VERA PARKER COPELAND HOUSE



RESOURCE NAME	Vera Parker Copeland House
HPO SURVEY SITE #	HF0801
LOCATION	112 E. Woodrow School Road, Murfreesboro vicinity
PIN	5967-51-1087
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	Mid- or late-19th Century
RECOMMENDATION	Recommended not eligible for NRHP listing

SITE PLAN

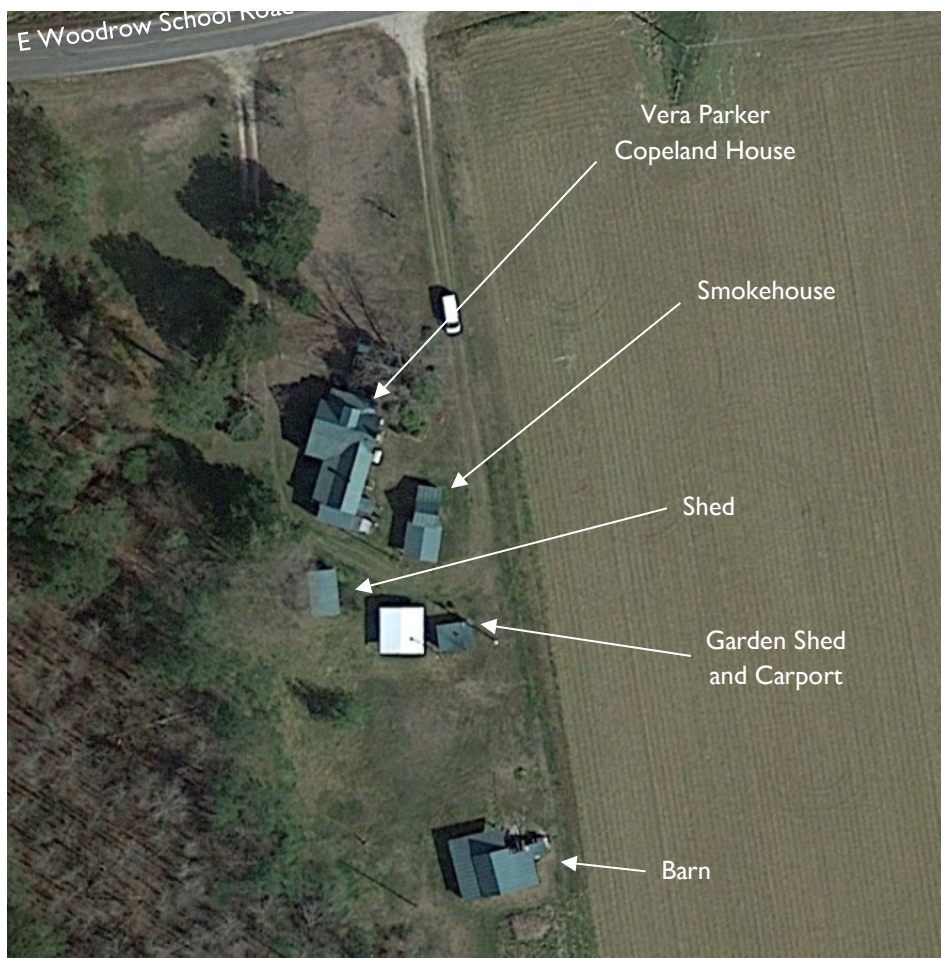


Figure 41: Site Plan of Vera Parker Copeland House (HR0801)
(Basemap source: Google Earth)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The mid/late-nineteenth century Vera Parker Copeland House is situated on a 12-acre lot of land just east of the intersection of SR 1169 with NC 11. The resource is bounded to the north by SR 1169, to the west by NC 11, and to the east and south by actively cultivated agricultural fields. The house stands toward the front (north) end of its parcel and is separated from SR 1169 by a large, open, grassy yard, although a small cluster of mature hardwood trees screens the house from the road. It is accessed from SR 1169 via a long gravel drive. A twentieth-century white picket fence separates the front of the yard from the NCDOT right-of-way and the road (Figure 42 and Figure 43). A small farm complex sits to the rear (south) of the house. It contains a mid-nineteenth-century smokehouse, a mid-twentieth-century frame shed and barn, and two late-twentieth-century garden sheds and a carport (Figure 44 and Figure 45).



Figure 42: Left, view of Vera Parker Copeland House property in relation to E. Woodrow School Road, facing east; right, view of house from road, facing southwest.



Figure 43: Left, view of fields lying southeast of Vera Parker Copeland House; right, view toward intersection of E. Woodrow School Road and NC 11 from front of house, facing west.



Figure 44: Left, view toward Vera Parker Copeland House and associated outbuildings, facing northeast; right, view toward outbuildings and fields, facing northeast.



Figure 45: Left, view toward Vera Parker Copeland House and associated outbuildings, facing north; right, view toward house and associated outbuildings, facing northwest.

VERA PARKER COPELAND HOUSE

The front (north) block of the Vera Parker Copeland House is a story-and-a-half (one-story-and-a-loft) tall and three-bays wide at its north-facing facade. Its side-gabled roof is steeply pitched. An original or early, engaged, shed-roofed extension crossing part of the block's rear gives the house a salt-box appearance when viewed from the northwest. The front block, extension, and remainder of the house are built of frame and clad in modern vinyl siding.

The front block rests on a brick-pier foundation, which has been filled in with brick. Its roof is clad with standing-seam-metal (Figure 46). A large front-gabled dormer centered on the facade was likely added in the early/mid-twentieth century. The dormer features paired two-over-two, double-hung, wood-sash windows.

A three-bay hipped-roof porch that likely replaces an earlier one embraces the facade. Modern tapered box posts resting on mid-twentieth-century brick bases support its hipped roof. Premanufactured balustrades, also recent additions, connect the posts. Three mid-twentieth-century concrete steps,

flanked on either side by brick knee-walls topped with concrete caps, climb up to porch and front entry. Centered on the facade, the entry holds an early/mid-twentieth-century door with six rectangular lights at its top and raised panels below. Four-over-four, double-hung, wood-sash windows, likely original to the house, flank the door on either side (Figure 47).



Figure 46: Left, facade of the house, facing southeast; right, oblique of northeast and southeast elevations, facing southwest.



Figure 47: Left, detail view of replacement front porch, facing northwest; right detail view of front door and porch, facing southwest.

Photographs of the house in the NCHPO survey files, taken in 2010 when it was first recorded, show two exterior-end, shouldered, brick chimneys at either gable of the front block.⁸ Four-over-four,

⁸ NCHPO file, House (HF0801).

double-hung, wood-sash windows like those of the front facade flank either side of the chimneys at the first floor. Two four-light fixed windows bracket the western stack in the photographs. They only show one upper window at the west elevation. The house's eastern elevation remains intact (Figure 48 and Figure 49). Since 2010, however, the west chimney has been lost, though the three windows remain. The corner of the saltbox-like extension at the west also retains two four-over-four, double-hung, wood-sash windows (Figure 46 and Figure 50).



Figure 48: Left, detail view of eastern shouldered chimney, facing northwest; right, detail of original four-over-four, double-hung, wood-sash windows found at original block.



Figure 49: Left, oblique of the house northwest and southwest elevations, facing northeast; right, oblique of house's northwest and southwest elevations, facing north.

A single-story, gabled, rear ell extending to the front block's south gives the house an L-shaped footprint. It is likely a late-nineteenth/early-twentieth-century addition. A centrally placed brick chimney stack rises from the roof ridge of the ell. A continuous brick foundation is visible at the ell's eastern elevation, as are two asymmetrically placed windows: a two-over-two, double-hung, wood-sash unit at the north end of the elevation and a smaller six-over-six, double-hung wood sash unit toward the ell's southern end. The ell's western elevation, in contrast, rests on a concrete-block foundation. A set of concrete stairs abutting the foundation once led to a shed-roof porch, which was enclosed by 2010 (Figure 49 and Figure 50).

A small flat-roofed addition was extended across the rear of the ell during the mid-twentieth century. Like the remainder of the house, the addition is built of frame and clad in vinyl. It features the same six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows as found at the south end of the ell. A single-bay, enclosed porch topped with a metal-clad shed roof extends from the eastern corner of this addition. Its entry is approached by a set of brick stairs with a metal-pipe handrail. To the direct north of the enclosed porch is a small, front-gabled cinderblock building which may serve as a wellhouse or house other utilities. The small building abuts the eastern elevation of the rear ell and is accessed via a crude wooden door centered on its front (east) elevation (Figure 50).



Figure 50: Left, oblique of Vera Parker Copeland House southeast and southwest elevations, facing north; right, view of southeast elevation, facing southwest.

SMOKEHOUSE [Figure 51 - Figure 53]

Situated roughly 30 feet from the southwest corner of the original house block, the smokehouse is the oldest in the resource's collection of outbuildings. If the house dates from ca. 1848, smokehouse is likely its contemporary. Its original single room is a rare, surviving, North Carolina example of full-dovetailed plank construction. Following a discussion of log building, Bishir and Southern briefly describe plank construction in *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina* (1996:16):

Plank buildings... constructed with sawn planks laid horizontally and dovetailed together, also became part of the [eastern] region's repertoire, both for houses and for smokehouses and jails, where security was needed.

A frame, shed-roofed, flushboard-sided addition is affixed to the smokehouse's north elevation (Figure 51 and Figure 52). A metal-sheathed roof at the north creates a continuous roofline for the smokehouse and this addition, but the boxed eaves of the plank construction are still distinguishable. Both the original block and the shed-roof addition rest on a stone-pier foundation. During the mid-twentieth century, a gable-roofed addition on a concrete-pier foundation was added to the smokehouse's south (Figure 53). Weatherboarded and topped by a standing-seam-metal roof with exposed rafter tails, it is open at the southwest corner for machine or vehicle storage.



Figure 51: Left, oblique of smokehouse northeast and northwest elevations, facing southeast; right, southeast elevation, facing northwest.



Figure 52: Left and right, smokehouse northwest elevation, facing southeast. Note the dovetail plank joinery in the image to the left.



Figure 53: Left, oblique of smokehouse southeast and southwest elevations, facing northwest; right oblique of northwest and southwest elevations; facing northeast.

SHED [Figure 54]

A small frame shed southwest of the house rests on a continuous concrete foundation and is oriented to the north. It is rectangular in plan and clad in German siding. The building's saltbox-style roof is topped with standing-seam-metal and features exposed rafter tails. A large arched doorway at its southeast elevation suggests the shed was built as a garage. One of the opening's two original, vertical, wood-paneled doors remains in place. A smaller door, also comprised of vertical wood boards, is found to the left (east) of the larger doorway. Three small, four-light, fixed casement wood-windows are found on the eastern elevation. The building likely dates to the mid-twentieth century.



Figure 54: Left, view of shed, facing southeast; right, view facing southwest.

BARN [Figure 55 and Figure 56]

A frame barn standing at the southwest corner of the outbuilding complex likely dates to the early-twentieth century. Clad in weatherboards, the barn's original central mass is one-and-a-half stories tall with a hayloft at its upper story.⁹ It rests on a brick-pier foundation that has been infilled with fieldstone. A small shed-roofed addition extending to the building's east was likely added in the mid-twentieth century. This addition is clad in weatherboards, rests on a continuous concrete foundation, and features exposed rafter tails. The addition was eventually expanded through the adding of a second shed-roof block at its northeast corner. Both additions are open at their northern ends. A large hip-roof lean-to extends from the facade of the barn and wraps around the building's western end. Topped with standing seam metal, the appendage is divisible into two bays at the barn's facade and is supported by three large, rough-cut posts that rest on concrete piers. The western side of this addition is enclosed and clad with weatherboards.

⁹ NCHPO file, House (HF0801).



Figure 55: Left, oblique of barn northwest and northeast elevations, facing southwest; right oblique of northeast and southeast elevations, facing northwest.



Figure 56: Left and right, interior details of barn, facing southeast.

GARDEN SHEDS AND CARPORT [Figure 57]

A late-twentieth-century frame garden shed, a prefabricated metal garden shed, and a metal carport are located to the southeast of the house. The frame shed is roughly rectangular in plan and topped with a shed roof edged by exposed rafter tails. It is clad in vinyl siding. The metal shed is situated to the direct south of the frame shed. The prefabricated carport stands to its direct west.



Figure 57: Left, view of frame garden shed, facing southwest; right, view of metal shed, frame shed, and modern carport, facing southwest.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The original construction date and builder of the Vera Parkland Copeland House is unknown. The entry for the house in *West of the Chowan* (under the name “Sam Copeland House”) states:

The steep gable of this story-and-a-half frame house suggests an antebellum date of construction, and one source suggests ca. 1848, although the rationale for the date is unknown. Gable-end brick chimneys and small square gable windows are other early features. The Craftsman front porch dates to the twentieth century, and a large gabled front dormer is also likely nonoriginal (Pezzoni, ed. 2016:209-10).

West of the Chowan refers to the residence as the Sam Copeland House; however, following further historical research, the house is more appropriately named for Vera Parker Copeland (wife of Sam) given the property’s historic association with the Parker family (see below).

No archival evidence was uncovered supporting the 1848 date found in *West of the Chowan*. The house is not shown on the 1863 Campbell Map (Figure 3) but rather the entire vicinity of the project area is shown as empty land. This suggests a postbellum period of construction, assuming the map was comprehensive. However, the house presents many similar design features to the Cullens House (HF0477), discussed further below, which has an estimated 1840 date of construction. Both residences have a steeply gabled roof with flush gables and gable-end chimneys. Unlike the Cullens House, which features nine-over-nine, double-hung, wood-sash windows, the Vera Parker Copeland House features larger four-over-four, double-hung, wood-sash, suggesting a slightly later date of construction. The Vera Parker Copeland House’s outbuildings include a smokehouse with dovetail plank construction, a technique more common in this part of North Carolina during the first half of the nineteenth century. These factors suggest a mid-nineteenth-century construction date is possible.

Although its early history is unclear, documentary evidence reveals that the Vera Parker Copeland House spent much of the twentieth century in the hands of the George Q. Parker family (see Roberta Parker Copeland House entry for early family history). In 1903 George Q. Parker (1852-1925) married his second wife, Sallie Deans (1874-1930). They had two children, one of whom was Vera (1905-1985). In 1923 Vera married James “Samuel” Copeland (1895-1981). Samuel was the brother-in-law of her

half-sister, Roberta (North Carolina, U.S. Marriage Records, 1741-2011). The 1930 U.S. Census found Samuel and Vera living on “Worrock Road” (one of the many early pseudonyms for SR 1169) amidst a grouping of Parkers. William and Roberta Copeland, who were occupying the Roberta Parker Copeland House at this time, are also listed as residing on Worrock Road, but their names appear several pages later in the census. This reveals that Samuel and Vera were not living in the Vera Parker Copeland House in the years directly following their marriage.

Vera’s father died in 1925 and her mother in 1930. In 1934 their extensive land holdings were surveyed and sold by their executor, Vera’s brother John. As part of these transactions, Vera and Samuel purchased for \$1,000 the Vera Parker Copeland House, and property which is described as follows:

that part of the G.Q. Parker lands in Murfreesboro Township...bounded on the north by the county road from Murfreesboro to Winton... on the west by the lands of Mrs. Harvey Copeland... containing 31.51 acres according to a survey... the same being a part of lot #1 in the division of said G.Q. Parker lands... (Hertford County Deed Book 96, Page 196).

The deed’s reference to the property being lot number one in the land division suggests that Vera Parker Copeland House may have actually served as the George Q. Parker homestead. The 1920 census lists George Q. Parker and his family as direct neighbors with William and Roberta Copeland who are known to have occupied the Roberta Parker Copeland House by that time. George married his first wife, Martha Story, in 1878. If the house is not antebellum, they may have built it then.

Following their purchase of the property in 1934 Vera and Samuel likely added the large dormer found at the front of the building in addition to its updated porch. They are also likely responsible for additions to the house’s rear and alterations to the outbuildings. The couple did not have children, so two years after Samuel’s death in 1981 Vera sold the property to George B. and Pauline Matthews in 1983. The property has remained in the Matthews family.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

A general survey of mid/late-nineteenth-century rural residences, guided by NCHPOWeb data and *West of the Chowan*, revealed several story-and-a-jump farmhouses scattered through Hertford County’s various rural townships. Most of these buildings retain high degrees of material integrity and some additionally boast a number of accompanying outbuildings.

The story-and-a-jump house (HF0928) located at 2306 US 13 South near Ahoskie was constructed ca. 1890. It is clad in original weatherboards and features a brick shouldered chimney at its gable end. Its original entry with vertical sidelights is centrally placed beneath a shed-roof porch supported by wooden columns. The house is accompanied by several early/mid-twentieth century outbuildings in addition to a modern twentieth-century house. The resource retains a high degree of material integrity and stands as a good example of late-nineteenth/early-twentieth century farm complex (Figure 58).



Figure 58: House (HF0928) at 2306 US 13 South, Ahoskie vicinity.

The Study-Listed Edward Brown (Figure 59) house at 237 Bethany Church Road near Cofield was constructed ca. 1880-1890. The entry for the residence in *West of the Chowan* states:

The house has a simple gabled form with brick end chimneys, a front porch on chamfered posts, and a one-story kitchen and dining room ell with a side porch. The center passage has narrow beaded matchboard sheathing and the mantels are of simple Greek Revival-influenced post-and-lintel form. The property also contains a mule barn, chicken house, meat house, and privy (Pezzoni, ed. 2016:135).

When visited during the fieldwork for this survey, only the house and privy were located. The house continues to retain a high degree of material integrity; however, some of its window openings have been covered over.



Figure 59: Edward Brown House (HF0927) at 237 Bethany Church Road, Cofield vicinity.

A house at 301 Statesville Road near Como (HF0785) was constructed ca. 1910 according to NCHPOWeb data. A story-and-a-half tall, the frame residence stands at the end of a long unpaved access path in the middle of a large clearing. Its facade features a tiny centrally placed window at its loft story. The house is clad in weatherboards and fronted by a hipped-roof porch. An exterior-end

chimney rises from one gable end. While it retains a high degree of material integrity, it appears to retain only one outbuilding: a mid-twentieth century garage, located to its rear (Figure 60).



Figure 60: House (HF0785) at 301 Statesville Road, Como vicinity.

The Cullens House (HF0477) at 242 Cullen Road near Cofield was placed on the Study List in 2011 (Figure 61). Its entry in *West of the Chowan* makes the following observations (Pezzoni, ed. 2016:129-30):

The ca. 1840 Cullens House, though only one story high, has the elegance of a much larger house. Tall nine-over-nine windows flank the front entry, two on one side and one on the other, to create an asymmetrical four-bay elevation; the asymmetry is masked by a full-facade porch on square posts. The nine-over-nine sash windows continue on a one-story gable-end wing with a pedimented gable, through which rise the shoulders and upper stack of a brick chimney (the main portion of the house also has brick end chimneys). Beaded weatherboard siding sheathes the front elevation of the main section... Other exterior features include... a board-and-batten porch ceiling, pattern boards in the cornices, and a short roof connection to a semidetached summer kitchen of simple gabled form.

The exterior has a Federal-Greek character that becomes more pronounced inside, as seen in the design of the mantels...

The house is accompanied by a small collection of outbuildings, some of which appear to date to the mid/late-twentieth century.



Figure 61: Cullens House (HF0477) at 242 Cullen Road, Cofield vicinity.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION

The Vera Parker Copeland House was evaluated for NRHP eligibility under Criterion A in the area of agriculture and was determined not eligible. Although the resource retains its rural setting, including actively cultivated fields, its primary resource, its house, does not retain a high degree of material integrity. Additionally, the resource does not retain a strong cast of supporting outbuildings. Only three are found extant on the property: a mid-nineteenth century smokehouse, which displays a heavily altered footprint, an early-twentieth century barn, which also features alterations to its footprint, and a mid-twentieth century shed. These buildings do not paint a picture of a cohesive agricultural landscape. A historic aerial photograph from 1955 suggests that the Vera Parker Copeland House once boasted a larger collection of outbuildings than currently stands today. For these reasons, the Vera Parker Copeland House does merit NRHP eligibility under Criterion A.

The Vera Parker Copeland House was determined not NRHP eligible under Criterion B as it has no known connections with any significant or notable persons of our past.

The resource was additionally evaluated for NRHP eligibility under Criterion C and is recommended not eligible for listing in the area of architecture. The Vera Copeland Parker House presents a number of material alterations, including the replacement of its original porch, the loss of an exterior-end chimney, the addition of a large front-gabled dormer at its facade, and multiple rear additions. Its collection of outbuildings is likewise altered and almost all feature significant alterations to their original forms and footprints. For these reasons the Vera Parker Copeland House does not stand as a good example of its type and does merits NRHP eligibility under Criterion C.

Finally, the Vera Parker Copeland House is not likely to yield important historical information on the basis of its appearance or construction, and is therefore recommended as not eligible as an architectural resource under Criterion D.

VERA PARKER COPELAND HOUSE		
ELEMENT OF INTEGRITY	LEVEL OF INTEGRITY	ASSESSMENT
LOCATION	High	The resource stands on the original site.
DESIGN	Low	The resource has incurred a number of additions which have altered its appearance including: the addition of a large, front-gabled dormer, the replacement of its front porch, the enclosure of the rear ell porch, and the addition of a shed-roof block at the building's rear.
SETTING	High	The Vera Parkland Copeland House retains almost 12 acres of associated farmland to the east and south. The resource's neighboring parcels are also agricultural in nature allowing the property to retain its original rural feel. The resource also retains two sheds, a smokehouse, and a small barn.
MATERIALS	Medium/Low	While the house retains a large number of original windows, it has lost its front porch and original front door, one of its two exterior-end, brick, shouldered chimneys, and its original exterior cladding has been removed or covered over with vinyl. Additionally, the building has incurred a number of additions, including a front-gabled dormer at its facade, which like dates to the early/mid-twentieth century. The house's associated outbuildings feature a similar degree of integrity.
WORKMANSHIP	Medium/Low	The house has lost significant exterior material including its original front porch and door, an exterior-end chimney, and its historic rear ell has been enclosed. Additionally, the house has incurred multiple additions which has altered its footprint. The building does retain a large number of original four-over-four, double-hung, wood-sash windows. Additionally it retains a small collection of historic outbuildings which retain a similar degree integrity.
FEELING	Medium	Due to to the resource's low integrity of design, medium/low integrity of materials and workmanship, and high integrity of location and setting, the Vera Parker Copeland House retains medium integrity of feeling.
ASSOCIATION	Medium	Due to to the resource's low integrity of design, medium/low integrity of materials and workmanship, high integrity of location and setting, and medium integrity of feeling, the Vera Parker Copeland House retains medium integrity of association.

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