



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Peter B. Sandbeck, Administrator

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Lisbeth C. Evans, Secretary
Jeffrey J. Crow, Deputy Secretary

Office of Archives and History
Division of Historical Resources
David Brook, Director

June 1, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gregory Thorpe, Ph.D., Director
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Peter Sandbeck

SUBJECT: Addendum, Historic Architectural Resources, Rocky Mount Northern Connector, From SR 1605 (Hunter Hill Road) to US 301, R-2823, Nash County, ER 97-9079

Thank you for your letter of April 12, 2005, transmitting the survey report by Vanessa E. Patrick and Penne Sandbeck.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following properties were previously determined eligible and remain eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

Ricks-Boseman Farm (Property No. 73), W side of NC 48, N of junction with SR 1536, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, as a significant representation of a large and prosperous Nash County dairy farm of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The farm complex is comprised of approximately 300 acres and includes the farmhouse, a bungalow, two tenant houses, a dairy processing plant, many supporting outbuildings, and cultivated fields. We concur with the proposed National Register boundaries as delineated in the survey report.

Spruill-Easley House (Property No. 84), W side NC 48, N of junction with SR 1536, is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. The house is a fine example of vernacular Prairie Style with Colonial Revival interior finishes. The property includes 5.16 acres and a garage, smokehouse, equipment shed, pump house, small animal pen. We concur with the National Register boundaries as delineated in the survey report.

We would like to request individual and more detailed proposed National Register historic boundary maps for these properties. This information is very important when determining the potential effects of NCDOT projects upon historic properties. We realize that the boundaries have been delineated in previous reports but we want to include the most current and complete information. If the boundaries remain the same, simply copy the boundary description, justification, and map and cite the source in the present report.

	Location	Mailing Address	Telephone/Fax
ADMINISTRATION	507 N. Blount Street, Raleigh NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617	(919)733-4763/733-8653
RESTORATION	515 N. Blount Street, Raleigh NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617	(919)733-6547/715-4801
SURVEY & PLANNING	515 N. Blount Street, Raleigh, NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617	(919)733-6545/715-4801

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following properties are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places:

Property No. 81, Watson House
Property No. 82, Watson's Store
Property No. 213 Jeffreys School

And, properties No. 15, No. 16, No. 80, No. 83, No. 207, No. 209, No. 210, No. 211, No. 219, No. 220, and No. 222.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919/733-4763. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr
Vanessa E. Patrick
Penne Sandbeck

bc: Southern/McBride
106
County



RECEIVED

APR 12 2005

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

April 12, 2005

Mr. Peter B. Sandbeck
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4617

Ref #: ER 97-9079

S

Re: R-2823, Nash County
Rocky Mount Northern Connector
From SR 1605 (Hunter Hill Road) to US 301
State Project No. 8.2320801
Federal Aid Project No. STP-0431(2)

Due 5/3/05

Dear Mr. Sandbeck:

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is planning to build a new facility on new location between SR 1604 (Hunter Hill Road) and US 301 in Nash County according to the above-referenced project. This letter accompanies two copies of the Historic Architectural Resources Addendum report for the project area. The report meets NCDOT and National Park Service guidelines for survey procedures and concludes that two properties (the Spruill-Easley House and the Ricks-Boseman Farm) within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Please review the report and provide us with your comments. Should you have any questions, please contact Vanessa Patrick, Historic Architecture Section, 919-715-1617.

Sincerely,

Mary Pope Furr
Supervisor, Historic Architecture Section

RECEIVED

APR 12 2005

Attachment

Copy to: John F. Sullivan III, PE, FHWA

MAILING ADDRESS:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF HUMAN ENVIRONMENT
1583 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH NC 27699-1583

TELEPHONE: 919-715-1500
FAX: 919-715-1522

WEBSITE: WWW.NCDOT.ORG

LOCATION:
PARKER LINCOLN BUILDING
2728 CAPITAL BOULEVARD, SUITE 168
RALEIGH, NC 27604

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES ADDENDUM

**ROCKY MOUNT
NORTHERN CONNECTOR**
From SR 1605 (Hunter Hill Road) to US 301

**NASH COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA**

T.I. P. No. R-2823
STATE PROJECT No. 8.2320801
FEDERAL AID PROJECT No. STP-0431(2)
WBS No. 34509.1.1



The
**HISTORIC
ARCHITECTURE**
Section

NCDOT
Historic Architecture
PDEA Branch
1583 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1583

T 919-715-1332
F 919-715-1501
www.ncdot.org

Report Prepared By:
Vanessa E. Patrick
Penne Sandbeck
Architectural Historians

March 2005

T 919-715-1617/1619
F 919-715-1501
vepatrick@dot.state.nc.us
psandbeck@dot.state.nc.us

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES ADDENDUM

ROCKY MOUNT NORTHERN CONNECTOR From SR 1605 (Hunter Hill Road) to US 301

NASH COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

T.I. P. No. R-2823
STATE PROJECT No. 8.2320801
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T 919-715-1617/1619
F 919-715-1501
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psandbeck@dot.state.nc.us

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

ADDENDUM

ROCKY MOUNT NORTHERN CONNECTOR From SR 1605 (Hunter Hill Road) to US 301

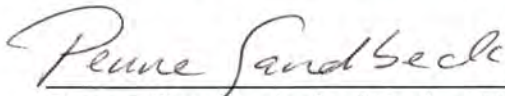
NASH COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

T.I.P NO. R-2823
STATE PROJECT NO. 8.2320801
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. STP-0431(2)
WBS No. 34509.1.1



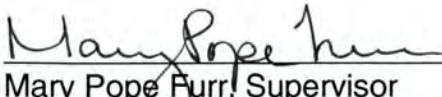
Vanessa E. Patrick, Architectural Historian
Historic Architecture Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

April 11, 2005
Date



Penne Sandbeck, Architectural Historian
Historic Architecture Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

April 11, 2005
Date



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

April 11, 2005
Date

Table of Contents

Signatory Page	i
Project Description	1
Purpose of Survey and Report	1
Methodology	4
Summary Findings of the Survey	5
Properties Requiring Additional Investigation or Previously Determined Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places	7
Properties Determined (or Confirmed) Not Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places	22
Principal Sources Consulted	29
Appendix	31

Project Description

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to build a four-lane median-divided facility on new location between SR 1604 (Hunter Hill Road) and US 301 (Figure 1). The project is included in the 2004-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (T.I.P.) as the Rocky Mount Northern Connector, a component of the Rocky Mount Thoroughfare Plan. The purpose of the project is to improve system linkage and safety, as well as reduce travel time between existing and expanding residential, commercial, and industrial areas in northern and western Rocky Mount. Environmental studies completed in 1998 for the Rocky Mount Thoroughfare Plan contributed to the development of eight alternatives for the Northern Connector. Three alternatives are currently under consideration. The proposed project calls for a partial control of access and approximately 150 feet of right of way. The total length of the project is approximately 4.4 to 4.9 miles, depending on the alternative chosen. The project (T.I.P. No. R-2823) is state (Project No. 8.2320801) and federally (Project No. STP-0431(2)) funded.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for historic architectural resources was delineated by NCDOT staff architectural historians and reviewed in the field on July 1, 2004 and revised on August 12, 2004 in response to the elimination of several alternatives (Figure 2).¹ It surrounds the routes of the proposed alternatives (B, C, and Avoidance) to include those areas that may be affected either physically or visually by new construction.

Purpose of Survey and Addendum

The R-2823 project is contained within the area studied earlier for the Rocky Mount Thoroughfare Plan. NCDOT conducted survey and compiled this addendum in order to confirm, revise, and augment the findings of the 1997 "Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report – Final Identification" for the northern section of the thoroughfare plan.² The 1997 report identified eighty-one properties in the project APE, of which one is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and one is included in the North Carolina State Study List. In 1997 the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) agreed with NCDOT that seventy-four of the recorded properties were not eligible for the National Register and did not warrant further investigation. The report addressed

¹ The NEPA/404 Merger Team for R-2823 agreed to drop Alternatives A, E, and G and retain Alternatives B, C, and Avoidance for study in detail. The August 12, 2004 meeting is recorded in a memorandum to file from project engineer Beverly Robinson, dated October 6, 2004.

² Scott Owen, "Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report – Final Identification. Rocky Mount Thoroughfare Plan, Northern Section," NCDOT, 1997. This report is subsequently referenced in the text as "Owen 1997."

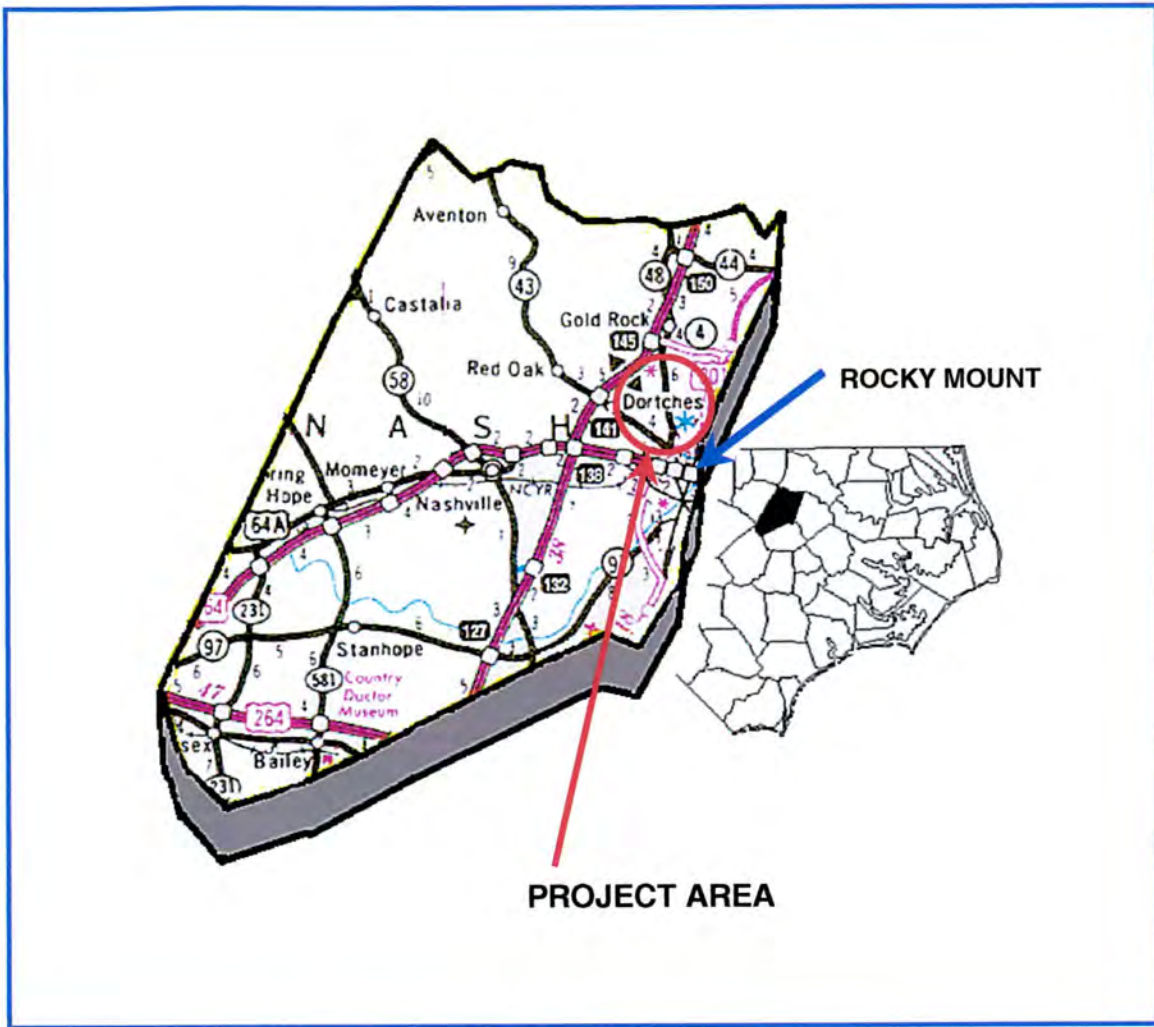


Figure 1. Project Location. Not to Scale.

Figure 2. APE Map



the remaining seven properties in depth and concluded that six were National Register-eligible. The HPO agreed with this assessment in 1998.³

NCDOT conducted new survey and compiled this addendum in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the APE as part of the environmental studies performed by NCDOT for the proposed project T.I.P. No. R-2823, Rocky Mount Northern Connector, Nash and Edgecombe Counties and documented by an Environmental Assessment (EA). This report is prepared as a technical addendum to the EA and as part of the documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended, 16 U.S.C. Section 470f, requires Federal agencies to take into account the effect of their undertakings on properties included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. This addendum is on file at NCDOT and is available for review by the general public.

Methodology

NCDOT conducted the survey and prepared this addendum in accordance with the provisions of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Technical Advisory T6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4 (f) Documents); the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 CFR 44716); 36 CFR Part 60; and Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines for Historic Architectural Resources by NCDOT. This survey and addendum meet the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service. In addition, this addendum conforms to the expanded requirements set forth in "Section 106 Procedures & Report Guidelines" (Historic Architecture Section, NCDOT, 2003).

An intensive survey was undertaken with the following goals: (1) to determine the APE, defined as the geographic area or areas within which a project may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist; (2) to identify and record all significant resources within the APE; and (3) to evaluate these resources according to the National Register of Historic Places criteria.

The APE, as illustrated in Figure 2, was delineated to allow for flexibility in the design of avoidance alternatives. The elimination of Alternatives A, E, and G (see footnote 1) occurred after the completion of the field survey, and the APE was adjusted to correspond to the consequently smaller project area.

³ David Brook, HPO to Mark McDonald, PE, City of Rocky Mount, April 3, 1998.

NCDOT architectural historians conducted a field survey on July 1, 8, 15, 26, 29, and November 3, 2004 covering 100% of the APE by automobile and on foot. All structures over fifty years of age in the APE were identified, photographed, and recorded on the appropriate United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps (see Figure 2). All recorded properties were evaluated for National Register eligibility as individual resources or contributing elements to historic districts. Properties included in the 1997 Rocky Mount Thoroughfare report were re-examined to assess any changes in architectural integrity or context that might affect their eligibility.

NCDOT architectural historians pursued preliminary documentary research to establish historical and architectural contexts for the project area, as well as for the development of individual buildings and structures. The principal resources consulted included architectural survey and National Register files at the North Carolina HPO in Raleigh, public records at the Nash County Courthouse and Tax Office in Nashville and the North Carolina State Library and Archives in Raleigh, and local history materials at the Braswell Memorial Library in Rocky Mount. Both primary and secondary sources held in the North Carolina State Library and Archives yielded additional information.

Summary Findings of the Survey

Architectural survey of the R-2823 APE, initially defined by six alternatives (A, B, C, E, G, and Avoidance), identified 222 properties as greater than fifty years of age. The elimination of three alternatives (A, E, and G) significantly reduced the size of the APE and thus the number of resources requiring evaluation (see footnote 1). In consultation meetings held on September 13, 2004 and November 29, 2004, NCDOT and NCHPO reviewed eighteen properties in and near the revised APE (Figure 2). Of the eighteen, NCDOT and HPO concluded that twelve were neither eligible for the National Register nor worthy of further investigation. This addendum includes photographs and brief statements of ineligibility for ten properties (Numbers 15, 16, 80, 83, 210, 211, 219, 220, 221, and 222); two (Numbers 207 and 209) are actually located outside the APE and therefore not addressed herein. Similarly, one of the remaining six properties, the National Register-listed Bellemonte (Property Number 12), sits outside of the APE and thus requires no further discussion. The earlier study concluded the same (Owen 1997: 2-3). The remaining five properties (Numbers 73, 81, 82, 84, and 213) are more fully treated in this addendum. Two have already been determined eligible for the National Register and three ineligible (Owen 1997: 35-63, 127-128, 147-148). The ineligible properties, however, warrant reconsideration.

Criterion Consideration G, for properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years, states that properties less than fifty years of age may be listed on the National Register only if they are of exceptional importance or if they are

integral parts of districts eligible for the National Register. There are no properties in the APE that qualify for the National Register under Criterion Consideration G.

Historic Architectural Resources in the APE

Properties Listed on the National Register: None.
(Property No. 12 – Bellemonte (NS 17) noted on September 13, 2004 concurrence form (see Appendix), but not in APE).

Properties Listed on the North Carolina State Study List: None.

Properties Determined (or Confirmed) Not Eligible for the National Register (see pp. 23-28):
Property No. 15 – Commercial Building (#69 – house in Owen 1997: 128, 156);
Property No. 16 – Ellwood Motel;
Property No. 80 – Haverson-Griffin House (NS 628) (#4 in Owen 1997: 113-120);
Property No. 83 – Overton Farm (#51 in Owen 1997: 128, 148);
Property No. 210 – House (#23 in Owen 1997: 127, 135);
Property No. 211 – House;
Property No. 219 – House (#19 in Owen 1997: 127, 133);
Property No. 220 – House (#18 in Owen 1997: 127, 133);
Property No. 221 – St. Paul’s Baptist Church (#14 in Owen 1997: 127, 131),
(also determined ineligible for T.I.P. No. U-3621, November 29, 2004);
Property No. 222 – House (#12 in Owen 1997: 127, 130),
(also determined ineligible for T.I.P. No. U-3621, November 29, 2004
and T.I.P. No. U-4019, August 20, 2002).
(Property No. 207 – House and Property No. 209- Road Marker noted on
September 13, 2004 concurrence form (see Appendix), but not in APE).

Properties Requiring Additional Investigation (see pp. 7-21):
Property No. 81 – Watson House (#50 in Owen 1997: 127, 147);
Property No. 82 – Watson’s Store (#49 in Owen 1997: 127, 147);
Property No. 213 – Jeffreys School (NS 629) (#52 in Owen 1997: 128, 148).

Properties Previously Determined Eligible for the National Register:
Property No. 73 – Ricks-Boseman Farm (NS 946) (#3 in Owen 1997: 35-51);
Property No. 84 – Spruill-Easley House (NS 947) (#5 in Owen 1997: 52-63).

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, only the Ricks-Boseman Farm (Property No. 73) and the Spruill-Easley House (Property No. 84) are considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

**PROPERTIES
REQUIRING ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION
OR
PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED ELIGIBLE
FOR THE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Property No. 73 – Ricks-Boseman Farm (NS 946)

The 1997 study recommended the Ricks-Boseman Farm as eligible for the National Register, and the HPO agreed with the finding in 1998 (Owen 1997: 35-51) (Figures 3 and 4). The proposed National Register boundary defines an approximately 300-acre property containing the buildings and fields it possessed as a late-nineteenth- and twentieth-century dairy farm, possibly the oldest established in the Rocky Mount area (see Figure 2 and Figure 5). The boundary includes existing right-of-way, as it contains sections of SR 1536 (Boseman Road), NC 48 (Gold Rock Road), and SR 1535 (Peele Road).

The major farm buildings are concentrated just northwest of the NC 48 (Gold Rock Road) and SR 1536 (Boseman Road) intersection. They include the main house built by R. H. Ricks in the 1870s and heavily remodeled in 1926 by subsequent owner William David Boseman; several late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century outbuildings; a circa-1916 bungalow; and, somewhat to the east, silos, barns, and various other early-twentieth-century structures related to dairying. Established by R. H. Ricks in 1886, dairy operations continued under the Bosemans until 1967. The farm is still owned by the Boseman family today, and most of its cultivated lands are rented to local farmers.

The elements identified in 1997 as contributing to the historical integrity of the property continue to reflect its original design and setting. The houses, dairying and domestic outbuildings, and cultivated fields express its status as a large and prosperous Nash County farm and support its National Register eligibility under Criterion A (event) for its significance in agriculture.



Figure 3. Property No. 73 – Ricks-Boseman Farm (NS 946).
Main house, looking west. Photographed July 8, 2004.



Figure 4. Property No. 73 - Ricks-Boseman Farm (NS 946).
Dairying processing plant (above), barns and silos (below) looking north.
Photographed July 8, 2004.



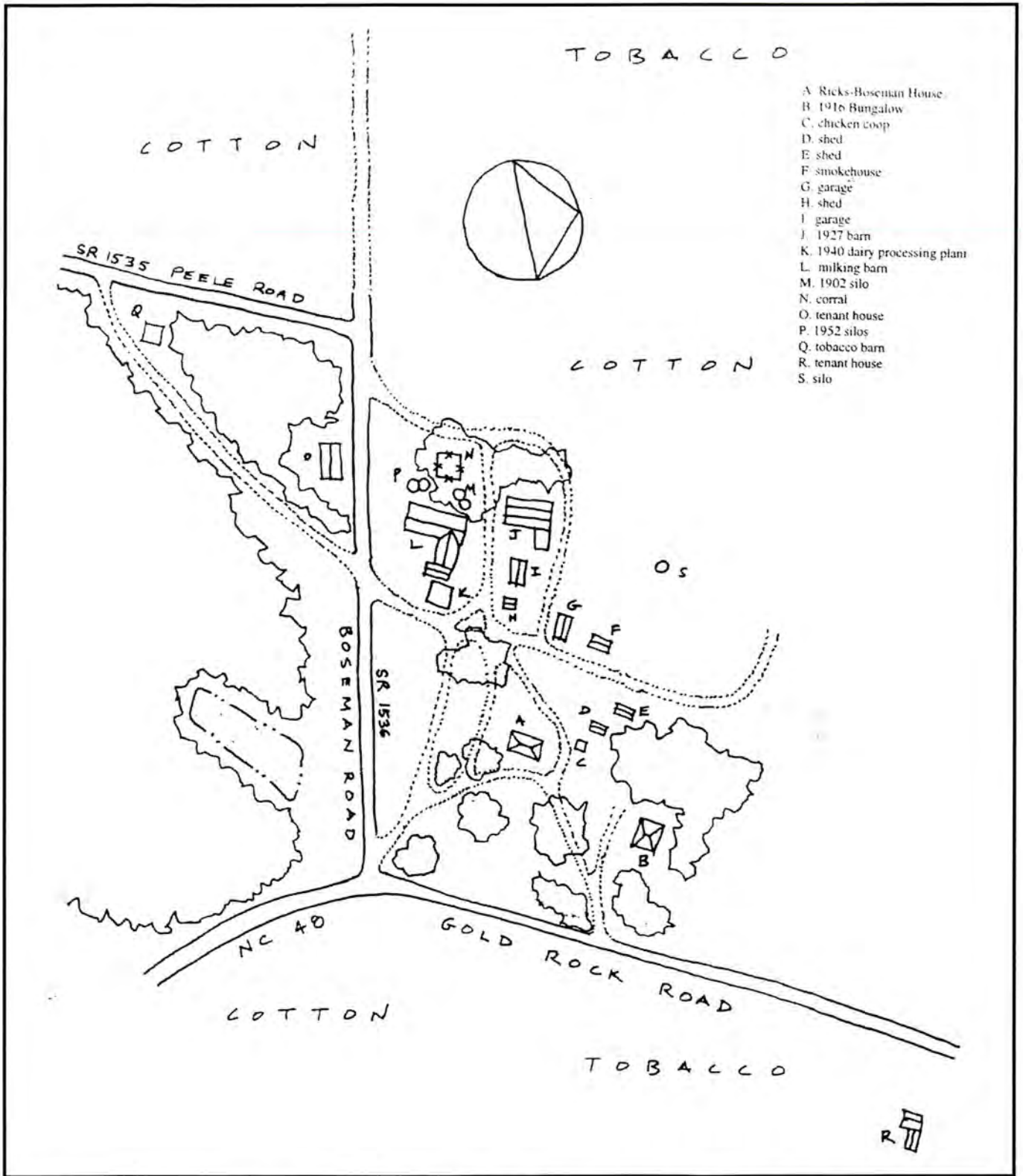


Figure 5. Property No. 73 - Ricks-Boseman Farm (NS 946). Site Plan from Owen 1997: 50. Not to Scale. See Figure 2 for proposed National Register boundary.

Property No. 81 – Watson House Property No. 82 – Watson’s Store

Physical Location and Description

The Watson House is a one-story, frame, gable-roofed structure resting on a continuous brick foundation (Figure 6). Its gable-end façade (east) faces and parallels NC 48 (Gold Rock Road). Approximately 28 feet wide and 36 feet deep, it is augmented by a 20-foot-wide and 12-foot-deep, gable-roofed bay positioned off the northwest side of the rear elevation (west) and a 20-foot wide, 7-foot deep, three-bay, hip-roofed porch centered on the façade. Four battered, wooden posts on brick piers support both the porch roof and lightly framed screening. Windows are paired and four-over-one (vertical lights) double-hung sash, and a rectangular, louvred vent appears in the façade gable. Rafter tails are exposed and gable overhangs supported by simple brackets. Two, exterior, brick chimney stacks stand towards the front (east) of the south elevation, and a single brick stack pierces the northern plane of the roof also near the façade. Unpaved driveways lead to the rear of the property just north of the house and describe a semi-circle immediately in front of the façade. Modest foundation plantings, pines, and ornamental trees and shrubs frame the surrounding yards. The house is unoccupied and in poor condition.

Some 80 feet south of the Watson House stands a one-story, frame, gable-roofed structure of approximately 20 feet by 50 feet in dimension (Figure 6), Watson’s Store. A simply stepped “false front” adorns the gable-end façade, oriented towards NC 48 (Gold Rock Road). A central doorway is flanked by two, large, fixed-sash windows; a three-panel, metal, horizontal sign nearly the width of the façade hangs directly above. The remaining elevations display functionally placed doors and windows, all plainly framed; rafter ends are exposed. The building is sheathed in weatherboards and standing-seam metal roofing. A single, brick, interior chimney stack appears in the south plane of the roof towards the front of the store. Several wooden counters and other fittings survive on the interior amidst a variety of stored appliances and other items. Unpaved driveways flank the store to the north and south, and the area immediately in front of the façade is also partially devoid of grass or paving. The store is vacant and in poor condition.



**Figure 6. Property 81 - Watson House (above) and
Property 82 - Watson's Store (below).**
Looking west and southwest. Photographed July 8, 2004.



History

This study has uncovered few specifics about the Watson properties, but comparison with similar structures and sites in the project area and the Nash County region make possible a workable chronology and characterization.⁴ Current Nash County tax records indicate that the Watson House was built in 1932, a year consistent with its design. The four-acre parcel on which it was constructed then belonged to H. P. and Sybil Hutchinson, who had purchased the land in 1930 from Frank P. and Fannie P. Spruill (see Property No. 84 – Spruill-Easley House, p. 15). The Hutchinsons sold the property to B. E. and Ruby B. Watson in 1944. The appearance of the store building is nowhere specified in the tax and land records, but reference to a 1946 survey of the store parcel suggests an approximate construction date. B. E. and Ruby B. Watson died, respectively, in 1983 and 1974, and their properties now belong to their descendents.⁵

The reconstituting of certain lands from the nearby Spruill farm under new ownership in the 1930s, the subsequent building of a residential structure eventually owned by the Watsons, and the 1946 survey suggest that the store that bears their name was almost certainly in place by 1950 and quite possibly sometime earlier. Its gable-end façade, false-front, central main entry, and long and low profile are typical features of rural stores built in Nash County and the broader region during the first decades of the twentieth century. Approximately two dozen stores were recorded by the Nash and Edgecombe County surveys of the 1980s, and many still stand.⁶ The Anderson Store near Draughn (ED703), the Turnage Store (ED 918), and the White Oak Grocery (NS 313) are three examples resembling the Watson's Store design. The latter two and several others, like the Davistown Store (ED 884), are located near the storeowners' residences, as is Watson's Store. A preliminary survey for the Rocky Mount Thoroughfare Plan undertaken in 1992 includes several photographs of Watson's Store showing a two-bay, shed-roofed porch attached to the façade, as well as a gas pump and an "open" sign standing near the northeast corner of the building.⁷

⁴ Nash County public records – the tax records at the Assessor's Office and land records at the Register of Deeds in Nashville, as well as the land records held in the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh – yielded the most information about the properties. Efforts to contact the present owners proved unsuccessful.

⁵ Nash County 2004 tax record for parcel number 385213122815U and 2001 property ownership map number 3852.13. Nash County Deed Book 347, p. 451 (Frank P. and Fannie P. Spruill > H. P. and Sybil Hutchinson, July 24, 1930); Deed Book 491, pp. 245-246 (H. P. and Sybil Hutchinson > B. E. and Ruby B. Watson, November 1, 1944); Deed Book 1151, pp. 475-476 (October 10, 1984); Estate File 02-E-197 (2002); Deed Book 1918, pp. 240-243 (December 27, 2002). The latter includes the Watsons' death dates, inheritance details, and reference to the January 18, 1946 survey of the store lot.

⁶ Richard L. Mattson, *The History and Architecture of Nash County, North Carolina* (Nashville, NC: 1987) and Henry V. Taves, "The Rural Architectural Heritage of Edgecombe County, North Carolina," unpublished report, HPO, Raleigh, 1985. Architectural Survey Files, HPO, Raleigh.

⁷ Project file for T.I.P. No. R-2823, Historic Architecture Section, Office of Human Environment, NCDOT, Raleigh.

All such features are now missing, and the broken windows in the façade, since repaired, in the 1992 views suggest either a recent mishap or the inaccuracy of the “open” sign.

Like Watson’s Store, the Watson House is one of several examples of its kind in the region. Plainly ornamented, frame bungalows appear throughout the project area and Nash County and represent a house type much favored in the South from roughly the 1910s through the 1950s. This study recorded such houses on SR 1636 (Brake Road), SR 1589 (Browntown Road), NC 43, and in the town of Battleboro. More elaborate expressions of the bungalow in the county, such as the Boddie-Cooper House and Guy Bissette House, both dating to the 1910s and located in Nashville, also display the bracketed eaves, battered porch posts, exposed rafter ends, and multiple-over-single-light sash windows found at the Watson House.⁸

Evaluation

Both the Watson House and Watson’s Store were found **ineligible** for the National Register by the earlier architectural study, as they “lack[ed] historical or architectural significance” (Owen 1997: 127, 147). Additional investigation has not generated any reason for changing this assessment.

Neither property is eligible under Criterion A (event) or Criterion B (person), as association with significant historical developments or individuals cannot be demonstrated. The presence of other stores and houses of similar design and relative placement, many retaining greater integrity of materials and feeling, in the region argue against eligibility under Criterion C (design/construction). Finally, the Watson House and Watson’s Store are not likely to display any new information pertaining to building design and technology and are therefore ineligible under Criterion D (potential to yield information).

⁸ Project file for R-2823 and Mattson, pp. 179 and 180.

Property No. 84 – Spruill-Easley House (NS 947)

The 1997 study recommended the Spruill-Easley House as eligible for the National Register, and the HPO concurred with this finding in 1998 (Owen 1997: 52-64) (Figure 7). The proposed National Register boundary comprises a 5.16-acre tract containing the 1916 Prairie Style, American Foursquare dwelling constructed for Frank P. Spruill, Sr., and outbuildings constructed in the early twentieth century by the Spruill and Easley families (see Figure 2 and Figure 8). The curb, rather than the existing right-of-way, along NC 48 (Gold Rock Road) serves as the eastern boundary line to contain all associated landscape features.

Mature oak and pecan trees, and small flowering trees and shrubbery, typical features of mid-twentieth-century residential landscaping, frame the house. Outbuildings, nearly all of which date from the period of the house's construction, are located a short distance west of the house. These include a two-bay, hip-roofed frame garage, a weatherboarded, hip-roofed smokehouse, an equipment shed, a pumphouse, and a small animal pen. There is also an ornamental fishpond just northwest of the house, built for the Spruills. Frank P. Spruill and his son operated a substantial farm on this property before World War II. After the war, the house passed to Henry Alexander Easley, Jr. (1926-1988), who was related to the Spruill family through Frank P. Spruill's wife. It was during H. A. Easley's tenure that the property ceased to be a farm.

The elements identified in 1997 as contributing to the Spruill-Easley House's historical integrity continue to reflect its original design and setting. Cited as an excellent vernacular Prairie Style dwelling with Colonial Revival interior finish, the house remains eligible for the National Register under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its architecture. Furthermore, the house will become potentially eligible under Criterion B as the boyhood home of current North Carolina Governor, Michael Francis Easley (1950-).



Figure 7. Property No. 84 – Spruill-Easley House (NS 947).
Main (northeast) elevation. Photographed March 25, 2005.

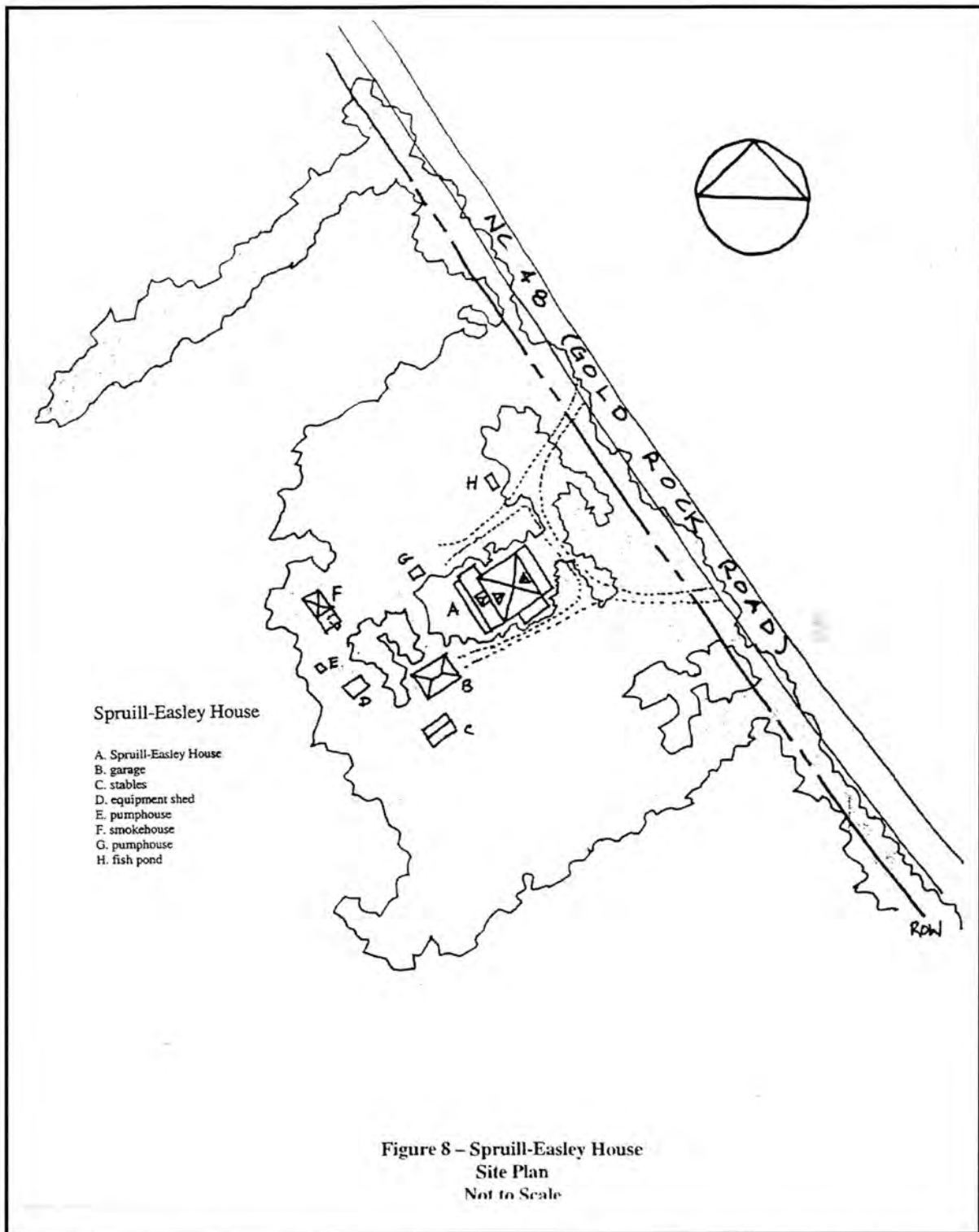


Figure 8. Property No. 84 - Spruill-Easley House (NS 947).

Site plan from Owen 1997: 62. Not to Scale.

See Figure 2 for proposed National Register boundary.

Property No. 213 – Jeffreys School (NS 629)

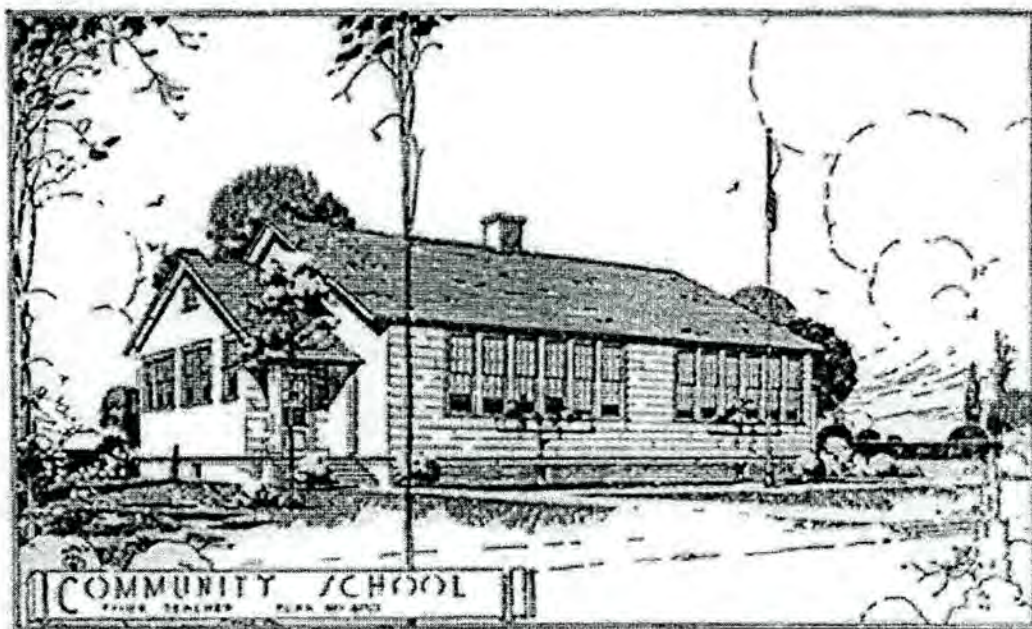


Figure 9. Rosenwald Plan No. 400. Fisk University Archives, Nashville, Tennessee, published at www.rosenwaldplans.org/SchoolPlans.

Physical Location and Description

Jeffreys School, a four-room plan Rosenwald school constructed between 1923 and 1924, stands about five hundred feet southwest of NC Highway 43 (Benvenue Road) in Dortches Township north of Rocky Mount.⁹ The former school's immediate surroundings have shifted over the last fifty years from rural to suburban, as Rocky Mount's city limits have expanded into what was once chiefly agricultural land. There are still farms in the immediate vicinity, but there are also networks of planned suburban developments. Along NC 43's west side, adjacent to the school, is a small trailer park.

Closed since 1958, Jeffreys School is now surrounded by overgrowth and pine trees. The building itself is in poor condition, with some windows boarded up and others missing panes, in addition to a crumbling center brick flue; its standing-seam tin roofing, however, appears to be intact. The form of the building remains intact as well, along with original elements, such as weatherboarding, exposed rafters, and at least one entrance retaining a three-panel wooden door and two-pane glass transom.

⁹ Thomas Hanchett, "North Carolina Rosenwald Schools," <http://www.rosenwaldplans.org/NCschools.html>.

Jeffreys School follows the Rosenwald Floor Plan No. 400, stipulated “to face east or west only” (Figure 9). It is a twelve-bay, side-gable, frame building with recessed, one-bay, side-gable extensions framing each gable end. Prominent, identifiably “Rosenwald” features include two bands of tall six-bay windows positioned along the main block’s lengthwise elevations so that each classroom received maximum natural lighting. Jeffreys School also has a north wing, a side-gable ell extending from the north entrance. As with the main part of the building, the north wing, which was built as the school’s lunchroom in the 1928-1929 school year, is lit by a band of six, nine-over-nine, double-hung sash windows. The north wing also had a small brick flue at its east elevation; overgrowth and small trees currently engulf the wing.

Rather than a center-bay entrance as seen with other Rosenwald school plans, Plan No. 400 instead offered an entrance at the gabled extensions on each side of the main block’s south elevation, with the roofline extending to form a small sheltered stoop. According to the prescriptive floor plans, the gabled side extensions also served as respective vestibule and cloak rooms; at the north end of the extensions were an industrial room for carpentry and shop work and a “boys’ room” at the opposite end.

Interior photographs taken in 1999 show that partitions between Jeffreys School’s east and west classrooms were removed, probably in the 1960s. Much of the original tongue-and-groove interior sheathing has either been removed or fallen into disrepair, although the narrow floorboards are still in place. The building is used for storage (Figure 10).¹⁰

¹⁰ Richard Silverman, “Historic Architectural Survey Resources Phase II Report for U-2561B (Widening of NC 43 from SR 1535 to SR 1613, Nash County),” NCDOT, October 1999, pp. 5-11.



Figure 10. Property No. 213 – Jeffrey's School (NS 629). Part of south and east elevations. Photographed July 29, 2004.

History

Jeffrey's School was one of seventeen schools constructed in Nash County between 1919 and 1932 with assistance from the Rosenwald Fund, a resource established by philanthropist Julius Rosenwald to aid African-American education in the southern United States. Joseph P. Ramsey, a local farmer and businessman, apparently informally ceded the school's two-acre lot in 1924. After Ramsey's 1927 death, his widow Ella M. Ramsey sold the lot to the Nash County Board of Education for \$450.00 in 1928.¹¹ The north cafeteria wing was added to the building soon after, also through Rosenwald funding.¹²

Local investment in these schools by Nash County's African-American community was substantial, often fostered by churches; it is still not an uncommon sight to see a Rosenwald school adjacent or very near to a church building. In the case of Jeffrey's School, deed records cite the tract as "St. Paul and Jeffrey's School", suggesting that St. Paul's Baptist Church (Property No. 221) was a sponsoring agent. According to local residents this four-room school, one of five in the county (an unusually high number for North Carolina), served children from the age of six to thirteen; older children attended the eight-room school in Nashville, some distance away.¹³ After the school closed in 1958, Nash County Board of Education deeded the lot to Leon Raynor and Luther Green in January 1959, after Sidney Shearin, who purchased the lot at public auction on

¹¹Nash County Deed Book 330, p. 359 (Ella M. Ramsey > Nash County Board of Education, July 7, 1928).

¹² Hanchett, *loc.cit.*

¹³ Entry for Jeffrey's School (March 1985), Nash County Architectural Survey Files, HPO, Raleigh.

October 27, 1958, transferred his bid to them. When the Raynor and Green partnership was not successful, the school and lot were put up for auction again on July 27, 1959, and Leon Raynor, the highest bidder, acquired the property.¹⁴ Raynor's widow deeded the property to Timothy and Mary Fox Lewis in 1982, and it is currently owned by Mary Fox Mutzabaugh.¹⁵

Evaluation

Jeffreys School was found ineligible for the National Register by the earlier architectural study, as it "lacks historical or architectural significance" (Owen 1997: 128, 148). Additional investigation has not generated any reason for changing this assessment.

Jeffreys School is **not eligible** for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. Although, as a Rosenwald school, it is clearly connected to the historic program of African American education throughout the state, it is not otherwise associated with any historically significant event. The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office is presently conducting a statewide survey of extant Rosenwald schools, and has uncovered, in that process, a number of these educational buildings throughout the state. Unlike Jeffreys School, many of North Carolina's surviving schools still have visible and continuing ties to their African American communities, one example being Nash County's own 1923-1924 Whitakers School, now known as the Bloomers Hill Community Center.¹⁶

Jeffreys School is **not eligible** for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B, as it is not directly associated to any person whose life is specifically significant in our past.

Furthermore, in its severely deteriorated state, Jeffreys School is **not eligible** for listing under Criterion C. Its physical form, once representing the significant and distinguishable character of a Rosenwald school, is no longer intact. However, there is the happy fact that six other Rosenwald schools have survived in Nash County in much better condition. The aforementioned Whitakers School (also known as Bloomers Hill Community Center) is also a four-teacher building constructed after Rosenwald Plan No. 400, and remains in good condition. Other surviving Rosenwald schools in the county include the Morgan School near Bailey, a two-teacher weatherboarded building recently placed on the Study List maintained by HPO for the State of North Carolina.

¹⁴ Nash County Deed Book 691, pp. 80-81 (Nash County Board of Education > Leon L. Raynor and Luther A. Green, January 6, 1959) and Deed Book 701, pp. 45-46 (Don Evans, Nash County Commissioner > Leon L. Raynor, August 11, 1959).

¹⁵ Nash County Deed Book 1110, pp. 751-752 (Sarah C. Raynor > Timothy Gene Lewis and Mary Fox Lewis, November 29, 1982).

¹⁶ Rosenwald School Search Form for Whitakers School, Nash County (compiled 2002), HPO, Raleigh.

Jeffreys School is **not eligible** for listing under Criterion D, as it does not yield, nor is likely to yield, any information vital to prehistory or history.

**PROPERTIES
DETERMINED (OR CONFIRMED)
NOT ELIGIBLE
FOR THE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**



Figure 11. Property No. 15. Commercial Building (barber shop). The property has been determined not eligible for the National Register because it is neither historically nor architecturally significant. Photographed July 1, 2004.



Figure 12. Property No. 16. Ellwood Motel. The property has been determined not eligible for the National Register because it is neither historically nor architecturally significant. Photographed July 1, 2004.



Figure 13. Property 80. Haverson-Griffin House (NS 628).
The property has been determined not eligible for the National Register
because it is neither historically nor architecturally significant.
Photographed July 8, 2004.





Figure 14. Property No. 83. Overton Farm. The property has been determined not eligible for the National Register because it is neither historically nor architecturally significant. Photographed July 8, 2004.



Figure 15. Property No. 210. House. The property has been determined not eligible for the National Register because it is neither historically nor architecturally significant. Photographed July 29, 2004.



Figure 16. Property No. 211. House (and outbuilding).
The property has been determined not eligible for the National Register
because it is neither historically nor architecturally significant.
Photographed July 29, 2004.





Figure 17. Property No. 219 - House. The property has been determined not eligible for the National Register because it is neither historically nor architecturally significant.
Photographed November 3, 2004.



Figure 18. Property No. 220 - House. The property has been determined not eligible for the National Register because it is neither historically nor architecturally significant.
Photographed November 3, 2004.



Figure 19. Property No. 221 - St. Paul's Baptist Church. The property has been determined not eligible for the National Register because it is neither historically nor architecturally significant. Photographed November 3, 2004.



Figure 20. Property No. 222 - House. The property has been determined not eligible for the National Register because it is neither historically nor architecturally significant. Photographed November 3, 2004.

Principal Sources Consulted

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APPENDIX

CONCURRENCE FORM FOR PROPERTIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Project Description: Rocky Mount Northern Connector

On September 13, 2004 representatives of the

- X North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)
- X Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- X North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO)
- Other

Reviewed the subject project at

- Scoping meeting
- X Historic architectural resources photograph review session/consultation
- Other

All parties present agreed

- There are no properties over fifty years old within the project's area of potential effects.
- X There are no properties less than fifty years old which are considered to meet Criteria Consideration G within the project's area of potential effects.
- X There are properties over fifty years old within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE), but based on the historical information available and the photographs of each property, the property identified as (List Attached) is considered not eligible for the National Register and no further evaluation of it is necessary. * 15, 16, 80, 207, 83, 209, 210, 211
- There are no National Register-listed or Study Listed properties within the project's area of potential effects.
- All properties greater than 50 years of age located in the APE have been considered at this consultation, and based upon the above concurrence, all compliance for historic architecture with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and GS 121-12(a) has been completed for this project.
- There are no historic properties affected by this project. (Attach any notes or documents as needed)

Signed:

Vanessa E. Patrick 9-13-04
 Representative, NCDOT Date

[Signature] 9/13/04
 FHWA, for the Division Administrator, or other Federal Agency Date

[Signature] 9/13/04
 Representative, HPO Date

[Signature] 9-13-04
 State Historic Preservation Officer Date

If a survey report is prepared, a final copy of this form and the attached list will be included.

* 12, 73, 81, 82, 84, 213 will be evaluated

CONCURRENCE FORM FOR PROPERTIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Project Description: **Rocky Mount Northern Connector.** (additional properties supplemental to concurrence form of 9-13-04).

On November 29, 2004 representatives of the

- North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO)
- Other

Reviewed the subject project at

- Scoping meeting
- Historic architectural resources photograph review session/consultation
- Other

All parties present agreed

- There are no properties over fifty years old within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are no properties less than fifty years old which are considered to meet Criteria Consideration G within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are properties over fifty years old within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE), but based on the historical information available and the photographs of each property, the property identified as **(List Attached)** is considered not eligible for the National Register and no further evaluation of it is necessary. **#219-222**
- There are no National Register-listed or Study Listed properties within the project's area of potential effects.
- All properties greater than 50 years of age located in the APE have been considered at this consultation, and based upon the above concurrence, all compliance for historic architecture with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and GS 121-12(a) has been completed for this project.
- There are no historic properties affected by this project. *(Attach any notes or documents as needed)*

Signed:

Vanessa E. Patrick 11-29-04
 Representative, NCDOT Date

N/A
 FHWA, for the Division Administrator, or other Federal Agency Date

[Signature] 11/29/04
 Representative, HPO Date

for Renee Medhill-Earley 11-29-04
 State Historic Preservation Officer Date