

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

James B. Hunt, Jr., Governor Betty Ray McCain, Secretary

June 7, 1993

Division of Archives and History William S. Price, Jr., Director

J. Allen Tice
Technical Program Director
Law Engineering, Inc.
3301 Atlantic Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27604

Re:

Historic Structures Survey, North Carolina Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility Project, Wake/Chatham County Potentially Suitable Site, ER 93-8764

Dear Mr. Tice:

Thank you for your letter of May 4, 1993, transmitting the historic structures survey report by Laura A. W. Phillips concerning the above project.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following properties are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under the criterion cited:

Lawrence School (17), eligible under Criterion A for its association with early twentieth century education in Chatham County and for its participation in 1910's local educational efforts; the school is also eligible under Criterion C as an unusually intact example of an early twentieth-century rural schoolhouse which, although deteriorated, shows the detail and embellishment given to rural schools during this period. In addition, our office believes this building is also eligible under Criterion D for the information which could be retrieved on the construction of early twentieth century schoolhouses.

Brickhaven School (33), eligible under Criterion A for association with education in the 1910s in Chatham County as a part of the Cape Fear Township Schools prior to consolidation with the Moncure school; in addition, it meets Criterion C for architecture since it is the only early twentieth century school constructed of brick in Cape Fear Township.

Merry Oaks Historic District (71), eligible under Criterion A for its representation as a late nineteenth-early twentieth century rural community which grew in association with the railroad; its excellent grouping of rural community building types from this era also meets Criterion C for architecture.



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The following properties were determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

Christian Chapel Christian Church (1), this property does not meet the criteria consideration for a religious property under Criteria A, B, or D. It does not possess the architectural integrity needed for eligibility under Criterion C.

Thomas A. Ausley House (2), this property does not meet Criterion A or B since it is not associated with a historical event or person. The house does not meet Criterion C or D because it is a common house type which had been altered and is now deteriorated.

John Williams House (Smith House) (3), this property does not meet Criterion A or B since it is not associated with a historical event or person. The house does not meet Criterion C or D because it is a common house type.

Ruffin Prince House (Denton Cross House) (4), this property does not meet Criterion A or B since it is not associated with a historical event or person. The extensive alterations and deteriorated state of condition prevent this house from being eligible under Criterion C or D.

Thomas Fred Cross House (16), this property does not meet Criterion A or B since it is not associated with a historical even or person. The extensive alterations to this house resulted in a loss of integrity of architectural design which makes the house ineligible under Criterion C. Archaeological context of the house remains undetermined.

Marks-Harrington House (18), this property does not meet Criterion A or B since it is not associated with a historical event or person. The house does not meet Criterion C or D because it is a common house type.

Lawrence-Harrington Tenant House (19), this house does not meet Criterion A or C since it does not contain the level of integrity or quality of significance necessary for eligibility based on its association with tenant farming. The house is not eligible under Criterion B since it is not associated with a historical person or event. The archaeological context of the house remains undetermined.

James Rufus Marks House (20), this property does not meet Criterion A or B since it is not associated with a historical event or person. The house is not eligible under Criterion C because it does not possess the quality of architectural significance or the physical integrity necessary. The archaeological context of the house remains undetermined.

Cherokee Brick Company Tenant House (31-32), these houses do not meet Criterion A, B, C, or D because the architectural integrity is diminished due to one house being substantially altered and the other being deteriorated.

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> Shady Grove Baptist Church Cemetery (68), this cemetery does not meet any of the special criterion considerations necessary for a cemetery to be eligible.

Bonsal Stores and Houses (69), these structures do not meet Criterion A, B, C, or D since they do not possess the necessary quality of significance or integrity.

North Carolina Railroad Museum (Bonsal Railroad Museum) (70), this museum is primarily commemorative in nature with many resources under fifty years old. The museum does not possess integrity of location and design which is necessary for eligibility under any of the criterion.

The report meets our office's guidelines and those of the Secretary of the Interior. According to our staff reviewers, Ms. Phillips has done an excellent job in survey methodology, evaluation, and presentation within her scope-of-work.

We would note, however, that we do not concur with the area of potential effect (APE) as described on page 4 and on the map on page 9. We have stated on several occasions our opinion that the APE should include all structures within a three-mile radius of the site and not just the likely access roads.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 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, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919/733-4763.

Sincerely,

David Brook

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DB:slw

cc: J. Allen Kibler, Jr., Project Manager

Laura A. W. Phillips

bc: File

Brown/Dowd

County

RF

DRAFT REPORT HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY

WAKE/CHATHAM COUNTY POTENTIALLY SUITABLE SITE

NORTH CAROLINA LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY

Law Job No. J47289-4670, Task No. 0151

Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historian

Consultant to Law Engineering, Inc.

April 16, 1993

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II. MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Project Name and Summary:

Wake/Chatham County Potentially Suitable Site, North Carolina Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility

The project is a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility intended to be constructed at one of two sites currently under study. The facility will consist mainly of a series of concrete disposal modules constructed mostly above existing ground and capped with an earthen cover on which vegetation is planted. The completed disposal facility will cover about 100 acres and will be surrounded by about 200 acres of unused buffer zone. Administrative and laboratory buildings will occupy another approximately fifteen acres outside the disposal facility itself.

The Wake/Chatham County Site is located about sixteen miles southwest of Raleigh and straddles the Wake/Chatham County line at the southwestern most point of Wake County. The area of the site is approximately 1,400 acres.

State Clearinghouse Number: N/A

Project Purpose:

The North Carolina Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Authority (the Authority) was created by North Carolina General Statute 104G and given the responsibility of selecting a site for a Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility to serve the eight States in the Southeast Compact. The Division of Radiation Protection (DRP) is the agency responsible for the issuing the license to construct and operate the facility. Two potentially suitable sites have been designated by the Authority--one in Richmond County (the Richmond County Site) and one straddling the Wake and Chatham County line (Wake/Chatham County Site).

Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc. (CNSI) has been retained by the Authority to site design, construct, operate, and close the facility. As part of the site studies (Site Characterization), Law Environmental, Inc., a subcontractor to CNSI, is conducting cultural resource surveys of the two potentially suitable sites. The work is being conducted to meet the North Carolina regulatory requirement for cultural resources information as expressed in 15A NCAC 11.1207 (2) (a) and (d). The cultural resources studies are also being conducted to meet the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. The Site Characterization Plan prepared by CNSI and approved by the DRP outlines the activities conducted for the cultural resources survey.

Summary of Survey Methodology:

The survey was conducted according to the requirements of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's "Description of Services Required for Consideration of Cultural Resources in the Preparation of Environmental Documents" (Part VII, Historic Architectural Resources). The report was prepared following the State Historic Preservation Office's "Guidelines for the Preparation of Reports of Historic Structures Surveys and Evaluations Submitted to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office."

Survey methodology consisted of background research, field activities, analysis, and report preparation. Background research included documentary research at the Survey and Planning Branch of the Division of Archives and History, the State Archives, the Wake County Planning Department, the Pittsboro Memorial Library, and the Chatham County Courthouse, as well as interviews with several local informants. Field activities began with a site update on all properties within the Wake County section of the project area which were recently recorded by Kelly Lally as part of the Wake County Historic and Architectural Resources Survey. Field work continued with a reconnaissance survey of the Chatham County section of the project area to identify, photograph, and map properties at least fifty years An intensive survey was then conducted of those twelve properties -- all within Chatham County -- which appeared to be potentially eligible for the National Register and/or which had been recorded by Rachel Osborne approximately ten years ago as part of the Chatham County Historic and Architectural Resources Analysis included an evaluation of the significance of the surveyed properties according to the National Register criteria and the historic contexts for the project area. Analysis continued with an assessment of the potential effects of the proposed project on those properties considered eligible for the National Register.

Description of the Area of Potential Effect (APE):
The APE consists of the potentially suitable site, its immediate environment, and the likely access roads--US 1, NC 42, SR 1011, and SR 1916--within a three-mile radius of the approximate site boundary, as illustrated by the shaded areas of the map on p. 10.

Percentage of Project Area Covered by Survey and Level of Survey Coverage:

A reconnaissance survey was conducted of 100 percent of the designated APE. All properties which appeared to be at least fifty years old were photographed and keyed to the USGS maps. From this group of seventy-one properties, those twelve which appeared to be potentially eligible for the National Register were intensively surveyed with additional photography, mapping, and the completion of North Carolina Historic Structures Data Sheets. Interiors were recorded when possible and appropriate.

In addition, those properties previously recorded by Kelly Lally in the Wake County architectural survey were inspected in order to provide a site update.

Summary of Survey Results:

A total of seventy-one properties was identified as appearing to be at least fifty years old. Of these, twelve properties or groups of properties were intensively recorded because of their potential National Register eligibility. These properties, along with those previously recorded in Wake County, include: two early twentieth century schools, two late nineteenth-early twentieth century railroad communities, one early twentieth-century church, one cemetery, one mid-nineteenth-century rural house, five late nineteenth-early twentieth-century rural houses, one frame tenant house, a pair of brick tenant houses, and a twentieth-century railroad museum. Three of the recorded properties appear to be eligible for the National Register. The following list organizes the eleven surveyed properties by National Register eligibility and gives the page numbers in the report where each is described:

Eligible for the National Register

- 17. Lawrence School (CH 167), pp. 29-33
- 33. Brickhaven School (CH 172), pp. 34-39
- 71. Merry Oaks Historic District, (CH 191), pp. 40-51

Not Eliqible for the National Register

- 1. Christian Chapel Christian Church (CH 194), pp. 52-54
- 2. Thomas A. Ausley House (CH 163), pp. 55-57
- 3. John Williams House (CH 164), pp. 58-60
- 4. Ruffin Prince House (CH 165), pp. 61-63
- 16. Thomas Fred Cross House (CH 170), pp. 64-67
- 18. Marks-Harrington House, pp. 68-70
- 19. Lawrence-Harrington Tenant House (CH 168), pp. 71-73
- 20. James Rufus Marks House, pp. 74-76
- 31-32. Cherokee Brick Company Tenant Houses (CH 171), pp.77-80
 - 68. Shady Grove Baptist Church Cemetery (WA 1088), p. 81
 - 69. Bonsal Stores and Houses (WA 1091), pp. 82-83
 - 70. North Carolina Railroad Museum (WA 2259), p. 84

The map on p. 10 illustrates the boundaries for all properties within the project APE which are considered eligible for the National Register. Individual boundary maps are given with the property descriptions for those properties considered eligible.

Summary of Potential Effects:

Of the three properties considered eligible for the National Register, none is located within the approximate boundary of the potentially suitable site. Instead, two are located on SR 1916 southwest of the Site, and one is located along SR 1011 north of the Site. Depending on the final circumstances of the project,

it could have little effect on the three eligible properties, it could have a positive effect, or it could have a negative effect. For further discussion, see Potential Effects on Properties, pp. 85-86.

III. INTRODUCTION

Name of Project:

Wake/Chatham County Potentially Suitable Site North Carolina Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility

State Clearinghouse Number: N/A

Location of Project:

The Wake/Chatham County Site (the Site) is located about sixteen miles southwest of Raleigh and straddles the Wake/Chatham County line at the southwestern most point of Wake County. The area of the Site is approximately 1,400 acres.

Map of General Project Location: See p. 9.

Map of Surveyed Area/APE with Locations of Recorded Historic Properties and Boundaries of Properties Eligible for National Register:

See p. 10 and key to properties on p. 11.

Determination of Area of Potential Effect (APE):

The APE consists of the potentially suitable site, its immediate environment, and the area along the likely access roads (US 1, NC 42, SR 1011, SR 1916) within a three-mile radius of the site boundary. The APE, or area to be surveyed, was determined by Law Engineering in agreement with Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc., and was so-stated in the contract with the Consultant. The Consultant determined that along the likely access roads, those properties which were adjacent to or oriented toward the roads would be included in the survey.

Sponsoring Agency:

North Carolina Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Authority

Principal Investigator/Survey Team:

The historic structures survey was conducted solely by architectural historian Laura A. W. Phillips. Production assistance during the preparation of the report was provided by the staff of architectural firm Phillips & Oppermann, P. A.

Date of Survey:

Survey field activities were conducted between December 8, 1992 and January 22, 1993.

Summary of Scope of Work:

According to the contractual scope of services, the Consultant agreed to:

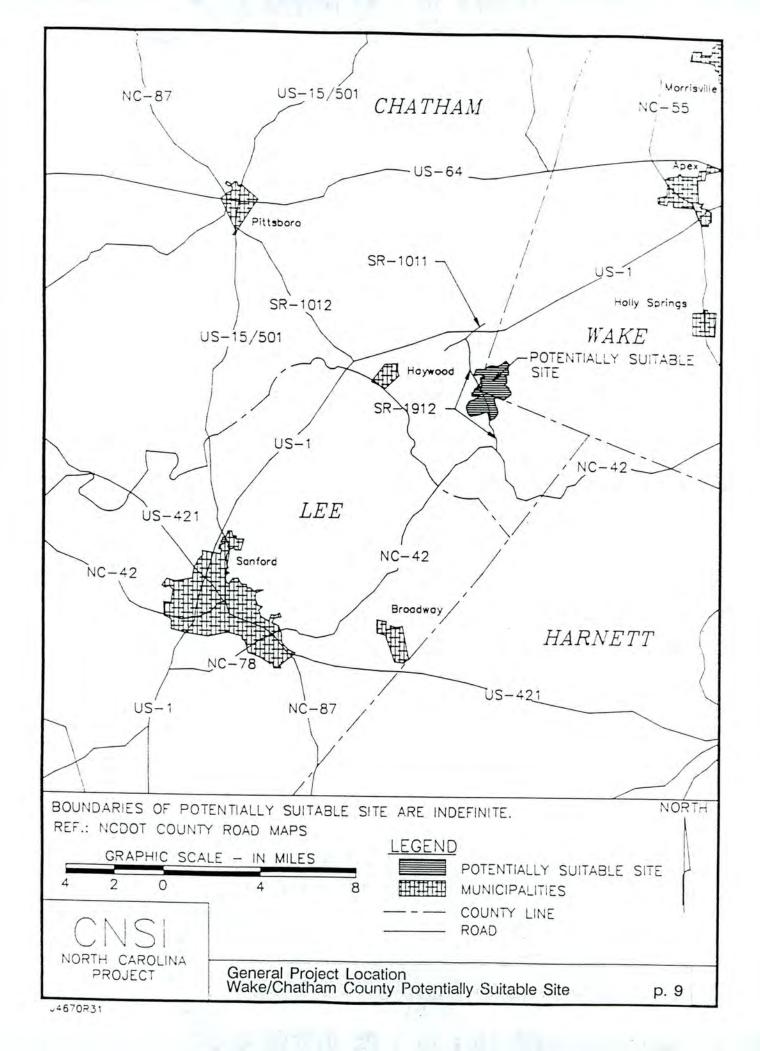
Conduct an intensive historic and architectural resources survey of the area designated as the potentially suitable site and of the likely access roads within a three-mile radius of the site;

Evaluate the surveyed resources according to the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;

Assess potential impacts of the proposed project on any properties evaluated as eligible for the National Register; and

Prepare a written report on the findings of the survey and evaluation.

See Appendix, p. 93, for copy of scope of work from contract between the Consultant and Law Engineering.





Key to Recorded Properties:

Eligible for National Register

- 17. Lawrence School (CH 167)
- 33. Brickhaven School (CH 172)
- 71. Merry Oaks Historic District (CH 191)

Not Eligible for National Register

- 1. Christian Chapel Christian Church (CH 194)
- 2. Thomas A. Ausley House (CH 163)
- 3. John Williams House (CH 164)
- 4. Ruffin Prince House (CH 165)
- 16. Thomas Fred Cross House (CH 170)
- 18. Marks-Harrington House
- 19. Lawrence-Harrington Tenant House (CH 168)
- 20. James Rufus Marks House
- 31-32. Cherokee Brick Company Tenant Houses (CH 171)
 - 68. Shady Grove Baptist Church Cemetery (WA 1088)
 - 69. Bonsal Stores and Houses (WA 1091)
 - 70. North Carolina Railroad Museum (WA 2259)

IV. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Total Acreage of Project Study Area:

The project study area (the Site) includes approximately 1,400 acres. This area was surveyed, along with the properties along either side of the likely access roads (US 1, NC 42, SR 1011, SR 1916) within a three-mile radius of the boundary of the site.

Effective Environment:

The Wake/Chatham County Potentially Suitable Site is located about sixteen miles southwest of Raleigh and straddles the Wake/Chatham County line at the southwestern most point of Wake County. The likely access roads within a three-mile radius of the Site run northeast toward Raleigh, southwest toward Sanford, and roughly parallel the Cape Fear River in a northwest/southeast direction.

The Site is within the Piedmont physiographic province, which has a rolling, dissected, plateau-like terrain, and is located along the top of a northerly trending, relatively flat-topped ridge that forms a boundary between three local watersheds. The Site is underlain by soils and weathered rock. Triassic rock underlies the weathered rock and consists of interbedded grey to red mudstones and sandstones.

The area within the Site and within a three-mile radius of the Site boundary is not only rural, but relatively isolated, particularly for being near several cities. The majority of the land is characterized by low hills and forests. Much of the area east of the Site is consumed by the Shearon Harris Lake, while the Cape Fear and Haw rivers run along much of the western edge of the area within a three-mile radius of the Site. Several claypits are located in this western area.

Present Land Use:

Land use in the project area is varied. Most of the land is unpopulated or sparsely populated, with dwellings focused along the main roads. Although the area is rural, farming is limited and mostly on a small scale. East of the Site, the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant facility and reservoir dominate much of the land use. In the western part of the three-mile radius area are several industrial concerns along SR 1916, the Norfolk Southern Railroad, and the Cape Fear River. The western area also includes a power plant and a sewage disposal facility. Four small communities—Bonsal, Merry Oaks, Brickhaven, and Corinth—are situated where the highways either cross or parallel one of the railroads. These communities contain—in addition to dwellings—several small commercial establishments and churches.

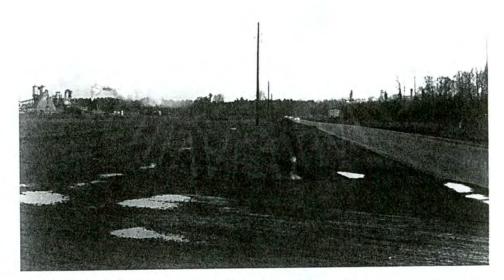
Photographs providing an overview of the physical environment of the project area are found on pp. 13-15.



a. SR 1912, just S of jct w/SR 1924, view to SE



b. SR 1916, 0.1 mi S of RR at Brickhaven, view to N $\,$



c. SR 1916, 0.4 mi S of jct W/SR 1011, view to S



d. SR 1011, 0.8 mi SW of jct w/SR 1910, view to



e. SR 1011, at jct w/SR 1910, view to NE

V. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL BACKGROUND

Historical Development of Project Area:

The area surveyed includes both the southwestern corner of Wake County and the southeastern section of Chatham County. fourths of the area within a three-mile radius of the boundary of the potentially suitable site lies within Chatham County. remaining portion which lies within Wake County; most is dominated by the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power facility development. Research into historical background of the Wake County portion of the project area was limited, because the project survey in that county consisted of utilizing the work recently prepared by Kelly Lally in the historic and architectural inventory of Wake County, rechecking and updating information only on those properties in the area which she had recorded in her survey. Her work provides a general historical background on Buckhorn Township in Wake County which includes that portion of the county which falls within the present project study area and which is pertinent to the historic sites recorded there. A summary of her information follows.

Buckhorn Township lies in the Triassic basin, meaning that the area's soils were less productive than those of eastern Wake County before commercial fertilizers came into use in the late nineteenth century. As a result, yeomen subsistence farmers were the dominant class from the earliest settlement. Turpentine and lumber were important products of this piney woods section during the late antebellum and post-Civil War years. Some commercial farming took place in the early twentieth century with the expansion of bright leaf tobacco production, but the lack of a local market discouraged significant growth. The Seaboard Air Line Railroad (the former Chatham and later Raleigh and Augusta Railroad) which had been routed through the township's western section in the late nineteenth century spurred the creation of two villages, New Hill and Bonsal. Both were incorporated in 1907, but both lost their charters within ten years due to slow With the construction of the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant and Shearon Harris Lake in the 1970s, the southwestern section of the township was effectively depopulated. According to the 1990 census, Buckhorn Township constitutes the least populous of Wake County's twenty townships.

The remainder of the project area surveyed falls within the Cape

¹See letter from Consultant to Renee Gledhill-Early in Appendix, pp. 94-96 for further explanation of this methodology.

²Kelly Lally and Todd Johnson, Typescript from Wake County Architectural Survey Book Draft, 1993.

Fear Township in the southeastern corner of Chatham County. East of SR 1912 and northeast of NC 42 the land is largely consumed by Shearon Harris Lake, and if historic resources had existed here previously, they are apparently gone now. The area as a whole is heavily forested and lightly populated. The southwestern and western sections are bordered by the Cape Fear and Haw rivers and the flat bottom land that accompanies them. The establishment of power plants in the area, the presence of both the Norfolk Southern and Seaboard Coast Line (now CSX) railroads, and the clay soils have been the most important factors in the development of the area. Other areas of Chatham County witnessed large-scale farming, the mining of coal and iron, the development of textile mills, and the growth of several towns, but such was not the case in this southeastern section.

In the mid-eighteenth century settlers were attracted to the area that was to become Chatham County because of the availability of inexpensive land coupled with low taxes. One of the main points of entry by those of English background and Highland Scots was the Cape Fear River, and early settlements were made along this waterway. The rich bottomlands along the Cape Fear and the county's other rivers were favored sites for settlement. In 1771 Chatham was made a county.³

During the early decades of the nineteenth century population in the county fell, largely due to emigration. This decline paralleled the lack of development in North Carolina in general during the period. By the 1830s, prosperity was beginning to take hold in the county. In addition to expansion in farming, around 100 grist and saw mills were operating in the county. Most were small seasonal enterprises which farmers operated in connection with their agricultural activities. Churches were one reflection of this period of expansion. By 1835 the Baptists had established about 35 percent of what were to become their total number of congregations in the county, while the Methodists had established over 40 percent of theirs.

As elsewhere in the state, the antebellum period in Chatham County was one of economic growth. Agricultural activity peaked in the 1850s, and efforts were made to improve transportation routes to distant markets through river navigation and plank roads. Agricultural, technological, and transportation efforts were closely allied. The county's small settlements located at important stream or river crossings and at intersections along

³Rachel Osborn and Ruth Selden-Sturgill, <u>The Architectural</u> <u>Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina</u> (Pittsboro, N.C.: The Chatham County Historic Architecture Survey Committee, 1991), 6. Hereinafter cited as <u>Architectural Heritage</u>.

⁴Architectural Heritage, 10-12.

roads grew in this period.5

Chatham County was spared any invasion during the Civil War, but the county was affected in other ways. Nearly one-fifth of the county's 2,000 men who served in the conflict died. By 1884 most of the schools in the county had closed, and they did not reopen until 1881. On the more positive side, the Chatham Railroad was chartered in 1861 to carry coal from the Deep River coal fields to Raleigh and from there on to the Confederate armament factories.

After the Civil War, the Reconstruction era in North Carolina continued until the mid-1870s. The post-war years brought significant changes to agricultural practices, including the creation of numerous small farms and the development of the system of tenancy and sharecropping. Another long-lasting result of the Reconstruction era was the establishment of separate religious congregations for blacks, who had previously worshipped jointly with whites. The most important manufacturing development of the period was the 1872 founding of the Bynum Manufacturing Company for the production of cotton cloth, but this was in another section of the county. The county as a whole continued to grow and develop, and in 1868 twelve townships were laid out.

The late nineteenth century was a period of prosperity for Chatham County, as elsewhere in North Carolina. The county's population grew nearly 20 percent from 1870 to 1880. Railroads in the county expanded, thriving on both local manufactures and on the produce of surrounding rural areas. Organizations such as the local branches of the National Farmers' Alliance were organized to help improve farming and the lives of farmers and their families. Churches and schools played important roles in rural life as well as in the life of the county's towns. By the end of the century, there were at least sixty-six churches serving white congregations (the number of black churches is not clear), and there were sixty-five schools for whites and thirty-two for blacks.

After the turn of the twentieth century, the county continued to build on trends that had been established in the late nineteenth century. In 1908 Chatham County's first electric power plant was constructed in southeast Chatham where Buckhorn Creek joined the

⁵Architectural Heritage, 20-23.

⁶Architectural Heritage, 23-24.

Architectural Heritage, 24-26.

⁸Architectural Heritage, 33-36.

Cape Fear River. Successive power companies operated this plant until 1962, when a larger facility was built. Railroads reached their peak importance in the county between 1900 and 1920. Industries, particularly brickworks such as that in Brickhaven, began to operate in southern Chatham County.

During the Depression, newly instituted state and federal agencies had a large impact on life in Chatham County, as elsewhere. Programs such as the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Farmers' Home Administration, the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority, Social Security, and the Works Progress (later Projects) Administration worked to improve life during the period. The Depression ended with the nation's entry into World War II.¹⁰

After World War II, substantial amounts of land in the eastern part of Chatham County were condemned for the impoundment of B. Everett Jordan Lake. This project had a tremendous impact on the county's landscape. Many small communities, farms, and hunting grounds were destroyed by the impoundment. Later, land in the southeastern corner of the county was lost to the development of the Shearon Harris Reservoir. 11

Several themes, including agriculture, education, and railroads, have had a particular impact on the southeastern portion of Chatham County of which the project study area is a part.

Agriculture

The primary economic base of Chatham County has long been agriculture. The primary objective of the county's early farmers was that of producing the family food supply, and subsistence farming continued for years. Corn and wheat crops predominated in the eighteenth century, while cotton and tobacco reigned in the nineteenth century. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, farms became smaller but more numerous, and tenancy as well as ownership became widespread. In the twentieth century diversified crop farming, dairy farming, and poultry production have predominated. Small to medium sized farms have been the rule. At the same time, timber has played an important role in the county, and three-fourths of the county's land area is classified as forestry land. 12

⁹Architectural Heritage, 36-39.

¹⁰ Architectural Heritage, 40.

¹¹ Architectural Heritage, 40.

¹² Architectural Heritage, 4; Chatham County 1771-1971 (n.p.: Moore Publishing Co., 1971), 361-362. Hereinafter cited as Chatham County.

Education

In 1839 Chatham County established a public school system, and the county was divided into thirty-five school districts of about six square miles each. By 1850 there were thirty-eight one-teacher schools. Most schools closed during the Civil War, and it was after 1880 when they reopened. By the end of the nineteenth century, some of the county's schools were still built of logs, but most were frame. In 1900, 3,248 of the county's 5,295 white children between ages six and twenty-one were enrolled in public schools, as were 1,729 of the county's 3,287 black children. In 1901, six school districts in the county established rural libraries, including one at Merry Oaks.
Between 1907 and 1913, nine "Betterment Associations" for public schools were organized. Two of these were at Merry Oaks School and at Lawrence School. By 1915 there were eighty schools for white children and thirty-eight for black. By 1919 all log school houses had been eliminated, but there was only one brick school, the Brickhaven School. The rest were frame. In 1920 the county board of education agreed to purchase two trucks for transporting children to schools, and thus began the long process of consolidation. During the 1930s, consolidation of the white schools was completed, and consolidation efforts were begun for the black schools. In the 1940s the school term was increased to 180 days, and the twelfth grade was added. By 1970, integration of white and black schools was completed.1

Railroads

Several railroads were built in Chatham County during the second half of the nineteenth century. The most important of these for the project area was the Chatham Railroad, completed in 1868. In 1872 the name was changed to the Raleigh and Augusta Air-Line Railroad, and in 1901 to the Seaboard Air Line Railway (now CSX). This line passed through Bonsal (in Wake County) and Merry Oaks, providing a major impetus for their development, as was true with railroad communities all over the country during the late nineteenth and early twentieth-century period. In the early twentieth century the Norfolk Southern Railroad extended southward from the Seaboard railroad along the east side of the Cape Fear River and continued on along the southern section of the project survey area. This rail line enabled the productive

¹³ Architectural Heritage, 20

¹⁴ Architectural Heritage, 24.

¹⁵ Architectural Heritage, 36.

¹⁶ Chatham County, 286-293, 301.

¹⁷ Chatham County, 161-165.

community, Brickhaven, as well as other later industrial concerns.

Architectural Development of Project Area:

The predominant character of Chatham County's architectural heritage from the late eighteenth century through the midtwentieth century is that of a conservative local building tradition gradually molded and altered and then finally superceded by nationally popular trends and styles. Period styles have been presented in a mostly vernacular way, while academic stylistic applications are rare. Log and frame structures were virtually the only kinds constructed until the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Log construction continued in use for outbuildings well into the twentieth century. ¹⁸

Little evidence remains of the county's mid-eighteenth-century buildings. Documentary evidence has filled in some of the information. The architectural legacy of the period is primarily domestic and agrarian. The earliest structures were predominantly of log construction, and houses were small, with only one or two rooms and perhaps a rear shed and a loft. Rocks were commonly used for chimneys. For log structures, saddle, full dovetail and V-notches were commonly used. Half dovetail notches and diamond notches were also sometimes used.

After log houses, frame dwellings predominated during the county's early years. They were generally one to one-and-a-half-story dwellings of a two-room, hall-and-parlor plan. Two-story houses were associated with the wealthier families and were more elaborately detailed. Another house form was the coastal cottage, which was a two-room house with a steeply pitched gable roof which engaged front and rear shed-roofed porches (or shed rooms on the rear).

The earliest formal architectural style to be adapted in the county was the Georgian style, derived from classical and Renaissance traditions developed during the reigns of England's first three Georges. This style could be seen in Chatham County until shortly after the turn of the nineteenth century. The county's few remaining structures in the Georgian style are simply but well-crafted.

After 1820 the Federal style became more popular in Chatham County. It was characterized by a lighter and more delicate use

¹⁸The architectural development of the project area discussed herein has been drawn from <u>The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County</u>, as well as from personal observations.

County. It was characterized by a lighter and more delicate use of classical motifs than the heavier Georgian designs. Features included slender proportions, brick end chimneys, and thinly molded wooden surrounds framing doors and windows. Mantels were often arranged in three parts and decorated with reedwork and heavily molded shelves.

Farm complexes, mills, churches, and small villages dominated Chatham County's architectural landscape in the antebellum period, with commercial structures not becoming common until the late nineteenth century. Wood was the primary building material used in the antebellum period. Farm complexes had a typical collection of outbuildings, with those associated with domestic needs located closest to the house. Detached kitchens were built of log or frame and were placed either to the side or the rear of the dwelling and sometimes connected to it by a breezeway. Most barns were log structures with shed additions, and throughout the nineteenth century log construction was commonly used for smokehouses, corncribs, sweet potato houses, and other outbuildings. Family cemeteries were also often included with farm complexes.

Toward the end of the 1830s, the Federal style began to transition to the Greek Revival, which then remained fashionable until the 1870s. In its purest form, the Greek Revival style encompassed temple-front structures with pedimented porticos supported by large columns, broader facades, and wider sash windows than in the Federal period, and ornament that was usually rectilinear and symmetrical in design. The typical plan consisted of a center hall with flanking rooms. Chatham County's conservative builders did not often adopt the temple-front plan entirely. Rather, they adapted selected elements of the style, such as six-over-six sash windows, two-panel doors, entrances with sidelights and transoms, and broad post-and-lintel mantels. Most houses of the period were only one room deep with two rooms per floor, although some were two rooms deep.

No antebellum churches survive.

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, more romantic or picturesque styles were introduced. Typically, builders in the county tended to enhance traditional floor plans with more stylish decorative elements. Both one and two-story houses were built. Fancy sawn and turned woodwork, made possible by new technology, began to adorn many late nineteenth-century houses in the county. "Triple-A" roofs--with two side gables and a central facade gable--became popular, and gable-end chimneys moved first to the rear and then to the interior of the main block. Windows changed to two-over-two and one-over-one sash, and two-tier and wrap-around porches became popular. Often the exterior decoration was focused on the porch. The rear one-story kitchen/dining ell replaced the use of the detached kitchen.

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, tobacco barns were added to the list of typical farm outbuildings. They were typically log structures joined with V or saddle notches. Open frame sheds were generally added to one side. Tobacco packhouses were similarly built but were larger than tobacco barns.

During the railroad era of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, commercial architecture began to bloom in the county. A typical store of the period was a two-story, gable-front structure with a central double-leaf entrance flanked by large windows. The Yates Store in Merry Oaks is a particularly good example with a decorative two-tier front porch. Other treatments became popular during the early twentieth century, including the use of decorative pressed metal. Usually found on coffered ceilings, it is found on the exterior of the Windham Store in Merry Oaks.

A variety of styles appeared during the late nineteenth and first quarter of the twentieth century in Chatham County. The Queen Anne style was an elaborate late Victorian form distinguished by asymmetrical floor plans and complex massing as well as by the use of a variety of materials, textures, and detail. The Queen Anne style reached its zenith in the county during the early years of the twentieth century. This was quickly followed by the Colonial Revival, a more sedate, blocky style with a reinterpretation of Colonial American plans and details. Many houses combined elements of both the Colonial Revival and the Oueen Anne.

Several exceptional school buildings were erected in the county during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries which express a consciousness of style. One such school is the Lawrence School near Corinth, built ca. 1911. This one-story, weatherboarded-frame school was visually enhanced by the use of a front porch with Tuscan columns, a central entrance flanked by two pairs of large, nine-over-nine sash windows, and a decorative cupola. All schools were log or frame until 1919, when brick was used for the Brickhaven School. As the twentieth century progressed, more brick schools were erected.

Churches inspired by the Gothic Revival style were commonly found in the Chatham landscape during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Characteristics of these frame structures include nave plans, dominating multi-stage towers, and lancet-arched fenestration. Examples include the Ebenezer Methodist Church near Merry Oaks and the Merry Oaks Baptist Church. After the Depression and World War II, the Colonial Revival style was popularly used for churches.

By the 1920s, bungalows in the Craftsman style had become the

popular house type in Chatham County. Bungalows were one or one-and-a-half stories and were characterized by informal plans, low gabled roofs with widely overhanging eaves and exposed roof rafters, decorative braces under the gables, and heavy, tapered porch posts. The bungalow remained the model for domestic architecture in the county through the 1930s, and only really went out of fashion when it was replaced by the ranch house of the post-World War II period.

The project area may have included many of the earlier period styles and building forms just described, but physical evidence is elusive. One of the earliest houses is the Ruffin Prince House, a vernacular coastal cottage dwelling with simple transitional Federal-Greek Revival detailing which appears to date from the mid-nineteenth century. The other historic building stock in the project area--which includes houses, churches, schools, and commercial buildings--dates from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

VI. METHODOLOGY

Primary and Secondary Sources Reviewed:

Documentary research was conducted at the Survey and Planning Branch of the Division of Archives and History; at the State Archives; at the public libraries in Pittsboro and Forsyth County; and at the Chatham County Courthouse. Documentary resources which were used can be grouped into three general types: 1) historic survey files; 2) county and local histories; and 3) miscellaneous materials. Particularly useful were the historic survey files for Wake and Chatham counties, The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina, and Martha Harrington's Yesterday. For a complete listing of the documentary sources used in the preparation of this report, refer to the Bibliography on p. 87.

Previous Architectural and Historic Structures Surveyed:
Between 1982 and 1986 Rachel Osborne conducted an historic architectural survey of Chatham County, in which she recorded 545 properties and groups of properties. Ten of those properties were in the area surveyed for this project, and eight others were within a three-mile radius of the project site boundary. The survey publication, The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina, was especially helpful in gaining an overview of the historical and architectural development of Chatham County and of the project area in particular.

Between 1988 and 1991 Kelly Lally conducted an historic architectural survey of Wake County, in which she recorded more than 2000 properties and groups of properties in the county excluding Raleigh. Three of those properties were in the area surveyed for this project, and five others were within a three-mile radius of the project site boundary. Lally's draft survey report was useful in understanding this area of Wake County and its historic resources.

No properties in the area have been recorded by either the Historic American Building Survey or by the Historic American Engineering Record, and none have been locally designated as historic properties or districts. No properties in the area surveyed for this project have either been listed in the National Register or placed on North Carolina's Study List for the National Register.

Local Authorities and Historical Groups Contacted:
Historians familiar with the area and other local informants were indispensable in gaining a better understanding of the historic resources within the project survey area. Discussions with several of these people took place during the course of the survey. The Bibliography, pp. 87-88, provides an annotated listing of those people whose information proved to be the most

pertinent to the study.

Description of Survey Techniques and Intensity:

The survey of historic and architectural resources in the project area included background research, field activities, analysis, and report preparation. The survey was conducted according to the requirements of "Description of Services Required for Consideration of Cultural Resources in the Preparation of Environmental Documents" (Part VII, Historic Architectural Resources). "Guidelines for the Preparation of Reports of Historic Structures Surveys and Evaluations Submitted to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office" was also utilized. (See Bibliography for full citations.) In preparation for the work, a Quality Assurance indoctrination training session was attended at the offices of Law Engineering in Raleigh.

Background Research

Background research began with a literature/records search to compile information for the development of historic contexts specific to the project area. For the research phase, the project area was considered to include not only the Site itself and the likely access roads within a three-mile radius of the Site boundary, but also everything within that three-mile radius. Indeed, some aspects of the research included an even broader area necessary for understanding the overall history and architectural history of the area under study. Files at the Survey and Planning Branch of the Division of Archives and History were reviewed for previous survey and National Register work in the project area, and documentary resources at the State Archives were explored for materials pertaining to the project area. Later, during field activities, local documentary resources were investigated and local informants were interviewed.

Field Activities

Preparation for the field activities included a series of consultations. The survey was coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to ensure appropriate coverage of the designated areas. (See Appendix, pp. 94-97 for the November 19, 1992, letter from the Consultant to Renee Gledhill-Earley and the December 23, 1992, response.) Consultation with the SHPO continued as useful and appropriate throughout the course of the survey, including an informal meeting with SHPO staff to review the results of the survey and analysis by the Consultant prior to preparation of the draft survey report. The project archaeologists were consulted concerning any data collected during their site survey that would be pertinent to the historic structures survey. Dames and Moore personnel were also consulted concerning any data collected during their land use surveys that might be useful in conducting the historic structures survey. (The consultations with the archaeologists and with Dames and Moore personnel did not prove

to be particularly useful regarding the historic structures survey.)

Actual field activities began with a reconnaissance survey of the general project area to gain an understanding of its physical environment and of the nature of the historic and architectural resources found therein. The subsequent survey work was conducted within the boundaries of the Site and along the likely access roads (US 1, NC 42, SR 1011, SR 1916) within a three-mile radius of the site. This "area of potential effect" was determined by the Client (Law Engineering) in agreement with Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc. and was so-stated in the contract with Along the likely access roads, only those the Consultant. properties which were adjacent to or oriented toward the roads were included in the survey. All properties which appeared to be at least fifty years old were identified, photographed, and their locations were mapped on USGS maps. A list of these properties is provided in the Appendix. The USGS maps showing locations are part of the package provided to the SHPO. From the 71 properties in this category, twelve appeared to be potentially eligible for the National Register and were revisited for further recording. Each of these was more intensively surveyed with additional photographs, the sketching of a site plan, the completion of a North Carolina Historic Structures Data Sheet, and additional documentary and oral research. Interiors were inspected whenever possible. Three properties recently surveyed in Wake County were re-checked for a site update.

Analysis
Following the background research and the field activities, the significance of each of the twelve surveyed properties or groups of properties (plus the three properties recently recorded as part of the Wake County historic architectural survey) was evaluated according to the National Register criteria and the historic contexts for the project area. In this way, three were considered to be eligible for the National Register, and twelve were considered not eligible. Eligible boundaries were then determined for those properties considered eligible for the National Register, and the potential effects of the proposed project on these properties were assessed.

VII. PROPERTY INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS

Total Properties Recorded:

Eligible for National Register

- 17. (CH 167) Lawrence School, pp. 29-33
- 33. (CH 172) Brickhaven School, pp. 34-39
- 71. (CH 191) Merry Oaks Historic District, pp. 40-51

Not Eligible for National Register

- 1. (CH 194) Christian Chapel Christian Church, pp. 52-54
- 2. (CH 163) Thomas A. Ausley House, pp. 55-57
- 3. (CH 164) John Williams House (Smith House), pp. 58-60
- 4. (CH 165) Ruffin Prince House (Denton Cross House), pp. 61-63
- 16. (CH 170) Thomas Fred Cross House, pp. 64-67
- 18. Marks-Harrington House, pp. 68-70
- 19. (CH 168) Lawrence-Harrington Tenant House, pp. 71-73
- 20. James Rufus Marks House, pp. 74-76
- 31-32. (CH 171) Cherokee Brick Company Tenant Houses, pp. 77-80
 - 68. (WA 1088) Shady Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, p. 81
 - 69. (WA 1091) Bonsal Stores and Houses, pp. 82-83
 - 70. (WA 2259) North Carolina Railroad Museum (Bonsal Railroad Museum), p. 84

Property Descriptions and Evaluations: Eligible Properties

17. (CH 167) Lawrence School

S side SR 1916, 0.4 mi W of jct w/NC 42

The Lawrence School was built ca. 1911, and photographs taken during the 1910s indicate that, except for deterioration, the building remains remarkably true to its original form and detail. It is a one-story, weatherboarded frame structure with a gable roof, boxed eaves with a frieze board and corner returns, fivepanel doors, and nine-over-nine sash windows. Several features of the exterior are particularly outstanding. Rising from the center of the roof is a square cupola with diamond-shaped ventilators and a pyramidal roof with tall finial. The focal point of the facade is the treatment of the central porch. features a hipped roof and Tuscan columns and shelters a fivepanel-door entrance with transom, flanked by pairs of tall, nineover-nine sash windows. The east end of the school building is treated as a secondary facade with its central door flanked by nine-over-nine sash windows and its gable end suggesting a pedimented temple front. A shed addition runs across the rear of the building and is believed locally to have been built in later years when the building was used as a tenant house. The interior of the school was not available for inspection. Behind the school is a collapsed frame outbuilding, whose former use is A dirt lane runs from the main road along the east side of the building, and woods surround the former school on three sides.

The minutes of the Chatham County Board of Education first mention the Lawrence School (District #36) in 1885. It is believed to have been named for John H. Lawrence, who lived down the road and who may have provided land for the school. however, the minutes relate that the board "agreed to pay 1/2 (not over \$200.00) cost of new Lawrence School House." assumed that the present building was constructed that same year or soon thereafter. A photograph of the school taken in 1911 or 1912 reveals that it had not yet been painted. By 1915, however, it had been painted white or a light color with darker trim on the front door. In 1919 the school closed, and School Board minutes add that the school and one and a half acres were sold to E. V. Lawrence for \$325.00. The students who had attended Lawrence School were subsequently split into two groups, with one-half transferring to the new Brickhaven School.

The Lawrence School appears to be eligible for the National Register. It meets Criterion A for its association with early twentieth-century education in Chatham County and for the important role it played in local educational efforts during the 1910s. It meets Criterion C because it is an unusually intact (though deteriorated) example of an early twentieth-century rural

school in North Carolina and demonstrates the attention to detail and embellishment accorded to even small rural schools during the period.



17-A. Lawrence School, context view to SW



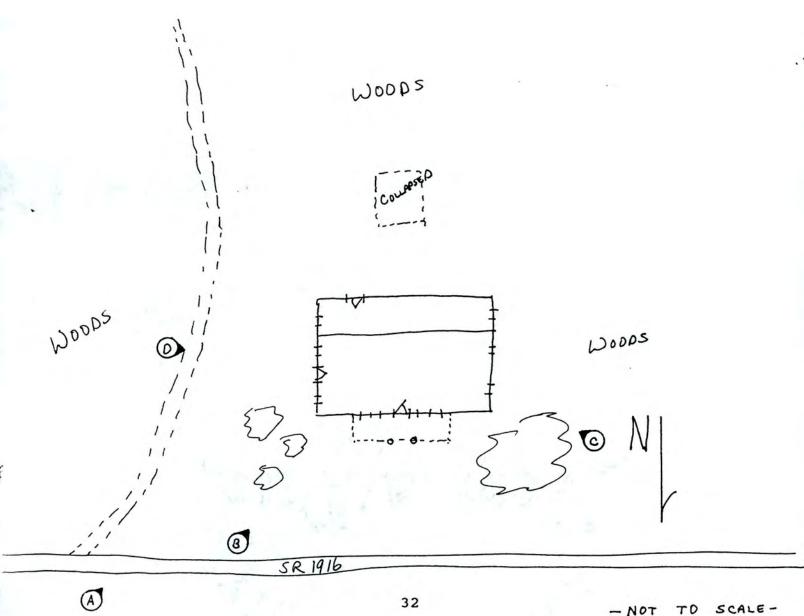
17-B. Lawrence School, overall view to SW



17-C. Lawrence School, overall view to SE



17-D. Lawrence School, E elevation, view to W





33. (CH 172) Brickhaven School

E side SR 1916, 0.4 mi N of jct w/SR 1923

The former Brickhaven School was built ca. 1919 and is a onestory brick structure of rectangular configuration with a
vestibule which projects from the center of the facade. Exterior
features of the symmetrical building include a clipped gable roof
sheathed with metal shingles, a broad front gable faced with
metal shingles which shelters the pair of recessed front
entrances and flanking cloakrooms, segmental-arched windows on
the front and sides of the cloakrooms and on the north and south
building ends, and large banks of windows across the rear. A
stove stack rises from the rear of the building.

The interior is finished with plastered walls and board ceilings. The two small rooms which project from the front of the building were apparently used as cloakrooms. Behind them are the two main classrooms, divided by a central partition of vertical boards topped by a double row of lights forming a transom. A tall, seven-panel door allows passage between the two rooms. The south room was apparently used as a dual classroom and auditorium. The pulley which operated the stage curtain remains near the south end of the room. The north half of the school may originally have been one large classroom matching that of the south half. Later, however, the space was divided by board partitions into one large classroom and two smaller rooms at the north end.

Two privies were once located behind the school near the lane which runs along the south end of the building, but they no longer survive. A large trees flanks the school at its south end, and miscellaneous other trees are found to the sides and rear. A row of apple trees is planted across the front.

The Chatham County Board of Education minutes reveal that in 1919 the nearby Cherokee Brick Company deeded land to the school board, presumably for the site of the new Brickhaven School. Brickhaven School was mentioned for the first time in the minutes that year as being school No. 8. In December of 1919, the first load of brick for the school was delivered. The school opened in 1920 and served until 1929, when the Cape Fear Township schools were consolidated with the school at Moncure. During the 1920s the building functioned not only as the Brickhaven School but was also the scene of many community activities and events, including Boy Scout and other club meetings, ball games, a variety of entertainments, plays, and motion pictures. In fact, local tradition claims that the first moving pictures in Chatham County were shown at the Brickhaven schoolhouse in March of 1921. following year the school acquired a piano. In 1923 Chautauqua programs were held at the school. At some point after the school closed, and for at least the last quarter of a century, it has

been in private ownership. The building appears to have been used only for storage purposes, and thus, other than some deterioration, it has remained unusually intact.

The Brickhaven School appears to be eligible for the National Register. It meets Criterion A for its association with education in Chatham County during the 1920s prior to the consolidation of the Cape Fear Township schools with the school in Moncure. It was the last school built in the township prior to consolidation, and it is the only one of the period constructed of brick, reflecting its important relationship with the brick-making economy of the community it served. Like many other schools of its time, Brickhaven School served more than just the educational needs of the community by providing a place for community functions and entertainments. The school is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, because of its architectural prominence as the only early twentieth-century school constructed of brick in Cape Fear Township, and because it has survived so intact, thus providing an excellent picture of the physical character and organization of an early twentiethcentury school.



33-A. Brickhaven School, overall view to NE



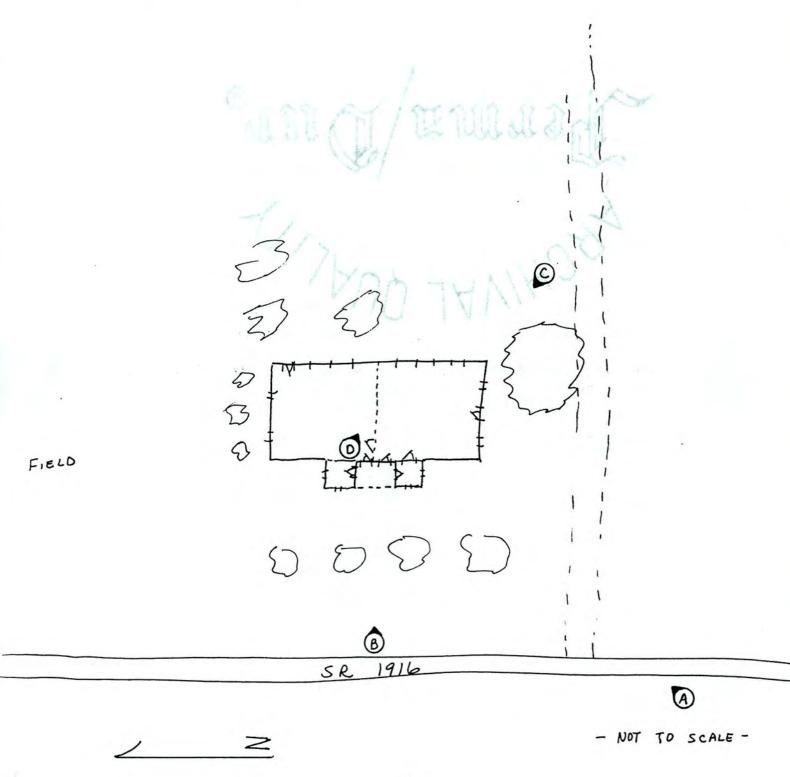
33-B. Brickhaven School, facade, view to E

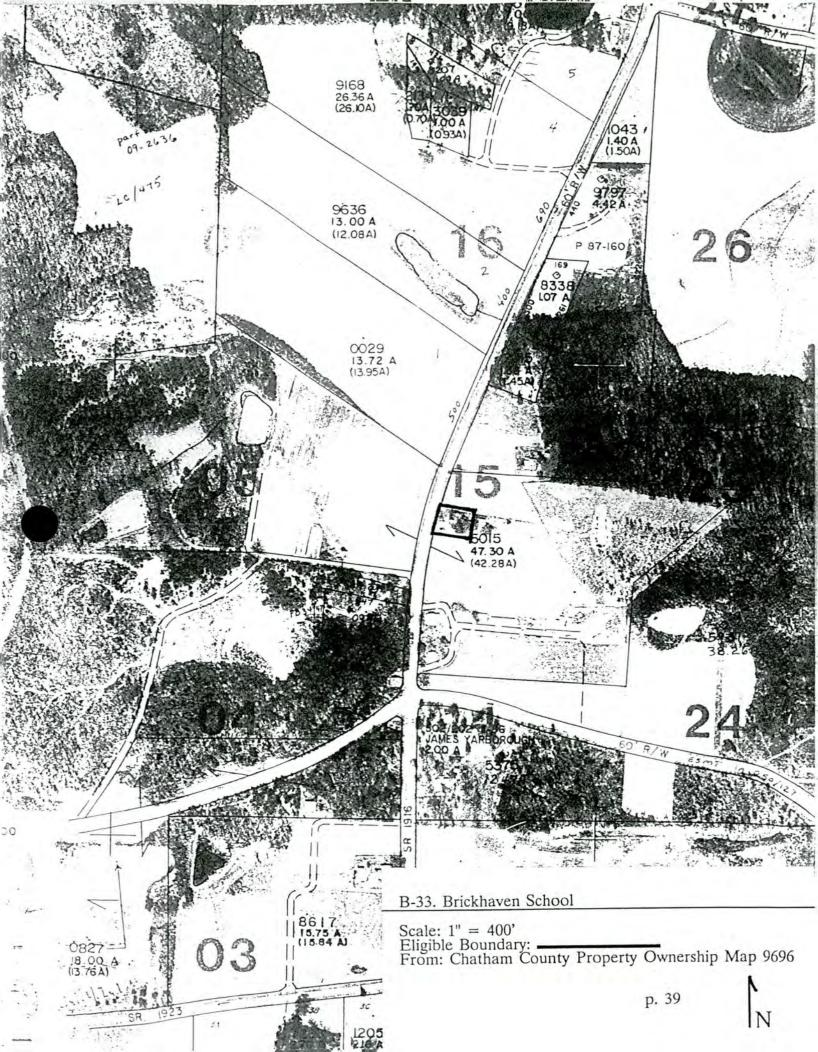


33-C. Brickhaven School, rear view to NW



33-D. Brickhaven School, interior partition





71. (CH 191) Merry Oaks Historic District

Both sides SR 1011, roughly from SR 1910 to SR 1912

The proposed Merry Oaks Historic District consists of the surviving linear core of the late nineteenth-early twentiethcentury community which prospered during the period because of its location along the old Chatham Railroad, which after the turn of the century became the Seaboard Air Line Railroad (now CSX). Later, old US 1 (now SR 1011) paralleled the railroad through the community, providing a major vehicular link with Raleigh and elsewhere. According to local tradition, the Merry Oaks community takes its name from an oak grove in the area which was the site where local Indians gathered for tribal celebrations. Merry Oaks is first mentioned in Branson's North Carolina Business Directory in 1872, at which time a post office and a physician were listed in the community. By the 1877-1878 directory, there were two physicians and eight general stores. In 1890 Merry Oaks was listed in the directory with a population of 150, a post office, two general stores, one physician, and The town was incorporated in 1901, although the four farmers. charter was later repealed. Population reached a maximum of 179 in 1930. Although the railroad depot is gone, and the early twentieth-century high school burned in 1973, many other elements essential to a small community of the period survive. proposed district includes fourteen primary buildings in addition to outbuildings and auxiliary buildings. Of those fourteen, ten contribute to the historic and architectural character of the They include five houses, two stores, one church, one district. post office, and the music building of the former school, all of which date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Almost all are of frame construction. contributing primary structures include three houses and a trailer home. The following is a brief descriptive listing of the fourteen properties in the district, keyed to the district map.

(1) Merry Oaks Baptist Church (52, CH 192) - The Merry Oaks Baptist Church, believed to date from 1888, is a handsome frame church typical of many built in Chatham County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is characterized by a steep gable roof; triangular pediments over the side windows, front entrance, and ventilator; a tower which extends upward from the entrance and is capped by a bell-cast pyramidal roof and finial; and a small rear apse. Alterations include the addition of a small wing on the northeast side; the addition in the mid-1980s of vinyl siding which covers some of the period detailing around the entrance and along the frieze under the eaves; and the remodeling of the interior. Even with these alterations, the church still contributes to the character of the district. The church stands at the corner of SR 1011 and SR

- 1910. Adjacent to the church on the northeast is a onestory Sunday school building.
- (2) House Northeast of the Merry Oaks Baptist Church is a onestory house of modern construction with a separate garage behind it. The house does not contribute to the character of the district.
- (3) Teacherage (53) Northeast of House #2 and set farther back from the road is a plain two-story, weatherboarded frame Ihouse with a three-bay facade, a hip-roofed front porch, and a metal-sheathed gable roof. Probably built in the early twentieth century, it served as a boarding house or "teacherage" for some of the teachers at the Merry Oaks High School which stood next door to the northeast. The Teacherage contributes to the character of the district.
- Music Room, Merry Oaks School (54) East of the Teacherage and close to the road stands a small, board-and-batten frame structure with a gable roof and entrance facing the road and windows along both of the sides. According to local tradition, this was originally located farther back from the road, where it served as the music room building for the early twentieth-century Merry Oaks School. There may have been a school here earlier--in 1901 Merry Oaks was one of six school districts in Chatham County where a library was established -- but a public high school was established in 1907 and functioned until 1929, when Merry Oaks, along with other schools in the township, was consolidated with Moncure The Merry Oaks School was a large two-story structure which burned in 1973. The separate Music Room was all that survived the fire. Subsequent to 1930, it served for some years as the community post office. It contributes to the character of the district.
- (5) <u>House</u> North of the Music Room is brick ranch-style dwelling of modern construction. It does not contribute to the character of the district.
- (6) Windham Store (55) On the north side of SR 1011 and facing its junction with SR 1912 is the ca. 1928 Windham Store. It is a one-story structure with a flat roof, stepped sides, and a three-bay facade with a recessed central entrance. The building is covered with pressed-metal shingles. Typical of country stores of the period, the Windham Store also had gasoline pumps. A low, one-story concrete block addition has been built to the northeast side of the store. Behind the store is a frame shed. After 1958 the store became known as the Lisk Grocery. It no longer operates, but it still contributes to the character of the district.
- (7) Trailer Next to the Windham Store is a trailer home, which

does not contribute to the character of the district.

- (8) Wommack House (56) Up a slight hill behind the trailer is the Wommack House, a small, late nineteenth-century vernacular dwelling. Typical of many of the smaller traditional houses of its period, it is a one-story, single-pile, weatherboarded frame structure with a metal-sheathed gable roof, a gable-end chimney, a symmetrical three-bay facade sheltered by a hip-roofed front porch, and both a rear ell and rear shed rooms. West of the house stand a log smokehouse and a pyramidal-roofed well shed. Across a lane west of the house are two other outbuildings--a frame barn and a smaller frame outbuilding. The Wommack House with its outbuildings contribute to the character of the district.
- (9) Tucker House (57, CH 190) Farther up the hill behind the Wommack House is another small, late nineteenth-century dwelling. The Tucker House is a one-story, weatherboarded frame house with a gable roof, a three-bay facade, a rear ell, and rear shed rooms. It is missing its gable-end chimney. The decorative focal point of the house is the hip-roofed front porch with its latticework balustrade and chamfered posts with fancy capitals created by layers of various sawnwork moldings. Northeast of the house is a frame barn, and behind the house are a frame shed and a frame privy. Its well house and the tobacco barn are gone. The Tucker House contributes to the character of the district.

Southeast of the railroad track and paralleling it can be seen the remains of an old road. Four structures included within the district face this road and the railroad track.

- (10) Merry Oaks Post Office (59, CH 189) On the southeast side of the railroad track and adjacent to SR 1912 is a small, one-story frame structure with a gable-front roof and a hiproofed front porch. The narrow facade has a central entrance flanked by two windows. The simple structure originally served as the early twentieth-century Merry Oaks Post Office and stood across the road to the east. It was doubled in size around the 1940s and converted to use as a rental house. Several years ago, in order to save the building when SR 1912 was realigned, the original front part of the building which had been the post office was moved to its present location. It contributes to the character of the district.
- (11) Edwards House (60, CH 189) Adjacent to the Post Office is the Edwards House, which maintains a long history in the Merry Oaks Community. Local tradition maintains that the house was originally a one-story structure which had been built by the 1870s. Between 1893 and 1915 the house was

enlarged to its present appearance—a two-and-a-half-story frame dwelling of Colonial Revival—style influence with a steep gable roof, gable—end chimneys, three tall gabled dormers across the facade, a one—story wrap—around porch with a second—story center—bay porch of classical influence, and a one—story rear ell. The earliest known owner of the house was a Mrs. Edwards, who operated a hotel and boarding house there. Some of the occupants were teachers at the Merry Oaks School across the railroad track. The Edwards House contributes to the character of the district.

- (12) Yates Store (61, CH 189) Next to the Edwards House is the late nineteenth-century Yates Store, an usually wellpreserved commercial structure of the period. An 1893 photograph of the store shows that at that point it consisted of the main two-story body of the building. The two-story section is characterized by weatherboard siding, a steep front-gable roof, a three-bay facade with a central entrance, and a two-tier front porch with handsome posts similar to those on the Tucker House (9). Soon after the construction of the two-story section, a one-story section was added to the southwest side of the store. It continues the porch detailing of the two-story section on its onestory, shed-roofed front porch. A parapeted false front projects above the porch, lending extra height to this section of the store. The windows along the southwest side are treated with awning-like hoods. The store building is now used as an art studio. It continues to contribute to the character of the district.
- (13) House (62) Southwest of the Yates Store is a one-story, German-sided frame structure with a broad gable roof and a side shed. Now used as a house, its original use and date of construction remain uncertain. It does not contribute to the character of the district.
- (14) Allen House (51, CH 193) Farther southwest, and separated from the Edwards/Yates complex by woods, is the Allen House, which faces the railroad track at the southwest end of the district. Its original owner is not known. It is a farmstead which appears to have been built during the late nineteenth century and probably constitutes one of the Merry Oaks farms mentioned in Branson's North Carolina Business The house is a one-story vernacular dwelling Directory. with a three-bay facade, a gable roof with cornice returns, gable-end brick chimneys, and a rear ell. The decorative focal point of the exterior is the hip-roofed front porch, which boasts slender paired posts, fancy sawnwork brackets, and a latticework balustrade. The central double-leaf entrance is flanked by sidelights. Behind the house are numerous outbuildings which appear to date from the twentieth century. The Allen House contributes to the

character of the district.

The Merry Oaks Historic District appears to be eligible for the National Register. It meets Criterion A because it represents well a late nineteenth and early twentieth-century rural community whose growth was fostered primarily by the arrival of the railroad. Only that part of the community which retains its historic integrity and still clearly conveys the sense of a late nineteenth-early twentieth-century rural railroad community is included in the proposed district. The district also meets Criterion C for National Register eligibility because of its excellent grouping of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century rural community building types, including a church, two stores, a post office, a school music building, a teacherage, a combination hotel and boarding house, and several individual houses with their accompanying outbuildings. These vernacular buildings are well-preserved and represent a variety of stylistic influences popular during the period, including Gothic Revival, miscellaneous late Victorian, and Colonial Revival.



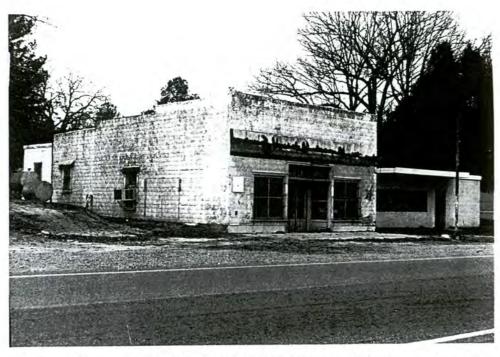
71-A. Merry Oaks Historic District, Merry Oaks Baptist Church, view to N $\,$



71-B. Merry Oaks Historic District, Teacherage, view to $_{\mbox{\scriptsize NW}}$



71-C. Merry Oaks Historic District, Music Room, Merry Oaks High School, view to N



71-D. Merry Oaks Historic District, Windham Store, view to N $\,$



71-E. Merry Oaks Historic District, Wommack House, view to NW



71-F. Merry Oaks Historic District, Tucker House, view to \mbox{W}



71-G. Merry Oaks Historic District, Merry Oaks Post Office, view to S



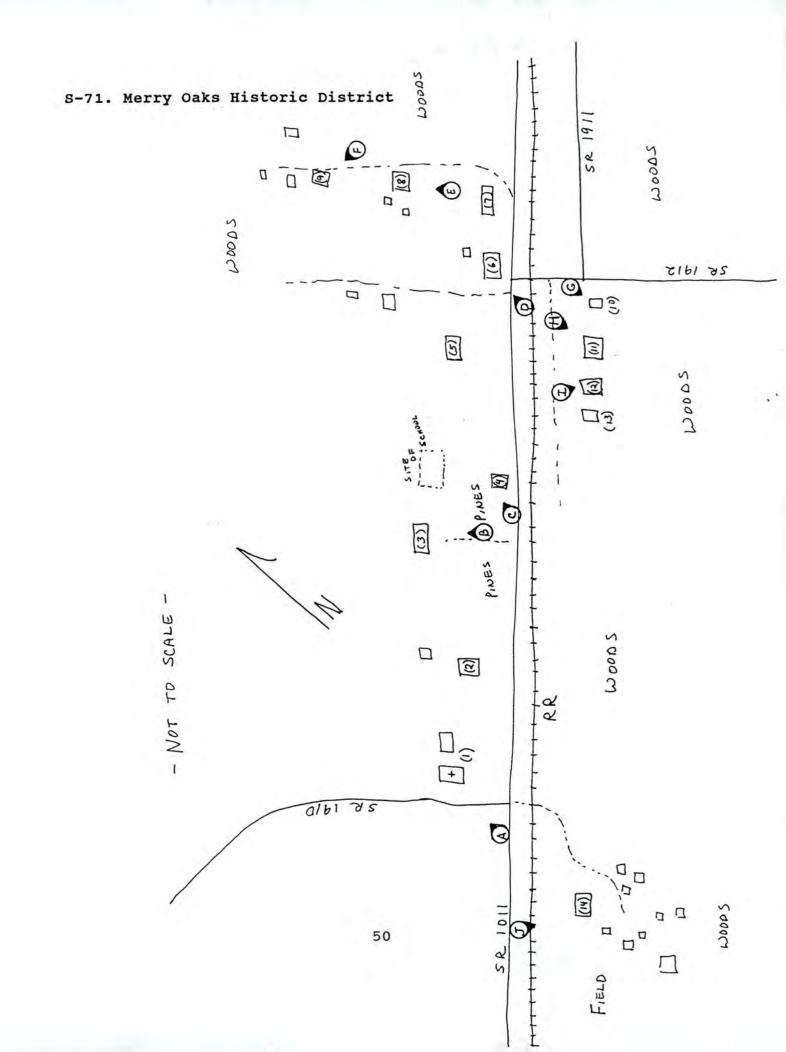
71-H. Merry Oaks Historic District, Edwards House, view to S

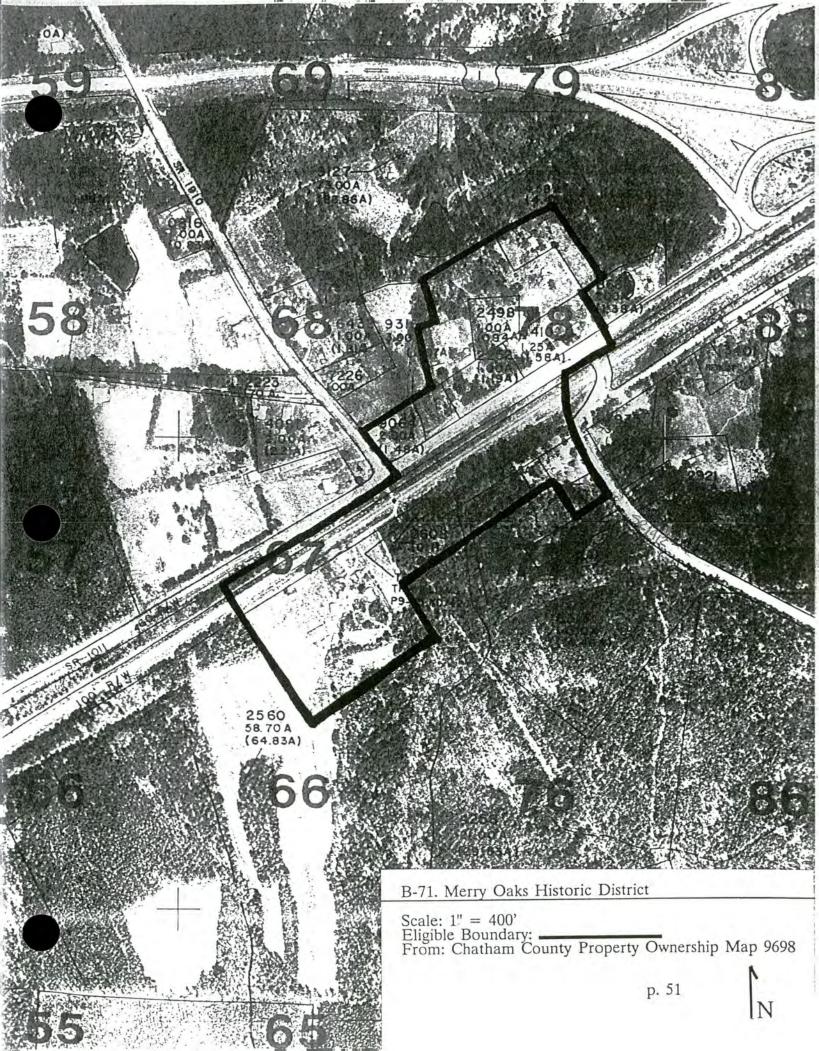


71-I. Merry Oaks Historic District, Yates Store, view to SE



71-J. Merry Oaks Historic District, Allen House, view to SE





Property Descriptions and Evaluations: Non-eligible Properties

1. (CH 194) Christian Chapel Christian Church

SW side SR 1912, 2.0 mi N of jct w/NC 42

Christian Chapel Christian Church is a gable-front frame church typical of many built in Chatham County during the early twentieth century. It features a two-stage corner tower with bell-cast roof and decorative wood finial, round-arched sash windows, gabled hoods over the front and side entrances, and a small three-sided apse projecting from the rear.

Alterations include the addition of vinyl siding over the original weatherboards and the squaring off and enclosure with vertical vinyl siding of the attic-level segmental-arched louvered vents on front, rear, and tower as well as the round louvered vent on the second stage of the tower. The decorative wood shingles of the upper tower have also been hidden beneath the vinyl siding. Other changes include replacement of the metal-sheathed roof with asphalt, the addition of a handicap ramp on the northwest side, and the remodeling of the interior. Extending from the southeast side of the church is a one-story wing addition, beyond which a separate frame picnic shelter has been built.

A cemetery is laid out northwest of the church, and most of the graves date from the 1870s to the 1920s, although some date from post 1950. The cemetery rows are so straight that they appear to have been realigned in recent years, and many of the stones appear to have been replaced with simple concrete markers.

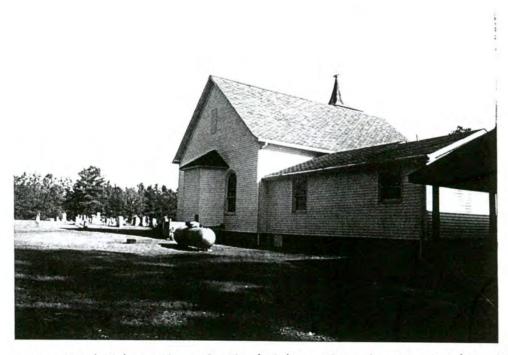
The church and cemetery are sited far back from the road, and the church grounds are nearly surrounded by trees. The property is located adjacent to the Site Administrative Center.

The Christian Chapel congregation dates back to the 1840s, but the present church building was erected in 1915 after the earlier church on the site was destroyed by a wind storm on May 7, 1915. Until the new building was completed, the congregation held services at the nearby Buckhorn Methodist Church. The church is historically associated with the Christian church movement which was strongest in this section of Chatham County.

The Christian Chapel Christian Church does not appear to be eligible for the National Register. It does not meet the criteria considerations necessary for a religious property to be eligible under Criterion A, B, or D, and its diminished architectural integrity due to alterations and additions prevents its potential eligibility under Criterion C.

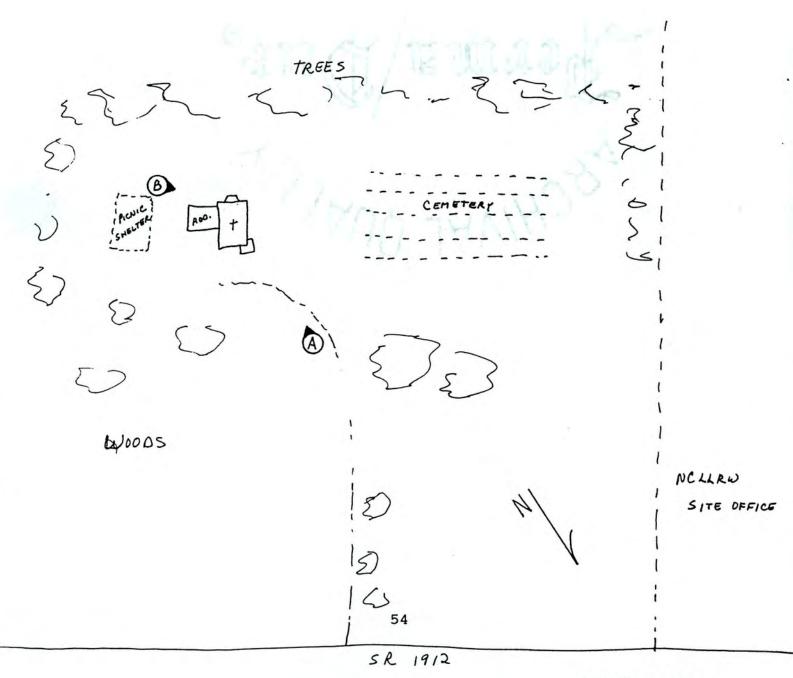


1-A. Christian Chapel Christian Church, overall view to ${\bf S}$



1-B. Christian Chapel Christian Church, rear view to ${\tt N}$

S-1. Christian Chapel Christian Church



2. (CH 163) Thomas A. Ausley House

NE side NC 42, 1.5 mi SE of jct w/SR 1912

The Thomas A. Ausley House appears to have been built around the turn of the twentieth century. It is a two-story, single-pile, weatherboarded frame house with a triple-A gable roof, gable-end brick chimneys (in a state of disrepair), a three-bay facade, a one-story rear shed room, and a one-story rear ell with corner pantry and engaged side porch. Other features include a decoratively shingled front gable, boxed eaves with corner returns and a wide frieze board, two-over-two sash windows with plain surrounds, sidelights at both front and rear doors, a stone and brick rear chimney, and a stone pier foundation. story rear section of the house retains a metal-sheathed roof, but the two-story roof is covered with asphalt shingles. hipped roof front porch and the ell porch both have plain replacement posts and balustrades. (Posts on the front had been turned, while those on the rear had been chamfered.) interior of the house was not available for inspection, but is said to contain a center hall (as one would expect with this house type).

The Ausley House sits on a rise above the road and has a bare yard with a scattering of trees. The only outbuildings which accompany the house are a well shed and two dilapidated rear privies.

Little is known about the history of this house, except that its past is locally associated with the Thomas A. Ausley family. Like many of his neighbors, Ausley was an active member of Buckhorn Church. A small nearby cemetery contains (among a few others) the graves of Thomas A. Ausley (1862-1951) and Zilla Annie Ausley (1867-1945).

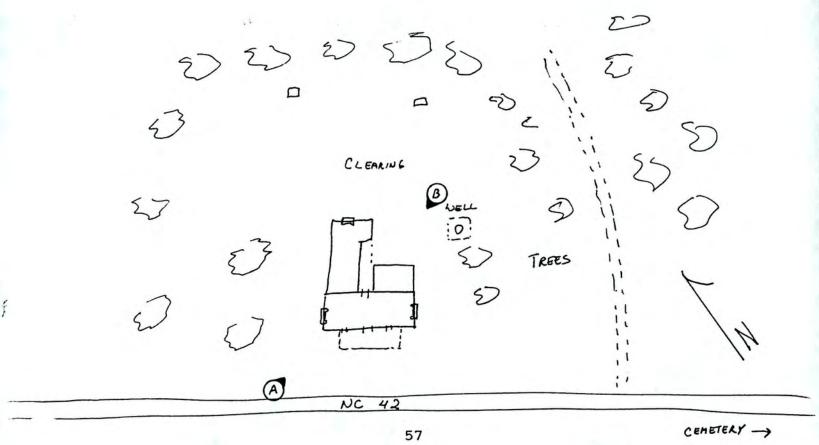
The Thomas A. Ausley House does not appear to be eligible for the National Register. There are no known events or people of historic significance associated with the house, so that it does not meet Criterion A or B. As a common house type for turn-of-the-century North Carolina which has deteriorated and been altered, it neither appears to serve as a prime example of the type or to be of individual architectural significance, and therefore does not meet Criterion C. The archaeological contexts remain undetermined.



2-A. Thomas A. Ausley House, overall view to E



2-B. Thomas A. Ausley House, rear view to W



If the production

3. (CH 164) John Williams House (Smith House)

S side NC 42, at jct w/SR 1912

The John Williams House is an asymmetrical, one-story, weatherboarded frame dwelling which appears to have been built during the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The house has a broad, metal-sheathed, gable roof with a broad front cross gable, a three-bay facade with an off-center front door, both exterior and interior rubble stone and brick chimneys, a porch which wraps around the front and northeast side, and a rear ell with an open porch along the northeast side and an enclosed porch along the southwest side. Original windows are four-over-four sash with plain surrounds. Late Victorian period detailing appears in the sawnwork brackets and friezes of the porches and in the pointed-arched louvered attic vents. The exterior of the house seems to be relatively intact.

The interior was not available for inspection. However, judging from the comments of the tenant, the interior has seen more changes than has the exterior. According to the tenant, the southwest mantel has been replaced by a brick mantel, the ceilings have been lowered in most rooms, and some plywood paneling has been installed.

The house is surrounded by several large trees and sits atop a hill overlooking NC 42 at its junction with SR 1912. Despite the commanding position of the house, the character of its setting is diminished by the overgrown fields which surround the house and by the present preponderance of yard junk. Southwest and downhill from the house is a metal-sheathed barn. Spread out along the southwest side of the yard is a collection of small sheds and animal pens, apparently of recent origin.

Little is known about the history of the house. According to Louise Williams, an elderly neighbor who grew up in the area, the house is believed to have been originally owned by John Williams.

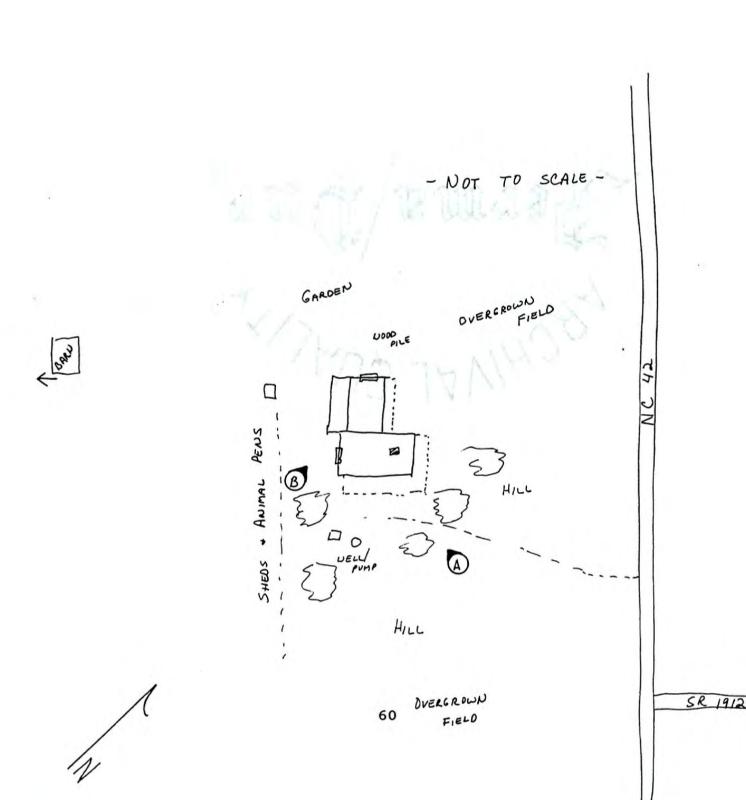
The John Williams House does not appear to meet the criteria for National Register eligibility because of lack of historical significance and diminished architectural integrity. It is not associated with events or people of historical significance (Criteria A and B), it is neither an individually outstanding house architecturally or a prime example of a common house type (Criterion C), and its archaeological contexts remain undetermined.



3-A. John Williams House, overall view to W



3-B. John Williams House, overall view to NE



4. (CH 165) Ruffin Prince House (Denton Cross House)

N side NC 42, 0.25 mi W of jct w/SR 1912

The Ruffin Prince House is a one-story, weatherboarded frame dwelling which appears to have been built during the midnineteenth century. The house exhibits the vernacular coastal cottage form with its gable roof of double pitch and its engaged front porch balanced by rear shed rooms. Typical of the period, the front porch wall is flush-sheathed. Based on 1982 survey notes made by Rachel Osborne as part of her historic survey of Chatham County, the interior is arranged in a two-room, hall-and-parlor plan, and detailing of the mantel and of the door and window surrounds reflects the transition from the Federal to the Greek Revival styles. A wing added to the east side of the house ca. 1926 nearly doubled its size. The house has replacement front porch posts, a brick stove stack on the west end which replaced the former stone chimney, and an added shed porch across the rear of the original section. The house is deteriorated.

The Prince House stands on a slight hill overlooking NC 42. Two log tobacco barns and one frame tobacco pack house formerly stood northeast of the house, but today no outbuildings survive. Instead, the house is accompanied by a small trailer home to the west, a double-wide home to the rear, and a frame cottage to the northeast.

Little is known about the history of the house. Black farmer Denton Cross moved to the house around 1923 and later purchased the property. He added the east side wing. According to Cross's daughters, who reside in the surrounding trailers, the first known owner of the house was Ruffin Prince. By 1858 he was a member of Buckhorn Church and later served as one of the trustees of that church, although he was buried at Christian Chapel Church. Between 1969 and 1886 Ruffin Prince deeded three tracts of land to nearby Princes Chapel for that church. The old road in front of Ruffin Prince's house turned and went alongside the house where the driveway now is and came out at the church.

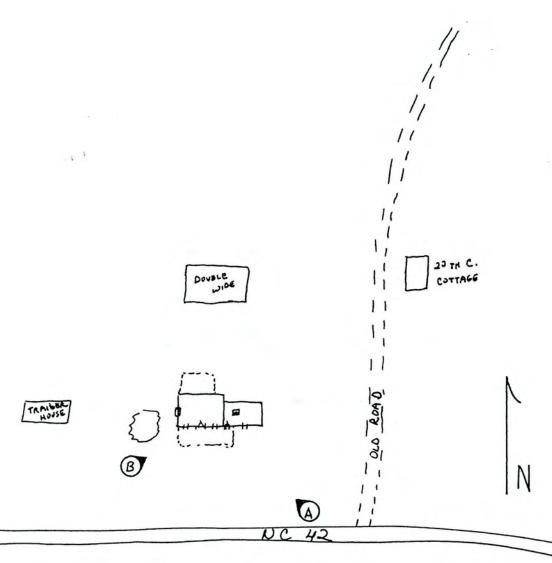
The Ruffin Prince House does not appear to be eligible for the National Register. It is not associated with known historic events or with people of transcendent historical significance. Although it seems to be one of the oldest houses in the area and represents the coastal cottage house type, its alterations and deteriorated condition prevent it from being a prime example of the type. The archaeological contexts remain undetermined.



4-A. Ruffin Prince House, overall view to NW



4-B. Ruffin Prince House, overall view to NE



16. (CH 170) Thomas Fred Cross House

N side NC 42, 0.1 mi E of jct w/SR 1916

The early twentieth-century Thomas Fred Cross House is an L-shaped, two-story, frame house largely devoid of exterior ornamentation. It features German siding, a gabled roof with boxed eaves and corner returns, interior chimneys, two-over-two sash windows, a hip-roofed one-story front porch with square posts, a west side porch with lattice trim, and rear shed rooms. Although the interior was not available for inspection, previous survey work by Rachel Osborne reports that the house has a center hall, tongue-and-groove board sheathing, plain mantels, and a parlor ceiling made decorative by the pattern created by the boards.

A photograph of the house and the Cross family made ca. 1910 reveals that the architectural character of the house has been greatly diminished subsequent to that time due to alterations. The early photograph of the house shows that originally it had weatherboard siding, louvered window shutters, and a front porch decorated with turned posts, sawnwork brackets and frieze, and a balustrade with turned balusters. The well shed was an open structure with a pedimented gable roof, plain posts, and lattice-It stood in front of the southwest corner of the work brackets. Running across the front yard was a decorative fence with pickets of graduated lengths. More than one paint color was used to enhance the decorative qualities of the house. Now the fence, the decorative porch features, and the shutters are all gone, and the well shed has been moved around to the west side of the house, partially enclosed, and attached to the house to create the side porch. The weatherboarding has been replaced in recent years with the present German siding, and the house is painted a stark white.

Several outbuildings remain with the Cross House. West of the house is a large and handsome L-shaped barn with gabled roof, side passage, and side sheds. Directly behind the house is a small, board-and-batten smokehouse with a widely overhanging front gable. Northeast of the house is a log tobacco barn. Current landscape features include a circular front drive, scattered trees in the yard which surrounds the house, and woods bordering the three sides of the yard away from the road.

This was originally the home of Thomas Fred Cross (1875-1961), his wife, Rose Alberta Lawrence (1882-1963), and their eight children, who were born between 1905 and 1926. Cross was a farmer and a member of Buckhorn Church. The house remains in the ownership of one of Fred and Alberta Cross's children and is occupied by another.

The Thomas Fred Cross House still maintains a relatively strong

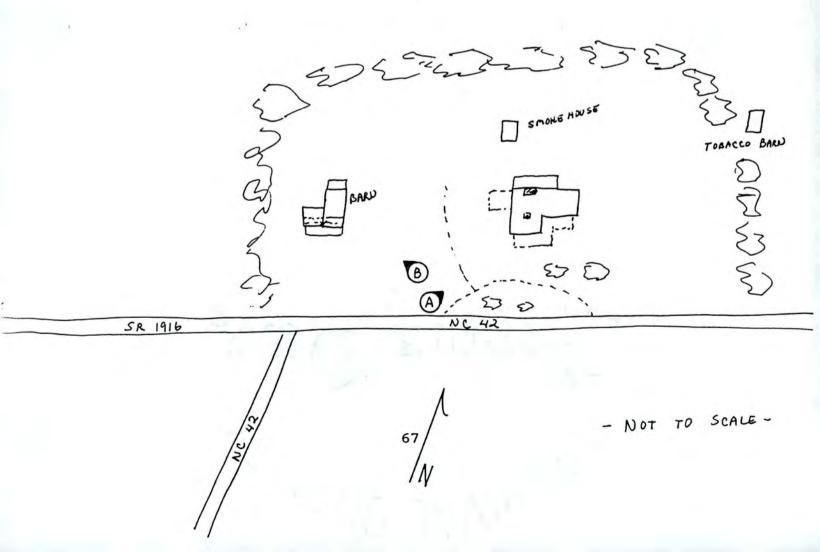
physical presence near the junction of NC 42 and SR 1916, in part because of its substantial barn. Nevertheless, the house does not appear to be eligible for the National Register due to its significant loss of integrity of architectural design, made apparent by comparison with an early photograph of the house. In addition, the house does not appear to be associated with people or events of transcendent historical significance, and the archaeological contexts remain undetermined.



16-A. Thomas Fred Cross House, overall view to N



16-B. Thomas Fred Cross House, barn, view to W



18. Marks-Harrington House

N side SR 1916, 0.5 mi W of jct w/NC 42

The Marks-Harrington House is a late nineteenth-century, one-story frame, vernacular dwelling. It features a brick foundation, weatherboard siding, a metal-sheathed gable roof with boxed eaves and corner returns, a center-front gable with a decorative ventilator, and gable-end brick chimneys. The hipped-roof porch across the three-bay facade has been partially enclosed and screened-in, and the shed porch which runs along the rear of the main section of the house and the west side of the rear ell has been enclosed. The interior of the house has been heavily remodeled with numerous alterations.

Outbuildings consist of a dilapidated smokehouse northwest of the house and two modern sheds east and northeast of the house. A variety of trees are scattered around the yard, which is bordered on three sides by woods.

Harrington family tradition claims that the original owner of the house was Joe Marks (1849-1920). He married Sarah Cross in 1870, and they had nine children born between 1871 and 1887. Family tradition continues that by 1895 Arthur F. "Bud" Harrington (1869-1947) had purchased the house. In that year he married Mary Luola Lawrence (1875-1933), and subsequently they had seven children. A. F. Harrington is believed to have added the rear ell. The house remains in Harrington family ownership and occupancy.

The Marks-Harrington House does not appear to be eligible for the National Register. It is not associated with known events or people of historical significance, eliminating Criteria A and B. It is not a significant individual architectural expression, but is representative of a common vernacular house type of the period. It has, however, undergone too many alterations to constitute a prime example of the type and therefore is not eligible under Criterion C. The archaeological contexts remain undetermined.

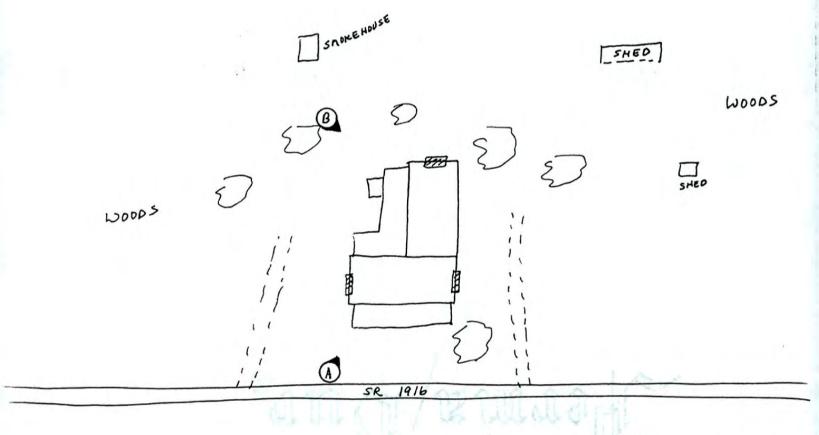


18-A. Marks-Harrington House, overall view to NE



18-B. Marks-Harrington House, rear view to SE

100DS



70

- NOT TO SCALE -

19. (CH 168) Lawrence-Harrington Tenant House (House)

N side SR 1916, 0.7 mi W of jct w/NC 42

This small, one-story, board-and-batten frame house has a stone pier foundation, a metal-sheathed gable roof with a rear shed extension, a shed-roofed front porch, and a gable-end stone chimney. A central batten door is found on front and rear elevations, and the few windows are six-pane single sash. Inside, the house exhibits a variety of modern materials and has a plywood partition dividing the front section into two rooms. The house is unoccupied and deteriorated. It stands in a clearing in the woods uphill from SR 1916 and adjacent to a midtwentieth-century house.

Local tradition asserts that this was one of four tenant houses owned first by J. H. Lawrence (who owned a nearby house which no longer stands) and later by A. F. Harrington (#18), who lived east of the tenant house and the Lawrence house.

The Marks-Harrington Tenant House does not appear to be eligible for the National Register. Although the house is associated with tenant farming, which became widespread during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it does not possess the quality of significance and level of integrity necessary for National Register eligibility. By itself (without other tenant houses or accompanying farm land) and in its present deteriorated condition, it does not constitute a prime example of this oncecommon house form. It does not meet, therefore, Criterion A or C. It does not meet Criterion B, because it is not associated with people of transcendent historical significance, and the archaeological contexts remain undetermined.

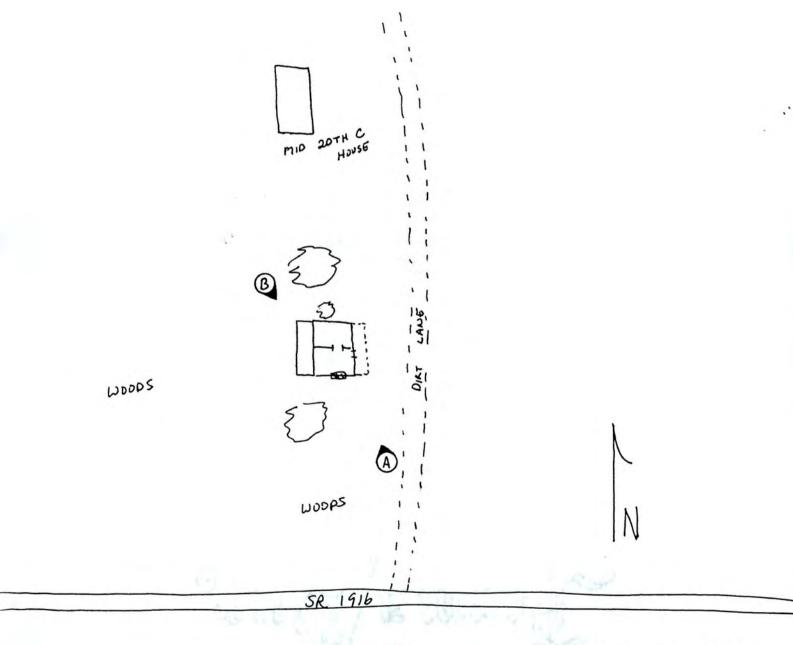


19-A. Lawrence-Harrington Tenant House, overall view to $_{\mbox{\scriptsize NW}}$



19-B. Lawrence-Harrington Tenant House, rear view to SE

19. Lawrence-Harrington Tenant House



20. James Rufus Marks House

E side SR 1916, 1.2 mi NW of jct w/NC 42

The James Rufus Marks House is a late nineteenth or early twentieth century one-story frame house with broad side gables and a center front pedimented gable. The house is unusual in that it has a long recessed front porch and because it gives the overall impression of being symmetrical in design, though it is not. The "central" chimney is slightly off-center, and the doors and windows of the facade are irregularly placed. The front porch retains its simple chamfered posts, although another slender framework, possibly to support screening, has been added. What appears to be an original ell extends from the south end of the rear of the house. It has a porch on either side (now enclosed on the south side). A shorter ell--apparently an addition--has been attached to the northeast corner of the rear Its construction is different from that found on of the house. the rest of the house, which consists of weatherboards laid over vertical board planking. The interior of the house was not available for full inspection, although modern celotex ceilings could be seen in at least part of the house. The house is unoccupied and deteriorated. It is surrounded by several trees and open fields. No outbuildings remain with the house.

Local tradition claims that the house was first owned by James Rufus Marks (1857-1920), brother of Joe Marks of the Marks-Harrington House (# 18). James Rufus Marks married Mary Elizabeth Buchanan in 1882, and between 1884 and 1902 they had ten children. Little else is known about Marks or the history of the house.

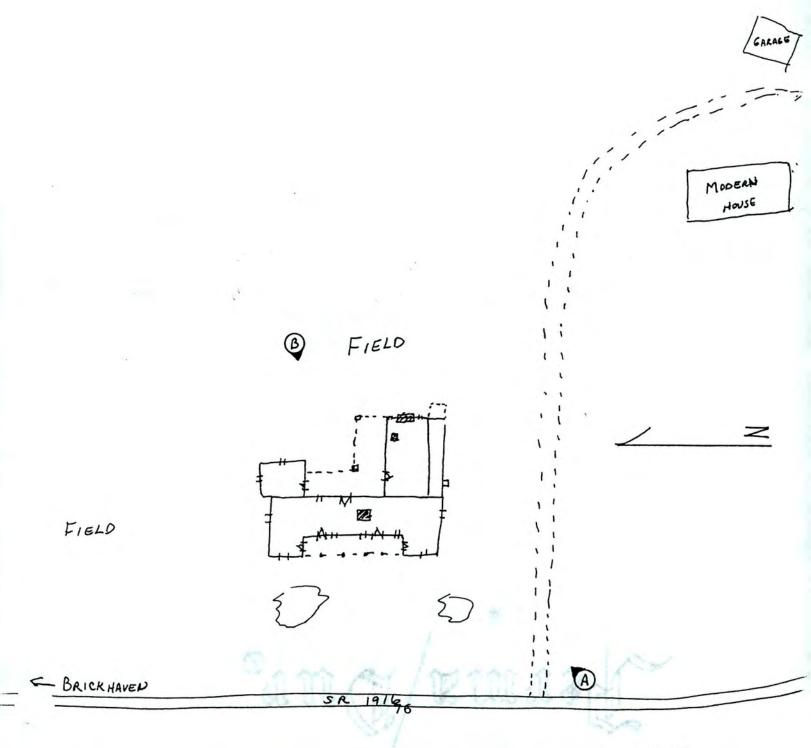
The James Rufus Marks House does not appear to be eligible for the National Register. It is associated with no known historical event (Criterion A) or person of transcendent importance (Criterion B). Although its design is unusual in some respects, the house appears to possess neither the quality of architectural significance nor the physical integrity to enable it to meet Criterion C for National Register eligibility. The archaeological contexts remain undetermined.



20-A. James Rufus Marks House, overall view to NE



20-B. James Rufus Marks House, rear view to SW



31-32. (CH 171) Cherokee Brick Company Tenant Houses

E side SR 1916, 0.25 mi N of jct w/SR 1923

The former Cherokee Brick Company Tenant Houses are two adjacent one-story brick dwellings built during the 1910s. Located close to the road, they are surrounded by a variety of trees. Each has a broad gable roof with widely overhanging eaves and diamond-shaped attic vents, interior chimneys, segmental-arched windows with two-over-two sash, and a shed-roofed front porch.

House #31 is less altered than house #32, but is more deteriorated and is currently used for farm-related storage. House #31 retains its large, triangular eaves brackets and has a rear shed porch. Its facade is asymmetrical, having a central door with one window on the south side and a pair of windows on the north side. The interior has an irregular plan, and much of the plaster has fallen from the walls. Behind the house is a small brick outbuilding whose original use is unknown.

Like its neighbor to the south, house #32 has an asymmetrical facade, with one window on the north side of the central door and two windows (but not an attached pair) on the south side. House #32 has a bungalow-influenced front porch with tapered wood posts set on brick plinths. The north end chimney is a replacement which projects part way from the exterior wall. The north side window has been altered, and a large frame shed addition has been built across the rear of the house. The interior was not available for inspection.

Local tradition claims that these two houses were erected in the 1910s by the nearby Cherokee Brick Company as residences for some of its workers. It was natural, therefore, that brick construction was used rather than frame, which was more typical for the area. For more than the last quarter of a century, the houses have been in private ownership. One is now used as a residence, while the other is used for farm-related storage.

The Cherokee Brick Company Tenant Houses are of some historic interest because their brick construction reflects their original ownership by the local brick manufacturer. The houses, however, seem surprisingly retardetaire in their stylistic development, and while one has been substantially altered, the other has deteriorated, resulting in diminished architectural integrity for the pair. They do not appear to be eligible for the National Register, based on the requirements for Criterion A, B, or C, and the archaeological contexts remain undetermined.



31-32-A. Cherokee Brick Company Tenant Houses, overall view to N $\,$

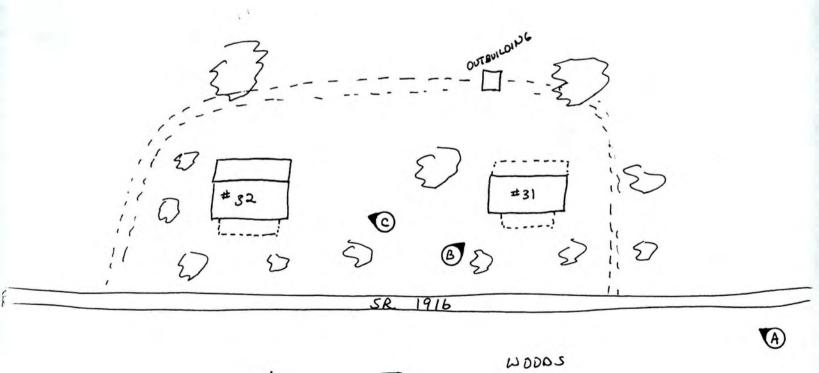


31-32-B. Cherokee Brick Company Tenant Houses, house #31, overall view to SE



31-32-C. Cherokee Brick Company Tenant Houses, house #32, overall view to N

FIELD



80

68. (WA 1088) Shady Grove Baptist Church Cemetery

End of SR 1136, 0.4 mi SE of Bonsal Road (SR 1167)

Shady Grove Baptist Church, in the vicinity of Bonsal, was organized in 1823 and disbanded in 1967. The church was subsequently dismantled, and only the adjacent cemetery remains. It contains graves dating from the 1860s, although most of those stones appear to be replacements. Most of the graves date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, while some are from as recent as the third quarter of the twentieth century. Several large oak trees and a magnolia are interspersed in the cemetery, and a line of trees on the south side of the cemetery separates it from US 1.

This property was recorded by Kelly Lally on November 7, 1989, as part of the Wake County Historic Inventory. It was re-inspected by the Consultant on December 10, 1992. There have been no substantial changes to the cemetery since it was first recorded. It is not eligible for the National Register because it does not meet any of the various criterion considerations that would enable a cemetery to be eligible.



68-A. Shady Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, view to SW

69. (WA 1091) Bonsal Stores and Houses

Jct of SR 1011 & SR 1008

Located near the Wake/Chatham County line, this cluster of somewhat deteriorated and altered buildings includes two frame stores, two bungalows, and an L-shaped cottage which appear to have been built between the late 1910s and the 1930s. This is the bulk of what remains of an early twentieth century railroad community, which local tradition claims also included a depot, a doctor's office, a livery stable, and a school.

This group of buildings was recorded by Kelly Lally on November 7, 1989, as part of the Wake County Historic Inventory. It was re-inspected by the Consultant on December 10, 1992. There have been no substantial changes since the buildings were first recorded, except that the overall integrity appears to be further diminished. The Bonsal Stores and Houses are not eligible for the National Register because they do not possess either the quality of significance or the integrity necessary for listing under any of the criteria.



69-A. Bonsal Stores and Houses, view to W



69-B. Bonsal Stores and Houses, view to NE

70. (WA 2259) North Carolina Railroad Museum (Bonsal Railroad Museum)

SW side SR 1139 on Wake/Chatham County line

Owned and operated by the East Carolina Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society, Inc., the North Carolina Railroad Museum and the accompanying 6.5 miles of track renamed the New Hope Valley Railway celebrate the early twentieth-century railroad heritage of the area. The museum is located on a former pulpwood site, and the small building which serves as the office was originally associated with the pulpwood business. A variety of railroad cars is displayed at the museum. Most date from the 1940s or later and have been collected from different places and several railroad companies.

The museum was recorded by Kelly Lally on February 11, 1992, as part of the Wake County Historic Inventory. It was re-inspected by the Consultant on January 20, 1993. There have been no substantial changes to the museum since it was first recorded. The museum is not eligible for the National Register, because although it is associated with the early twentieth-century railroad history of the area, it is a property primarily commemorative in nature which does not possess integrity of location and design and whose physical resources are, for the most part, less than fifty years old.



70-A. North Carolina Railroad Museum, view to W

VIII. POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON PROPERTIES

A project has an effect on an historic property when the undertaking could change in any way the characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register. Effects may be positive or negative.

In the case of the Wake/Chatham County Potentially Suitable Site, there are no historic properties located on the Site itself which are either listed in or appear to be eligible for the National Register. Three sites in the surveyed area appear to meet the criteria for the National Register. The Lawrence School (# 17) and the Brickhaven School (#33) are both located along SR 1916, southwest of the site but along one of the likely access roads within a three-mile radius of the site. The Merry Oaks Historic District (# 71) is located along either side of SR 1011 northwest of the site. Like the other two properties, it is along one of the likely access roads within a three-mile radius of the site. The Lawrence School and the Brickhaven School are currently unoccupied. Most of the buildings within the Merry Oaks Historic District are occupied.

Potential effects of the project on these historic properties are uncertain. Depending on the final circumstances of the undertaking, it could have little effect on the properties, it could have a positive effect, or it could have an adverse effect. Construction or other activities on the project site itself are not likely to introduce visual, audible, or atmospheric elements that could have an effect on the historic properties. Rather, any potential effects will depend in large part on the long-term development of the site and on public understanding of it and therefore cannot be fully assessed at this time.

If economic development of the surrounding area accompanies the development of the project site, then the eligible properties could be targeted for rehabilitation, which could improve their long-term chances for preservation. In this way, the project could have a positive effect on any or all of the properties considered eligible for the National Register.

On the other hand, if associated economic development were to proceed too rapidly and in an unplanned manner--particularly in the Merry Oaks area where several roads come together (SR 1910, SR 1912, US 1, and SR 1011)--that development could place economic pressures on the area that might encourage the demolition of historic properties--particularly those which are unoccupied and somewhat deteriorated. In this way the project could have an adverse effect on the eligible properties.

If there is a public perception of danger in living or working close to the project site, and especially along one of the access

roads to it, then the project could have an adverse effect on the eligible properties by making them seem less desirable for preservation and continued use or re-use. In this case, the adverse effect would result from a combination of the project itself and the attitudes of individual property owners or potential property owners.

In addition, if the decision were made to improve either SR 1011 or SR 1916--both of which are likely access routes--through either widening or realignment for added safety of transport, this action could constitute another threat to the physical character of the affected properties which are located close to the road. If these roads are not improved, they should not affect the historic properties any more than they do now.

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X. APPENDIX

NORTH CAROLINA LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY:

WAKE/CHATHAM COUNTY POTENTIALLY SUITABLE SITE

PHOTO INVENTORY LIST

The following properties constitute all that were photographed i the project study area because they appeared to be at least fifty years old or because they appeared to be otherwise significant. The properties are keyed by number to the USGS maps and to the photographs that are part of the package provided to the SHPO. Those properties listed in bold type are those which were considered potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. They were recorded more extensively with North Carolina Historic Structures data sheets and with additional photography and mapping. They are discussed individually in the project report. Context views of the physical environment of the project study area are included at the end of the photo inventory list.

- Christian Chapel Christian Church, SW side SR 1912, 2.0 mi N of jct W/NC 42
- Thomas A. Ausley House, NE side NC 42, 1.5 mi SE of jct w/SR 2. 1912
- John Williams House, SW side NC 42, opposite jct w/SR 1912 3.
- Ruffin Prince House, N side NC 42, 0.25 mi W of jct W/SR 1912 4.
- Houses, N side NC 42, 0.5 mi NW of jct w/SR 1912 5.
- Buckhorn United Methodist Church, SE side NC 42, 0.7 mi W of 6. jct w/SR 1912
- House, NW side NC 42, just NE of jct w/SR 1918 7.
- House, NW side NC 42, at jct w/SR 1918 8.
- House, NW side NC 42, 0.1 mi S of jct w/SR 1918 9.
- Dickens General Store, W side NC 42, just N of SR 1919 10.
- House, NE cor, jct of NC 42 and SR 1919 11.
- Bridge, NC 42 over RR, just S of jct w/SR 1919 12.
- Riddle's Grocery, E side NC 42 at jct w/SR 1920 13.
- House, NW side NC 42, opposite jct w/SR 1921 14.
- House, NW side NC 42, 0.1 mi SW of jct w/SR 1921 15.
- Thomas Fred Cross House, N side NC 42, 0.1 mi E of jct W/SR 16. 1916
- Lawrence School, S side SR 1916, 0.4 mi W of jct W/NC 42 17.
- Marks-Harrington House, N side SR 1916, 0.5 mi W of jct W/NC 18.
- Lawrence-Harrington Tenant House, N side Sr 1916, 0.7 mi W of 19. jct w/NC 42 (0.05 mi down dirt lane)
- James Rufus Marks House, E side SR 1916, 1.2 mi NW of jct W/NC 20. 42
- House, W side SR 1916, 0.2 mi S of jct w/SR 1923 21.
- 22. House, E side SR 1916, 0.15 mi S of jct w/SR 1923 23. House, W side SR 1916, just S of jct w/SR 1923
- Store, W side SR 1916, just S of jct w/SR 1923 24.
- House, E side SR 1916, opposite jct w/SR 1923 25.
- House, W side SR 1916, 0.1 mi N of jct w/SR 1923 26.

- 27. House, E side SR 1916, 0.15 mi N of jct w/SR 1923
- House, W side SR 1916, 0.15 mi N of jct w/SR 1923 (down dirt 28. lane)
- 29. House, E side SR 1916, 0.2 mi N of jct w/SR 1923
- House, W side SR 1916, 0.25 mi N of jct w/SR 1923 30.
- Cherokee Brick Company Tenant House, E side SR 1916, 0.25 mi 31. N of jct W/SR 1923
- Cherokee Brick Company Tenant House, E side SR 1916, 0.3 mi 32. N of jct w/SR 1923
- Brickhaven School, E side SR 1916, 0.4 mi N of jct w/SR 1923 33.
- House, E side SR 1916, just N of jct w/SR 1924 34.
- Houses, SE side SR 1011, 0.8 mi NE of jct w/SR 1916 35.
- Houses, SE side SR 1011, 0.3 mi S of jct w/SR 1926 36.
- Houses, NW side SR 1011, 0.25 mi S of jct w/SR 1926 37.
- Houses, SE side SR 1011, 0.15 mi S of jct w/SR 1926 38.
- Building, SE side SR 1011, 0.1 mi S of jct w/SR 1926 House, NW side SR 1011, 0.1 mi S of jct w/SR 1926 39.
- 40.
- House, NW side SR 1011, just S of jct w/SR 1926 41.
- 42. Houses, SE side SR 1011, opposite jct w/SR 1926
- Tilley's Burger House, NW side SR 1011, 0.3 mi N of jct w/SR 43.
- House, NW side SR 1011, 0.35 mi N of jct w/SR 1926 44.
- 45. Building, NW side SR 1011, 0.5 mi N of jct w/SR 1926
- 46. House, SE side SR 1011, 0.6 mi N of jct w/SR 1926
- House, NW side SR 1011, 0.6 mi N of jct w/SR 1926 47.
- 48. House, NW side SR 1011, 0.65 mi N of jct w/SR 1926
- Building, NW side SR 1011, 0.1 mi S of jct w/SR 1910 49.
- House, NW side SR 1011, just S of jct w/SR 1910 50.
- House, SE side SR 1011, 0.1 mi S of jct w/SR 1910 51.
- Merry Oaks Baptist Church, N cor, jct of SR 1011 & SR 1910 52.
- 53. Teacherage, NW side SR 1011, 0.1 mi N of jct w/SR 1910
- 54. Merry Oaks School Music Room, NW side SR 1011, 0.1 mi N of jct w/SR 1910
- 55. Windham Store, NW side SR 1011, opposite jct w/SR 1912
- 56. Wommack House, NW side SR 1011, just NE of jct w/SR 1912 (down lane)
- 57. Tucker House, NW side SR 1011, just NE of jct w/SR 1912 (down lane)
- House, NW side SR 1011, just SW of jct w/US 1 58.
- Post Office, SW side SR 1912, just S of RR track 59.
- Edwards House, SW side SR 1912, just S of RR track 60.
- 61. Yates Store, SW side SR 1912, just S of RR track
- 62. House, SW side SR 1912, just S of RR track
- House, SE side SR 1911, 0.1 mi E of jct w/SR 1912 63.
- 64. House, SE side SR 1911, 0.15 mi E of jct w/SR 1912
- 65. House, SE side SR 1911, 0.2 mi E of jct w/SR 1912
- 66. House, S side US 1, 0.1 mi down dirt lane from entrance off/on ramp from SR 1972
- House, SE side SR 1011, 0.9 mi NE of jct w/US 1 67.
- WA 1088 Shady Grove Baptist Church Cemetery 68.
- WA 1091 Bonsal Stores & House 69.
- 70. North Carolina Railroad Museum
- 71. Merry Oaks Historic District

CONTEXT VIEWS OF PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF PROJECT AREA

- SR 1912, view to S, 0.4 mi SE of jct w/SR 1011 SR 1912, just S of jct w/SR 1924, view to SE NC 42, bet RR tracks & SR 1921, view to SW A.
- В.
- C.
- SR 1916, 0.1 mi S of Norfolk & Southern RR at Brickhaven, view D. to N
- E.
- SR 1916, 0.4 mi S of jct w/SR 1011, view to S SR 1011, 0.8 mi SW of jct w/SR 1910, view to NE F.
- SR 1011, at jct w/SR 1910, view to NE G.

II. SCOPE OF WORK

This proposal is to:

Conduct an intensive historic and architectural resources survey of the area designated as the potentially suitable site and of the likely access roads within a three-mile radius of the site;

Evaluate the surveyed resources according to the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;

Assess potential impacts of the proposed project on any properties evaluated as eligible for the National Register; and

Prepare a written report on the findings of the survey and evaluation.

The survey will include research, field activities, and analysis and will be conducted according to the requirements of "Description of Services Required for Consideration of Cultural Resources in the Preparation of Environmental Documents: VII. Historic Architectural Resources." (See Appendix B. Any references to NCDOT do not pertain to this project.) The report will be prepared according to the "Guidelines for the Preparation of Reports of Historic Structures Surveys and Evaluation Submitted to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office." (See Appendix C.)

In addition, the Consultant will:

Attend a two-hour Quality Assurance indoctrination training session in Raleigh;

Coordinate the survey prior to starting with the SHPO to ensure appropriate coverage of the designated areas;

Consult with the SHPO as useful and appropriate throughout the course of the project, such consultation to include a meeting with the SHPO and the Client to review the results of the survey and evaluation by the Consultant prior to preparation of the survey report;

Consult with the project archaeologists concerning any data collected during their survey work that would be pertinent to the historic architectural resources survey;

Consult with Dames and Moore personnel concerning any data collected during their land use surveys that would be pertinent to the historic architectural resources survey;

Prepare the survey report using Word Perfect 5.0.

Laura A. W. Phillips

Architectural Historian

November 19, 1992

Ms. Renee Gledhill-Earley State Historic Preservation Office Archeology and Historic Preservation Section Division of Archives and History 109 E. Jones Street Raleigh, NC 27611

Re: Wake/Chatham and Richmond County potentially suitable sites for the North Carolina Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility

Dear Renee:

This letter is a follow-up to our meeting on November 9 and our phone discussion on November 16. My purpose is to state in writing what I believe our understanding to be on the appropriate methodology to be used in preparing the historic architectural surveys and reports for the above-named projects. I would appreciate a written response from you which can be filed along with this letter for future reference.

Portions of four North Carolina counties are included in the surveys, and the work required varies based on the nature and timing of previous work.

Wake County - I will utilize to the fullest extent possible Kelly Lally's recent survey of the county. First of all, since she has just surveyed and assessed the area in a manner approved by the SHPO, I will not photograph every building that is at least fifty years old. I will check each site that she recorded and note whether there have been any substantial changes in its condition. I will take one to three current photos of each site to be able to use with the report.

In the methodology section of the report, I will state clearly the approach I took and why I was able to do this (e.g. because of Kelly's recent work and because of approval of the SHPO environmental review coordinator.) In the inventory section of the report, I will not include all those elements ordinarily found in a compliance report. Instead, I will give the name, location, and SHPO survey site number. In the write-up I will state that I visited the property on such-and-such date, and that it was recorded by Kelly Lally on such-and-such date as part of the Wake County Historic Inventory. I will then state whether or not there have been any significant changes to the property since

Ms. Renee Gledhill-Earley November 19, 1992 Page 2

it was surveyed by Kelly. If there have been no changes, I will state that. If there have been changes, I will describe what they are. Then I will state the National Register eligibility status of the property and provide reasons for that evaluation by referring to the National Register criteria. I will include at least one current photo of the property. We agreed that site plans would not be necessary for these properties, but it occurs to me that for any properties evaluated as eligible for the Register, maps illustrating the eligible boundaries would be needed. The Wake County properties which Kelly surveyed will be mapped on one of the overall maps in the report and labeled with the survey site number.

As part of the supplementary data to be submitted with the report, I will include a copy of all of Kelly's survey file materials associated with the properties noted in the report.

Chatham County - A comprehensive historic architectural survey has also been conducted in Chatham County. However, this survey was conducted by Rachel Osborne between 1982 and 1986, and thus is not as up-to-date as the Wake County survey. Certainly, what was fifty years old then is not the same thing as what is fifty years old today. Consequently, all properties at least fifty years old will be photographed and mapped. The recorded properties will be treated much like those in Wake County, except that more updating may be necessary. This will be determined by how closely the inventoried properties of the earlier survey correspond with those properties and the general historic fabric of this section of the county today.

Scotland County - Tom Butchko surveyed Scotland County around 1980. That survey will be utilized to provide information on inventoried properties in the project area, but because of the date of the survey, the area needs to be looked at again carefully. All properties over fifty years old will be photographed and mapped, and properties which appear to be potentially eligible for the National Register will be recorded. The method of reporting will follow the standard guidelines currently in effect.

Richmond County - This county has not had a comprehensive survey and thus will be handled as new survey work, both in terms of methodology and reporting. Of course, any material available in the survey files of the SHPO will be utilized.

At your suggestion, I discussed with Claudia Brown the most appropriate treatment for the town of Hamlet, or at least that portion which is within the three-mile radius of the project site. I will look toward the identification of potential NR Ms.

Renee Gledhill-Earley November 19, 1992 Page 3

districts so that to the greatest possible extent buildings can be recorded as related groups. For these potential districts, representative streetscapes will be photographed, tentative boundaries will be determined, and the numbers of contributing and non-contributing resources will be estimated. Individual buildings that are particularly significant will be recorded individually. My observation of Hamlet's built resources also suggests that there are many buildings which are at least fifty years old but which do not conveniently fall into the area of a potential NR district. Therefore, to provide adequate coverage for all buildings over fifty years old, block faces (rather than individual photos or no photos) will be photographed in Hamlet. The reporting will follow the standard guidelines.

This is my understanding of my survey and reporting tasks in the various project areas. Let me know if you disagree with these approaches or if you have any questions. Otherwise, let me know if this seems appropriate. A response at your earliest convenience would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Laura A. W. Phillips

Laural. W. Phil

c: Allen Kibler



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

James G. Martin, Governor Patric Dorsey, Secretary

Division of Archives and History William S. Price, Jr., Director

December 23, 1992

Ms. Laura A. W. Phillips 736 North Spring Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Methodology for architectural surveys associated with low-level radioactive waste disposal facility,

Multicounty /

Dear Ms. Phillips: Jawr

Thank you for your letter of November 19, 1992, outlining your proposed methodologies for the two areas being considered for siting of a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility. I asked both Claudia Brown, head of the Survey and Planning Branch, and Elizabeth Dowd, environmental review specialist, to review the proposed methodologies so they could determine if there were any omissions and so they would be aware of your proposed approaches once we receive your reports for review. The three of us agree that the course of work outlined appears appropriate for the survey of all structures over fifty years old within three miles of the proposed site.

We will file this letter and yours for future reference. You may, in fact, want to include both as an appendix to your report.

Best wishes for the holiday season!

Sincerely,

Renee Gledhill-Earley

Environmental Review Coordinator

State Historic Preservation Office

RGE:slw

Ed Burt, Radiation Protection Division

