



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

James B. Hunt Jr., Governor
Betty Ray McCain, Secretary
August 26, 1997

Division of Archives and History
Jeffrey J. Crow, Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: H. Franklin Vick, P.E., Manager
Planning and Environmental Branch
Division of Highways
Department of Transportation

FROM: David Brook *David Brook*
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report for US 64 from
NC 45 E. of Plymouth to SR 1235 E. of Columbia,
Washington & Tyrrell Counties, R-2548, State
Project No. 6.149001T, ER 98-7178

Thank you for your letter of July 17, 1997, transmitting the historic structures survey report prepared by Scott Owen for the above project.

The following properties are listed in the National Register of Historic Places:

- ✓ Rehoboth Methodist Church (WH 3)
- ✓ Belgrade & St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel) (WH 1)
- ✓ Columbia Historic District (TY 1)

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 under the criteria cited:

- ✓ **Tarkenton House.** This property was determined eligible under Criterion C on August 29, 1996. Please see our comments in the attachment regarding the boundary for this property.
- ✓ **Holy Disciples Church** (former Rosenwald School). This property is eligible under Criterion A for its vital role in the education of rural black children in the 1920s and under Criterion C as an example of a Rosenwald School. Please see our comments in the attachment regarding the name and history of this property.
- ✓ **W.W. Mizell Farm.** This property, which includes a nineteenth century I-house and several agricultural and domestic outbuildings, is eligible under Criterion A for its role in the agricultural development of Washington County



in the nineteenth century, and Criterion C as a representative example of a nineteenth-century farm complex.

- ✓ **Homestead Farm** (including the Hassell House, WH 375, and the Thompson House, WH 407). This farm complex, which includes three farmhouses, four tenant houses and numerous outbuildings, is eligible under Criteria A and C as a good example of the larger farms that dotted the Washington County landscape in the nineteenth century.
 - ✓ **Turner Farms.** This pair of family farms includes two turn-of-the-century farmhouses, outbuildings, cultivated fields, and a cemetery, and is eligible under Criteria A and C as a good example of the small to middle size Washington County farm of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.
 - ✓ **Roper Historic District.** The town of Roper represents one of the oldest European settlements in Washington and Tyrrell Counties, and throughout much of its history was associated with the timber industry. It is eligible under Criterion A for exploration/settlement and industry, and Criterion C for design. Please see our comments in the attachment regarding boundaries for this district.
 - ✓ **Pleasant Grove Methodist Church** (WH 395). This church, which is included on the state study list, features a simple, gable-front form and plain interior finish. It is a good example of the small country churches of the mid-nineteenth century. It is eligible under Criterion C for design, and meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties that derive their primary significance from their design.
 - ✓ **Pleasant Grove Store.** This store is an unaltered example of the increasingly rare roadside filling station and store of the 1920s and 1930s, and is eligible under Criterion C for design.
 - ✓ **Will Chesson House** (WH 366). This early nineteenth-century house displays characteristics of the Federal and Greek Revival styles, and is eligible under Criterion C. Please see our comments in the attachment regarding the boundaries for this property.
 - ✓ **Farm.** This late-nineteenth century farmstead features an I-house with simple Queen Anne detailing, and is eligible under Criterion C for architecture.
- Pritchard Farm.** This complex includes a farmhouse, agricultural outbuildings, cemetery, general store and cultivated fields, and is eligible under Criterion A and C as a good example of Washington County's small to middle size farms of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- Washington Correctional Center.** This Depression-era prison, possibly built as a Public Works Administration project, is eligible under Criterion A for its significance in social history and politics/government.
- Smithson House** (WH 398). This house embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Greek Revival style, and is eligible under Criterion C.

Until additional information for the properties listed below is provided, we are unable to make a determination of their eligibility for the National Register:

Former Schoolhouse. It appears that this property, which was converted to a residence in the 1920s, does not readily convey its former function as a schoolhouse. Also, it is likely that renovations necessary for conversion to a residence have rendered the schoolhouse interior unrecognizable. Unless additional information is available about the state of the interior or the history of the schoolhouse, we do not concur that this property is eligible.

Downing-Spruill House (WH 427). This house displays a typical pattern of a conservative, early-nineteenth century Georgian-Federal style dwelling that was updated to reflect current styles during the Victorian period. The house retains features from each era. Rather than evaluating the house as an altered Georgian-Federal style dwelling, we recommend evaluating it within a longer period of significance, to include the late-nineteenth century renovations. Additional research into the house's history, its builder, and later occupants would also be helpful in evaluating this property.

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, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919/733-4763.

DB:slw

Attachment

cc: B. Church
Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington
Mike Bell, Army Corps of Engineers, Washington

bc: File
Brown/Bevin
Eastern Office
County
RF

ATTACHMENT
US 64 from NC 45 E. of Plymouth to SR 1235 E. of Columbia,
Washington & Tyrrell Counties, R-2548,
State Project No. 6.149001T, ER 98-7178

1. **Tarkenton House:** In our letter of 8/29/96 regarding this property's eligibility, we noted a discrepancy between the boundaries described in the June, 1996, report and those drawn on the accompanying tax map. The tax map indicated that the parcel includes 21.23 acres, but the report stated that the boundaries encompass 100 acres. The boundary description in the June, 1997, report describes a 100-acre parcel without resolving the discrepancy. Please clarify the accurate acreage and boundaries for this property.
2. **Holy Disciples Church:** The appropriate historic name for this school is (former) _____ School, with Holy Disciples Church as a secondary name. Also, while Rosenwald Schools as a group are significant, evaluation of this individual Rosenwald school should include the specific name and history for *this* school. Please provide us with the historic name of the school and any available history of it.
3. **Roper Historic District:** Without additional information about the portions of Roper that are outside the APE or have been excluded from the eligible boundary, we are unsure of the appropriateness of the district boundaries. However, we believe the northern boundary is appropriate, and that for purposes of this project, the other boundaries can remain conjectural.
4. **Will Chesson House:** While we concur that this property is eligible under Criterion C, additional information about the house's builder, and the extent and use of property associated with it during its period of significance would be helpful in determining whether any other criteria apply and what the appropriate boundary is.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JAMES B. HUNT JR.
GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
P.O. BOX 25201, RALEIGH, N.C. 27611-5201

GARLAND B. GARRETT JR.
SECRETARY

ER 98-7178
due 8/13
DKB

8/20/97
DKB

July 17, 1997

JUL 23 1997

Dr. Jeffrey Crow, Director
Division of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources
109 E. Jones St.
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Dear Dr. Crow:

RE: US 64 from NC 45 East of Plymouth to SR 1235 East of Columbia, Washington and Tyrrell Counties, R-2548, State Project 6.149001T.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project (TIP No. R-2548). This project is state-funded. Please find attached a copy of the Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report. As numerous permits will trigger one individual federal permit for the length of the project, NCDOT chose to conduct a Phase II (Abridged) survey for the entire length of this state-funded project in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This report concludes there are three properties within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

- Rehoboth Methodist Church (WH 3)
- Belgrade and St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel) (WH 1)
- Columbia Historic District (TY 3).

There are also fourteen properties within the APE that are eligible for the National Register:

- Tarkenton House
- Holy Disciples Church (Former Rosenwald School)
- W. W. Mizell Farm
- Homestead Farm (Hassell House) (WH 375)
- Turner Farms
- Roper Historic District
- Pleasant Grove Methodist Church (SL) (WH 395)
- Pleasant Grove Store
- Former Schoolhouse

JUL 24 1997



Will Chesson House (WH 366)
Farm
Pritchard Farm
Washington Correctional Center
Smithson House (WH 398).

Please review the survey report and forward to us your written concurrence for our environmental document. Contact Ms. Barbara Church, Historic Architectural Resources Section, at (919) 733-7844 extension 295, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Franklin Vick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "H" and "V".

H. Franklin Vick, P.E., Manager
Planning and Environmental Branch

HFV/

Attachments

cc: Richard B. Davis, P.E., Assistant Manager, Planning and Environmental Branch
David Robinson, Ph.D., P.E., Assistant Manager, Planning and Environmental Branch

**Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report
Phase II (Abridged)**

**US 64 from NC 45 East of Plymouth to
SR 1235 East of Columbia
Washington and Tyrrell Counties
TIP No. R-2548
State Project No. 6.149001T**

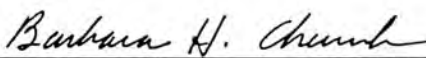
**North Carolina Department of Transportation
Report Prepared by Scott Owen**

June 1997



Principal Investigator
North Carolina Department of Transportation

17 June 1997
(Date)



Barbara H. Church
Supervisor, Historic Architectural Resources Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

17 June 1997
(Date)

Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to widen US 64 between NC 45 east of Plymouth and SR 1235 east of Columbia from the current two-lane cross section to a multi-lane facility. This state-funded project has four build alternatives: 1) Construct an expressway on existing location for the entire length of the project; 2) Construct a freeway on new location, from the beginning of the project to northeast of the Scuppernong community. From this point to SR 1110 (in Tyrrell County) the freeway will be built primarily in the US 64 corridor, using existing US 64 as a service road where practicable. A multi-lane undivided highway will then be built from SR 1110 to the Scuppernong River. A new five-lane structure will be constructed to bridge the river, and a multi-lane undivided highway will be built from east of the river to SR 1235 at the end of the project; 3) Construct an expressway on existing location from the beginning of the project through the town of Roper, and connect it with the freeway section of Alternative 1 in the vicinity of the Weyerhaeuser property; and 4) Construct a freeway on existing location from the beginning of the project through the town of Roper, and connect it with the freeway section of Alternative 1 in the vicinity of the Weyerhaeuser property. All alternatives outlined above include a northern bypass of Creswell. The length of the project is 29.6 miles, measured along the existing highway. NCDOT currently owns 100 feet of right of way along US 64; 175 feet of right of way will be required for the new location sections, and 300-350 feet will be required for the existing location sections.

NCDOT conducted two surveys for this project in 1994 and 1996 (reports dated December 6, 1994 and June 1, 1996). In 1994, NCDOT divided this project into multiple sections. The first report (December 6, 1994) covered the westernmost section of the project, US 64 from NC 45 east of Plymouth to 2000 feet east of NC 32 in Washington County. NCDOT staff architectural historians surveyed only the existing location, as new location alternatives had yet to be developed. These architectural historians conducted that survey in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 121-12(a), which requires that properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places receive consideration in the planning process. One National Register property, Rehoboth Methodist Church, was found within the project study area.

NCDOT staff architectural historians conducted the second survey (report dated June 1, 1996) to address the project in its entirety, from NC 45 east of Plymouth to US 64 Business at the Scuppernong River just west of Columbia, Tyrrell County. This also included a new location alternative for the length of the project. In addition to the normal compliance with North Carolina General Statute 121-12(a) for a state-funded project, NCDOT staff architectural historians also surveyed five federal permit areas in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. They identified and evaluated all properties in those permit areas for National Register of Historic Places eligibility. (An NCDOT staff biologist identified and roughly delineated these permit areas in the time since the December 6, 1994, survey report). The 1996 survey for historic architectural resources found twelve properties in these permit areas. One property,

Rehoboth Methodist Church, is listed on the National Register, and another, the Tarkenten House, was determined eligible for the National Register. NCDOT and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) determined in a meeting on April 11, 1996, that the remaining ten properties were ineligible for listing in the National Register under any of its criteria.

NCDOT conducted a third survey in February and March, 1997, for several reasons. First, another new location alternative was developed (Alternative 3, described above). Second, more right of way than was previously studied is now required for Alternative 1 from the Scuppernong community to the end of the project (NCDOT staff architectural historians based their 1996 survey on the expectations of having 175 feet of right of way along this section; NCDOT now requires 300-350 feet of right of way). Third, the eastern end of the project has been extended through Columbia along US 64 to SR 1235 east of Columbia. And fourth, an NCDOT staff biologist has identified and roughly delineated forty-seven federal permit areas in the project area. Therefore, as these numerous permits will trigger one individual federal permit for the length of the project, NCDOT chose to conduct a Phase II (Abridged) survey for the entire length of this state-funded project in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

NCDOT staff architectural historians conducted this Phase II (Abridged) survey to determine the Area of Potential Effects (APE), and to identify and evaluate all properties over fifty years of age within the APE according to the Criteria of Evaluation for the National Register of Historic Places. They consulted SHPO's Washington and Tyrrell County survey maps and files, as well as the listings of the National Register of Historic Places and the State Study List, to find information on historic properties in the project area. Based on information found in these files, as well as the results of a field survey, NCDOT staff architectural historians established a boundary for the APE to include those properties along US 64 for the length of the project and those properties adjoining the new location alternatives. NCDOT staff architectural historians Scott Owen, Ed Davis, Mary Pope Furr, and Jill Marie Lord conducted an intensive survey by car and on foot on February 18-19 and March 3-5, 1997, covering one hundred percent (100%) of the APE, to identify those properties over fifty years of age that appeared to be eligible for the National Register.

NCDOT identified 246 properties in this survey. Two of these properties are evaluated together as the Turner Farms, and several more are part of the Roper Historic District, a National Register-eligible district which lies partially within the APE. Three properties are listed on the National Register (Belgrade and St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel), WH 1; Rehoboth Methodist Church, WH 3; Columbia Historic District, TY 3), and two properties are on the State Study List (Pleasant Grove Methodist Church, WH 395; Chapel Hill Baptist Church Cemetery, TY 113). One property, the Tarkenten House, was determined eligible in a previous report for this project (dated June 1, 1996). This survey also included those ten properties determined not eligible for the National Register and not worthy of further evaluation in the June 1, 1996 report. In a meeting on March 13, 1997, SHPO concurred with NCDOT's determination that another 180 properties are not eligible for the National Register and are not worthy of further evaluation. Photographs of all such

properties and copies of the concurrence forms from the April 11, 1996, and March 13, 1997, meetings follow in Appendices A and B. The remaining properties are evaluated in this report; thirteen have been found eligible for the National Register.

National Register Properties

134. Rehoboth Methodist Church (WH 3; #11 in June 1, 1996 report)	36
173. Belgrade and St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel) (WH 1)	43
196. Columbia Historic District (TY 3)	53

**Properties Eligible for the National Register
(evaluated in June 1, 1996 report)**

121. Tarkenten House (#6 in June 1, 1996 report)	60
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**Properties Eligible for the National Register
(evaluated in this report)**

17. Holy Disciples Church (Former Rosenwald School)	68
32. W. W. Mizell Farm	76
35. Homestead Farm (Hassell House) (WH 375)	85
41-42. Turner Farms	108
49-86. Roper Historic District	123
113. Pleasant Grove Methodist Church (SL) (WH 395)	153
115. Pleasant Grove Store	164
118. Former Schoolhouse	171
129. Will Chesson House (WH 366)	180
133. Farm	188
142. Pritchard Farm	198
153. Washington Correctional Center	211
172. Smithson House (WH 398)	218

**Properties Not Eligible for the National Register
(evaluated in this report)**

48. Downing-Spruill House (WH 427)	228
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**Properties Not Eligible for the National Register
and Not Worthy of Further Evaluation
(determined in June 1, 1996 report)**

122. Store (#9 in June 1, 1996 report)	241
123. Everett House (#8 in June 1, 1996 report)	241
131. White-Cherry House (WH 412) (#10 in June 1, 1996 report)	242
135. House (#12 in June 1, 1996 report)	242

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136. House (#12 in June 1, 1996 report)	242
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146. House (#2 in June 1, 1996 report)	244
192. House (#1 in June 1, 1996 report)	244
246. Oak Grove Baptist Church (#5 in June 1, 1996 report)	245

**Properties Not Eligible for the National Register
and Not Worthy of Further Evaluation
(determined in this report)**

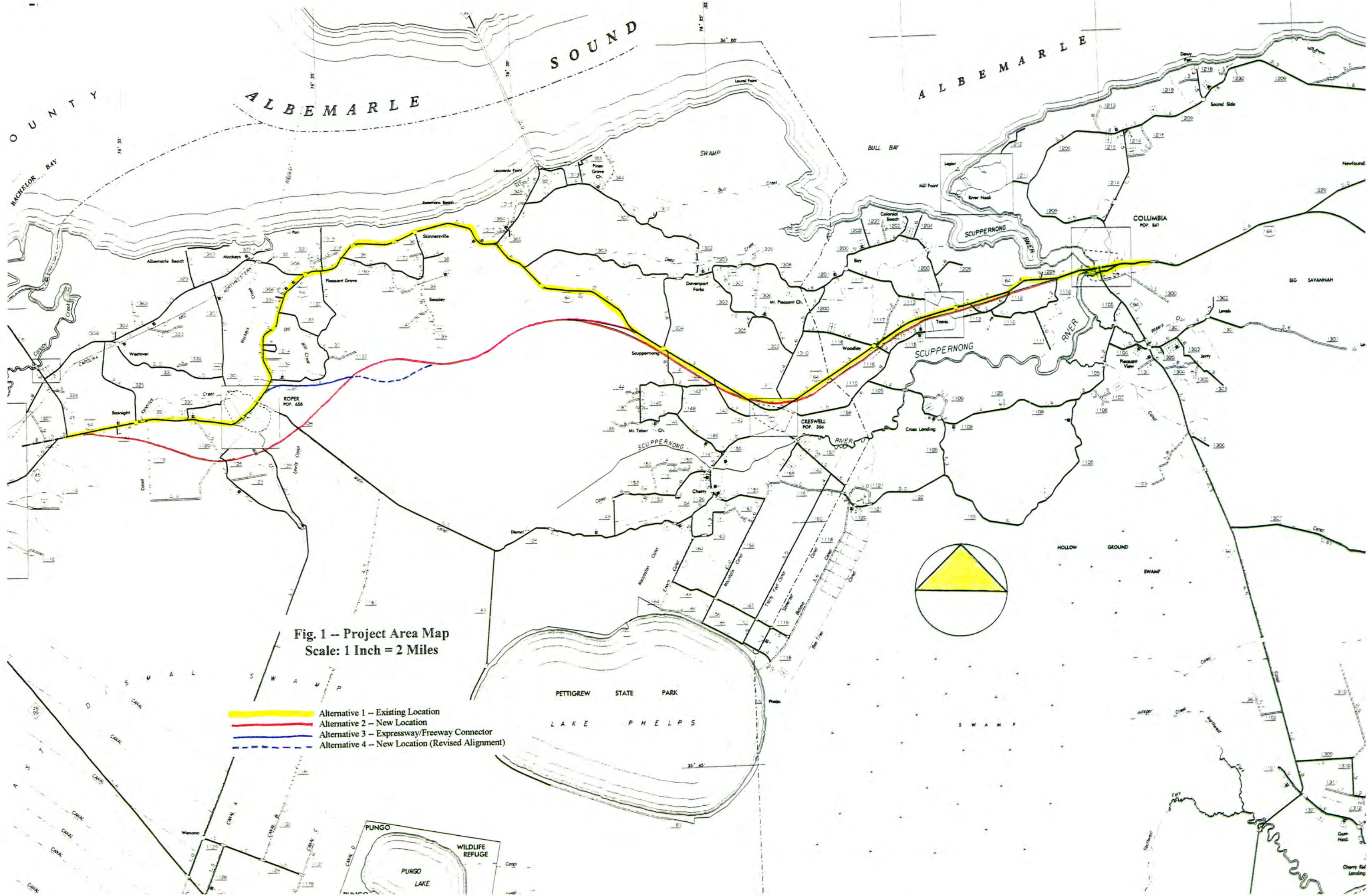
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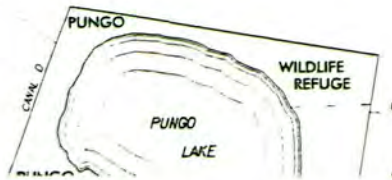


ALBEMARLE
SOUND

ALBEMARLE

Fig. 1 -- Project Area Map
Scale: 1 Inch = 2 Miles

- Alternative 1 -- Existing Location
- Alternative 2 -- New Location
- Alternative 3 -- Expressway/Freeway Connector
- - - Alternative 4 -- New Location (Revised Alignment)



PETTIGREW STATE PARK
LAKE PHELPS

COLUMBIA
POP. 841

CRESWELL
POP. 356

ROPER
POP. 456

BACHELOR BAY

BULL BAY

SWAMP

SCUPPERNON RIVER

SCUPPERNON RIVER

RIVER

SCUPPERNON RIVER

HOLLOW GROUND

SWAMP

SWAMP

PUNGO

WILDLIFE REFUGE

PUNGO LAKE

Cherry Rd Landing

Gum Neck

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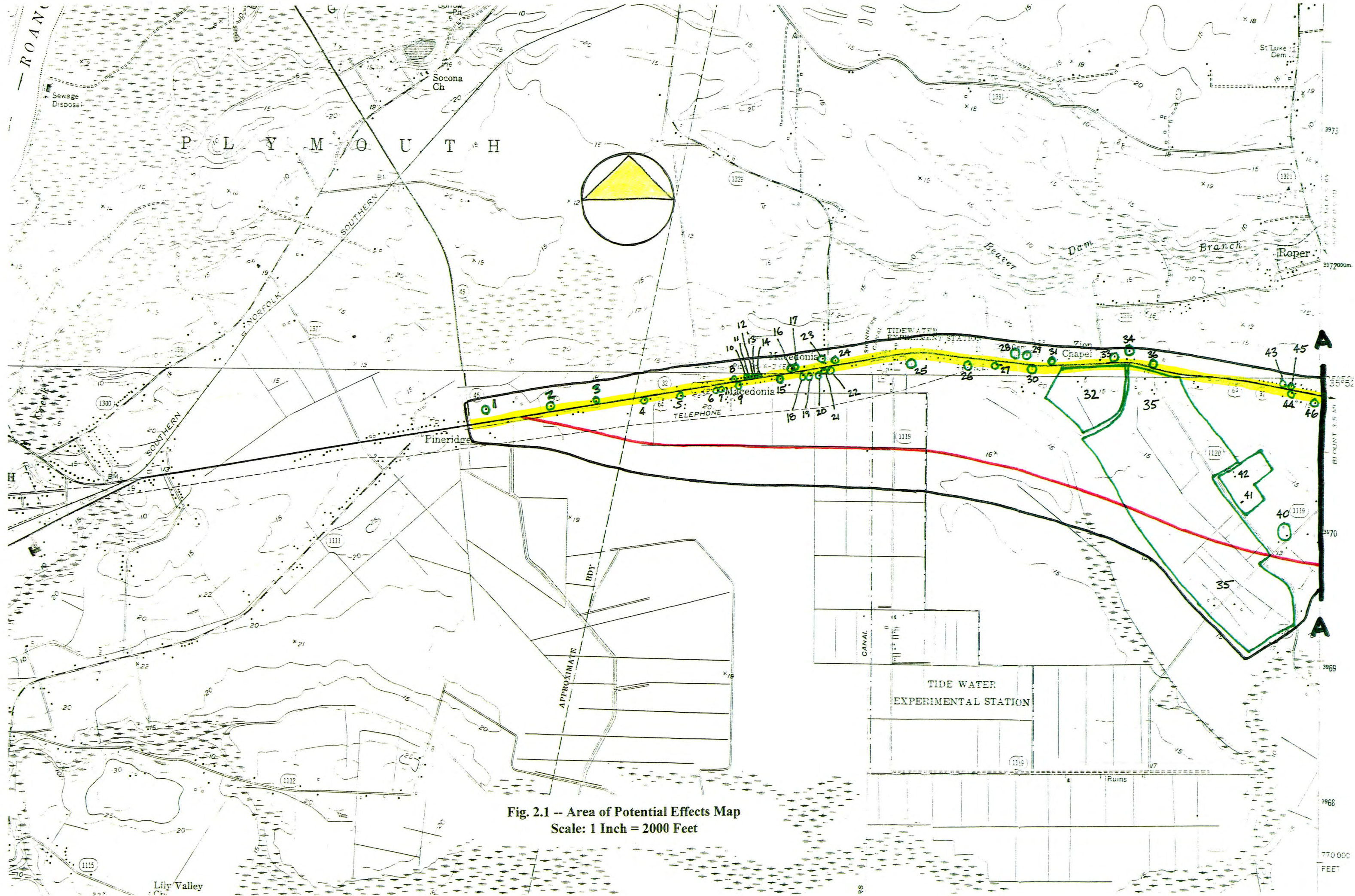


Fig. 2.1 -- Area of Potential Effects Map
 Scale: 1 Inch = 2000 Feet

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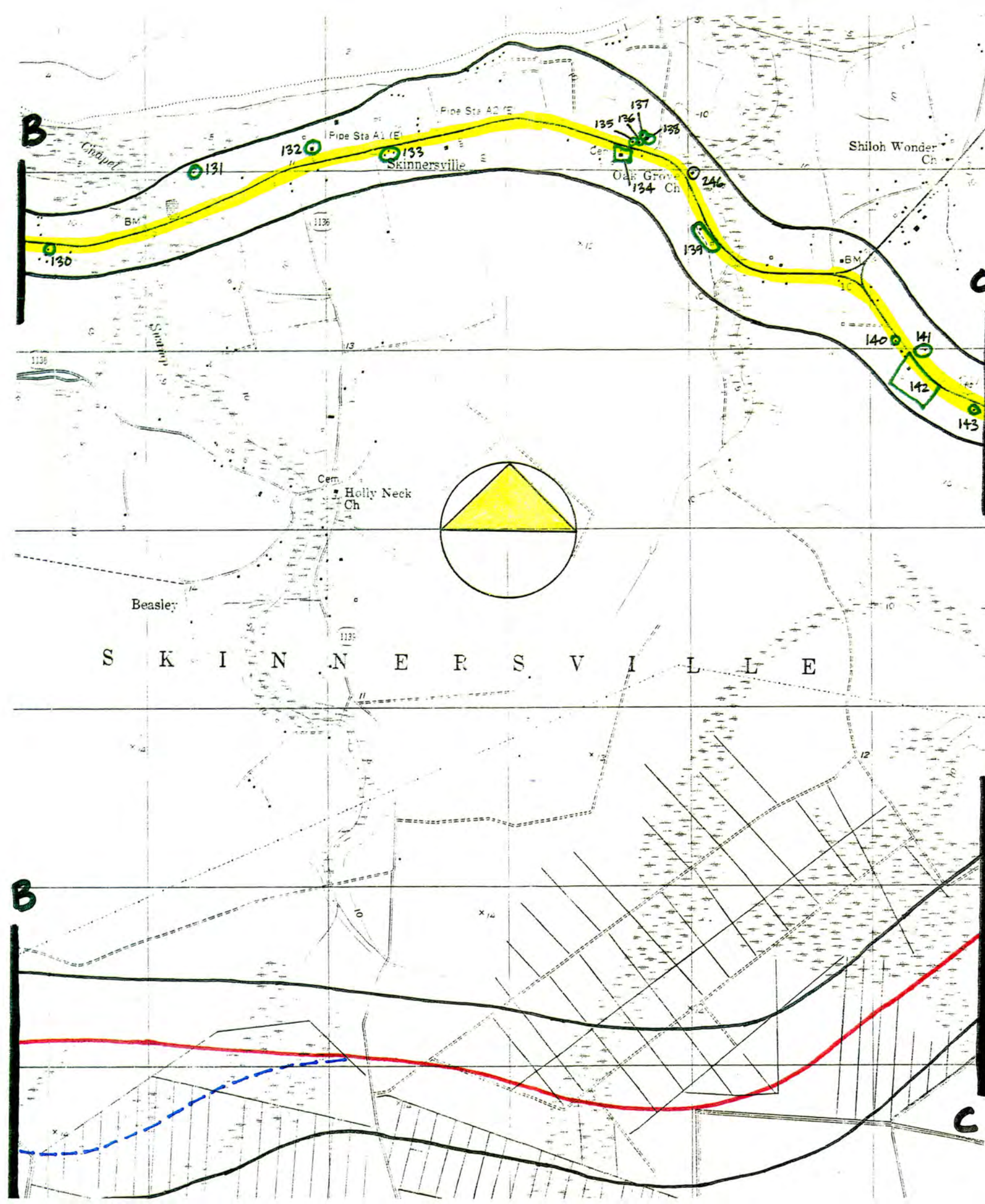


Fig. 2.3 -- Area of Potential Effects Map (cont.)
 Scale: 1 Inch = 2000 Feet

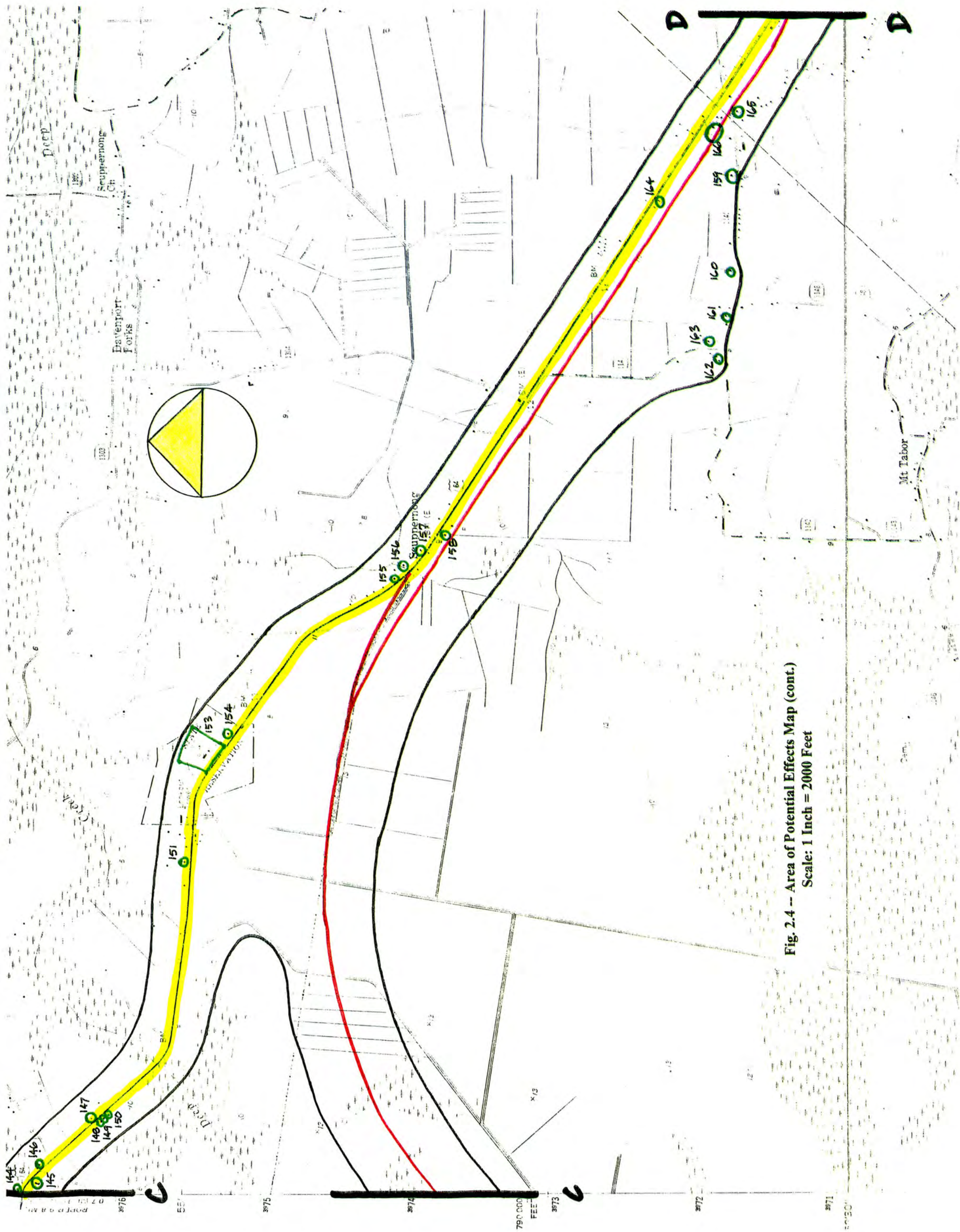


Fig. 2.4 -- Area of Potential Effects Map (cont.)
 Scale: 1 Inch = 2000 Feet

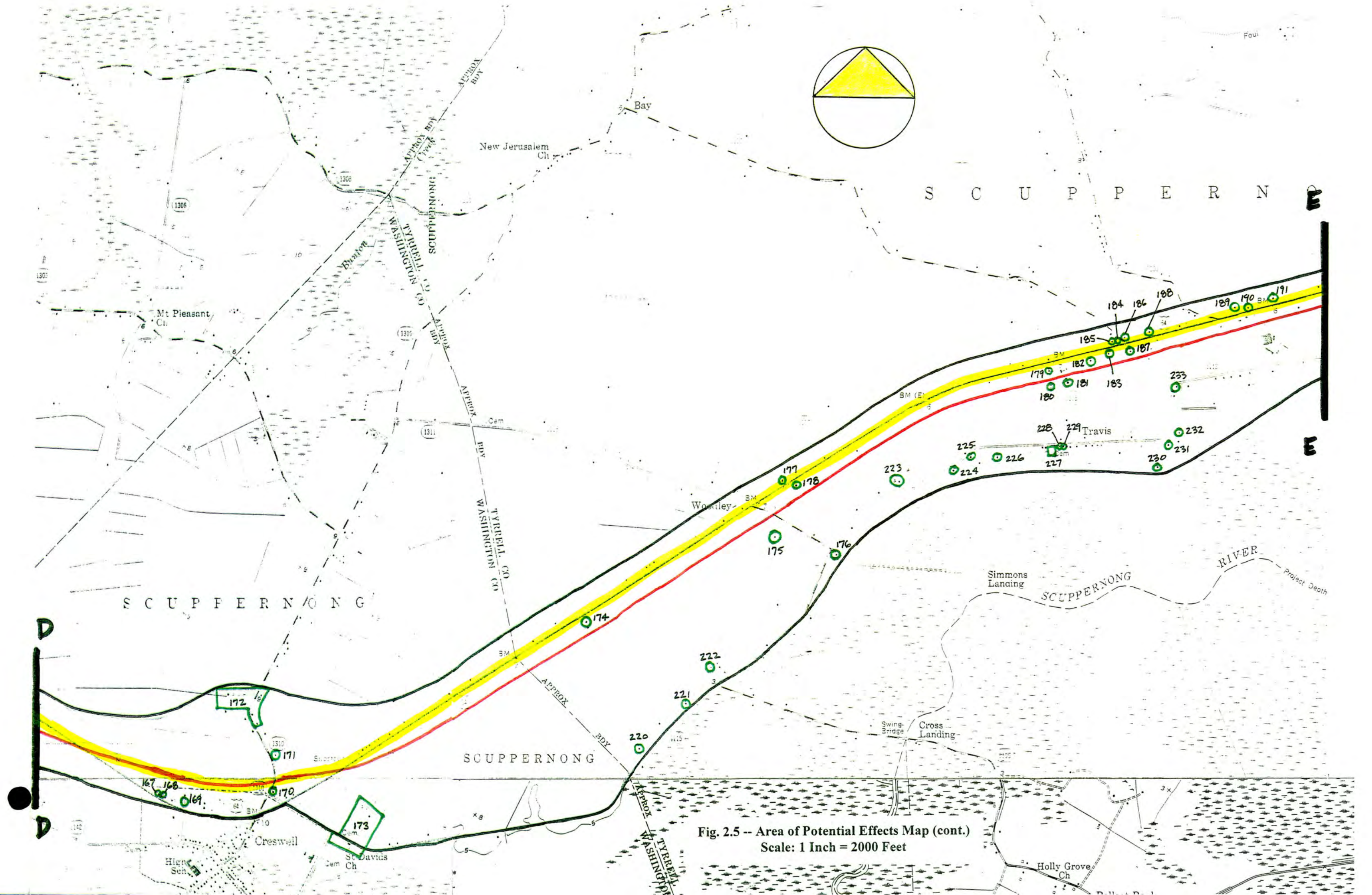


Fig. 2.5 -- Area of Potential Effects Map (cont.)
 Scale: 1 Inch = 2000 Feet

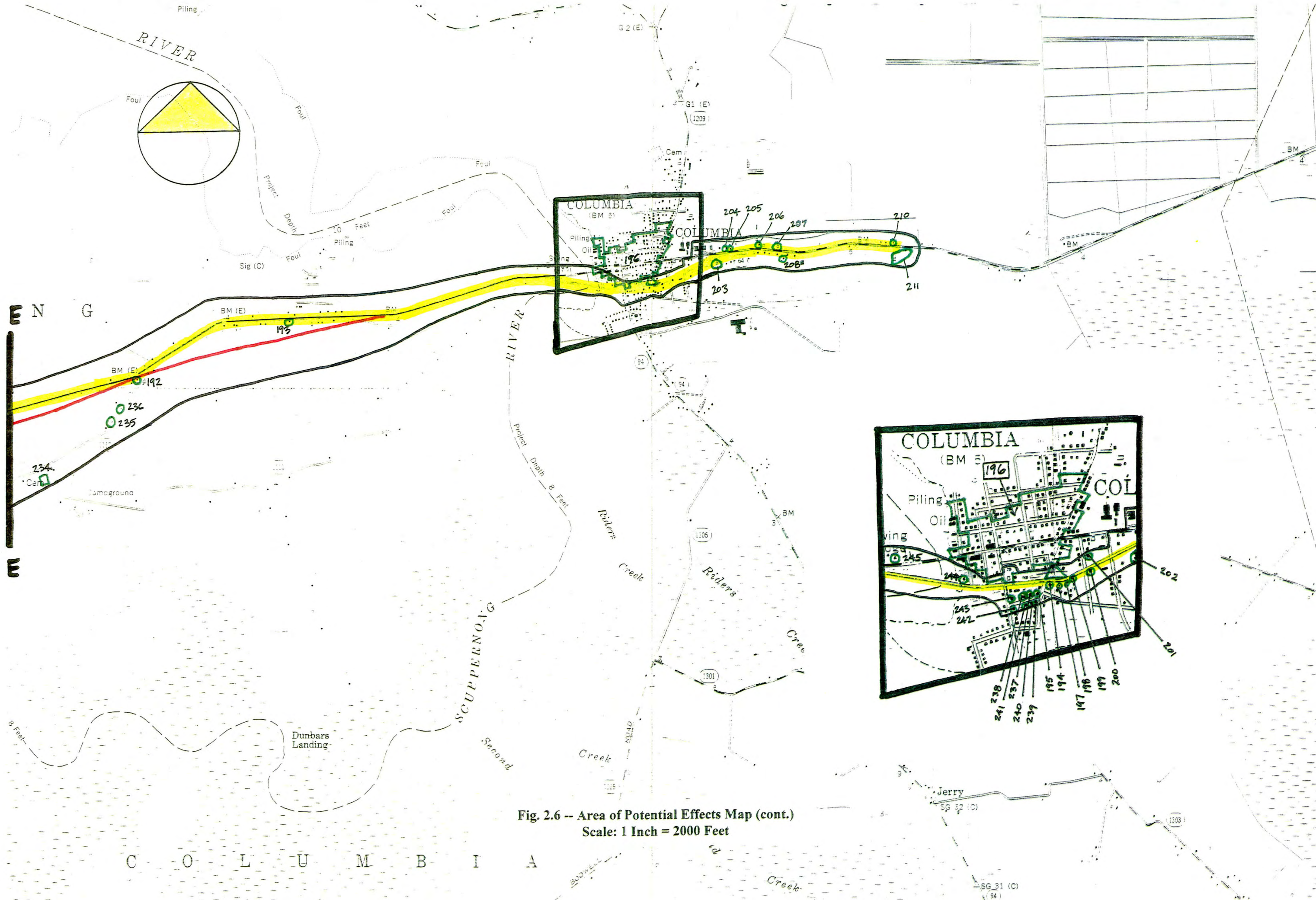


Fig. 2.6 -- Area of Potential Effects Map (cont.)
 Scale: 1 Inch = 2000 Feet

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19. House	260
20. House	261
21. House	261
22. House	262
23. House	262
24. House	263
25. House	263
26. House	264
27. House	264
28. Mizell Cemetery	265
29. Jordan Turner House	265
30. House	266
31. House	266
32. W. W. Mizell Farm	77
33. House	267
34. House	267
35. Homestead Farm (Hassell House)	86
36. House	268
37. House	268
38. Cemetery	269
39. Walker (Harrison) House Site and Cemetery	269
40. Farm	270
41-42. Turner Farms	109
43. House	270
44. House	271
45. House	271
46. House	272
47. House	272
48. Downing-Spruill House	229
49-86. Roper Historic District	124
87. House	273
88. House	273
89. House	274
90. House	274
91. Tobacco Barn	275

92. Cemetery	275
93. House	276
94. Williams Cemetery	276
95. Farm	277
96. House and Store	277
97. Farm	278
98. House	278
99. House	279
100. House	279
101. Store	280
102. House	280
103. House	281
104. House	281
105. House	282
106. House	282
107. House	283
108. House	283
109. House	283
110. House	284
111. House	284
112. House	284
113. Pleasant Grove Methodist Church	154
114. House	285
115. Pleasant Grove Store	165
116. House	285
117. House	286
118. Former Schoolhouse	172
119. House	286
120. Store	287
121. Tarkenten House	61
122. Store	241
123. Everett House	241
124. House	287
125. House	288
126. House	288
127. Farm	289
128. House	289
129. Will Chesson House	181
130. Store	290
131. White-Cherry House	242
132. House	290
133. Farm	189
134. Rehoboth Methodist Church	37
135. House	242
136. House	242

137. House	291
138. House	291
139. Farm	291
140. House	292
141. House	292
142. Pritchard Farm	199
143. House	293
144. House	243
145. House	243
146. House	244
147. House	293
148. House	294
149. House	294
150. House	295
151. House	295
153. Washington Correctional Center	212
154. House	296
155. House	296
156. House	297
157. House	297
158. House	298
159. House	298
160. House	299
161. House	299
162. House	300
163. House	300
164. House	301
165. House	301
166. Farm	302
167. House	302
168. House	303
169. Store	303
170. House	304
171. House	304
172. Smithson House	219
173. Belgrade and St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel)	44
174. House	305
175. House	305
176. House	306
177. House	306
178. House	307
179. House	307
180. Store	308
181. Cemetery	308
182. House	309

183. House	309
184. Store	310
185. Store	310
186. House	310
187. House	311
188. House	311
189. Store	312
190. House	312
191. House	313
192. House	244
193. House	313
194. House	314
195. House	314
196. Columbia Historic District	54
197. House	315
198. House	315
199. House	316
200. House	316
201. House	317
202. House	317
203. House	318
204. House	318
205. House	319
206. House	319
207. Warehouse	320
208. House	320
210. House	321
211. Farm	321
212a. House	322
212b. House	322
212c. House	322
213. Farm	322
214. Farm	323
215. House	323
216. House	324
217. House	324
218. House	325
219. House	325
220. House (TY 136)	326
221. House	326
222. House (TY 138)	327
223. House	327
224. House	328
225. House	328
226. House	329

227. Chapel Hill Baptist Church Cemetery (TY 113; SL)	329
228. House	330
229. House	330
230. House	331
231. House	331
232. House	332
233. House	332
234. Cemetery	333
235. House	333
236. House	334
237. House	334
238. Store	334
239. House	335
240. House	335
241. House	335
242. Store	336
243. House	336
244. Waterfront commercial building	337
245. Waterfront commercial building	337
246. Oak Grove Baptist Church (#5 in June 1, 1996 report)	245

Purpose of Survey and Report

This survey was conducted and report prepared in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the APE as part of the environmental studies conducted by NCDOT 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) and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This report is on file at NCDOT and is available for review by the general public. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. Section 470f, requires Federal agencies to take into account the effect of their undertakings on properties included in 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.

Methodology

This survey was conducted and report compiled by NCDOT in accordance with the provisions of FHWA Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (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 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 800; 36 CFR Part 60; and Phase II (Abridged) Survey Procedures for Historic Architectural Resources by NCDOT dated June 15, 1994. This survey report meets the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service.

NCDOT conducted a Phase II (Abridged) survey 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 all significant resources within the APE; and 3) to evaluate these resources according to the National Register of Historic Places criteria.

The survey methodology consisted of a field survey and historical background research of the project area. NCDOT staff architectural historians conducted the field survey by car and on foot, and photographed and keyed all structures over fifty years of age to a U.S.G.S. quadrangle map and an aerial map.

NCDOT staff architectural historians searched SHPO's survey files for the project area and found that some properties within the APE have been previously surveyed. Three of these properties are listed on the National Register, and two are entered on the State Study List. Washington and Tyrrell Counties have received little more than reconnaissance level surveys. Washington County was included in Historic and Architectural Resources of the Tar-Neuse River Basin (Appendix R, 1977), and Mattson, Alexander, and Associates conducted a reconnaissance survey of Tyrrell County in 1995. Aside from a few individual National Register nominations, the only substantial work done in either county are the National Register nominations for the Plymouth Historic

District (Davyd Foard Hood, 1990) and the Columbia Historic District (J. Daniel Pezzoni, 1994). Using the survey files and National Register nominations on file at SHPO, Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern presented the best of Washington and Tyrrell County architecture in A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina (1996). This book included summaries of Homestead Farm (Hassell House), Rehoboth Methodist Church, Belgrade and St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel), and as well as the towns of Plymouth, Roper, Creswell, and Columbia.

Summary Results and Findings

Properties Under Fifty Years of Age

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 in 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.

List of National Register Properties

- 134. Rehoboth Methodist Church (WH 3; #11 in June 1, 1996 report)
- 173. Belgrade and St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel) (WH 1)
- 196. Columbia Historic District (TY 3)

List of Properties Eligible for the National Register (evaluated in June 1, 1996 report)

- 121. Tarkenten House (#6 in June 1, 1996 report)

List of Properties Eligible for the National Register (evaluated in this report)

- 17. Holy Disciples Church (Former Rosenwald School)
- 32. W. W. Mizell Farm
- 35. Homestead Farm (Hassell House) (WH 375)
- 41-42. Turner Farms
- 49-86. Roper Historic District
- 113. Pleasant Grove Methodist Church (SL) (WH 395)
- 115. Pleasant Grove Store
- 118. Former Schoolhouse
- 129. Will Chesson House (WH 366)
- 133. Farm
- 142. Pritchard Farm

- 153. Washington Correctional Center
- 172. Smithson House (WH 398)

**List of Properties Not Eligible for the National Register
(evaluated in this report)**

- 48. Downing-Spruill House (WH 427)

**List of Properties Not Eligible for the National Register
and Not Worthy of Further Evaluation
(determined in June 1, 1996 report)**

- 122. Store (#9 in June 1, 1996 report)
- 123. Everett House (#8 in June 1, 1996 report)
- 131. White-Cherry House (WH 412) (#10 in June 1, 1996 report)
- 135. House (#12 in June 1, 1996 report)
- 136. House (#12 in June 1, 1996 report)
- 144. House (#4 in June 1, 1996 report)
- 145. House (#3 in June 1, 1996 report)
- 146. House (#2 in June 1, 1996 report)
- 192. House (#1 in June 1, 1996 report)
- 246. Oak Grove Baptist Church (#5 in June 1, 1996 report)

**List of Properties Not Eligible for the National Register
and Not Worthy of Further Evaluation
(determined in this report)**

- 1. House
- 2. House
- 3. House
- 4. House
- 5. House
- 6. House
- 7. House
- 8. House
- 9. House
- 10. House
- 11. House
- 12. House
- 13. House
- 14. House
- 15. House
- 16. Macedonia Zion Church, A. M. E.
- 18. House
- 19. House

20. House
21. House
22. House
23. House
24. House
25. House
26. House
27. House
28. Mizell Cemetery
29. Jordan Turner House
30. House
31. House
33. House
34. House
36. House
37. House
38. Cemetery
39. Walker (Harrison) House Site and Cemetery (WH 373)
40. Farm
43. House
44. House
45. House
46. House
47. House
87. House
88. House
89. House
90. House
91. Tobacco Barn
92. Cemetery
93. House
94. Williams Cemetery
95. Farm
96. House and Store
97. Farm
98. House
99. House
100. House
101. Store
102. House
103. House
104. House
105. House
106. House
107. House

108. House
109. House
110. House
111. House
112. House
114. House
116. House
117. House
119. House
120. Store
124. House
125. House
126. House
127. Farm
128. House
130. Store
132. House
137. House
138. House
139. Farm
140. House
141. House
143. House
147. House
148. House
149. House
150. House
151. House
154. House
155. House
156. House
157. House
158. House
159. House
160. House
161. House
162. House
163. House
164. House
165. House
166. Farm
167. House
168. House
169. Store
170. House

171. House
174. House
175. House
176. House
177. House
178. House
179. House
180. Store
181. Cemetery
182. House
183. House
184. Store
185. Store
186. House
187. House
188. House
189. Store
190. House
191. House
193. House
194. House
195. House
197. House
198. House
199. House
200. House
201. House
202. House
203. House
204. House
205. House
206. House
207. Warehouse
208. House
210. House
211. Farm
212a. House
212b. House
212c. House
213. Farm
214. Farm
215. House
216. House
217. House
218. House

- 219. House
- 220. House (TY 136)
- 221. House
- 222. House (TY 138)
- 223. House
- 224. House
- 225. House
- 226. House
- 227. Chapel Hill Baptist Church Cemetery (TY 113; SL)
- 228. House
- 229. House
- 230. House
- 231. House
- 232. House
- 233. House
- 234. Cemetery
- 235. House
- 236. House
- 237. House
- 238. Store
- 239. House
- 240. House
- 241. House
- 242. Store
- 243. House
- 244. Waterfront commercial building
- 245. Waterfront commercial building

Historical Context: Washington and Tyrrell Counties

The shores of Albemarle Sound were one of the earliest regions in North Carolina settled by Europeans. As the land grants north of the sound became increasingly difficult to obtain in the late seventeenth century, settlers looked for new areas to claim. They set their sights on the “South Shore” of the Albemarle Sound. Out of this region, named Moratoc after the native people who lived there, grew Washington and Tyrrell Counties.

Europeans had permanently settled the South Shore by the last decade of the seventeenth century, and by 1710, planters were operating farms along the Scuppernong river. Small communities grew around the ports of Plymouth and Columbia, as well as Lee’s Mill on Kendrick’s Creek. The construction of a land route between the Roanoke and Scuppernong Rivers began around 1715; US 64 roughly follows this early road.¹ In 1729, a year after the Lords Proprietors sold their land to King George II, the General Assembly of the Province established Tyrrell County. Named after Sir John Tyrrell, one of the Lord Proprietors, the General Assembly carved Tyrrell from Chowan, Bertie, Currituck and Pasquotank Counties.

Tyrrell is one of the oldest counties in the state. Its swampy land and geographical isolation have proven difficult for those interested in developing strong economies based on industry and agriculture. The Albemarle Sound bounds the county to the north; Washington defines the county line to the west; Hyde County lies to the south; and the Alligator river provides the eastern boundary. Columbia is the only sizable town in Tyrrell County, and has served as the county seat since 1799. Beginning in 1774, Tyrrell has gradually reduced in size as other counties have been formed from it. After giving territory to form Martin and Washington Counties, Tyrrell achieved its present size when Dare county was separated from it in 1870.

The first town in the Moratoc region was at Kendrick’s Creek, near present-day Roper in Washington County; when settled, this area was part of Chowan County.² Mackey’s Ferry connected the settlement on Kendrick’s Creek with Edenton and offered a route to market.³ This was the original link between the South Shore and the other counties in the Albemarle Sound region. Captain Thomas Blount of Chowan County built a saw mill on Kendrick’s Creek in 1701 or 1702,⁴ and operated it until his death ca. 1706. His widow married Thomas Lee, who continued to operate the mill for several years. The settlement became known as Lee’s Mill, and in 1748, it became the county seat of Tyrrell when

¹ Bill Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina*, Vol. 3 (Raleigh: Sharpe Publishing Co., 1961) 1615, and David E. Davis, *History of Tyrrell County* (N.p.: n.p., 1963) 18.

² Chowan County was founded in 1668 as the Shaftsbury Precinct of Albemarle County. It was renamed Chowan in 1681. William S. Powell, *The North Carolina Gazetteer: A Dictionary of Tar Heel Places* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1968) 106. For a map of the Albemarle Sound region ca. 1690, consult Davis, 16.

³ Davis, 16.

⁴ Gene Gray Harris, *Eden: Coastal Carolina* (Plymouth: Somerset Publications, 1978) 73; Sharpe, 1615; and Davis, 21-22.

Stephen Lee donated land for a courthouse.⁵ The first Inferior Court of Tyrrell County opened here in 1751.

The gradual whittling down of the size of Tyrrell began in 1774 when Martin County split from Tyrrell. Elizabeth Town, chartered by the General Assembly in 1793, became the county seat in 1799.⁶ Due to confusion with Elizabethtown near the Cape Fear River in Bladen County, its name was changed to Columbia in 1810. In 1799, Washington County split from Tyrrell. By 1801, the first Washington County courthouse was constructed at Lee's Mill. The Washington County seat was moved from Lee's Mill to Plymouth in 1823. The final adjustment to Tyrrell's size came in 1870, when Dare County was formed from Tyrrell's eastern lands.

Like Tyrrell, swampy ground covers much of Washington County. However, the available soil is good and agriculture has always dominated the regional economy. Corn and rice were Washington County's staple crops in the years prior to the War between the States,⁷ and Somerset plantation led the county in rice production. Established in 1816 by the Collins family, Somerset was the largest plantation in Washington County and one of the notable antebellum plantations in North Carolina. The War between the States freed the slave labor force that plantations like Somerset needed to stay productive, and instituted a period of decline that saw many larger farms and plantations divided and sold and many more smaller farms (as well as the tenancy system) created. Corn remained a staple crop, and soy beans, tobacco, and peanuts became popular with smaller farmers. Most farms survived on a subsistence basis, and continued to raise their own livestock.

In addition to crops, timber comprised a good portion of the area's economic base. Communities like Plymouth, Columbia, and Lee's Mill produced sawn lumber and shingles through the early twentieth century. Lee's Mill so relied on this industry that they renamed their town Roper after the John L. Roper Company, which established a saw mill near Lee's saw mill in 1890. After harvesting all the convenient timber in the area, the Roper company closed in 1920. When vandals destroyed Lee's saw mill in 1921, the town's two hundred-twenty-year association with the timber industry came to an end. Roper survived this blow, but timber and mill jobs moved to Plymouth and across Albemarle Sound.

⁵ Davis, 29.

⁶ Davis, 42-43.

⁷ Sharpe, 1619.

Architectural Context: Washington and Tyrrell Counties

Travelers on US 64, the main route through the Moratoc region, encounter rural landscapes dotted with farmhouses and small towns seemingly untouched by the sprawl of the late twentieth century. However, little architecture survives from the early years of settlement in Washington and Tyrrell Counties. Most likely, these early structures were not unlike those built in the counties north of Albemarle Sound since the majority of settlers had immigrated from that area. Settlers used post-in-ground construction or heavy timber framing in construction of their houses, mills, barns, and courthouses; few were built entirely of brick. These early structures were gradually replaced by larger and more permanent buildings as economic conditions improved.

After the War of Independence, the region experienced a growth in the agrarian economy and plantation system that lasted until the War between the States. Somerset, owned by Josiah Collins and located south of Creswell, was not only the region's largest plantation, but the fourth largest in the state. At the center of a thirty-structure plantation complex, the Collins family erected a grand two-and-one-half-story house with Greek Revival details on the banks of Lake Phelps.

Large plantations and grand mansion houses do not define Washington County's architectural legacy, however. For the most part, small and middling farms dotted the rural landscape. Most people lived in hall-parlor and center-hall houses that usually did not exceed two-stories. Builders copied prevailing national styles such as Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival, but usually finished their houses in a plain manner. The W. W. Mizell Farm and its neighbor, the Homestead Farm, both near Roper, are two examples of medium farmsteads with plainly finished, center-hall houses. Each dwelling forms the nucleus of a complex that includes a half-dozen or more outbuildings on the periphery of the house lot.

The War between the States brought not only physical destruction to Washington County (Plymouth burned in 1863), but financial misery as well. Middling farmers like the Hassells, Mizells, and Spruills survived to operate on a smaller scale, but the war freed the slave labor force and ruined the plantation economy that supported large farms like Somerset in the Moratoc region.

The area's economy began a gradual improvement in the 1880s, and, aided by the development of balloon frame construction and the increased availability of building materials, initiated something of a construction boom. Until World War II, Washington and Tyrrell Counties built houses, churches, schools, commercial buildings, courthouses, and jails in an abundance of styles, including the Queen Anne, Italianate, Neoclassical Revival, and Colonial Revival. The small farmers, tenants, and sharecroppers who constituted a majority of the area's population built and finished their houses modestly. However, some larger landowners and wealthy merchants lavishly constructed or

remodeled their houses in styles ranging from Eastlake (additions to the Thomas Blount House, Roper) to Neoclassical Revival (the Tarkenton House portico, Pleasant Grove).

Agriculture continued to dominate the area's economy after World War II, but Washington and Tyrrell Counties suffered a decline. While industrialization and urbanization transformed other parts of the state, these two counties had a static population and remained primarily rural. However, it is because of this that the rural and historic character of the countryside and small communities exists in much the same condition as it has for nearly three hundred years.

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

National Register Properties:

134. Rehoboth Methodist Church (WH 3)



Rehoboth Methodist Church. South elevation.



Rehoboth Methodist Church. View from NW.



Rehoboth Methodist Church. View from US 64.



Rehoboth Methodist Church. View W along US 64. Church at extreme R.



Rehoboth Methodist Church. View W along US 64. ED standing at edge of ROW.

134. Rehoboth Methodist Church (WH 3)

Description and Background

Rehoboth Methodist Church, located near the Skinnersville community on the south side of US 64 about one mile west of NC 32, is said to be the third church for area Methodists since 1735. Built between 1850 and 1853 by the slaves of Joseph H. Norman (and on land he deeded to the church's board of trustees), Rehoboth Methodist Church is a graceful Greek Revival structure set among trees draped with Spanish moss in a rural section of Washington County. The National Register nomination provides the following description:

Rehoboth Methodist Church, situated amid a small graveyard, is a modest, carefully finished Greek Revival temple-form structure. The road formerly ran in front of the building, but now passes behind it. . . .

The wooden frame of the rectangular structure is covered with weatherboards and surmounted by a gable roof. The front (southwest) end of the building is pedimented. A delicate dentil course outlines the weatherboarded pediment and carries around the sides of the building, returning slightly on the rear gable end. Two bays wide and three deep, the church is bounded by cornerposts treated as symmetrically molded pilasters, has a plain board water table and rests on low brick piers.

The front facade has a pair of entrances, each containing a double door framed by vernacular [sic] version of a symmetrically molded architrave with paneled corner blocks which employ simple wooden strips in lieu of molding. Each leaf of the double doors is composed of six horizontal raised panels vertically aligned; the panels are outlined by the traditional flat, broad Greek Revival molding. Six-over-six sash windows above the front entrances provide light for the gallery. Architraves like those of the entrances frame the gallery windows as well as the sixteen-over-sixteen sash windows on the sides and rear; simple molded sills and louvered blinds are used on all windows. Located on the southeast side of the church . . . is a single door identical to one leaf of the front doors, which . . . was probably used by the slaves who were seated in the gallery.

The interior . . . retain[s] its original finish and furnishings . . . Walls plastered above a simple chair rail and a flush sheathed dado are interrupted by the large windows framed by symmetrically molded architraves and paneled corner blocks. Functional wooden pews with simple curvilinear sides area arranged along the sides and down the middle of the auditorium; the middle section of pews is divided down the center. Two additional sections of pews face the pulpit which is centered in [sic] a dais along the northeast wall. . . . The dais is outlined by a communion rail composed of chamfered posts capped by applied necking, and balusters square in section which support a wide molded rail. . . .

The gallery is supported on chamfered posts finished like those of the communion rail. A solid balustrade paneled with flat panels outlined with Greek Revival molding encloses the gallery. Access to the gallery is gained from an enclosed winding stair adjacent to the side entrance. Pews which are rather crude versions of those on the main level are arranged on the sloping floor of the gallery.

Between ca. 1735 and ca. 1805, local Methodists worshipped at an interfaith chapel in Skinnersville. Reverend Charles Pettigrew is said to have served the faithful at this

chapel twice a month in his early days as a circuit-riding minister. A second meeting house, known as Swain's Chapel, served area worshippers of different faiths from ca. 1805 to 1828, when it became affiliated with the new Methodist Protestant sect. Swain's Chapel was torn down in the late 1840s and replaced with Rehoboth Methodist Church in 1853.

According to the nomination, little is known about this church's history or membership. Nevertheless, Rehoboth Methodist Church has been called the "mother church" of the Methodist Protestant denomination in Washington County. It seems to have been the largest church on the Albemarle circuit in the 1860s, when its congregation hovered around 170 members. Rehoboth merged with the United Methodist Church in 1939. Today, the congregation is almost nonexistent, and services are held only once a year.

Evaluation

Rehoboth Methodist Church was listed on the National Register in 1976 under Criterion A (Event) for significance in religion and Criterion C (Design/Construction) for significance in architecture. Presumably, the church also satisfied the requirements of Criterion Consideration A (Religious Properties), which states that a religious property is eligible if it derives its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance. The nomination provides the following statement of significance:

Rehoboth Methodist Church has served the Methodists of central Washington County farming communities since about 1850. The consistent, careful finish of the Greek Revival temple-form building is unusually academic by comparison with other buildings in the county, probably reflecting the desire for architectural excellence in a public building. The simple yet dignified frame church in its picturesque setting in a grove [sic] of trees draped with Spanish moss has been preserved through local efforts as a landmark of the county.

National Register Boundary

The National Register boundary for Rehoboth Methodist Church follows the property lines of the lot on which it stands (Washington County Tax Parcel Map, PIN # 7830-35-2042), and includes the church, cemetery, and surrounding trees in order to preserve the setting of the property. The bounded area measures approximately 1.55 acres. As the edge of right of way along US 64 extends into the church yard and includes some of the moss-draped trees that play an important role in defining the character of this church, the back of the ditch on the south side of the highway has been chosen as the northern boundary for this property.

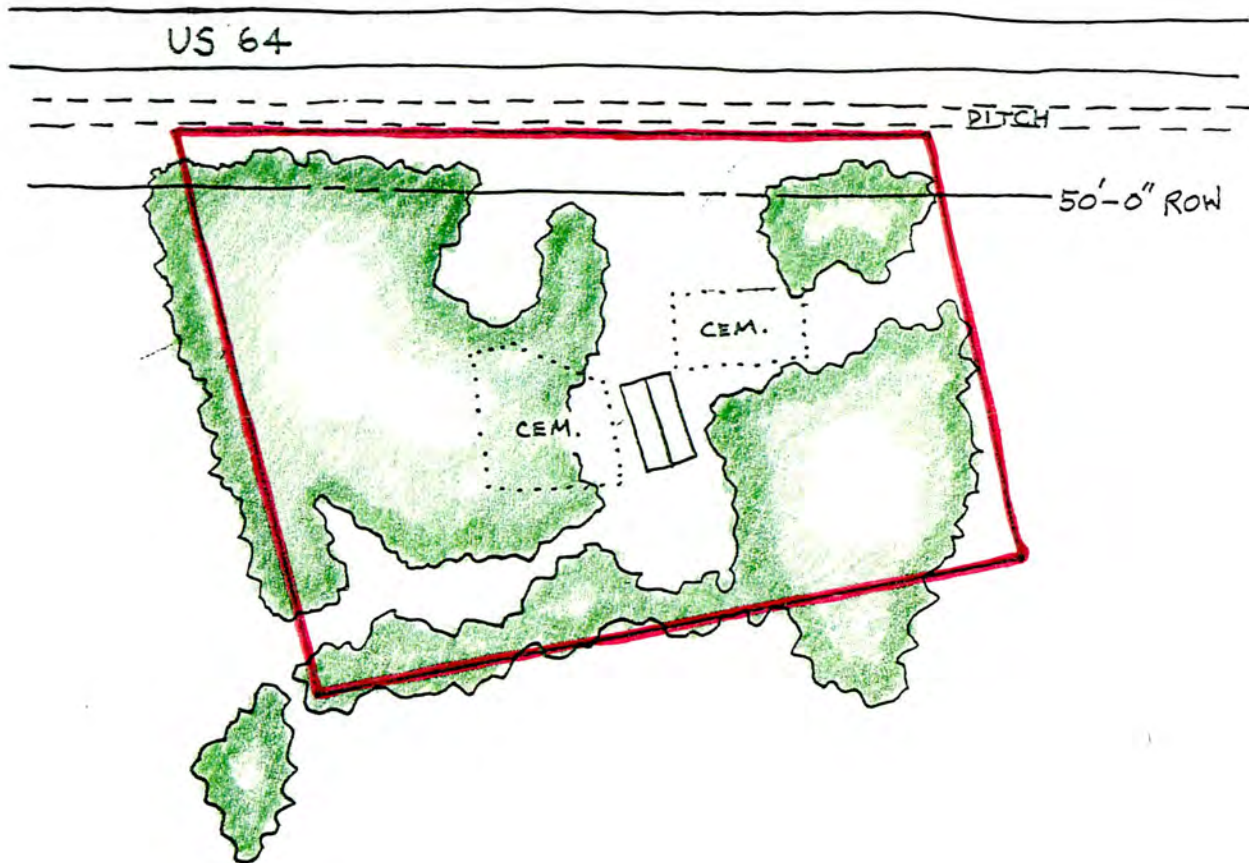



Fig. 3 -- Rehoboth Methodist Church
Not to Scale

 National Register Boundary

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

National Register Properties:

173. Belgrade and St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel) (WH 1)



Belgrade. View N along entrance drive.



Belgrade. South elevation.



Belgrade.



Belgrade. Outbuildings (kitchen at L).



Belgrade. Outbuildings (water tower at L).



Belgrade. View S from US 64.



St. David's Church. View S from Belgrade.



St. David's Church. View from SW.



St. David's Church. View from W.



St. David's Church. View from NW.

173. Belgrade and St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel) (WH 1)

Description and Background

Belgrade and St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel), on the south side of SR 1158 about 0.3 miles east of SR 1159, are located in a sparsely settled region of Washington County, near the current town of Creswell. Charles Pettigrew started construction on his dwelling house at Belgrade in the spring of 1797 and completed it the following fall. This house was the center of a 1200-acre plantation that prospered under the supervision of Pettigrew and his heirs until the War between the States. After the war, the land changed hands several times and never regained its pre-war prosperity. However, the main house and several outbuildings remain in good condition:

Belgrade is a small one-story frame dwelling with a finished attic, with most of its simple late eighteenth century finish intact. The central bay of the facade is protected by a delicate one-story porch. The house is covered by a steep gable roof, finished with a beaded rakeboard on the sides and a box cornice along the front. The exterior is sheathed with beaded weatherboards attached by rosehead nails. On both east and west elevations there are two exterior end chimneys with single stepped shoulders and well proportioned freestanding stacks. Each is of brick laid in Flemish bond and each has a stepped base and a two-course molded cap. . . .

The plan, a variation of the familiar hall-and-parlor plan, is two rooms wide and two deep. A small stair hall is located between the two rear rooms. Leading to the finished attic is a closed string stair with winders. . . .

The front east room is the most elaborate, with a broad beaded baseboard, a wainscot composed of horizontally sheathed beaded boards with molded chair rail, a molded cornice, and a molded plaster ceiling roundel. The wooded mantel has reverse crossting around the fire opening, an unusual vernacular detail, and a single raised panel frieze above. The molded mantel shelf is composed of scotia, ovolo, and stepped bead moldings. The mantel in the rear west room is identical.

A kitchen, smokehouse, and water tower are the only remaining outbuildings on the farm, and are located to the rear of the main house. The kitchen and smokehouse are rectangular, weatherboarded structures, and the cylindrical watertower stands on a truss frame.

In addition to being a planter, Charles Pettigrew was a priest and primary organizer of the Episcopal Church in North Carolina. Between 1803 and 1804, Pettigrew built a small chapel on his property that allowed him to conduct regular religious services. In 1857, the church was remodeled, enlarged, and consecrated as St. David's Episcopal Church. It was used for services until 1898 when the congregation built a new church in Creswell. The nomination describes the church as it stands today:

The main body of St. David's Church is a cruciform, weatherboarded frame structure with a cross gable roof. It includes at core the simple vernacular chapel built by Charles Pettigrew, plus the substantial rebuilding of the 1850s, including finish, wings, and other additions. A two-part tower which is a later nineteenth century addition stands at the

center of the south (entrance) [sic] facade. The lower (and principal) part rises to a truncated, pyramidal, bell-cast roof at about the level of the ridge of the roof of the church proper, above which rises a square-in-section belfry with a four-faced, pyramidal, bell-cast spire. A simple Latin cross crowns the spire.

Evaluation

Belgrade and St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel) were listed on the National Register in 1977 under Criterion A (Event) for their significance in agriculture and religion. Presumably, St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel) also satisfied the requirements of Criterion Consideration A (Religious Properties), which states that a religious property is eligible if it derives its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance. Belgrade was Charles Pettigrew's second plantation in the Moratoc region and consisted of approximately 1200 acres on which he planted rice, corn, and wheat. While this was small in size compared to the massive Somerset plantation of Pettigrew's neighbor, Josiah Collins, Belgrade represents a mid-size plantation that was common throughout the eastern part of the state until the War between the States. St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel) is associated with the organization of the Episcopal Church in North Carolina in the 1790s. Pettigrew was a leader of the effort to organize North Carolina's Episcopalians into a separate diocese and after accomplishing this they elected him their first bishop. Since his poor health and his farms' demands quite often kept him from traveling, Pettigrew built this chapel in order for him to conduct regular religious services close to home.

Belgrade and St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel) were also listed on the National Register under Criterion B (Person) for their association with the life and achievements of Charles Pettigrew (1744-1807). Pettigrew was an Episcopalian priest who served as rector of St. Paul's Church in Edenton during the American Revolution. After the war, he settled in Tyrrell County and established his first plantation, Bonarva, while attempting to organize North Carolina's Episcopalians into a diocese. He succeeded and was elected the first bishop of the North Carolina diocese, but was never consecrated. Pettigrew established a second plantation in Washington County (Belgrade), and became one of the area's leading planters. As poor health and his duties as a plantation owner restricted his ability to conduct religious services in his diocese, Pettigrew built a chapel on his own land and performed his ministerial functions for local Episcopalians.

Finally, Belgrade and St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel) were listed on the National Register under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for their embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a building type, period, and method of construction. The nomination addresses this with the following description:

St. David's Episcopal Church is a starkly simple country church constructed over a period of years and distinguished by a quaint and unselfconscious provincialism and highly significant historical associations. Adjacent to the site of the church is a simple late eighteenth century Georgian style dwelling, the home of 'Parson' Pettigrew, first Bishop of the Episcopal Church of North Carolina. Both the church and the house are of

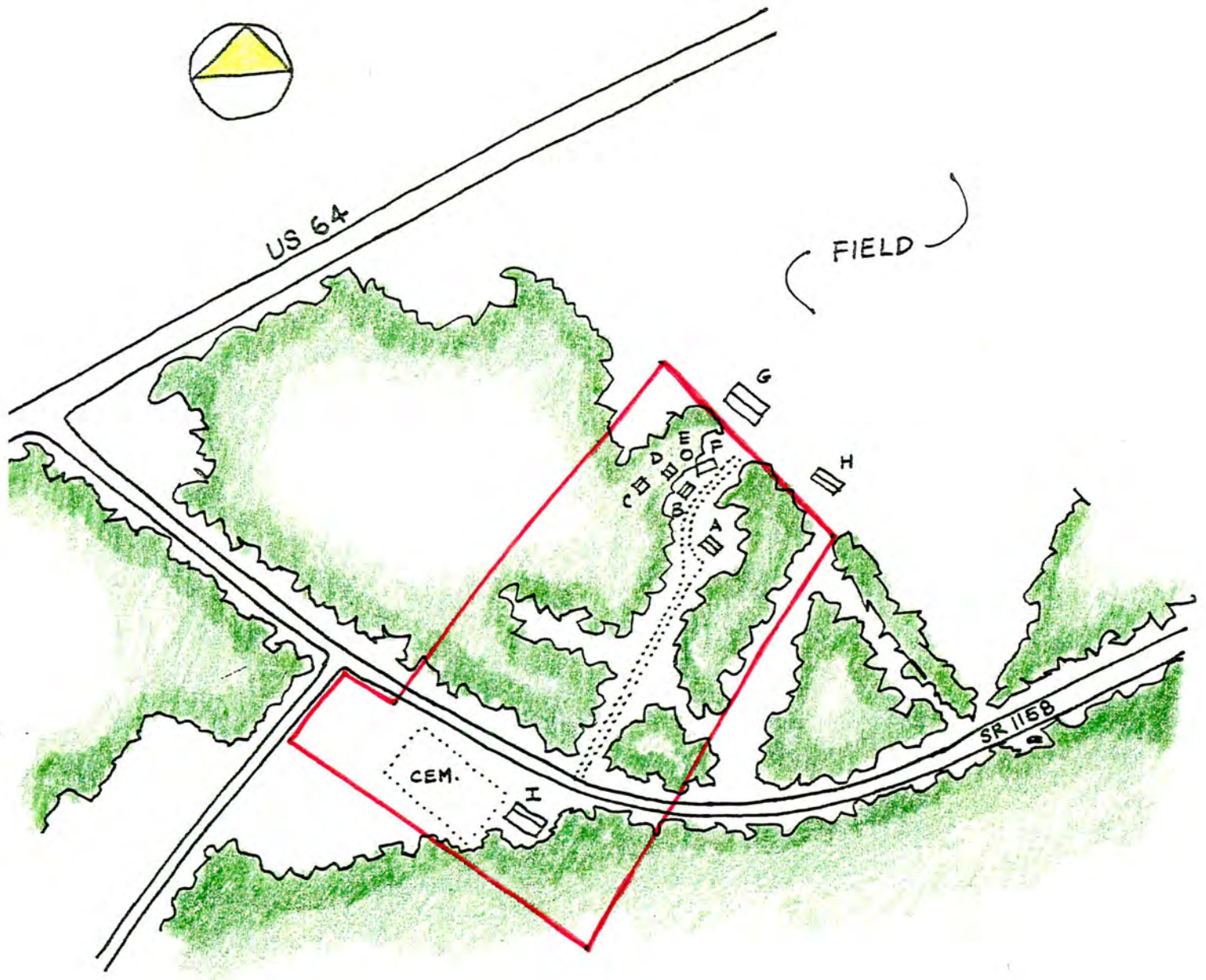
modest vernacular character, little altered, and are enhanced by their picturesque, unspoiled rural setting.

National Register Boundary

The National Register boundary for Belgrade and St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel) is outlined on the accompanying map, and is described in the nomination:


Begin at a point at the junction of SR 1159 and SR 1158. Then southwest 300 feet along SR 1159 to a wooded area. Then southeast 1000 feet to a point in a wooded area east of the chapel. Then northeast 1200 feet to a point in the farm complex. Then northwest 500 feet to a point in the farm complex. Then southwest to a point on SR 1158. Then northwest along SR 1158 to the point of origin.

The boundary was drawn to encompass the resources that contribute to the property's significance. These include the field in front of the chapel, the field to the side of the chapel, the cemetery, and the dwelling, outbuildings, entrance drive, and surrounding grounds at Belgrade.



- A Belgrade
- B kitchen
- C smokehouse
- D shed
- E water tower
- F equipment shed
- G modern barn
- H modern barn
- I St. David's Church

Fig. 4 -- Belgrade and St. David's Church (Pettigrew Chapel)
Not to Scale

 National Register Boundary

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

National Register Properties:

196. Columbia Historic District (TY 3)



Columbia H.D. S. Broad St. at Scuppermong Dr. (US 64). Houses in APE.



Columbia H.D. S. Road St. at Scuppermong Dr. (US 64). Marion A.M.E. Zion Church in APE.



Columbia H.D. View E along Main St. from Scuppernong River. Not in APE.



Columbia H.D. Tyrrell County Courthouse (NR). Not in APE.

196. Columbia Historic District (TY 3)

Description and Background

The town of Columbia is the county seat of predominately rural Tyrrell County. The approximately thirty-five-acre historic district is roughly delineated by the Scuppernong River to the west, US Highway 64 to the south, Road Street to the west, and Howard Street to the north. The district forms an irregular grid pattern, and modern development bounds the south, west, and north sides. Of the 173 resources within the property, 123 contribute to the district's historical significance. One contributing structure, the Tyrrell County Courthouse, is individually listed on the National Register.

The nomination provided the following descriptions of the district:

The district contains a varied collection of buildings dating from the nineteenth century to World War II. No building in the district exceeds two stories in height, although the courthouse and several churches have attic stories or bell towers that rise above two stories. The dwellings in the district are principally frame in construction, and most originally had weatherboard siding, some of which has been covered or replaced with stucco, brick, asbestos shingles, and aluminum or vinyl siding. The earliest commercial buildings are frame, but the majority are brick. Most dwellings have gable roofs, although hip and pyramidal roofs also appear. The earliest commercial buildings have gable roofs with the gable facing the street; later commercial buildings generally feature shed or flat roofs concealed behind parapets. The foundations of many dwellings and some commercial buildings and churches consist of brick foundation piers placed under corners and other bearing points. Several of these pier foundations have original brick latticework filling the gaps between the piers, other have modern brick or concrete block underpinning. The more substantial masonry commercial buildings and churches have full brick foundations. . . .

In addition to these general characteristics of Columbia's historic building stock are a host of construction details that lend distinctiveness to individual buildings. Victorian sawn and turned ornament appears on virtually every unaltered late-nineteenth/early-twentieth-century dwelling. At a minimum this ornament appears as an elaboration of the porch posts, which are usually turned and are tied to the porch plate with simple sawn brackets. In full-blown examples, intricate ornament festoons the porches, gables, eaves, and door and window surrounds. The application of modern siding has obscured some original ornament as it has some original siding. The town's brick commercial buildings often feature some form of decorative brickwork, be it a simple corbeled course at the top of a parapet, or elaborate recesses, basketweave and stack-bond brickwork, and round and segmental arches over doors and windows. . . .

Information was collected on the interiors of forty buildings in the district, documenting a range of plan types and finishes. Domestic interiors include the common two-room and center-passage plans as well as many side passage plans (typically less common than the former plans). Commercial interiors feature front sales spaces and occasionally rear storage rooms and offices. Churches generally feature nave plans. Common wall and ceiling treatments in the town's historic buildings include plaster-and-lath, plaster-on-brick, beaded tongue-and-groove, pressed metal, modern paneling, and sheetrock and other modern wall boards. Historic wallpapers are observed in several interiors. Most interior ornament appears on stairs and mantels, with turned newels and balusters

common to stairs, and chamfering and other millwork, colonnettes, and decorative brick and glazed tilework common to mantels.

Columbia has representatives of most late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century styles. The earliest dwellings are Victorian in character, combining elements of the Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, and Second Empire styles. Dwellings of the 1920s and 1930s feature the eclectic styles of the period: the Craftsman, Mission, Colonial Revival, and Tutor Revival styles. The Tyrrell County Courthouse and possibly one or two commercial buildings show the influence of the Romanesque style, and the town's churches feature lancet-arched door, window, and belfry openings that are Gothic Revival in derivation. The exterior detailing of the Colombian Theater at 304 Main Street appears to be Art Deco in inspiration. Most of the town's buildings owe as much to an indigenous vernacular aesthetic as they do to styles imported from outside the area.

Columbia's streets have a character of their own, created by the variety of buildings, paving materials, and landscaping. The commercial section of Main Street is an architecturally-defined space that opens into a vista of the Scuppernon River. The residential streets are defined by the houses and churches that line them, the shade trees that arch over them, and the sidewalks and yard plantings that form their outer edges. These streets lend considerable charm to Columbia's townscape, and their idyllic character encourages use by the town's many pedestrians and bicyclists.

Evaluation

The Columbia Historic District was listed on the National Register in 1994 under Criterion A (Event) for its significance in commerce and under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. The nomination provided the following statement of significance:

Columbia, the county seat of Tyrrell County, North Carolina, was established in 1793 on the Scuppernon River estuary. The town grew slowly during the antebellum period, but development accelerated in the postbellum period with the establishment of large lumber mills adjacent to the downtown. By the early twentieth century, the town had achieved roughly its present size and functional diversity, with a well-defined business district along Main Street, a county court complex at the center of town, and white and black residential neighborhoods. The Columbia Historic District, which includes most of the town core, is historically significant as the center of government in Tyrrell County and as the county's principal commercial hub. The 1903 Tyrrell County Courthouse (NR, 1979), the ca. 1910 Tyrrell County Jail, and a landscaped public ground lie at the heart of the district, and a virtually uninterrupted row of commercial buildings dating from the turn of the twentieth century to about 1940 line both sides of the Main Street. The town's commercial buildings include several early gable-fronted frame stores and more common brick commercial blocks, two cinemas, one or two banks, and architectural oddities such as the 1928-1929 Cohoon Building with its Mediterranean styling and cut-away corner filling station. The district is also significant for the architectural character of its dwellings, stores, churches and other buildings--the largest and most varied architectural collection in the county--and for the historic streetscapes created by those buildings. Many dwellings show the influence of popular late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century styles such as the Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, and Tutor Revival styles, whereas other houses owe more to an indigenous vernacular aesthetic. Representative of the stylistic range in the district are such residences as the late-nineteenth-century Abner Alexander House, one of the first

dwellings in the town to feature steeply-pitched paired front gables; the ca. 1900, Queen Anne-influenced, Combs-Hussey House with its ornate wraparound porch; and the whimsical 1928 Steanie C. Chaplin House with its Mediterranean styling. The period of significance for the district extends from ca. 1880, roughly the date of the town's earliest documented buildings, to 1944, encompassing the period of the historic development into the community of today.

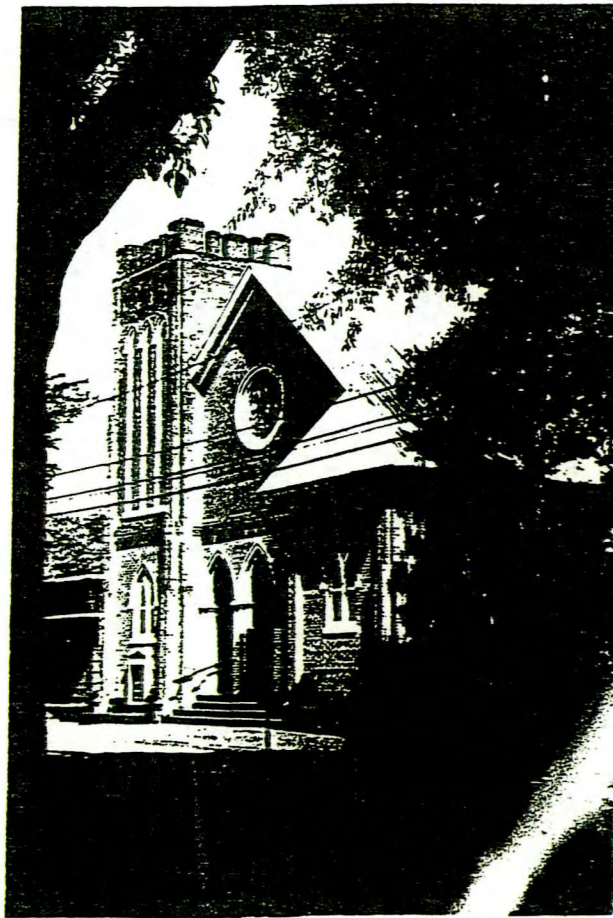
National Register Boundary

The National Register boundary for the Columbia Historic District is shown on the accompanying map. The National Register nomination justifies the boundary with the following statement:

The boundaries of the Columbia Historic District are determined so as to include the historic core of the Town of Columbia, which is those areas developed prior to 1944 that retain architectural integrity. Natural and man-made boundaries such as the Scuppernong River and the four-lane Scuppernong Drive (U.S. 64) contributed to the determination of the boundaries.

Columbia Historic District

Columbia, Tyrrell County, North Carolina



Heavy black line indicates district boundaries.
Black circle indicates contributing building.
Open circle indicates noncontributing building.
Numbers in triangles indicate number and direction of view of the photographs that accompany the National Register report.
Scale: 1" = 200'.





-  House (in APE)
-  House (in APE)
-  Marion A. M. E. Zion Church (in APE)



Fig. 5 -- Columbia Historic District
Not to Scale

 National Register Boundary

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

Properties Eligible for the National Register:

121. Tarkenten House (#6 in June 1, 1996 report)



Tarkenten House. View from NE.



Tarkenten House. View from NE.



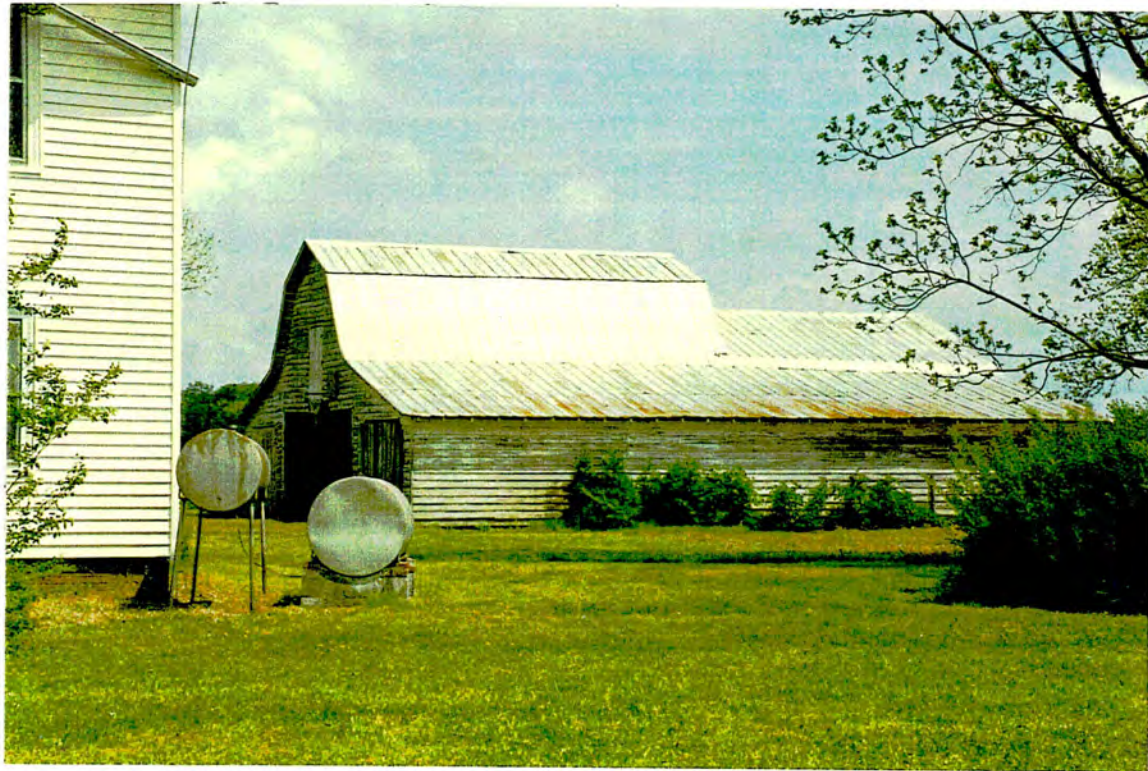
Tarkenten House. View from NW.



Tarkenten House. West elevation.



Tarkenten House. South elevation.



Tarkenten House. Barn.



Tarkenten House. View W along US 64 in front of Tarkenten House.



Tarkenten House. View W along US 64. ED standing at edge of ROW.

121. Tarkenten House

Description and Background

The description and evaluation of the Tarkenten House is quoted from the June 1, 1996 Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report for this project, and was written by Ed Davis.

The Tarkenten House was constructed circa 1900 by Mr. Frank Tarkenten. Mr. Tarkenten was an entrepreneur and land-holder. He owned a railway spur and ran the depot in Mackeys (demolished). From the depot in Mackeys he dispersed both his own and local produce. Local folklore maintains that he also transported untaxed alcoholic beverages. He constructed a store beside his property in 1922 which his wife and son ran. The store (much altered from its original appearance) served as the general store for the communities of Pleasant Grove and Roper in Washington County.

At the time the house was constructed, Tarkenten owned several hundred acres associated with the existing house, and another farm several miles away known as Rea's Beach. Both farms were operated by tenants. The current owners of the house, Mr. and Mrs. Mac Marrow, have sold Rea's Beach and 100 acres formerly associated with the original farm at the Tarkenten house. The current house has 100 remaining acres. This acreage is farmed by tenants. The buildings . . . formerly associated with tobacco and cotton cultivation have all been demolished. One general purpose barn is extant and it serves as a storage facility for the house.

The frame structure [of the Tarkenten House] is four bays wide on the ground level and three bays wide on the upper level. All sash are one-over-one. A sixteen pane glass door is symmetrically located at the first level and above on the balcony. A modified one-story hip roof covers the porch which is located across the full length of the front of the structure, terminating in a porte-cochere on the eastern elevation. The house is surmounted by both hip and gable roofs, all sheathed in the original metal. A pedimented two-story portico supported by battered square columns is located over the front door and the second story balcony.

Evaluation

The Tarkenten House was determined eligible for the National Register under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture as a rare, local example of Colonial Revival residential design at the turn of the century. North Carolina experienced unprecedented growth during this period, which spurred construction across the state. Thus, Colonial Revival houses like the Tarkenten House are common in many North Carolina communities. However, a survey of the entire county revealed no other high style Colonial Revival houses in Washington County.

Proposed National Register Boundary

The evaluation of this property in the June 1, 1996 report included the following boundary description:

The proposed boundary for the Tarkenten property includes the approximately one hundred acres currently associated with the house. The boundary follows the property line on the south, east and west sides and the back side of the drainage ditch . . . on the north side.

The back of the ditch along US 64 has been chosen as a boundary because the edge of right of way extends into the front yard of the Tarkenten House, and includes some of the landscape characteristics (mainly trees) that are historically associated with this house.

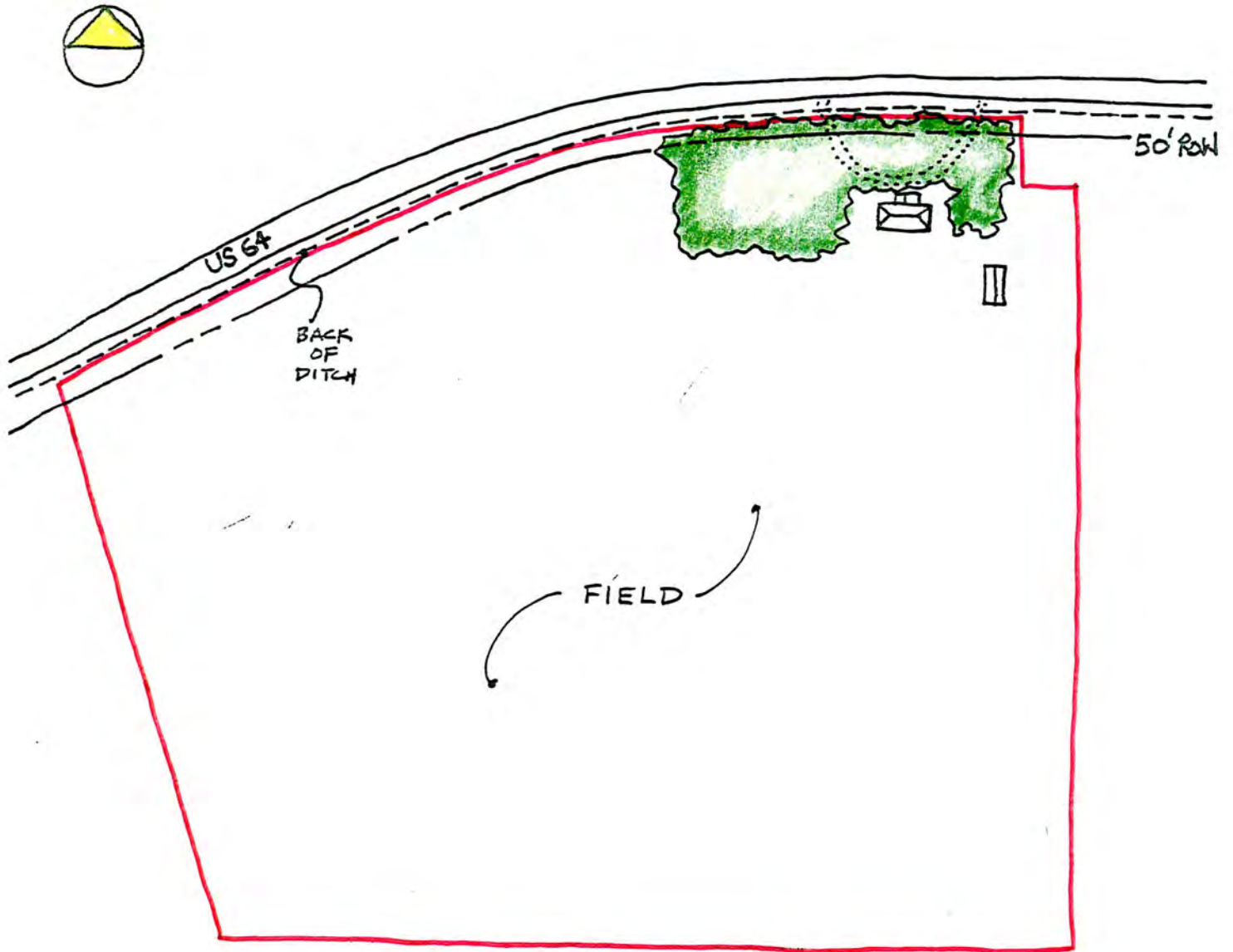


Fig. 6 -- Tarkenten House
Not to Scale

— Proposed National Register Boundary

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

Properties Eligible for the National Register:

17. Holy Disciples Church (Former Rosenwald School)



Former Rosenwald School. South elevation.



Former Rosenwald School. View from SW.



Former Rosenwald School. View from NW.



Former Rosenwald School. View from SE.



Former Rosenwald School. View E along US 64. ED standing at edge of ROW.

17. Holy Disciples Church (Former Rosenwald School)

Description and Background

The Holy Disciples Church, located between Plymouth and Roper on the north side of US 64 about 0.2 mile west of SR 1329, was originally built as a Rosenwald School in 1922-23. It is a gable-roofed frame structure, and has two entrances under separate gable porches on the south facade. Large nine-over-nine sash windows and diamond-pane windows line the east and west elevations. Corner brackets and rafter tails in the eaves hint at the Craftsman style. Although access was not available, the interior of this building appears to be divided along its axis, and has possibly been subdivided since its use as a school (comparison with a Rosenwald school plan below shows that the longitudinal division might be part of the original plan). Today, the west side of the building is used as the Holy Disciples Church, and the east side is used for storage. Three graves dating from the 1980s are located behind this building.

Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck, and Company, established the Julius Rosenwald Fund in the 1910s in order to improve primary education for Southern blacks.⁸ The foundation offered matching grants, standardized construction plans, and other assistance to rural communities to build schools for black children. Between 1917 and 1932, this program built 5300 school buildings across the South, either replacing the old structures used for black schools or building the first school in an area.

The Rosenwald program was most popular in North Carolina, which erected 787 schools (a total of 813 buildings) in ninety-three out of one hundred counties, by far the most of any other state participating in the program. The greatest number of schools were built in the cotton- and tobacco-producing regions of the coastal plain and southern Piedmont, which had large black populations. Halifax County had the most Rosenwald schools in the state (46), leading Anson (27), Mecklenburg and Edgecombe (26), Warren (25), and Northampton, Richmond, and Wake Counties (21). In the counties surrounding Washington and Tyrrell in the Albemarle and Pamlico regions, Bertie County had the most Rosenwald schools (19), followed by Pitt (12), Martin and Beaufort (6), and Dare (1). Washington, Tyrrell, and Hyde Counties each had two Rosenwald schools.

The Rosenwald Fund began offering standardized construction plans for their schools in 1920. In 1924, the foundation collected seventeen different plans in a booklet entitled Community School Plans. These plans were divided into numbered types (No. 1, No. 2, etc.) based on how many teachers the school was designed for. By offering standardized construction plans, drawings, and recommendations for finishes and use, the program allowed poor rural communities to keep costs low by building their own schools. Though inexpensive, these plans offered the most up-to-date ideas in school design at the time.

⁸ Information on the Rosenwald program in North Carolina, including statistical data, comes from Thomas W. Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools and Black Education in North Carolina," North Carolina Historical Review 65.4 (Oct. 1988): 387-444.

They relied on open interior plans, avoiding corridors wherever possible, and were always one-story tall. Because of the lack of electricity in rural areas, the schools were designed to make maximum use of natural light. Large double-hung sash windows faced east and west, interiors were painted light colors such as ivory or cream, and seating arrangements placed windows on the children's left side so that the writing arms of the right-handed majority would not cast shadows across their papers. Rosenwald schools were built with a minimum of detail, usually with Colonial Revival or Craftsman trim.

In the appendix to his 1988 article "The Rosenwald Schools and Black Education in North Carolina," Thomas Hanchett gives a list of all known Rosenwald schools in North Carolina, the budget year in which they were built, and their plan type. Hanchett lists two Rosenwald schools in Washington County, one in Plymouth (a No. 12) and one in Roper (a No. 6). The former Rosenwald school described above is located between Washington and Roper. It appears to be too small for a No. 12 plan (meaning it had twelve teachers), so it might be the Roper school listed in Hanchett's appendix. However, comparison of this structure with the plans for a No. 3-B Rosenwald school show them to be identical in exterior design, down to the three groupings of windows on the east elevation.

Although interior access was not available, the floor plan for No. 3-B gives a good idea as to the original interior arrangement of the Roper school. No. 3-B is divided along its longitudinal axis, and offers three class rooms, three cloak rooms, and an industrial room that was used to teach trades and home economic skills. The side porch entrance on the principal elevation gives way to a vestibule and a short corridor that leads to the other rooms.

This former Rosenwald school building has been modified for use as a church. The principal change to the building is the new entrance next to the original side porch entry on the south side. Pointed-arch windows with colored glass, reminiscent of the Gothic style, flank the new entrance and call attention to its current use as a church. The windows along the western elevation have also been colored and covered with material for the church.

Evaluation

The Holy Disciples Church (Former Rosenwald School) is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (Event) for its significance in education, and under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. This former Rosenwald school was one of only two built in Washington County, and played a vital role in the education of rural black children beginning in the early 1920s. With its standardized plan and minimal Craftsman detailing, this building embodies the distinctive characteristics of a Rosenwald school. Despite some modifications for its current use as a church, such as the addition of a new entrance and the alteration of some of the windows, this building retains its appearance as a Rosenwald school and has sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register.

Proposed National Register Boundary

The proposed National Register boundary for the Holy Disciples Church (Former Rosenwald School) includes all of the parcel on which the church stands (Washington County Tax Parcel map, PIN # 6798-01-9880). The proposed boundary encompasses approximately one acre. This boundary is drawn to include the setting of the structure, and extends to the back of the ditch on the north side of US 64. This boundary includes part of the right of way along US 64. The edge of right of way extends fifty feet from the center line of the highway, and lies half way between the back of the ditch and the building. Therefore, the back of the ditch has been chosen as the boundary in order to include the yard in front of the building.

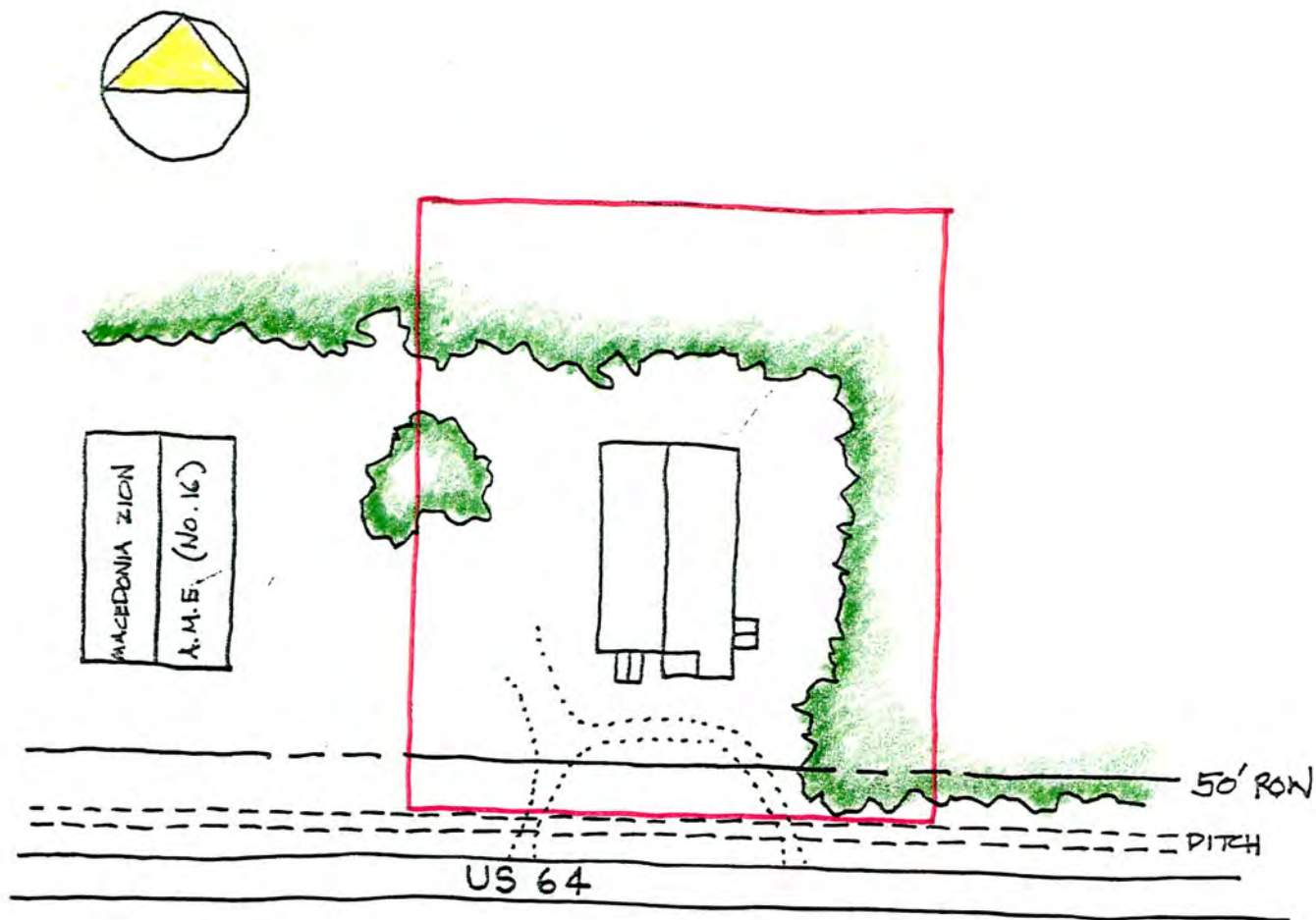


Fig. 7 -- Holy Disciples Church/Rosenwald School
Not to Scale

— Proposed National Register Boundary

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

Properties Eligible for the National Register:

32. W. W. Mizell Farm



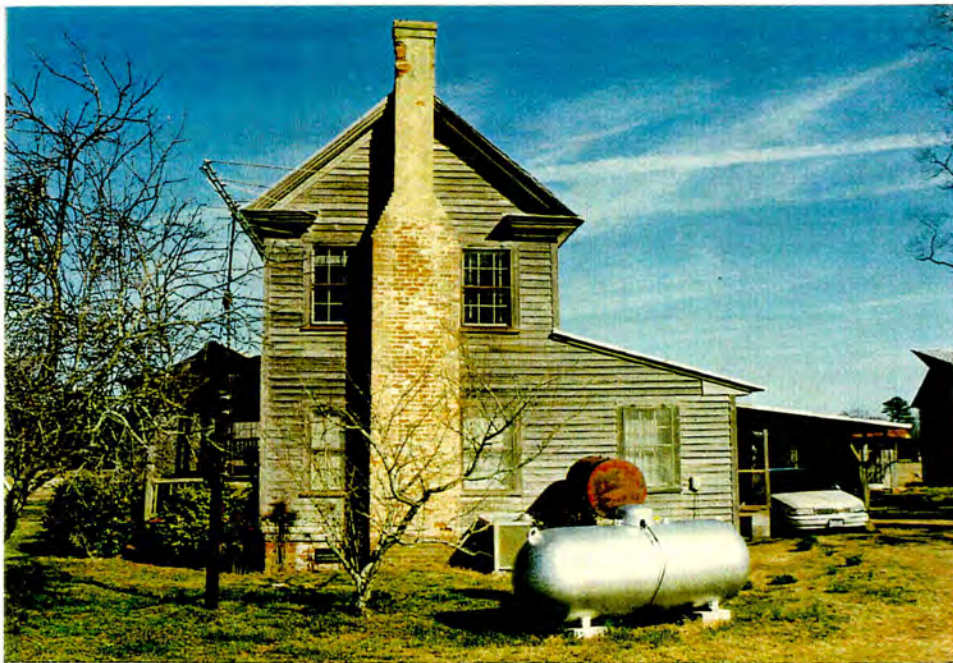
W. W. Mizell Farm. View SE from US 64.



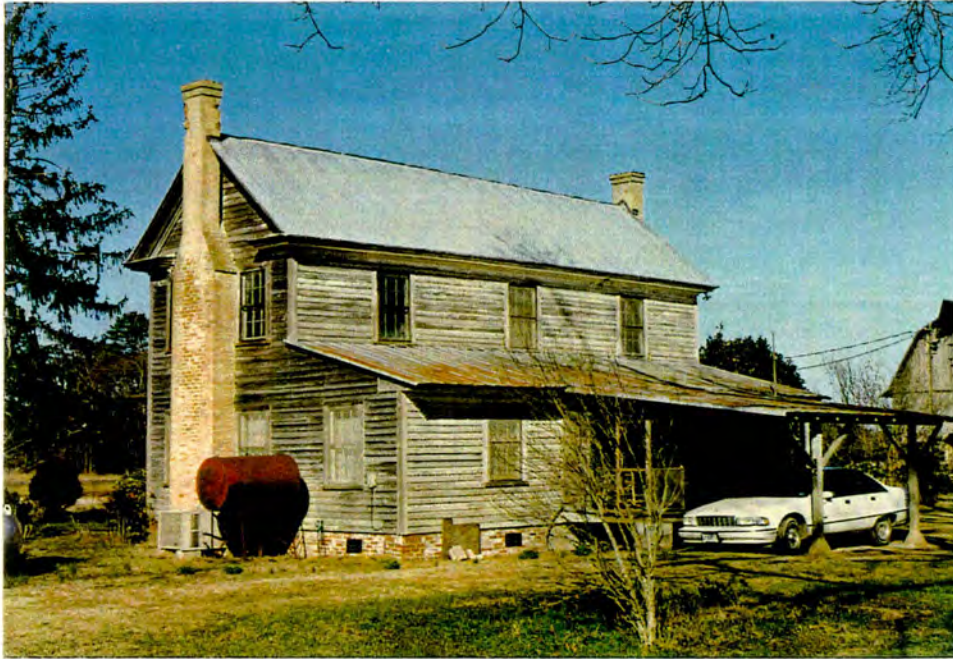
W. W. Mizell Farmhouse. North elevation.



W. W. Mizell Farmhouse. View from NW.



W. W. Mizell Farmhouse. West elevation.



W. W. Mizell Farmhouse. Rear.



W. W. Mizell Farm. Outbuildings behind farmhouse.



W. W. Mizell Farm. Outbuildings east of farmhouse.



W. W. Mizell Farm. Barn behind farmhouse.



W. W. Mizell Farm. View S from US 64. ED standing at edge of ROW.



W. W. Mizell Farm. View E along US 64. ED standing at edge of ROW. Homestead Farm (Hassell House) shown in background.

32. W. W. Mizell Farm

Description and Background

The W. W. Mizell Farm, located between Plymouth and Roper on the south side of US 64 approximately 1.2 miles east of SR 1329, consists of a nineteenth-century farmhouse, seven outbuildings, and about 170 surrounding acres of farmland. The house and outbuildings sit at the end of a dirt drive several hundred feet south of US 64, and are partially shaded by large trees. The house, a two-story, single-pile, center-hall, frame structure, appears to date from the second half of the nineteenth century. It has a flanking pair of exterior end single-shoulder chimneys and molded cornice returns in the gable ends of the roof. It is three bays wide, with six-over-six windows, and has a one-story hipped roof porch extending across the front of the house. A shed roof addition that once might have been an open porch stretches across the rear of the house, and a carport extends from it. Several outbuildings surround the house: two frame gable roof barns clad in metal siding; a two-story frame gambrel roof barn; a six-bay metal-sided vehicle shed; a small gable roof shed; a small, frame gas pump house; and a small brick shed.

This farm has been in continuous operation by the Mizell family since at least 1819, when Durane Mizell was deeded fifty-two acres lying “south of the main road from Plymouth to the Court House”⁹ The farm passed through Jordan W. Mizell (1802-?), John Durant Mizell (1859-1947), to the present owner, Willie Warren Mizell (b. 1902). In 1860, Jordan Mizell farmed 100 acres, from which he harvested Indian corn (his biggest crop), peas, beans, Irish and sweet potatoes, rice, and cotton. He also raised cattle, swine, and kept bees for honey and beeswax. Like many other farmers, the War between the States greatly affected Mizell’s fortunes. In 1870, Indian corn production had dropped from 1500 to 250 bushels, and he harvested from fifty to ninety percent less of each crop than he had in 1860. Nevertheless, Mizell remained one of the more productive farmers in the area.¹⁰ Today, W. W. Mizell leases his land to cotton growers.

Evaluation

The W. W. Mizell Farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (Event) for its significance in agriculture and Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. This farm is important for the thematic role it played in the agricultural development of Washington County in the nineteenth century, and is a good representative of the middle class farm type that was so pervasive in the Washington County landscape. It also embodies the distinctive characteristics of the ubiquitous single-pile farmhouse of the nineteenth century. With its largely original fabric intact, and with its surviving agricultural outbuildings and cultivated fields, the W. W. Mizell Farm retains its integrity of design, materials, setting,

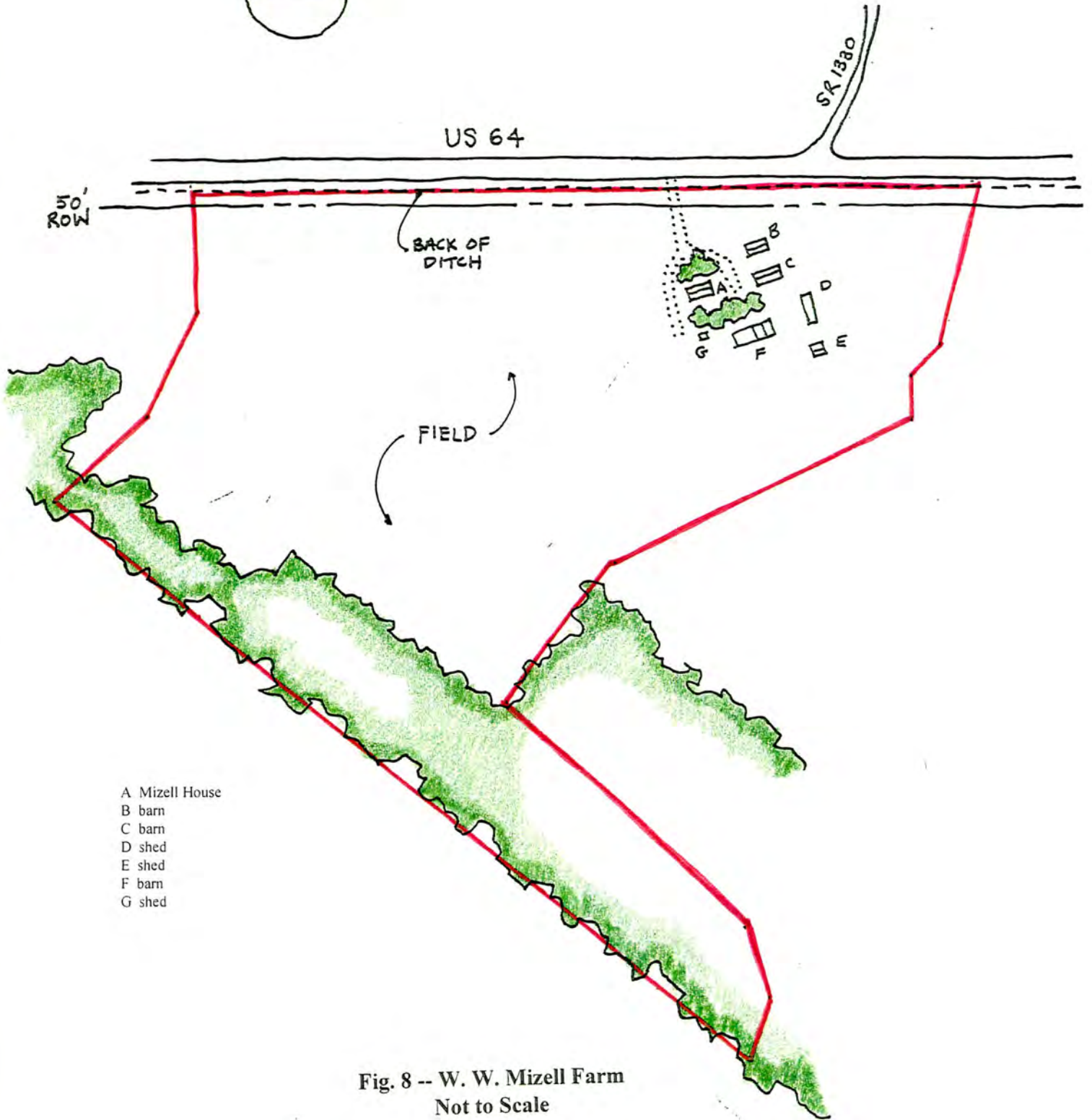
⁹ Deborah Ellison and Jearlean Woody, eds., “The Mizell Farm,” *North Carolina Century Farms: 100 Years of Continuous Agricultural Heritage* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Agriculture, 1989) 234.

¹⁰ Statistics taken from the 1860 and 1870 Agricultural Schedules of the United States Census.

and feeling, and cogently reflects its appearance during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Proposed National Register Boundary

The proposed National Register boundary for the W. W. Mizell Farm includes the two parcels on which it stands (PIN #'s 6798-71-6389 and 6798-60-1671, Washington County Tax Parcel map). The proposed boundary encompasses 173.19 acres. This boundary is drawn to include the farmhouse, outbuildings, and surrounding fields, and extends to the back of the ditch on the south side of US 64. This boundary includes part of the right of way along US 64. The edge of right of way extends fifty feet from the center line of the highway into the field between the farmhouse and the road. The back of the ditch has been chosen as the boundary in order to include all of the cultivated field along the highway.



- A Mizell House
- B barn
- C barn
- D shed
- E shed
- F barn
- G shed

Fig. 8 -- W. W. Mizell Farm
Not to Scale

— Proposed National Register Boundary

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

Properties Eligible for the National Register:

35. Homestead Farm (Hassell House) (WH 375)



Homestead Farm (Hassell House). View SE from US 64.



Hassell House. View S along entrance drive.



Hassell House. North elevation.



Hassell House. View from NW.



Hassell House. View from SW.



Hassell House. South elevation.



Hassell House. East elevation.



Homestead Farm. Shed and garage behind Hassell House.



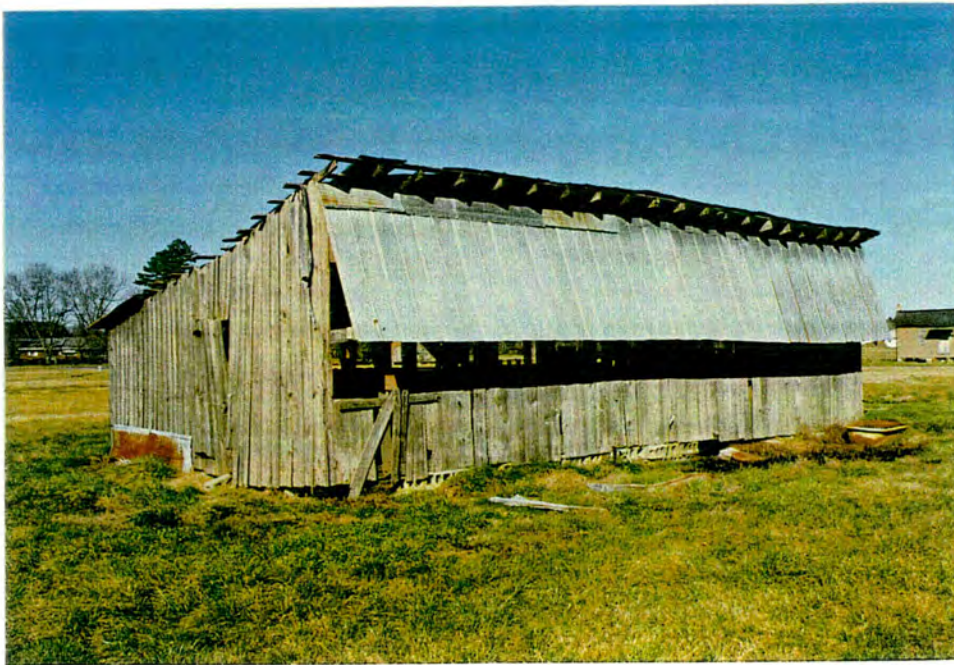
Homestead Farm. Frame shed.



Homestead Farm. Stable and ordering house.



Homestead Farm. Ordering house.



Homestead Farm. Stable.



Homestead Farm. Barn, concrete block buildings, and silos.



Homestead Farm. Tobacco barns and garage behind silos.



Homestead Farm. Metal-sided building and equipment sheds SW of Hassell House.



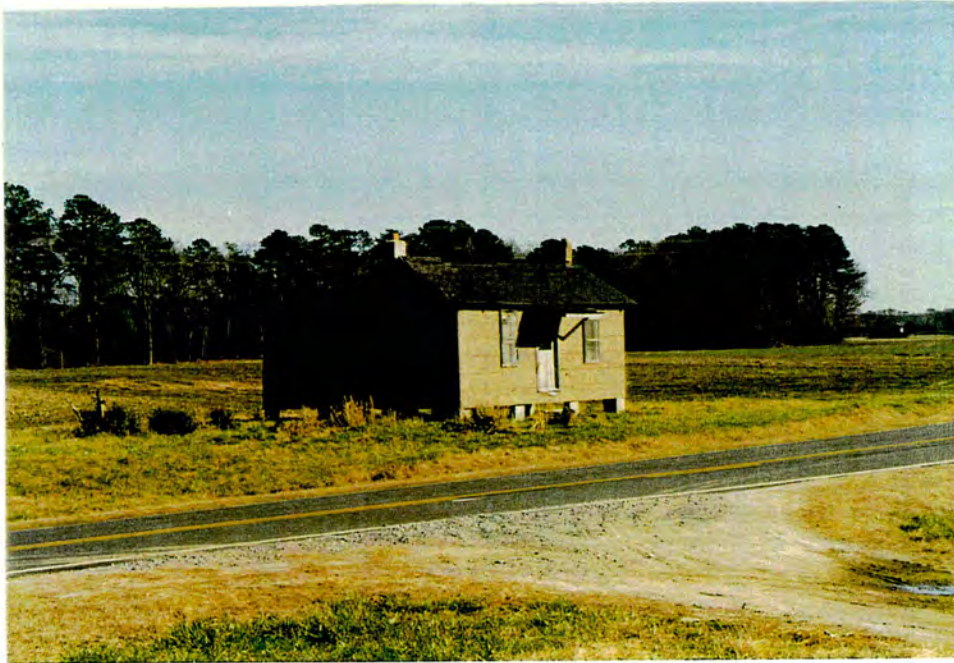
Homestead Farm. Metal-sided barn on east side of SR 1120.



Homestead Farm. Tenant house #1 (on south side of US 64, east of SR 1120).



Homestead Farm. Tenant house #2.



Homestead Farm. Tenant house #3.



Homestead Farm. Tenant house #4.



Homestead Farm. View S from US 64 to Hassell House. ED standing at edge of ROW.



Homestead Farm. View E along US 64 in front of Hassell House. ED standing at edge of ROW.



Homestead Farm. View W along US 64 at Hassell House. W. W. Mizell Farm in background.



Homestead Farm. View of Thompson House from NW.



Homestead Farm. View of Thompson House from NW.



Homestead Farm. View of Thompson House from NE.



Homestead Farm. View of Thompson House from SW.



Homestead Farm. Center hall of Thompson House.



Homestead Farm. Mantel in Thompson House.



Homestead Farm. Mantel in Thompson House.



Homestead Farm. South elevation of Craftsman farmhouse.



Homestead Farm. View of Craftsman farmhouse from NW.



Homestead Farm. View east along dirt road. Craftsman farmhouse at R, tobacco barns at L.



Homestead Farm. Tobacco barns on dirt road off SR 1119.



Homestead Farm. View N across fields, from Craftsman farmhouse toward Hassell House.

35. Homestead Farm (Hassell House) (WH 375)

Description and Background

The Homestead Farm, located just east of the W. W. Mizell Farm on the south side of US 64 at the junction with SR 1120, is a 575-acre spread consisting of three farmhouses, a multitude of outbuildings, and four tenant houses. Cultivated fields extend southward from US 64 on both sides of SR 1120. Another farm complex, consisting of a late-nineteenth-century farmhouse, outbuildings, and cemetery, is also located on the property, but it is not historically associated with the Homestead Farm. This farm complex stands on the east side of SR 1120 between US 64 and SR 1119, and is evaluated as part of another property in this report (see 41-42. Turner Farms).

The principal house on the Homestead Farm (called the Hassell House) stands on the south side of US 64 at the junction with SR 1120. It is a two-story, single-pile, center-hall, frame house with flush gable ends and single-shoulder brick chimneys with stepped bases. The relatively shallow pitch of the roof, along with the flush gable ends, small nine-over-six windows, and plain, transitional Federal-Greek Revival trim, suggests a construction date before 1840. A one-and-one-half-story, two-room structure with a brick chimney on the gable extends from the rear of the two-story house. This rear ell is possibly the original ca. 1800 house for this farm. A shed porch extends across the front of the house, and an enclosed shed addition stretches across the back of the house. The shed addition continues across the front of the one-and-one-half-story ell as a screened porch. Another small shed addition has been built on the back of the kitchen, and a bay window has been added on its east elevation.

Several outbuildings are arranged behind the Hassell House. A frame shed and garage sit immediately behind it, and further back lie a stable and a frame structure that might be an ordering house (used for grading and sometimes storing tobacco after curing). Further to the southwest are a large gambrel roof barn, two concrete block buildings, and three silos, which suggest that this farm served as a dairy sometime during the twentieth century. Three tobacco barns and a garage sit behind the silos. There is also a rambling metal equipment shed, another metal-sided building, and a small concrete block shed to the southwest of the farmhouse. Three twentieth-century tenant houses stretch along either side of SR 1120 south of the Hassell House. A fourth tenant house and a metal-sided barn are located at the edge of the field east of SR 1120.

The Homestead Farm extends southward across large cultivated fields to SR 1119 and beyond. Two more farmhouses, two tobacco barns, and another barn are located on the southern end of the Homestead Farm, and are sited along an east-west dirt road that splits from SR 1119. One of these farmhouses is the Thompson House (SL) (WH 407), an abandoned and deteriorating Federal-period house on the south side of the dirt road. Its relationship with the Homestead Farm is not clear; it might have been a farmhouse on an adjoining farm that was later bought by the Hassell family, or was an earlier farmhouse for the Homestead Farm, or was in some way related to the Hassell family. The Thompson

House is a two-story, single-pile, center-hall frame structure with a rear shed extension that once housed a kitchen (one of the rear rooms still has a brick stove flue). Physical evidence, such as a scarfed sill and exposed framing members with corner braces, both located at a point in the wall on the side of the house where someone would have built a rear extension on a single-pile house, support the argument that the rear shed was a later addition.¹¹ The house is flanked by a pair of single-shoulder chimneys, and a gable roof porch once sheltered the front entrance. What few windows remain are twentieth-century two-over-two sash. A closed stringer stair (with circular sawn boards, making it newer than the original house) rises from the center hall, and some of the flush board wainscoting survives in the hall and first floor rooms. The plaster was ripped out many years ago and replaced with sheet rock, which is now in poor condition. Two simple post and lintel Federal mantels survive in the two original first-floor rooms; there are no fireplaces in the upstairs rooms.

A 1910s-1920s Craftsman farmhouse stands on the north side of the dirt road, just west of the Thompson House. The house has a side hall entry under an attached bungalow-style porch, three brick stove flues, and a short rear addition. Two tobacco barns stand on the south side of the dirt road further west of this house. The dirt road winds westward to the James Vernon Research Station, a state-run experimental farm.

Information in SHPO's survey file for the Homestead Farm suggests that Aaron Harrison, who once owned Lee's Mill on Kendrick's Creek in present day Roper (see 49-86. **Roper Historic District**), built the original two-room house about 1800. The 1810 census records an Aron Harrison in Washington County as having a family of six, with three or four children and no slaves. By 1820, Aaron Harrison had five or six children and ten slaves; seven of these persons were engaged in agriculture.

Records do not exist of what the Harrisons grew in the nineteenth century, and research has failed to isolate this particular Hassell family from the rather large Hassell clan of Washington County. Earlier this century, however, the Hassell family is known to have cultivated tobacco, raised cattle and pigs, and logged the woods south of the main house; today they grow peanuts, soy beans, and corn.

Evaluation

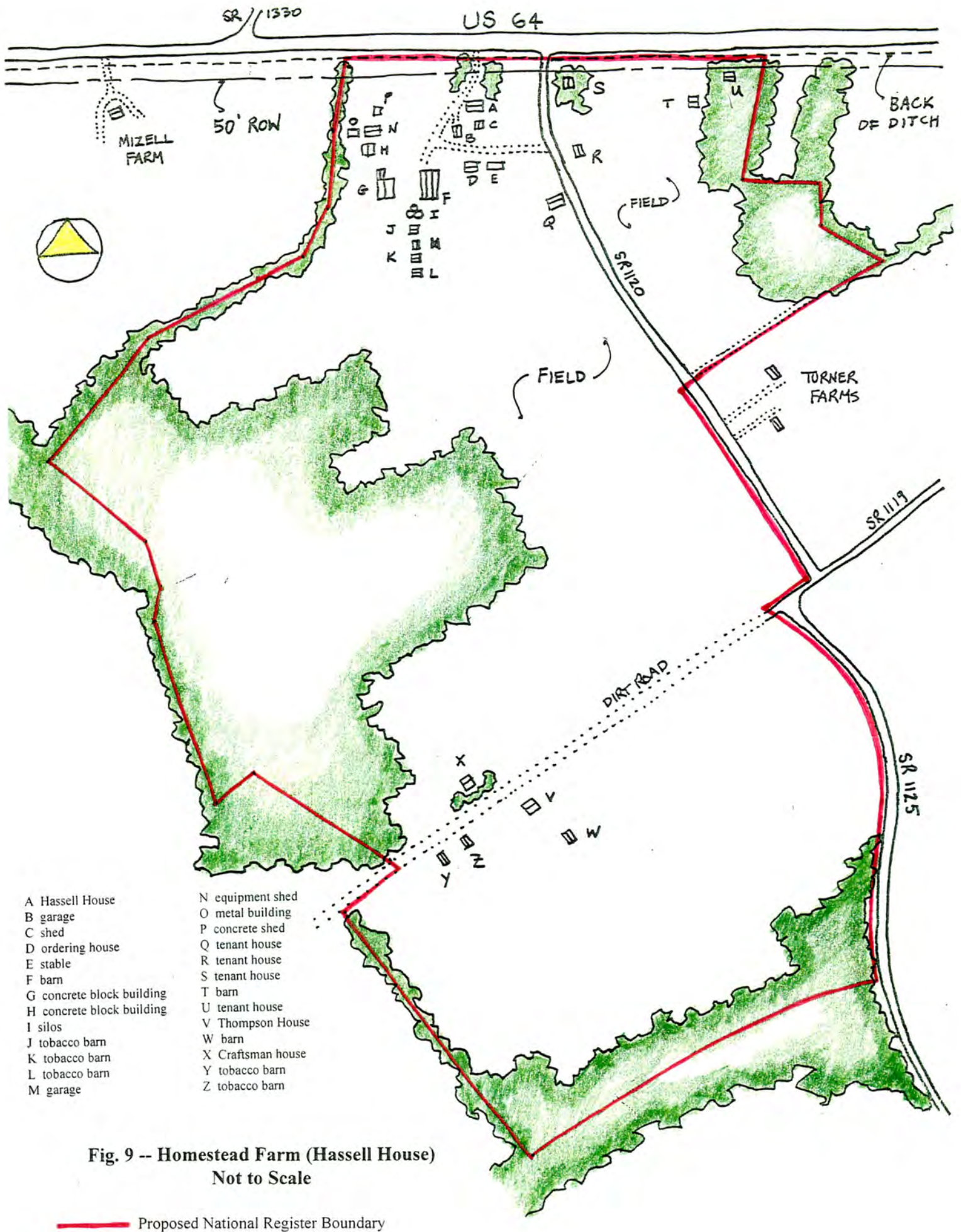
The Homestead Farm (Hassell House) is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (Event) for its significance in agriculture and Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. This farm is important for the thematic role it played in the agricultural development of Washington County in the nineteenth century, and is a good representative of the larger farms that dotted the Washington County landscape. The Hassell House embodies the distinctive characteristics of the transitional Federal-Greek Revival single-pile farmhouse of the first

¹¹ This in turn helps refute the undocumented assertions in SHPO's survey file that the Thompson House was a "salt box" house built by a retired New England sea captain.

half of the nineteenth century, and is a good example of the style. The other two houses, however, do not contribute to this property's eligibility under Criterion C: the Thompson House, with the loss of its windows, plaster, and some woodwork, does not retain the integrity essential for listing in the National Register, and the Craftsman farmhouse is an unremarkable example of its style. However, these houses, along with the other structures on the southern end of the farm, the cultivated fields, and the Hassell House and outbuildings on the northern end of the farm, contribute to this property's appearance as a large, prosperous nineteenth-century farm, and are essential to the Homestead Farm's integrity of design, setting, and feeling.

Proposed National Register Boundary

The proposed National Register boundary for the Homestead Farm (Hassell House) encompasses between 550 and 570 acres of the 575-acre farm (Washington County Tax Parcel map, PIN #'s 6797-99-0265 and 6798-91-4723). This boundary is drawn to include the Hassell House, outbuildings, tenant houses, Thompson House, Craftsman farmhouse, and the intervening cultivated fields that are essential to preserving the Homestead Farm's integrity and appearance as a large nineteenth-century farm. The boundary extends to the back of the ditch on the south side of US 64, and includes part of the right of way along the highway. The edge of right of way extends fifty feet from the center line of the highway into the yard of the Hassell House. The back of the ditch has been chosen as the boundary in order to include all of the yard and the large oak tree at the entrance to the farm.



Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

Properties Eligible for the National Register:

41-42. Turner Farms



Turner Farms. View NE of northern farm complex (#42).



Turner Farms. View SE of northern farm complex (#42).



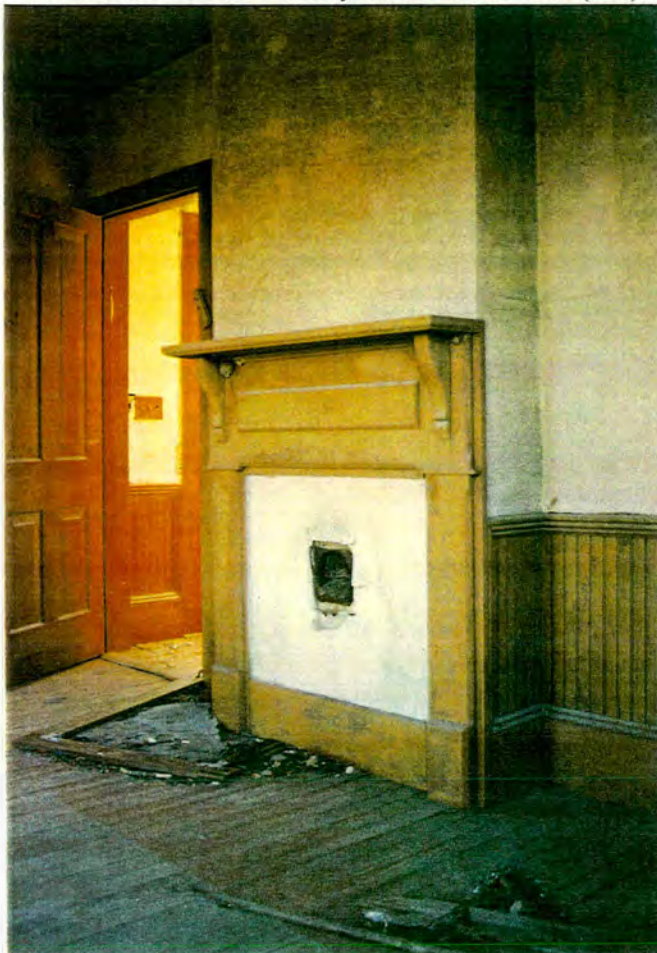
Turner Farms. View of two-story farmhouse from SW (#42).



Turner Farms. View of two-story farmhouse from NW (#42).



Turner Farms. View of two-story farmhouse from NE (#42).



Turner Farms. Mantel in two-story farmhouse (#42).



Turner Farms. Mantel in two-story farmhouse (#42).



Turner Farms. Outbuildings of northern farm complex (#42).



Turner Farms. Family cemetery in northern farm complex (#42).



Turner Farms. View SE of southern farm complex (#41).



Turner Farms. View of one-story farmhouse from SW (#41).



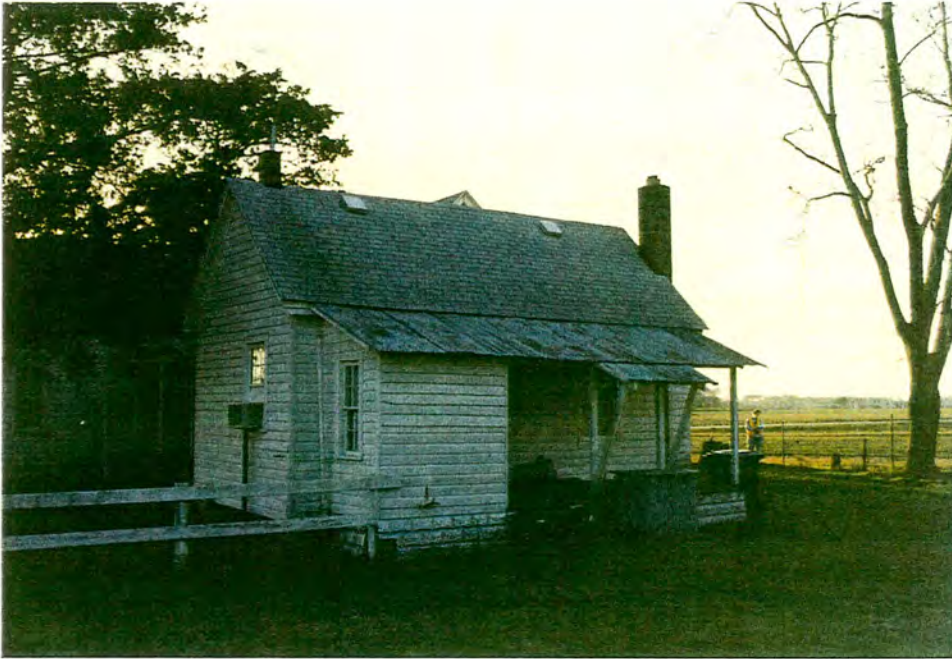
Turner Farms. View of one-story farmhouse from NW (#41).



Turner Farms. S elevation of one-story farmhouse (#41).



Turner Farms. View of one-story farmhouse from NE (#41).



Turner Farms. Rear addition of one-story farmhouse (#41).



Turner Farms. Outbuildings of southern farm complex (#41).



Turner Farms. Northern boundary of property (dirt drive). Two-story farmhouse (#42) in background.



Turner Farms. Northern boundary (dirt drive) extending W toward treeline.



Turner Farms. View N along SR 1120. Northern boundary (dirt drive) in foreground; Homestead Farm (Hassell House) in background.

41-42. Turner Farms

Description and Background

The Turner Farms are located southwest of Roper, on the east side of SR 1120 between US 64 and SR 1119. It consists of two family farms which appear to date from the late nineteenth century. The northern farm complex consists of an abandoned two-story, single-pile, center-hall, frame farmhouse, a tobacco barn, another barn, and the Turner family cemetery. Today, it is owned by the Hassell family and stands on the same property as the Homestead Farm (see 35. **Homestead Farm (Hassell House)**). The southern farm complex consists of a one-story, single-pile, frame house, a metal equipment shed, and two gable roof outbuildings. Cultivated fields stretch to the north, south, and east of both farm complexes.

According to Jordan E. Turner, owner of the one-story house, Jordan's uncle Thomas H. Turner built the two-story farmhouse for Thomas's mother and the one-story house for his brother. Both appear to have been built about the same time, and possibly by the same builder. Both houses have a beaded weatherboard exterior, gable returns on each end, interior chimney stacks with similar corbeled tops, attached hipped roof porches, and two-over-two sash windows. Jordan Turner gave a date of ca. 1900 for both farms. However, Thomas Turner's mother was thought to be Harriet H. Turner, who died in 1889 and is buried in the family cemetery. This would put the construction of these houses sometime between ca. 1880 and ca. 1900.

Both houses also have rear ells. The rear ell on the two-story house might be older than the house. It is a two-room flush gable structure with an engaged porch and a separate exterior door for each room. It also has a chimney stack between the rooms that appears to be older than the two house chimneys. A door in the partition wall next to the chimney allows interior access between the two rooms. The rear ell does not appear to have ever been used as a kitchen.

The one-story house and its rear two-room ell appear to have been built at the same time. The end gable of the ell has returns like those on the house, and the chimney in the ell (located at the front of the ell next to the house) is of the same corbeled construction. Like the ell on the two-story house, this rear ell has separate exterior entrances under a porch for the two rooms. Behind the rear ell stands a one-story gable roof structure clad in German siding. It has two concrete block stove flues, and is connected to the ell by a breezeway. It appears to have been built at a later date than the house.

NCDOT staff architectural historians gained interior access to the two-story house only. Both first floor rooms have a simple bracketed mantel with beaded edges, four-panel doors, beaded vertical board wainscoting, and high molded baseboards. The plaster walls survive throughout the house. The stairs in the center hall have a chamfered newel post and a simple rail and balusters. Upstairs, the two rooms have low ceilings, beaded horizontal board wainscoting, and no mantels (the flues were fitted for stove pipes). The two rooms

in the rear ell also had beaded horizontal board wainscoting, and the chimney was set up for stove heat in both rooms.

The Turner family cemetery lies between the two farmhouses. It is surrounded by a white fence, and contains the graves of Rudolph R. Turner (1840-1863, Co. K, NC State Trp, CSA), Simpson R. Turner (1843-1916), Harriet H. Turner (n.d.-1889), Thomas H. Turner (1868-1910), Martha Estell Turner (1873-1912), and Whitman J. Turner (1888-1952, 81 Division, 322 Infantry, World War I). There is also one illegible Turner headstone.

According to the 1880 census, the Turner family was living in Lee's Mill Township in Washington County by that time. Though his name is given as Sam B. Turner, his wife and five children have the correct names and ages. The census listed Turner as being a disabled farmer; he was not entered in the agricultural schedule of the 1880 census.

Evaluation

The Turner Farms property is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (Event) for its significance in agriculture and Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. As closely related family farms, this property played an important role in the agricultural development of Washington County and contributed to the area's productivity and identity as an agricultural community. Taken together these two farms, with their houses, outbuildings, cultivated fields, and cemetery, present a good example of the small to middling Washington County farm and illustrate the strong family ties that characterized rural Washington County and North Carolina during this period. Though abandoned, the two-story Turner farmhouse is in good condition and is an excellent example of the simple two-story, single-pile farmhouse that was so popular in Washington County and throughout North Carolina at the turn of the twentieth century. With its simple finish and restrained woodwork, including the bracketed mantels, narrow beaded board wainscoting, molded baseboards, chamfered newel post, and simple rail and balusters, this house embodies the characteristics of the simple single-pile farmhouse with Victorian trim and retains its integrity of design and materials and reflects its appearance during its period of significance at the turn of the twentieth century.

Proposed National Register Boundary

The proposed National Register boundary for the Turner Farms includes all of the parcel of the one-story Turner farmhouse (Washington County Tax Parcel map, PIN # 7707-28-0987) and the part of the Hassell family property on which lies the two-story Turner farmhouse, outbuildings, and cemetery (Washington County Tax Parcel map, PIN # 6797-99-0265). The proposed boundary encompasses approximately forty acres. This boundary is drawn to include both Turner farmhouses, their outbuildings, the family cemetery, and the cultivated fields surrounding both complexes. These elements are essential to preserving the property's integrity and appearance as a pair of closely related, small to middling, late nineteenth-century farms. The boundary extends to the back of

the ditch on the east side of SR 1120, and northward from the two-story Turner farmhouse to an east-west dirt drive that runs between SR 1119 and the treeline to the east. This dirt drive serves as a visual boundary between the two-story Turner farmhouse and its surrounding fields, and the fields to the north that appear to be more closely associated with the Homestead Farm.



US 64



- A two-story house
- B barn
- C tobacco barn
- D one-story house
- E shed
- F shed
- G shed

Fig. 10 -- Turner Farms
Not to Scale

 Proposed National Register Boundary

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

Properties Eligible for the National Register:

49-86. Roper Historic District



Roper H.D. Harrison-Blount House (#49).



Roper H.D. Harrison-Blount House (#49).



Roper H.D. Harrison-Blount House (#49).



Roper H.D. Harrison-Blount House (#49).



Roper H.D. Harrison-Blount House (#49). Outbuildings.



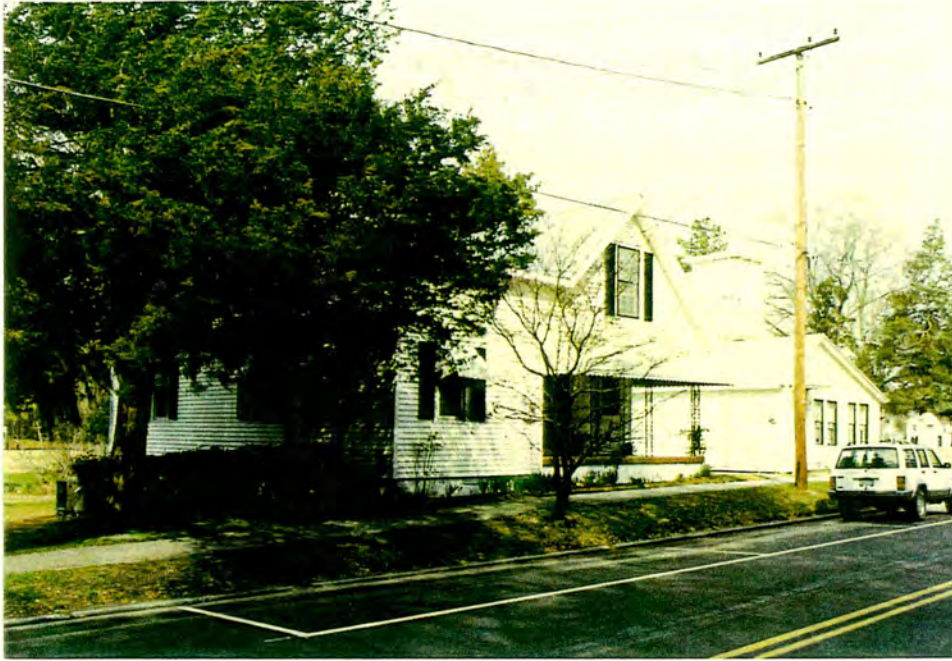
Roper H.D. Kendrick's Creek Bridge (#51). Built 1935.



Roper H.D. Mizell Mill Complex (#52, left); Funeral home (#53, right).



Roper H.D. House (#54).



Roper H.D. House (#55, left); Store (#56, right).



Roper H.D. House (#57).



Roper H.D. Blount Brothers Barber Shop (#58).



Roper H.D. House (#59, left); House (#60, right).



Roper H.D. Hebron United Methodist Church (#61).



Roper H.D. Hebron United Methodist Church (#61).



Roper H.D. Hebron United Methodist Church (#61).



Roper H.D. Hebron United Methodist Church (#61).



Roper H.D. Hebron United Methodist Church (#61).



Roper H. D. Store (#62).



Roper H. D. House (#63). Noncontributing.



Roper H. D. Oliver's Market (#64). Noncontributing.



Roper H. D. Former Texaco Station (#65).



Roper H. D. Warehouse (#66).



Roper H. D. Mount Ebrew Missionary Baptist Church (#67).



Roper H. D. Masonic Lodge (#68).



Roper H. D. House (#69, left); House (#70, right).



Roper H. D. House (#71, left); House (#72, right).



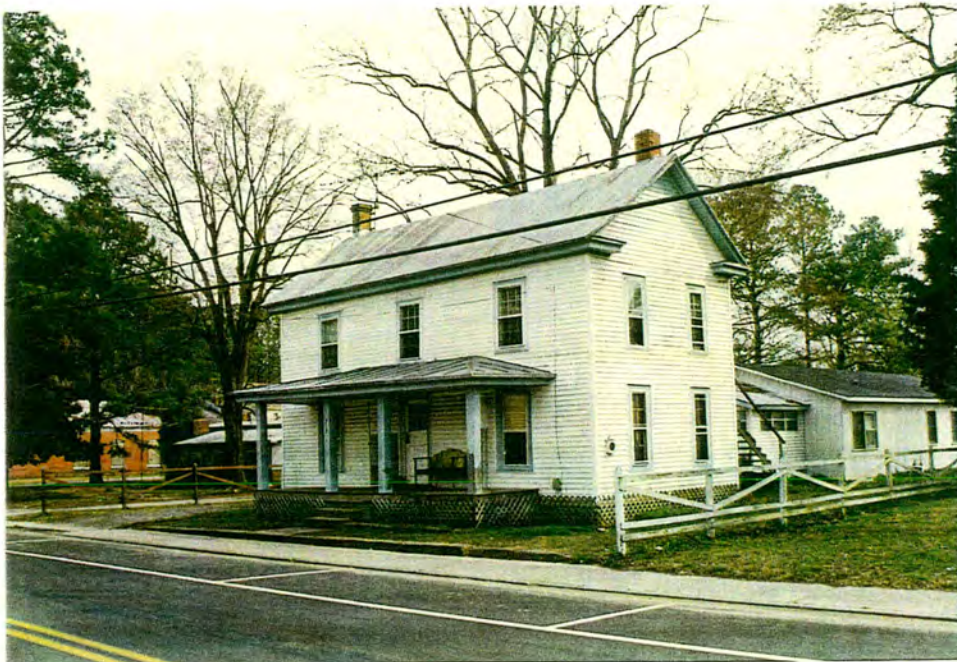
Roper H. D. House (#73, left); House (#74, right).



Roper H. D. Houses (#69-74, left to right).



Roper H. D. House (#75).



Roper H. D. House (#76).



Roper H. D. Houses (#69-74, on left; #75-76, on right).



Roper H. D. Warehouse (#77).



Roper H. D. House (#78).



Roper H. D. House (#79).



Roper H. D. House (#80).



Roper H. D. House (#81).



Roper H. D. House (#82).



Roper H. D. Mizell-Lewis House (#83).



Roper H. D. Mizell-Lewis House (#83).



Roper H. D. Mizell-Lewis House (#83).



Roper H. D. Mizell-Lewis House (#83).



Roper H. D. Mizell-Lewis House (#83).



Roper H. D. Houses (#84, left; #85, right).



Roper H. D. House (#85).



Roper H. D. House (#86).



Roper H. D. ED standing at edge of ROW (US 64), in front of House (#54).



Roper H. D. ED standing at edge of ROW (US 64), behind Hebron United Methodist Church (#61).



Roper H. D. ED standing at edge of ROW (US 64), at House (#85).



Roper H. D. ED standing at edge of ROW (US 64), behind Mizell-Lewis House (#83).

49-86. Roper Historic District

Description and Background

The town of Roper, located in Washington County on Kendrick's Creek, grew out of the first settlement in this region on the southern shores of Albemarle Sound. Sometime between 1696 and 1700, Thomas Blount, a Chowan County blacksmith, is alleged to have settled in this area (then part of Chowan County) and built a house on the property of the Harrison-Blount House and Lee's Mill Site (SL) (WH 430).

Blount built a saw and grist mill on the east side of Kendrick's Creek ca. 1701, and operated it for a short time. After his death in 1704 or 1706, Blount's widow married Thomas Lee, who took over the milling operations. Information in SHPO's survey file for the Lee's Mill Site indicates that this mill, which became known as Lee's Mill, provided grain and lumber for the area and served barges or light ships that docked at the mill.

The file also states that Blount's house "was . . . used as the Tyrrell County courthouse until one was built in 1710." However, Tyrrell County was not established until 1729 (carved from Bertie, Chowan, Currituck, and Pasquotank Counties), so perhaps the file means to suggest that local officials used Blount's house to conduct court business until a new courthouse could be built for Chowan County. The location of this 1710 courthouse is unknown.

Lee's Mill, as the settlement was now known, became Tyrrell's county seat in 1748 when local planter and Provincial Assembly representative Stephen Lee donated land for another courthouse. The first Inferior Court of Tyrrell County opened here in 1751. Later in the eighteenth century, state officials separated parts of Tyrrell County into smaller counties, beginning with the establishment of Martin County in 1774. In that year, Tyrrell's county seat moved east from Lee's Mill to Backlanding, and then to Elizabeth Town in 1799 (renamed Columbia in 1810). Also in 1799, state officials established Washington County, which included Lee's Mill, with the western territory of Tyrrell County. The new Washington County courthouse was built in Lee's Mill in 1801, where it remained until 1823, when officials designated Plymouth (incorporated 1787) as Washington's county seat.¹² Plymouth remains the county seat of Washington today.

Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, several communities participated in the timber industry. Some, like Lee's Mill, also served as a commercial and sometime-governmental hub for surrounding farmers. Lee's Mill changed its name to Roper in 1890, when the John L. Roper Company established a lumber mill in the area. The Roper Company was one of the largest lumber operations in North Carolina, and the town enjoyed the booming industry, as witnessed by the many houses and commercial buildings erected during the period. The Roper Company closed in 1920 after logging all the

¹² Harris, 75.

convenient timber in the area.¹³ The next year, vandals destroyed the two hundred-twenty-year-old Lee's saw mill. The demise of these two mills brought the long-running, profitable timber industry to a halt in Roper. The town managed to survive this double blow, but most of the jobs moved west to Plymouth and north across Albemarle Sound. Since the 1920s, many residents have had to find work outside Roper.

Very little remains of Lee's saw mill today. A preliminary survey of the site in 1973 revealed some brick foundations, two mill stones, and the remains of a mid-nineteenth-century dam across the creek. NCDOT archaeologists surveyed this site in 1996 for the subject project (Archaeology Site 31WH18**), and estimated that 98% of the mill and dam were destroyed. They found two mill stones and recorded portions of stone and brick foundations. The dam is no longer extant. NCDOT recommended no further archaeological investigations and determined that the site was not eligible for the National Register as an archaeological site.¹⁴

Most of the houses, commercial buildings, and churches in Roper date to the lumber boom of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.¹⁵ The Harrison-Blount House (SL) (WH 430) is probably the oldest surviving house in Roper. James J. Harrison built this house on the west side of Kendrick's Creek, across from Lee's Mill, in 1835. Harrison was the son of Aaron Harrison, who was an owner of Lee's Mill and who is said to have built the first part of the Hassell House on Homestead Farm (see 35. **Homestead Farm (Hassell House)**). The Harrison-Blount House is a two-story, Federal-style house, originally built one-room deep, with a center-hall plan. Later additions near the end of the nineteenth century added rooms on the rear and a one-story wing on the south side.

Other notable buildings include Hebron United Methodist Church (WH 429), a simple 1842 Gothic Revival church with later additions; the Greek Revival-style Mizell-Lewis House (WH 432), built ca. 1850; St. Luke's Episcopal Church (WH 435), a frame Gothic Revival church dating to 1899; and an old Texaco station (WH 436), a 1920s or 1930s example of the Mediterranean Revival style. A multitude of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century houses are scattered throughout Roper, as are several churches, warehouses, commercial buildings, and a Masonic Lodge. Photographs of those buildings in the district that lie within the APE for the subject project have been included in this report.

¹³ Bill Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina*, 4 vols. (Raleigh: Sharpe Publishing Company, 1961) 3: 1629.

¹⁴ John J. Mintz, Kenneth W. Robinson, and Thomas Beaman, Jr., "Archaeological Study of Roadway Improvements to US 64 From NC 45 East of Plymouth to US 64 Business West of Columbia, Washington and Tyrrell Counties, North Carolina," North Carolina Department of Transportation, 1996.

¹⁵ Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina* (Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 1996) 150.

Evaluation

The town of Roper possesses a significant concentration of buildings united historically by plan and physical development, and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district under Criterion A (Event) for its significance in exploration/settlement and industry, and Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. Formerly known as Lee's Mill, Roper is one of the oldest European settlements in Washington and Tyrrell Counties. The town grew up around a saw and grist mill, and throughout much of its history it was closely associated with the timber industry. Most of the historic buildings in Roper were in some way related to this local industry, whether it was the Harrison-Blount House (built by the son of an owner of Lee's saw mill) or many of the turn-of-the-twentieth-century houses that resulted from the timber boom initiated by the John L. Roper Company saw mill. Roper contains fine examples of the Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Craftsman styles, as well as vernacular house types dating between the mid nineteenth century and the early twentieth century.

Proposed National Register Boundary

The proposed National Register boundary for the Roper Historic District is outlined on the accompanying map of the town, and has been drawn to include those contributing buildings and sites that are essential to Roper's identity as an early settlement and later development based on the lumber industry. The boundary along the south side of US 64 follows the back of the ditch; where there is no ditch, the boundary continues in a line even with the ditch, which is approximately ten feet from the edge of pavement, in order to include all the landscape characteristics (mainly trees) that are important to Roper's integrity. This boundary includes some right of way, as the edge of right of way encroaches dramatically on most of the properties that line US 64 and contains many landscape characteristics.

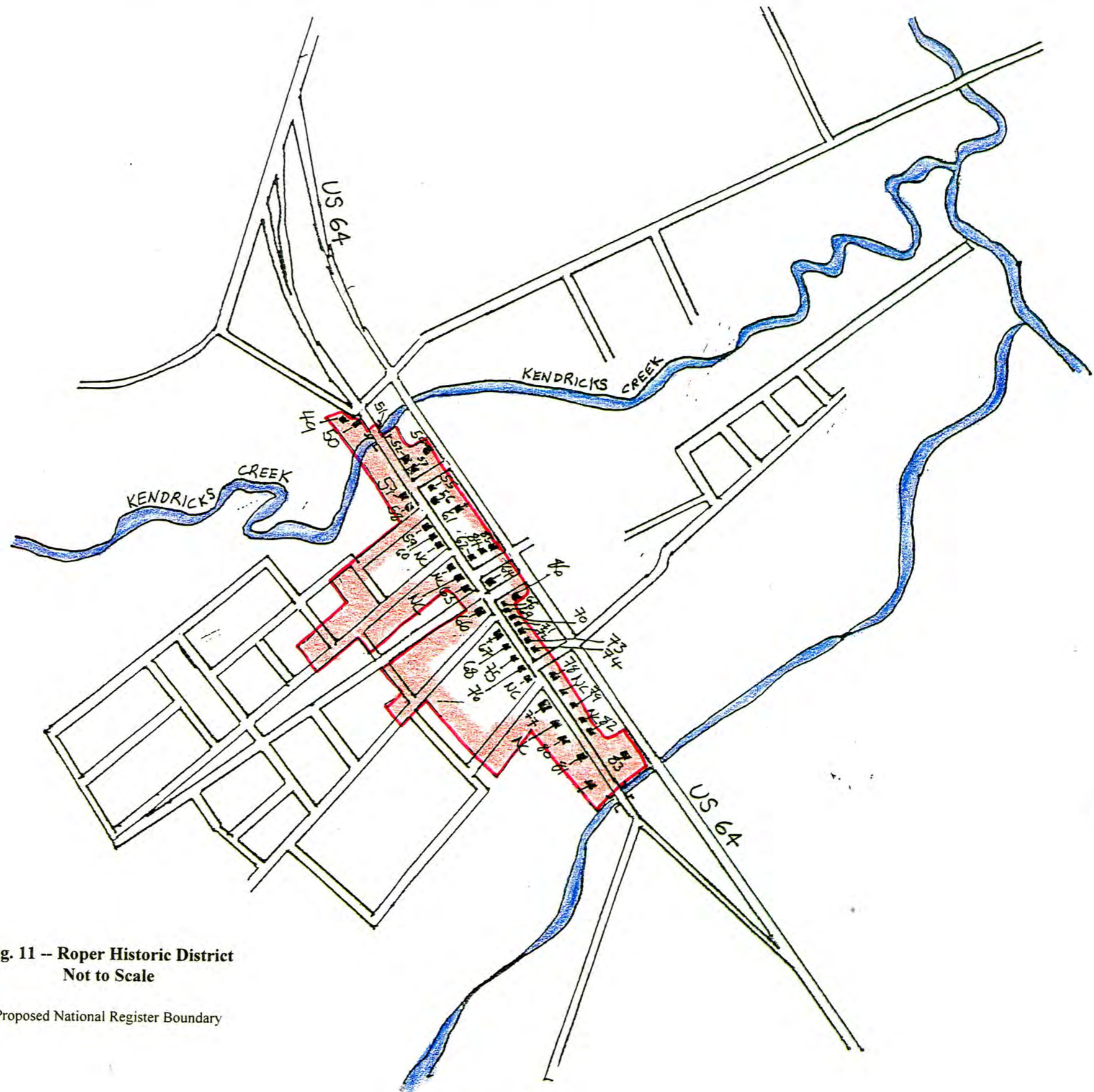
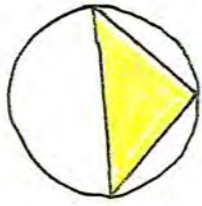



Fig. 11 -- Roper Historic District
Not to Scale

 Proposed National Register Boundary

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

Properties Eligible for the National Register:

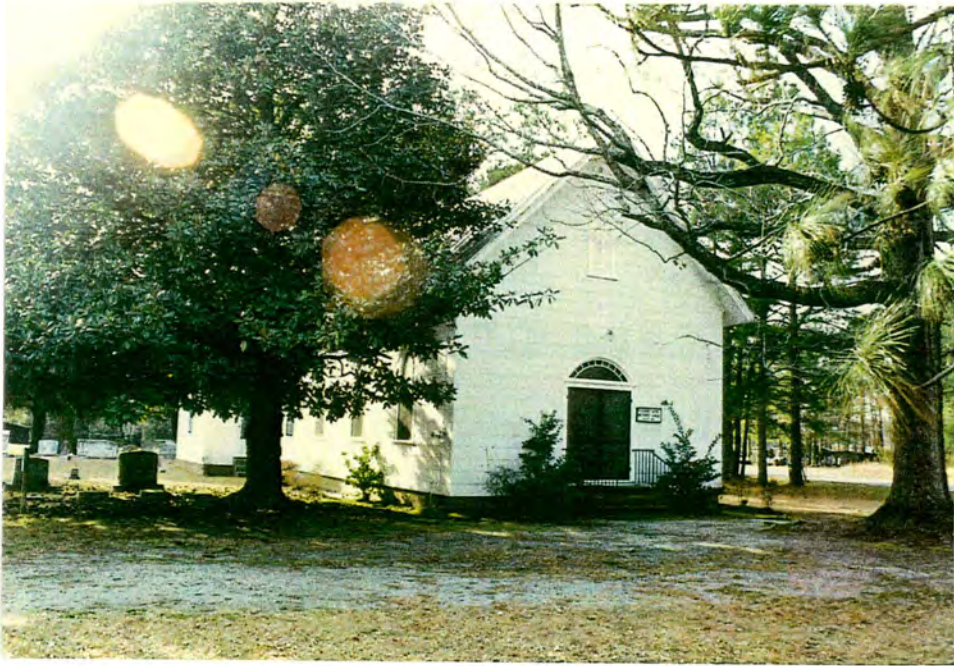
113. Pleasant Grove Methodist Church (SL) (WH 395)



Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. View NW.



Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. View NE.



Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. View NW.



Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. South elevation (facing US 64).



Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. View SW.



Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. North elevation (facing SR 1300).



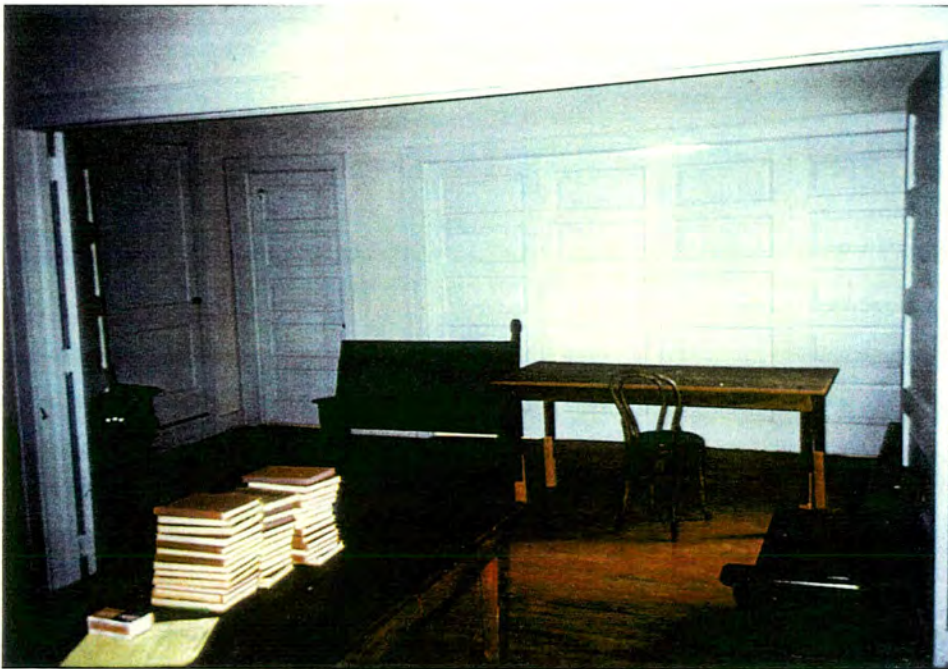
Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. View W of interior.



Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. View E of interior ceiling.



Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. Altar.



Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. Interior, rear addition.



Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. Pew.



Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. Wainscot.



Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. View W (US 64 at L). ED standing at edge of ROW under magnolia tree.

113. Pleasant Grove Methodist Church (SL) (WH 395)

Description and Background

Pleasant Grove Methodist Church is located in Pleasant Grove on the north side of US 64 at the intersection with SR 1300. The church faces east on a triangular, shaded lot. A church cemetery is located west of the building, with many graves extending into the church yard along US 64 on the south and SR 1300 on the north.

The main body of this simple, frame church was built about 1859. It is four bays long and has a gable-front roof structure. A double six-panel door with a segmental arch stained glass window overhead provides access through the east end of the church. Four arched stained glass windows, dating to the 1920s, light the north and south sides of the building. A three-room annex with identical stained glass windows in the north and south elevations extends from the east end of the church. The main room of the annex was built in the 1880s, and two smaller rooms on the north and south sides were added between 1948 and 1952.

The ceiling of the interior of the church is shaped like a hipped gambrel roof. The interior is framed and finished in pine, with heart pine floors and vertical pine board wainscoting. Celatex composition paneling covers the ceiling and walls above the wainscot, but the original horizontal pine sheathing still exists underneath. The altar is on a slightly raised dais at the west end of the church. Two interior doors with arched stained glass windows flank the altar, and a simple altar rail with turned balusters surrounds it. Two aisles divide the rows of original pews, which have ogee feet and carved arm rests.

In the mid nineteenth century, Methodist community members met for services across the road from the present church in Frazier's schoolhouse. These members officially established the Pleasant Grove congregation on July 5, 1859, and later that month began construction of a church on land donated by Eveline A. Clayton. Thomas G. Tarkenton was appointed steward and oversaw construction. The church cemetery was begun some years before this, however. The oldest headstone found during the survey had a date of 1853, but the Study List application for this property says the oldest stone dates to 1802.

Evaluation

Pleasant Grove Methodist Church is eligible for the National Register under Criterion Consideration A (Religious Properties) and Criterion C (Design/Construction) for significance in architecture. With its simple, gable-front form and plain pine finish, this church is a good example of the small country churches that were once the focus of most small communities. Despite some additions, this church retains enough integrity of design and materials to be eligible for the National Register. The later rear annex does not overwhelm the general form of this building, and it does not change the interior plan of the church. Although composite siding and panels cover the exterior and part of the interior of the church, enough original finish (including the heart pine floor, carved pews, vertical

wainscoting, and the original horizontal pine board sheathing that survives under the celatex paneling) survives to effectively reflect its appearance in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Proposed National Register Boundary

The proposed National Register boundary for the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church follows the property lines of the lot on which it stands (Washington County Tax Parcel map, PIN # 7810-30-0179), and encompasses about one acre. The boundary is drawn to include the cemetery and all of the shaded setting of the church. As the edge of right of way along US 64 extends well into the church yard and includes several graves, the back of the ditch on the north side of US 64 has been chosen as the southern boundary for this property.

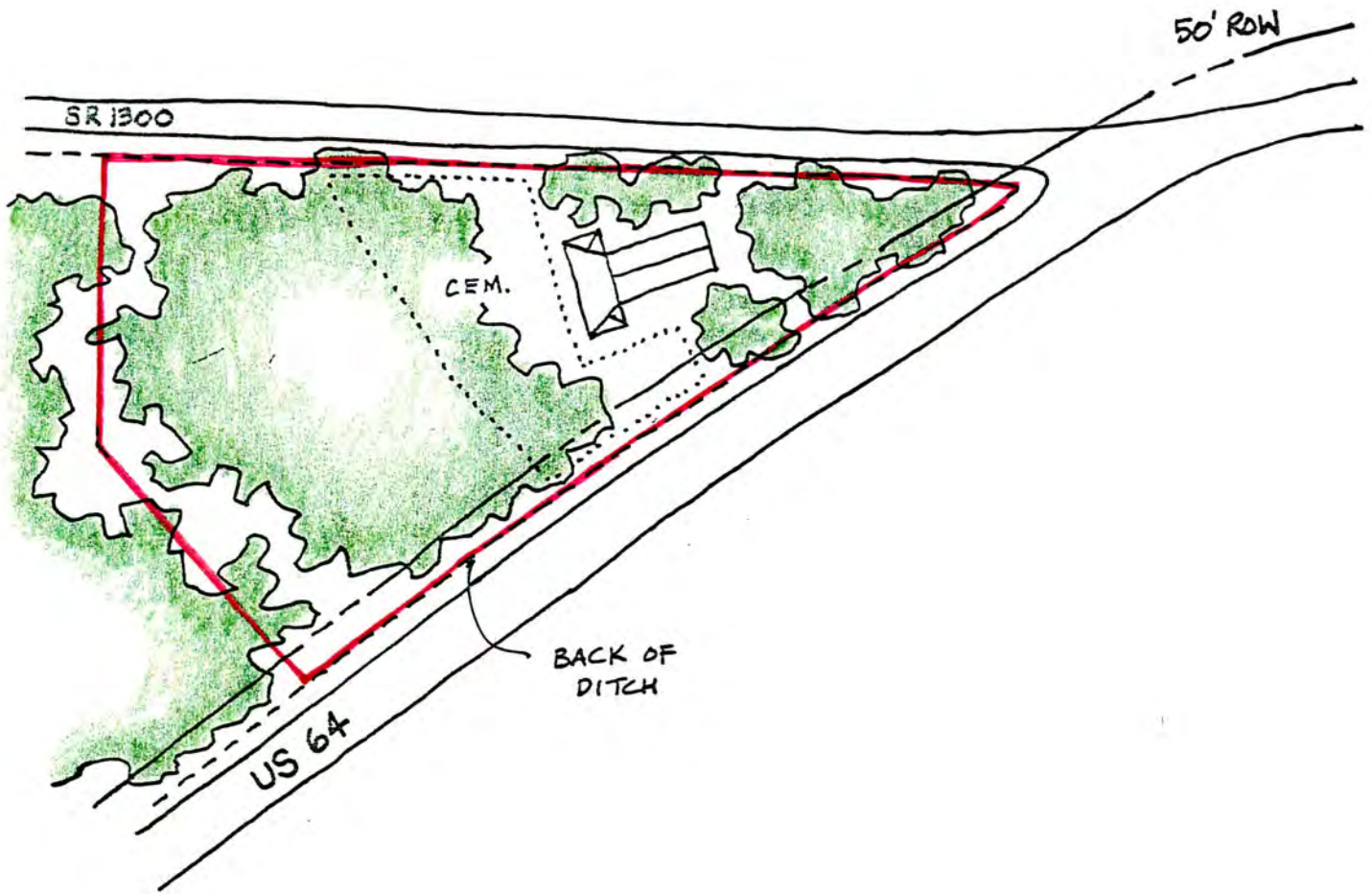



Fig. 12 -- Pleasant Grove Methodist Church
Not to Scale

 Proposed National Register Boundary

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

Properties Eligible for the National Register:

115. Pleasant Grove Store



Pleasant Grove Store. View from NE.



Pleasant Grove Store. View from NW.



Pleasant Grove Store. View E along US 64 (Pleasant Grove Methodist Church at L, across US 64 from store).



Pleasant Grove Store. View W along US 64 (Pleasant Grove Methodist Church at R, across US 64 from store).



Pleasant Grove Store. View from NW. ED standing at edge of ROW.



Pleasant Grove Store. View E along US 64. ED standing at edge of ROW.

115. Pleasant Grove Store

Description and Background

This ca. 1930-35 roadside store stands on the south side of US 64 in Pleasant Grove at the junction with SR 1300. It is one story tall, frame in construction and square in plan, and has a gable roof that extends into a *porte cochere* supported by bungalow-style piers. Gas pumps once stood between these piers on the concrete island. Exposed rafter tails, hinting at the Craftsman style, line the eaves of the store and *porte cochere*. The front door is flanked by two pairs of four-over-four windows. Another pair of four-over-four windows, shaded by a metal awning, light the store on the east side. Also on the east side, a break in the roof over the store allows the roof to extend further eastward from the ridge line, and creates a slightly asymmetrical facade. A false front extends above the roof on the northeast corner, and shields the break in the roof pitch from the front. A chimney flue rises from the inside of the store towards the rear, just off line with the roof ridge. Three frame garages and sheds flank the rear of the store.

The interior is in excellent shape, and retains its original counters, glass display cases, and scales. The store is currently used for storage, but has been recently repainted. The owner has plans to complete the restoration and open a retail business in it.

Evaluation

This store is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. With the development of the automobile in the early twentieth century came the rise of new building types to meet new demands. Aided by an improved road system beginning in the 1920s, the automobile became widely popular and roadside stores such as this one quickly sprang up to service it. Often these stores took the place of the general store, and became an important fixture in rural communities such as Pleasant Grove. New roads and bigger highways for faster cars after World War II spelled the end for these buildings, however. Once, thousands of roadside stores existed; today, very few remain. This property is an excellent example of the increasingly rare roadside store of the 1920s and 1930s. With its unaltered design and its location close on the highway in still-rural Pleasant Grove, this store retains its integrity of materials, design, setting, and feeling.

Proposed National Register Boundary

The proposed National Register boundary for this store follows the property lines of the lot on which it stands (Washington County Tax Parcel map, PIN # 7810-30-2191), and encompasses approximately 0.25 acre. This boundary includes the store and the three frame outbuildings, and has been drawn to preserve the property's integrity of location and setting. As the store is partially within right of way (the edge of right of way runs under the *porte cochere* immediately in front of the door), the proposed National Register

boundary extends to the edge of pavement of US 64 in order to include all of the building and its setting.



Fig. 13 -- Pleasant Grove Store
Not to Scale

— Proposed National Register Boundary

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

Properties Eligible for the National Register:

118. Former Schoolhouse



Former Schoolhouse. View from NW.



Former Schoolhouse. View from NW.



Former Schoolhouse. View from NE.



Former Schoolhouse. North elevation.



Former Schoolhouse. West elevation.



Former Schoolhouse. View from SE.



Former Schoolhouse. Front porch.



Former Schoolhouse. View E along US 64. ED standing at edge of ROW.



Former Schoolhouse. View W along US 64. ED standing at edge of ROW, in yard west of former schoolhouse.

118. Former Schoolhouse

Description and Background

This one-and-one-half-story frame house with a cross gable front porch and a one-and-one-half-story rear ell stands on the south side of US 64 just east of the junction with SR 1300 in Pleasant Grove. Small trees and shrubs surround the house and screen it from the road. A bamboo thicket grows close to the east side of the house, and a deep drainage ditch parallels the road in front.

The side-gabled core of the house was probably built before 1900 as a two-room schoolhouse. It is two rooms wide, one room deep, one and one-half stories tall, and has gable returns, slightly overhanging eaves, and a molded cornice. The first floor has tall six-over-six windows (two on the front, flanking the front door, and two on the east and west elevations), and the second floor has two smaller six-over-six windows in each gable end. Two corbeled, interior chimneys rise out of the east and west ends of this part of the building.

The cross gable porch, which has bungalow-style porch supports, as built in the 1920s. Like the original schoolhouse, it has a pair of small six-over-six windows in the gable. A short roof skirt with exposed rafter tails in the Craftsman tradition runs around the bottom edge of this porch below the eaves. A one-and-one-half-story ell extends from the rear of the house, and might have been added at the same time as the front porch. It has a flush gable end, a smaller cornice than the front of the house, and slightly overhanging eaves. The gable end of the ell has a small pair of pair of six-over-six windows like those in the porch gable, and large six-over-six windows light both sides of the first floor. A door on the west side of the ell under an attached shed roof porch leads to the outside. A shed roof addition has been built on the rear of the ell. A corbeled chimney rises out of the ridge line of the ell.

Nothing is known about this house's history as a school, although a former student interviewed by NCDOT staff architectural historians in 1994 attended the school in 1920-21. The former student said it was built before the neighboring Tarkenton House, which was built ca. 1900. Surveyors for this project were not able to gain access to the interior of this building; nothing is known about its finish or condition.

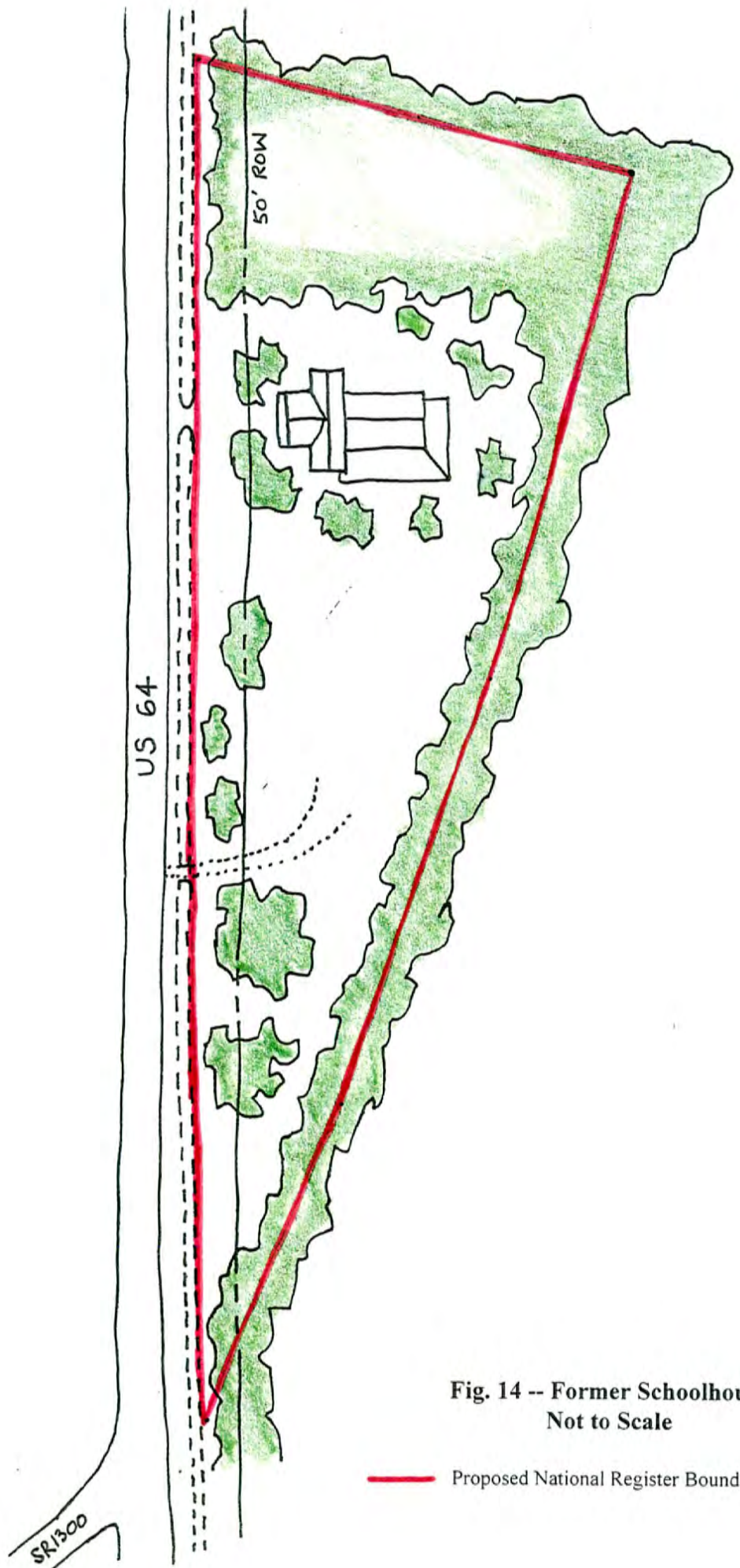
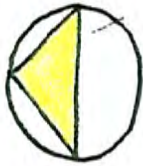
Evaluation

This former schoolhouse is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. This late-nineteenth-century schoolhouse, built during a period of economic and population growth, reflects an increased emphasis on education and a willingness to build civic structures for specific uses. Although exterior additions were made in the 1920s, the core of this house is relatively unaltered and is a good example of a simple, turn-of-the-century, frame schoolhouse.

Because so little is known about the history of this former schoolhouse, it cannot be demonstrated that the building played a significant role in education in Washington County. Therefore, this property is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion A (Event).

Proposed National Register Boundary

The proposed National Register boundary for this property follows the property lines of the parcel on which the former schoolhouse stands (Washington County Tax Parcel map, PIN # 7810-30-5360). The boundary has been drawn to encompass the building and its setting, which includes the landscaped yard to the west, and contains about one acre. As the edge of right of way extends well into the front yard of this property, the proposed National Register boundary has been drawn to the back of the ditch on the south side of US 64 in order to preserve this building's integrity of setting.



**Fig. 14 -- Former Schoolhouse
Not to Scale**

— Proposed National Register Boundary

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

Properties Eligible for the National Register:

129. Will Chesson House (WH 366)



William R. Chesson House. View N from US 64. ED standing at edge of ROW.



William R. Chesson House. South elevation.



William R. Chesson House. View from SE.



William R. Chesson House. East elevation.



William R. Chesson House. View from NE.



William R. Chesson House. Outbuildings.



William R. Chesson House. View from SE. ED standing at edge of ROW.



William R. Chesson House. View W along US 64. ED standing at edge of ROW. (Trailer in background).

129. Will Chesson House (WH 366)

Description and Background

The Will Chesson House, a two-and-one-half-story, single-pile, center-hall house with rear additions, stands a couple hundred feet north of US 64. Old trees, including an enormous cedar, stand on the road in front of the house, and a mobile home lies between the Chesson House and the road. Large magnolia and oak trees surround the house and screen it from the road. A barn and a smokehouse flank the rear of the house, and open fields stretch away on the east and west sides.

This house has fine Federal and Greek Revival features, and appears to date to the first decades of the nineteenth century. It is five bays wide, two bays deep, and clad in beaded weatherboarding. Two single-shoulder, exterior chimneys with corbeled tops flank the ends of the single-pile section of the house. The gable roof has flush ends and a dentil cornice. An attached shed roof with square pillars shelters the front entrance, which has a flat six-panel door, a three-part beaded architrave, and a four-lite transom. The first floor has large nine-over-nine windows, and the second floor has nine-over-six windows. Two-part and three-part molded architraves frame the windows. Both side gables have a small four-lite window on the south side of each chimney.

Two additions extend from the rear of the house. The first, a one-and-one-half-story, one-room gabled ell, might be original to the house, or built soon after. It has a newer brick stove flue, three nine-over-six windows with three-part molded architraves on the first floor, and another window on the second floor next to the stove flue. An attached shed roof porch covers the back door of the house and the door of the ell. A second, later kitchen addition, extends from the east elevation of the rear ell. It is one-story tall, and has large nine-over-nine windows and a modern brick stove flue.

NCDOT staff architectural historians did not have access to the interior of the Will Chesson House, but field notes in SHPO's file from the 1974 reconnaissance survey of Washington County indicate that this house has fine interior woodwork. The center hall has paneled wainscoting, and a closed stringer stair in the back corner of the hall with a molded handrail and square balusters. The first-floor rooms have molded baseboards and chairboards, and flat-paneled doors. The first floor of the rear ell also has wainscoting and a separate corner stair. Like the first floor, the upstairs rooms have molded baseboards and chairboards, flat-paneled doors, two-part door architraves, and three-part window architraves with corner blocks. Most of this woodwork appears to be carved in the Federal style, but all the mantels are Greek Revival.

Evaluation

The Will Chesson House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. With its dentil cornice, window and door architraves, mantels, paneled wainscoting, and molded

chairboards and baseboards, this early-nineteenth-century house displays many fine characteristics of the Federal and Greek Revival styles, retains its integrity of design and materials, and effectively reflects its appearance during its period of significance in the nineteenth century.

The Will Chesson Houses is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion A (Event) for significance in agriculture. Aside from the barn and smokehouse, the domestic and agricultural outbuildings necessary to convey the appearance as a nineteenth-century farm complex do not survive.

Proposed National Register Boundary

The proposed National Register boundary for the Will Chesson House encompasses a portion of the parcel on which the house and outbuildings sit (Washington County Tax Parcel map, PIN # 7820-14-4582). The boundary contains approximately five acres, and includes the house, outbuildings, mobile home, and the yard around the house. It has been drawn to preserve the setting of this property. The boundary follows the edge of the cultivated fields on the east and west sides, and the tree line immediately behind the outbuildings on the north side of the property. The boundary extends to the back of the drainage ditch along US 64 on the south side. The back of the ditch has been chosen as the southern limit of the proposed National Register boundary because the northern right of way along US 64 extends into the yard past the cedar tree. The boundary has been drawn to include the mobile home as a noncontributing structure because it sits in the Chesson House yard.



Fig. 15 -- Will Chesson House
Not to Scale

— Proposed National Register Boundary

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

Properties Eligible for the National Register:

133. Farm



Farm (#133). Farmhouse, view S from US 64.



Farm (#133). North elevation of farmhouse.



Farm (#133). View of farmhouse from NW.



Farm (#133). View of farmhouse from SW.



Farm (#133). View of farmhouse from SE.



Farm (#133). View N from US 64 of outbuildings and garden east of farmhouse.



Farm (#133). Vehicle shed.



Farm (#133). Sheds.



Farm (#133). Pig house.



Farm (#133). Sheds.



Farm (#133). Sheds.



Farm (#133). View E along US 64. ED standing at edge of ROW.

133. Farm

Description and Background

This late-nineteenth-century farmstead, consisting of a farmhouse and multiple outbuildings, is located in the Skinnersville vicinity of Washington County on the south side of US 64 about 0.3 mile east of the junction with SR 1136. Large oak trees define the dirt drive entry and the front yard of the house, and two rows of cedars screen the outbuildings from the house and road. Open fields stretch from the house to the south and west.

The two-story, single-pile farmhouse has a center-hall plan, a one-story front porch, and overhanging, bracketed eaves with a molded cornice and gable returns. Six-over-six windows light the house, and the front door has a transom and side lites. A two-story ell with an enclosed porch and a one-story gable addition projects from the rear. The bracketed eaves and sawn spandrels and balustrade on the porch recall the Queen Anne style. A single-shoulder exterior chimney rises on the west side of the house, and another chimney rises out of the rear ell at a point even with the back wall of the single-pile core of the house. Both chimneys have the same molded brick caps.

Several frame and metal outbuildings are located on the south and east sides of the farmhouse. These include a frame garage, a privy, a metal-covered vehicle shed, a frame pig house, and several frame and metal-covered, gable-roof sheds. The original function of most of these buildings is not known, but they appear today to serve as equipment sheds. The outbuildings sit in an area defined by two rows of cedar trees, which screen them from the house and from the road. This area also includes a grape arbor and a vegetable garden.

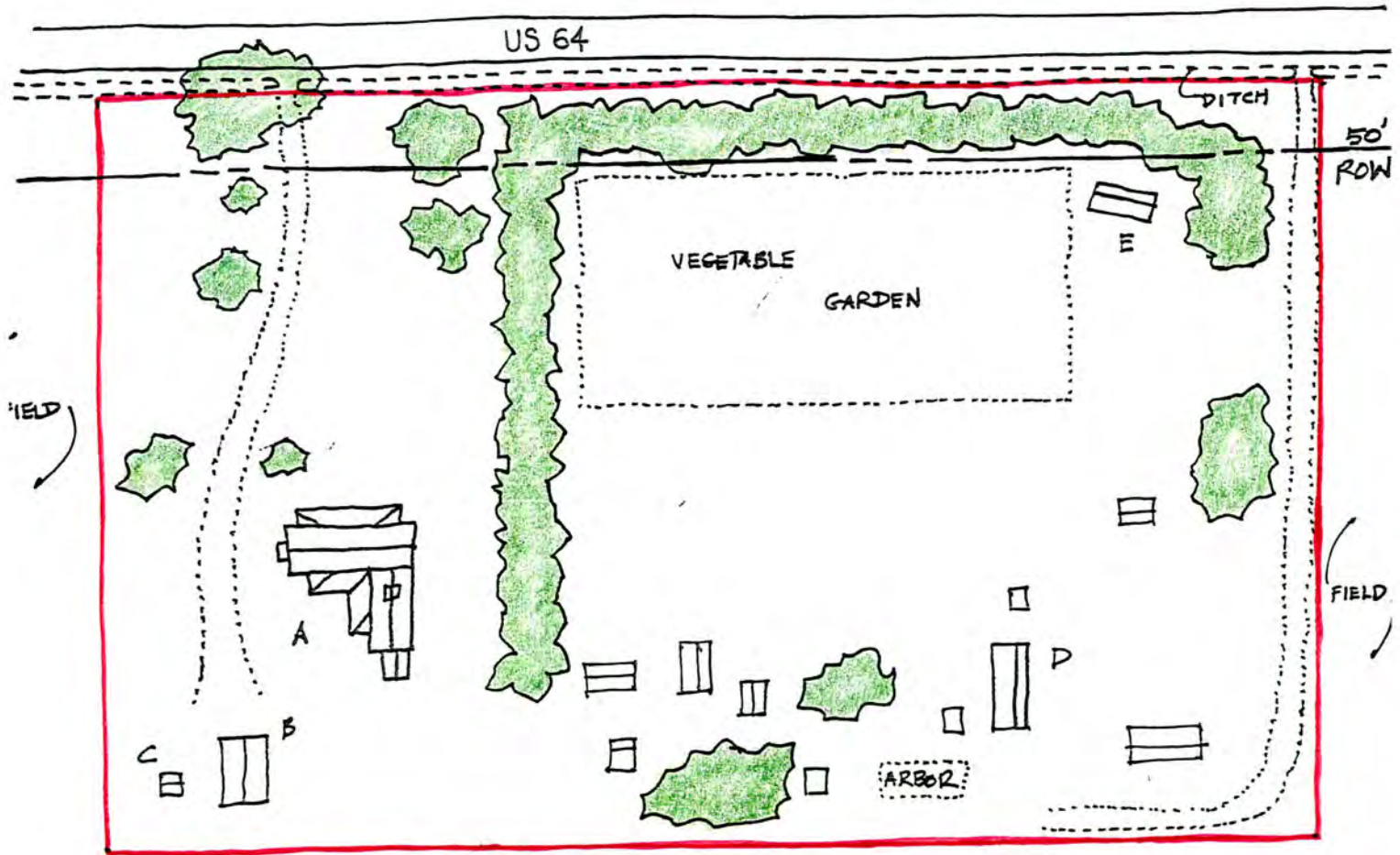
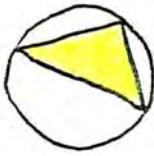
Evaluation

This farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. With its center-hall plan and simple Queen Anne detailing, the farmhouse embodies the distinctive characteristics of the popular single-pile house of the nineteenth century and is a good example of the style.

This farm is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion A (Event) as it cannot be shown to have been involved in any single event marking an important moment in American history, or in a pattern of events or a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of the local community, Washington County, the state of North Carolina, or the nation. Specifically, this farm is not eligible for significance in local agriculture. Most of the surviving outbuildings do not appear to be related to agricultural practices, but instead seem to be used for equipment storage. Also, information about the history of this property and its use as a farm has not been discovered; therefore, this property cannot be demonstrated to have been involved in important agricultural events or themes in Washington County.

Proposed National Register Boundary

The proposed National Register boundary for this farm encompasses a portion of the parcel on which it is located (Washington County Tax Parcel map, PIN # 7830-03-9792), and has been drawn to include the farmhouse, outbuildings, and landscaped yard that are essential to preserving this property's integrity of location and setting. The boundary follows the edge of the field on the east, west, and south sides of the yard around the house, and the back of the ditch on the south side of US 64. The bounded area measures approximately three acres. As the edge of right of way extends well into the yard of the farmhouse, the back of the ditch has been chosen as the boundary in order to include the all of the landscape elements (including the large oak tree at the head of the dirt drive, and the row of cedars along the road).



- A house
- B garage
- C privy
- D vehicle shed
- E pig house

Fig. 16 -- Farm
Not to Scale

— Proposed National Register Boundary

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

Properties Eligible for the National Register:

142. Pritchard Farm



Pritchard Farm. North elevation of farmhouse.



Pritchard Farm. View of farmhouse from NW.



Pritchard Farm. West elevation of farmhouse.



Pritchard Farm. West elevation of farmhouse.



Pritchard Farm. View of farmhouse from SW.



Pritchard Farm. View of farmhouse from SE.



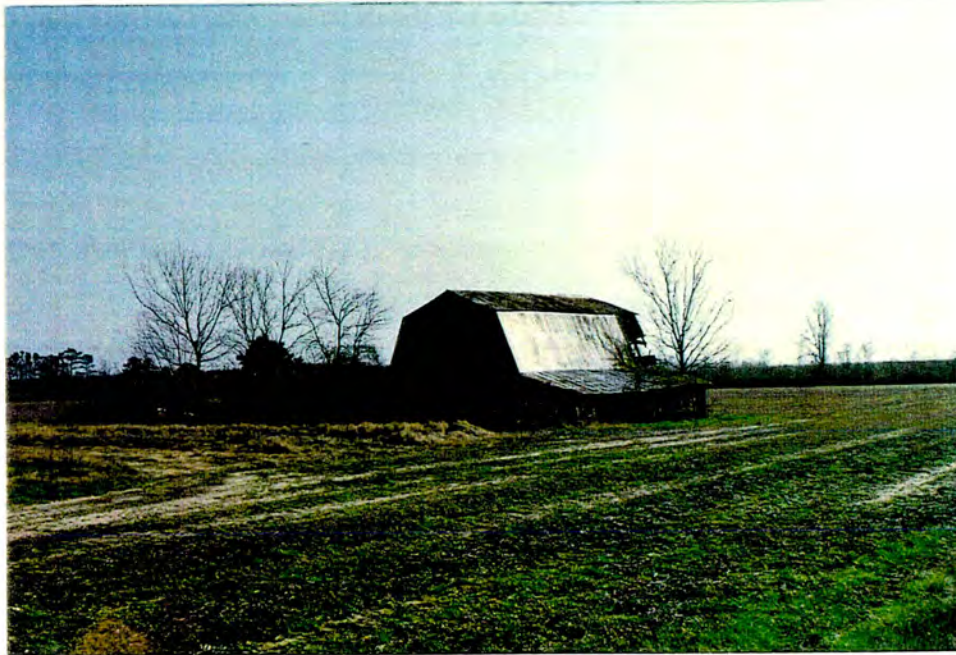
Pritchard Farm. View of farmhouse from NE.



Pritchard Farm. Smokehouse.



Pritchard Farm. Equipment building.



Pritchard Farm. Barn.



Pritchard Farm. Chicken coop and shed.



Pritchard Farm. Family cemetery.



Pritchard Farm. Garage and rear of store (view N from family cemetery).



Pritchard Farm. Garage and store.



Pritchard Farm. Garage, store, and vegetable stands.



Pritchard Farm. Store.



Pritchard Farm. ED standing at edge of ROW on US 64 in front of store.



Pritchard Farm. View E along US 64 in front of Pritchard Farm.

142. Pritchard Farm

Description and Background

This nineteenth-century farm is located between the Skinnersville and Scuppernong communities on the south side of US 64, approximately 0.4 mile east of NC 32. The farm complex consists of a two-story house, several outbuildings, a family cemetery, an early-twentieth-century general store. Cultivated fields surround the complex. The house sits back from the road, and the outbuildings are arranged behind it. The family cemetery is located on the west side of the house, and the store, which is flanked by two open sheds, stands directly on the road in front of the house. Two modern trailers sit east of the house on US 64, and are screened from the house by a row of trees.

The two-story, frame farmhouse has single-pile, center-hall plan and a one-story rear ell, and appears to date to the second half of the nineteenth century. The three-bay, single-pile section of the house has extended eaves, a box cornice, and cornice returns in the gable ends. Each gable has rakeboards, and two plain vertical boards define each corner. A single-shoulder, exterior brick chimney rises on the east elevation. A one-story attached porch shelters the front door, which is framed by side lights and a transom. The porch has battered wooden posts and simple, rectilinear woodwork under the eaves. Six-over-six sash windows light the house; the west elevation has one window on both floors, while two windows flank the chimney on each floor in the east elevation. Three windows still survive in the second floor of the south (rear) elevation. The rear ell covers two of the windows on the first floor; the third first-floor window has been removed, and what appears to be the base of a brick stove flue has been built in its place. The front door and all of the windows have simple wooden architraves. The rear ell has a later brick chimney in its center, several windows, and an exterior door on its west and south elevations.

Several frame outbuildings are arranged behind the farmhouse. These include a smokehouse with side additions; a larger, gable roof equipment building; a chicken coop; a small storage shed; and a large gambrel roof barn. The family cemetery is located west of the house. The oldest marker dates to 1906.

The old store stands directly on US 64 in front of the house. It is a front-gable roof structure, and a false wall hides the gable in front. A porch with exposed rafter tails and turned posts is attached on the front elevation, and shelters the door and three six-over-six windows. An addition with the same roof as the porch runs along part of the east and south elevations. A brick stove flue rises on the main wall of east elevation. A two-bay, frame garage is located immediately to the rear, and two open sheds, which appear to have once served as vegetable stands, flank the store.

Mr. Howard Ange, the owner of this farm, said that his mother, Mattie Pritchard, was born in the farmhouse about 1902. Mr. Ange's grandmother built the store eighty or ninety years ago to replace an earlier store that burned. Both stores served as a general stores for the local area for many years. The 1910 census lists Henry F. Pritchard, Mattie's father, as

the head of a household of five children. Pritchard was a merchant (working in either the surviving store or its predecessor), and his wife Mary was a farmer. Mr. Ange currently rents the land associated with this farm, which grows peanuts, cotton, soybeans, and corn.

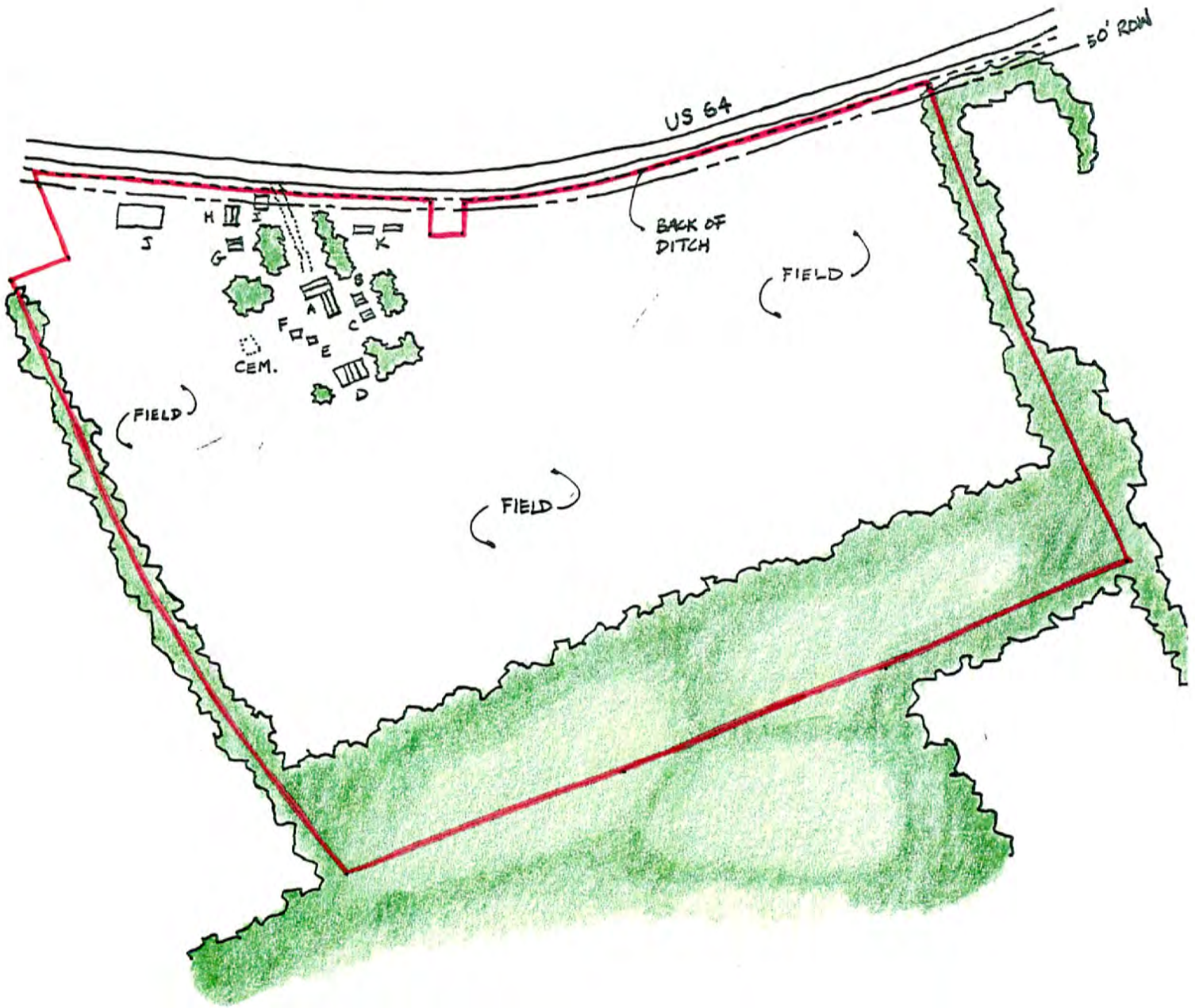
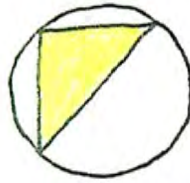
Evaluation

The Pritchard Farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (Event) for its significance in agriculture and Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. This farm is important for the thematic role it played in the agricultural development of Washington County in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and is a good representative of Washington County's small and middling farms. The farm complex, consisting of the farmhouse, agricultural outbuildings, and general store, also make this property eligible for the National Register for its significance in Washington County architecture. With its center-hall plan and simple vernacular detailing, the farmhouse embodies the distinctive characteristics of the popular single-pile house of the nineteenth century and is a good example of the style. The general store is a good example of the type that once served local farmers and that are growing increasingly rare today.

Proposed National Register Boundary

The proposed National Register boundary for the Pritchard farm encompasses all of the parcel on which it is located (Washington County Tax Parcel map, PIN # 7830-81-8600). The boundary includes the farmhouse, outbuildings, cemetery, general store, and cultivated fields that are essential to this property's identity as a small to middling nineteenth- and twentieth-century farm. The bounded area measures 45.23 acres. As the edge of right of way extends to the front of the store past the smaller open shed immediately next to it, the back of the ditch along the south side of US 64 has been chosen as the northern boundary in order to include the all of the contributing elements of this farm.

- A house
- B smokehouse
- C equipment building
- D barn
- E chicken coop
- F shed
- G garage
- H store
- I vegetable stand
- J vegetable stand
- K trailers



**Fig. 17 -- Pritchard Farm
Not to Scale**

Proposed National Register Boundary

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

Properties Eligible for the National Register:

153. Washington Correctional Center



Washington Correctional Center. View of original dormitory from S.
(Warden's house/office at extreme R).



Washington Correctional Center. View of original dormitory from SE.



Washington Correctional Center. View of original dormitory from SE.



Washington Correctional Center. ED standing at edge of ROW on north side of US 64.



Washington Correctional Center. View W along US 64.



Washington Correctional Center. View E along US 64 (parking lot at L).

153. Washington Correctional Center

Description and Background

The Washington Correctional Center, a subsidiary prison of the North Carolina Department of Corrections, is a medium security facility for adult males located three miles west of Creswell in a clearing on the north side of US 64. The prison consists of dormitories, work buildings, an education building, and a recreational building bounded by a wire fence with guard towers at the corners. A one-story, frame bungalow on the east side of the complex was probably built before World War II as the warden's residence; today it serves as the warden's office.

On July 27, 1936, E. S. and Alice S. Woodley sold thirty-three acres to the State Highway and Public Works Commission for the construction of a prison camp. It was one of sixty-one field unit prisons renovated or built during the late 1930s to house inmates who worked building roads.

The main building, a single-story, seventeen-bay brick structure, is the original dormitory built in the 1930s. It has a shallow gambrel roof and large windows across the front and rear elevations. Brick pilasters with concrete caps frame the entrance in the center of the facade. The building has an open interior form that could serve a variety of uses from a cafeteria to a dormitory.

Information provided by the North Carolina Department of Corrections notes that "the prison's original dormitories are still in use. In 1973, an education building was added. In the 1970s, inmates under the supervision of correction engineers built a 28 single cell unit to house inmates placed in administrative or disciplinary segregation. In 1988, a recreational building was completed."

The prison was most likely a Public Works Administration (PWA) project. PWA projects, which were created by New Deal legislation that meant to ease the hardship of the Great Depression, tended to be more substantial than those of the Works Progress Administration (1935-1942), which spent \$173.7 million in North Carolina. The PWA tended to focus on capital improvements and provided more permanent solutions to labor unemployment.

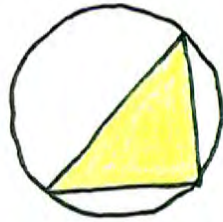
The state did not build many PWA projects in rural eastern North Carolina for several reasons. First, the federal government did not completely fund these projects. Regulations required local municipalities to contribute to the financing, and some areas had difficulty raising the necessary funds. Second, North Carolina received the fewest relief payments of any state and had relatively few New Deal projects for a state its size. Historically a conservative state, North Carolina was reluctant to participate in any federal relief programs, and didn't want to fund both work and relief projects.

Evaluation

The Washington Correctional Center is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (Event) for its significance in social history and politics/government as a public works project and a prison. In a state that had relatively few such projects, this correctional facility was probably the only Depression-era relief project built in Washington County and the surrounding area, and is important in the history of efforts to promote social welfare. In addition, it is the only state prison in Washington County, and has been important since the 1930s in the enactment and administration of laws by which a state is governed.

Proposed National Register Boundary

The proposed National Register boundary for the Washington Correctional Center encompasses part of the parcel on which it is located (Washington County Tax Parcel map, PIN # 7759-07-5648), and includes the prison complex, the ball field, parking lot, and the surrounding open area. The treeline on the north, east, and west sides of the prison define the proposed boundary. As right of way along US 64 extends into the grassy area in front of the prison, the back of the ditch on the south side of the road has been chosen as the southern boundary in order to include all of the yard in front of the facility.



- A 1930s dormitory
- B dormitory
- C dormitory
- D education building
- E segregated unit
- F recreational building
- G warden's office
- H trailer
- I guard tower
- J guard tower

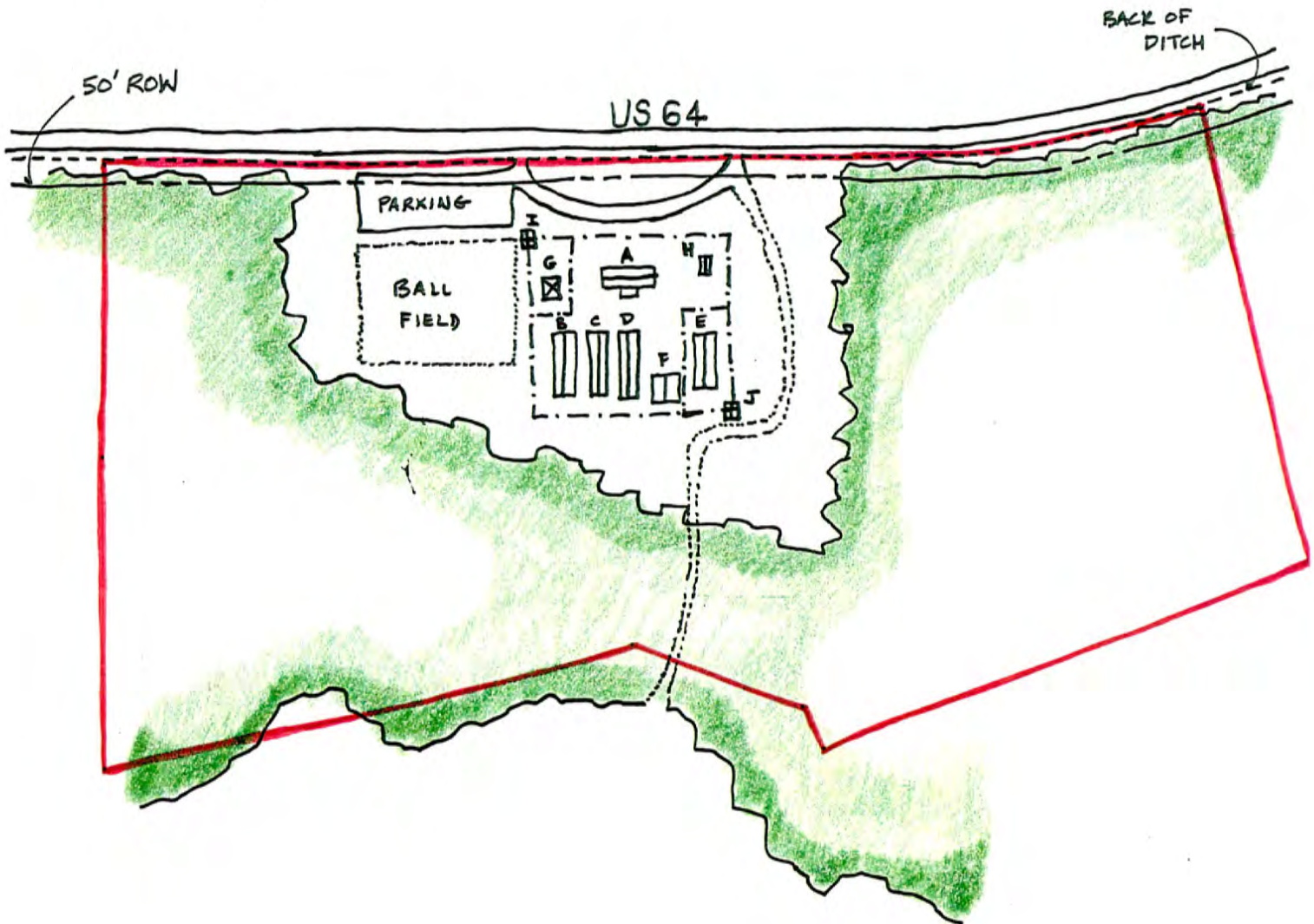



Fig. 18 -- Washington Correctional Center
Not to Scale

 Proposed National Register Boundary

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

Properties Eligible for the National Register:

172. Smithson House (WH 398)



Smithson House. East elevation.



Smithson House. View from SE.



Smithson House. View N of rear additions.



Smithson House. View from W.



Smithson House. View N of chicken coop (at L) and kitchen.



Smithson House. View E of yard in front of house. Note tenant house on east side of SR 1310 in background.



Smithson House. Tenant house.



Smithson House. Tenant house.



Smithson House. Tenant house.



Smithson House. View N from US 64 across fields.

172. Smithson House (WH 398)

Description and Background

The 638-acre Smithson farm stretches northward along SR 1310 from US 64 outside Creswell. The farm complex is located on the west side of SR 1310, approximately 0.6 mile north of US 64. Large, old oak trees stretch from the house to SR 1310, and crepe myrtles line the dirt drive. The complex consists of the farmhouse and two original outbuildings. Three associated tenant houses sit in the woods on the east side of SR 1310 in a line south of the Smithson house.

The double-pile, two-story farmhouse was originally built in 1838. It has a center-hall plan and exterior, single-shoulder chimneys laid in 1:4 common bond. The chimneys are not aligned with the roof ridge, but instead are centered on the front rooms. A gable roof with extended eaves and molded cornice returns covers the house. An old photograph in SHPO's file for this house shows that modifications have been made to the roof over the years. The roof in the photograph does not have overhanging eaves or gable returns; their addition since the photograph was taken suggests they were built around the turn of the twentieth century.

A shed roof porch, originally open but enclosed since the photograph in SHPO's file was taken, extends across the length of the facade, and shelters the six-panel front door. Weatherboards sheath the house, and are laid flush under the porch. Two large nine-over-six windows light the first floor, and three pairs of small four-over-four windows light the second floor on both the front and rear elevations. Additional four-over-four windows light the first, second, and attic floors on the gable ends of the house. The interior exhibits Greek Revival trim, with four-panel doors, post and lintel mantels with stepped, overhanging tops, a simple chamfered newel post and rounded stair rail, and molded baseboards and chairboards.

Multiple additions extend from the rear of this house. A one-story shed roof addition stretches across the rear elevation. An enclosed breezeway with small four-over-four windows leads to a three-bay, gable roof structure that stands parallel to the house. This building has large six-over-six windows, a box cornice, and an interior brick stove flue. Another enclosed breezeway connects this structure with a smaller two-bay building, which also has six-over-six windows and a brick stove flue. Both structures might once have been detached dependencies.

The farm complex has four outbuildings, only two of which appear to date to the nineteenth century and which might be original to the house. Pictures and a site plan from 1974 in SHPO's file show nine outbuildings: a dairy, smokehouse, privy, kitchen (which was moved from another location and had no chimney), three frame sheds of indeterminate use, a rectangular building (shown only on the site plan), and a small concrete block building. Today, only the kitchen, the concrete block building (now covered in weatherboarding), and a low frame shed survive (this shed might be the rectangular

building shown on the 1974 site plan; it is located in the treeline north of the house, and appears to be a chicken coop). In addition, a metal garage has been built since that time. A concrete well and water trough sit at the front corner of the house, opposite the garage.

Three frame tenant houses dating to the turn of the twentieth century are located in the woods across SR 1310. Each has the same plan, and all are in varying stages of deterioration. They appear to be one- or two-room structures with rear shed additions and small, overhanging front porches. Two of these houses have brick stove flues.

The Smithson farm was once known as Oakland Farm, and was owned in the nineteenth century by the Spruills, a prominent local clan. In 1860, W. A. Spruill, owner of this farm, had 380 tilled acres and 1200 acres of unimproved land. One of the larger farmers in the area, Spruill raised swine and sheep, and harvested 5000 bushels of Indian corn, 400 bushels of wheat, 250 bushels of peas and beans. Spruill also produced lesser amounts of Irish and sweet potatoes, hay, cotton, wool, and butter. His fortunes dwindled after the War between the States, but he remained a prominent farmer. In 1870, he raised swine and sheep, and grew corn, oats, wheat, cotton, potatoes, and hay on 300 tilled acres (Spruill owned an additional 240 acres in woodlands).

Oakland Farm came into the Smithson family at the end of the nineteenth century. In 1898, A. L. Smithson bought the property from Levy, Josephine, and Maggie Spruill, who had inherited it from their father sometime after 1888. Before 1946, the farm passed to A. L. Smithson's sons, Clyde and Sidney. Clyde apparently bought out his brother's half-interest, and lived there until his death in 1975. His widow, Viola Smithson, now owns the farm. Research has yielded no information on the agricultural activities of the Smithson family.

Evaluation

The Smithson House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. Despite the rear additions, enclosed porch, and minor changes to the roof, the Smithson House, with its center-hall plan and original decorative finish, embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Greek Revival farmhouse of the nineteenth century and is a good example of the style.

The Smithson farm is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion A (Event) for significance in agriculture. With only two remaining outbuildings that might be original to this house and its function as a farm, the Smithson farm cannot effectively illustrate the farming operations it conducted in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Although several hundred cultivated acres remain with this house, the loss of these outbuildings greatly mars the surviving complex's appearance as a nineteenth- and twentieth-century Washington County farm.

Proposed National Register Boundary

The proposed National Register boundary for the Smithson House encompasses part of the parcel on which it is located (Washington County Tax Parcel map, PIN # 7778-26-3977). The boundary includes the farmhouse, its remaining outbuildings (including the tenant houses across SR 1310), and the landscaped yard that are part of this property's setting. The boundary follows the treeline on the north side of the house from SR 1310 west to the chicken coop, turns south through the field immediately behind the Smithson House, and continues east to SR 1310 along the edge of the field on the south side of the house. The boundary crosses SR 1310 and includes the three tenant houses on the east side of this road. The bounded area measures approximately ten acres.

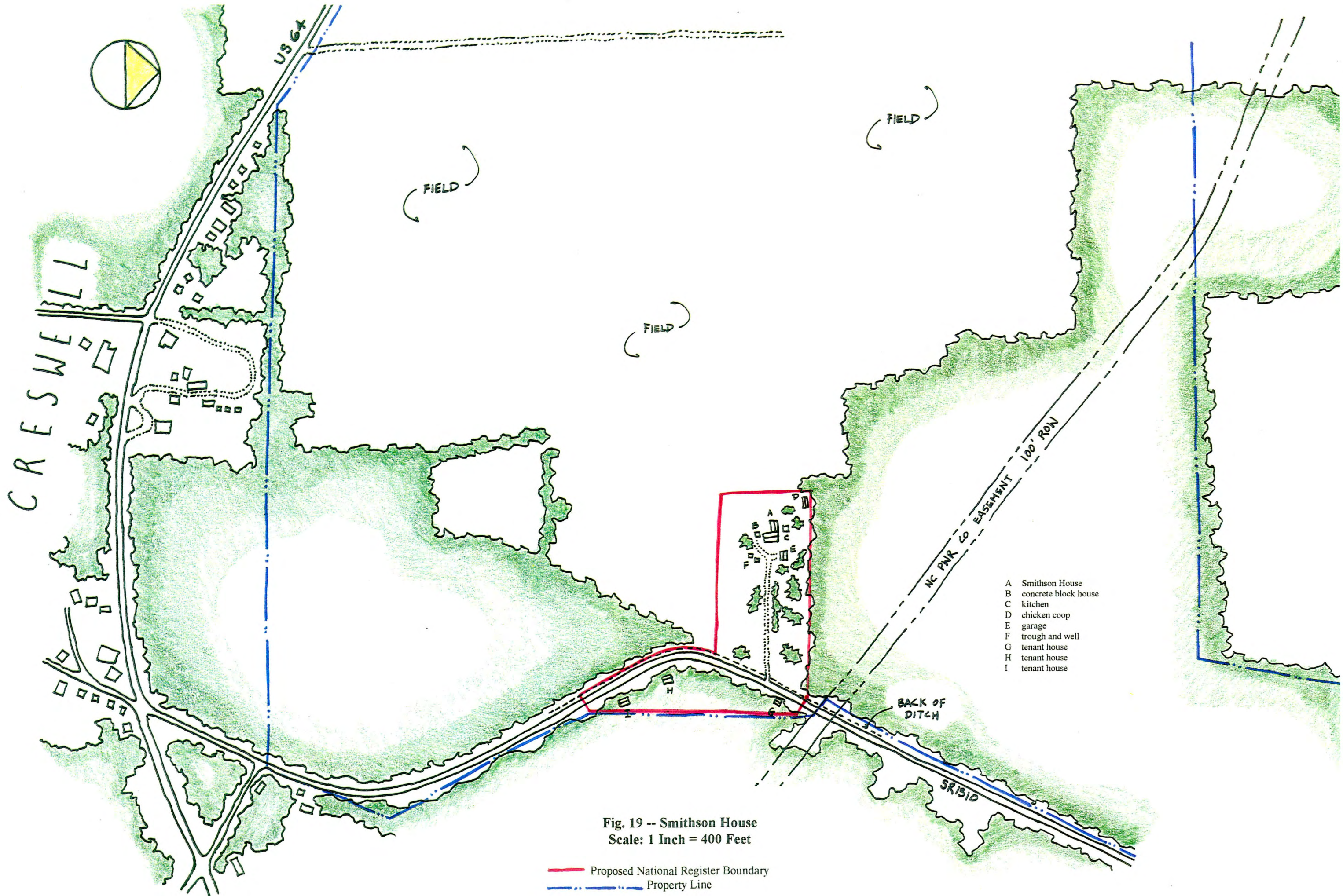


Fig. 19 -- Smithson House
 Scale: 1 Inch = 400 Feet

- A Smithson House
- B concrete block house
- C kitchen
- D chicken coop
- E garage
- F trough and well
- G tenant house
- H tenant house
- I tenant house

— Proposed National Register Boundary
 - - - Property Line

Property Evaluations for National Register Eligibility

Properties Not Eligible for the National Register:

48. Downing-Spruill House (WH 427)



Downing-Spruill House. View N from US 64.



Downing-Spruill House. South elevation.



Downing-Spruill House. View from SE.



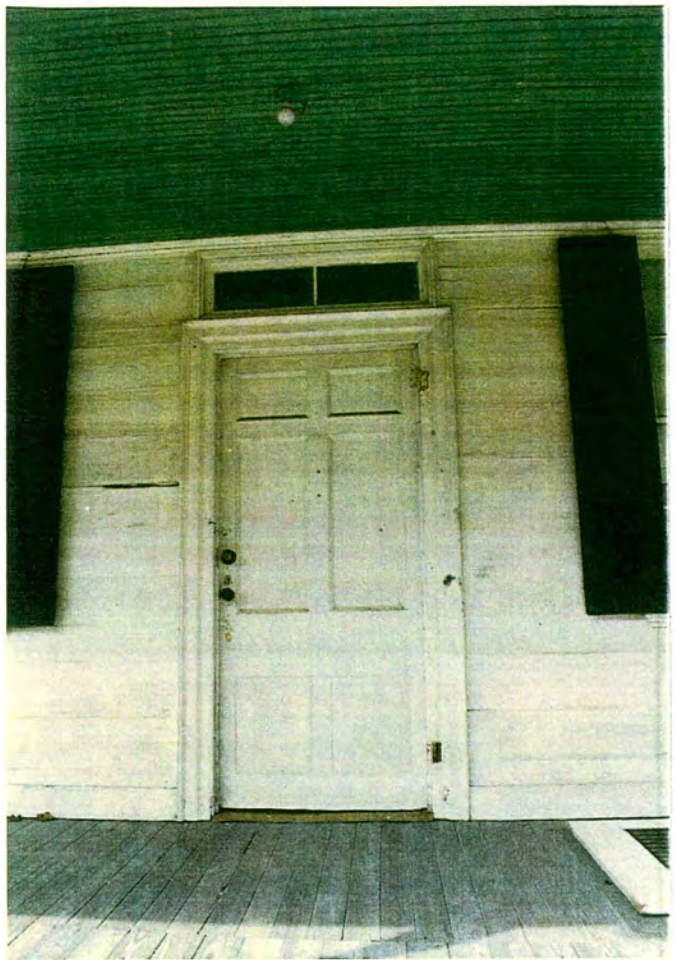
Downing-Spruill House. View from NE.



Downing-Spruill House. View from N.



Downing-Spruill House. View from NW.



Downing-Spruill House. Front door.



Downing-Spruill House. First-floor windows on SE corner.

48. Downing-Spruill House (WH 427)

Description and Background

The Downing-Spruill House, a vacant, turn-of-the-nineteenth-century, two-story house with later Victorian additions, stands on the north side of US 64 on the western outskirts of Roper. The house faces south, and large cedar trees screen it from the road. A small, gable roof, frame storage shed is the only surviving outbuilding associated with this house.

The Downing-Spruill House has a center-hall plan, is two rooms deep, and has a deck-on-hip roof. A kitchen ell extends from the rear of the house, and an attached shed roof porch wraps around the south and east elevations. Weatherboards clad the house; those under the porch on the front (south) elevation are laid flush. All windows in the house are nineteenth-century hand-blown four-over-four sash, some of which might be original to the house. Three chimneys heat this house: an exterior, twentieth-century, single-shoulder chimney on the east elevation, an earlier corbeled-top chimney on the interior of the house (on what once was the rear wall of the original single-pile house), and a similar corbeled-top chimney in the kitchen ell.

The Downing-Spruill House was originally built as a single-pile, center-hall house. The window and door moldings under the present porch have late Georgian- or early Federal-style profiles. The front door is a six-panel, "kick-proof" door and appears to date from the turn-of-the-nineteenth century.¹⁶ The flush exterior sheathing on the first floor of the front elevation suggests that this house might originally have been built with a porch.

The interior of the single-pile core of this house has Georgian-Federal trim and mantels similar in style to the exterior moldings. The front right first-floor room has a transitional Georgian-Federal mantel on the east exterior wall, and the front left first-floor room has a Federal mantel on the north wall of the room. It seems likely that this fireplace was once on the west wall, and the chimney was rebuilt on the north wall (reusing the old Federal mantel) during the Victorian-period renovations that added the rear rooms and wraparound porch. Having a chimney on the rear of the house, instead of on the side to match the other flanking chimney, would seem unusual. In addition, the corbeled top of this chimney matches the chimney in the later kitchen ell. The upstairs rooms have transitional Georgian-Federal molded architraves, baseboards, and mantels similar to those downstairs.

During the late nineteenth century, the owner of this house added the rear two rooms, the kitchen ell, and the wraparound porch. The hand-blown four-over-four sash in the rear rooms and the kitchen ell are similar to those in the original single-pile section of the house, but it is unclear if they all date from the same period. The owner also added a new hip-on-deck roof to cover the new rear addition. The original roof type is not known.

¹⁶ In a kick-proof door the bottom two panels are not recessed, but are of the same thickness as the rails and stiles; this construction made the door stronger, and discouraged persons from kicking in a bottom panel to gain illicit access to a house.

Evaluation

The Downing-Spruill House is not eligible for the National Register under any criteria. It is not eligible under Criterion A (Event), as it cannot be shown to have been involved in any single event marking an important moment in American history, or in a pattern of events or a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of the local community, Washington County, the state of North Carolina, or the nation. Specifically, it is not eligible for significance in local agriculture, as there are no longer any surviving agricultural outbuildings, cultivated fields, or any information available about its possible use as a farm.

This house is also not eligible under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. Although this house displays some of the characteristics of the Georgian and/or Federal styles in some of its woodwork (the front door and architrave, some of the window architraves, and the mantels), this house does not retain the necessary integrity for listing in the Register under Criterion C. The additions to this house, such as the rear rooms, new roof, and wraparound porch, have doubled its size and irreparably changed its appearance as built at the turn of the nineteenth century.

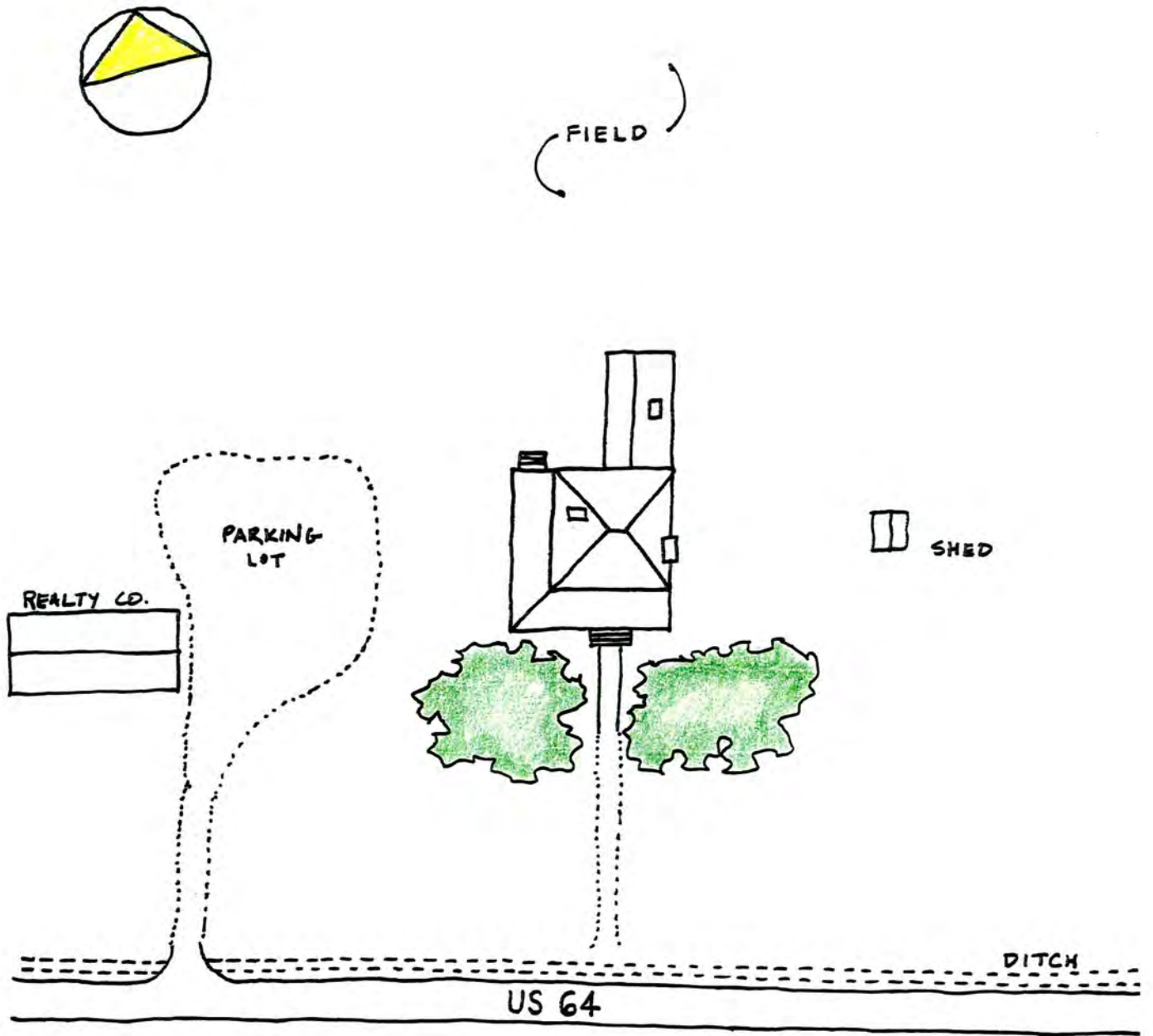


Fig. 20 -- Downing-Spruill House
Not to Scale

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Appendix A

**Concurrence Form and Photographs of
Properties Not Eligible for the National Register and
Not Worthy of Further Evaluation
(determined for June 1, 1996 report)**

report ✓

Federal Aid # N/A TIP # R-2548 County Washington & Tyrrell

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

Brief Project Description Widening US 64 from NC 45 East of Plymouth to US 64 Business West of Columbia - State funded w/ Federal Permits

On 11 April 1996, representatives of the

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

reviewed the subject project at

- A 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 Criterion Consideration G within the ~~project's~~ ^{PERMIT AREAS} area of potential effects.
- there are properties over fifty years old (list attached) within the ~~project's~~ ^{PERMIT AREAS} area of potential effects, but based on the historical information available and the photographs of each property, properties identified as 1-5, 7-10, 12 are considered not eligible for National Register and no further evaluation of them is necessary.
- there are no National Register-listed properties within the project's area of potential effects.

Signed:

Mary Pope 11 April 1996
 Representative, NCDOT Date

NA _____
 FHWA, for the Division Administrator, or other Federal Agency Date

Debra K. Berrin 4/11/96
 Representative, SHPO Date

David Brookpage 4/15/96
 State Historic Preservation Officer Date

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

The following properties were determined not eligible for the National Register and not worthy of further evaluation in a meeting with SHPO on March 13, 1997. The reason or reasons for these determinations are listed below.

122. Store (#9 in June 1, 1996 report)

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No architectural significance*

123. Everett House (#8 in June 1, 1996 report)

- *No historical or architectural significance*

131. White-Cherry House (WH 412) (#10 in June 1, 1996 report)

- *Loss of integrity*

135. House (#12 in June 1, 1996 report)

- *No historical or architectural significance*

136. House (#12 in June 1, 1996 report)

- *No historical or architectural significance*

144. House (#4 in June 1, 1996 report)

- *No historical or architectural significance*

145. House (#3 in June 1, 1996 report)

- *No historical or architectural significance*

146. House (#2 in June 1, 1996 report)

- *No historical or architectural significance*

192. House (#1 in June 1, 1996 report)

- *No historical or architectural significance*

246. Oak Grove Baptist Church (#5 in June 1, 1996 report)

- *No historical or architectural significance*



122. Store (#9 in June 1, 1996 report)



123. Everett House (#8 in June 1, 1996 report)



131. White-Cherry House (WH 412) (#10 in June 1, 1996 report)



L: 135. House (#12 in June 1, 1996 report)
R: 136. House (#12 in June 1, 1996 report)



144. House (#4 in June 1, 1996 report)



145. House (#3 in June 1, 1996 report)



146. House (#2 in June 1, 1996 report)



192. House (#1 in June 1, 1996 report)



246. Oak Grove Baptist Church (#5 in June 1, 1996 report)

Appendix B

**Concurrence Form and Photographs of
Properties Not Eligible for the National Register and
Not Worthy of Further Evaluation
(determined for this report)**

Federal Aid # N/A TIP # R-2548 County Washington-Tyrrell

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

Brief Project Description US 64 from Plymouth to Columbia

On 13 March 1997, representatives of the

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

reviewed the subject project at

- A 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 Criterion Consideration G within the project's area of potential effects.

there are properties over fifty years old (list attached) within the project's area of potential effects, but based on the historical information available and the photographs of each property, properties identified as see attached list are considered not eligible for National Register and no further evaluation of them is necessary.

there are no National Register-listed properties within the project's area of potential effects.

Signed:



Representative, NCDOT

13 March 1997
Date

NA

FHWA, for the Division Administrator, or other Federal Agency Date

Debra K. Bevin

Representative, SHPO 3/13/97
Date

David A. ... Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer 3/17/97
Date

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

Properties Determined Not Eligible for the National Register

US 64 from NC 45 East of Plymouth to East of Columbia

Washington and Tyrrell Counties

13 March 1997

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. House | 47. House |
| 2. House | 87. House |
| 3. House | 88. House |
| 4. House | 89. House |
| 5. House | 90. House |
| 6. House | 91. Tobacco Barn |
| 7. House | 92. Cemetery |
| 8. House | 93. House |
| 9. House | 94. Williams Cemetery |
| 10. House | 95. Farm |
| 11. House | 96. House and Store |
| 12. House | 97. Farm |
| 13. House | 98. House |
| 14. House | 99. House |
| 15. House | 100. House |
| 16. Macedonia Zion Church, A. M. E. | 101. Store |
| 18. House | 102. House |
| 19. House | 103. House |
| 20. House | 104. House |
| 21. House | 105. House |
| 22. House | 106. House |
| 23. House | 107. House |
| 24. House | 108. House |
| 25. House | 109. House |
| 26. House | 110. House |
| 27. House | 111. House |
| 28. Mizell Cemetery | 112. House |
| 29. Jordan Turner House | 114. House |
| 30. House | 116. House |
| 31. House | 117. House |
| 33. House | 119. House |
| 34. House | 120. Store |
| 36. House | 124. House |
| 37. House | 125. House |
| 38. Cemetery | 126. House |
| 39. Walker (Harrison) House Site and
Cemetery (WH 373) | 127. Farm |
| 40. Farm | 128. House |
| 43. House | 130. Store |
| 44. House | 132. House |
| 45. House | 137. House |
| 46. House | 138. House |
| | 139. Farm |

140. House
141. House
143. House
147. House
148. House
149. House
150. House
151. House
155. House
156. House
157. House
158. House
159. House
160. House
161. House
162. House
163. House
164. House
165. House
166. Farm
167. House
168. House
169. Store
170. House
171. House
174. House
175. House
176. House
177. House
178. House
179. House
180. Store
181. Cemetery
182. House
183. House
184. Store
185. Store
186. House
187. House
188. House
189. Store
190. House
191. House
193. House
194. House
195. House
197. House
198. House
199. House

200. House
201. House
202. House
203. House
204. House
205. House
206. House
207. Warehouse
208. House
210. House
211. Farm
212a. House
212b. House
212c. House
213. Farm
214. Farm
215. House
216. House
217. House
218. House
219. House
220. House (TY 136)
221. House
222. House (TY 138)
223. House
224. House
225. House
226. House
227. Chapel Hill Baptist Church Cemetery
(TY 113; SL)
228. House
229. House
230. House
231. House
232. House
233. House
234. Cemetery
235. House
236. House
237. House
238. Store
239. House
240. House
241. House
242. Store
243. House
244. Waterfront commercial building
245. Waterfront commercial building

154. House

AO
DLB

4-21-97

4/21/97

One hundred and fifty-eight of the 180 properties in this appendix lack historical or architectural significance. The reason or reasons the other properties in this appendix were determined not eligible and not worthy of further evaluation are listed below.

20. House

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

29. Jordan Turner House

- *Loss of integrity*

34. House

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

39. Walker (Harrison) House Site and Cemetery (WH 373)

- *Loss of integrity*

43. House

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

87. House

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

95. Farm

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

98. House

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

99. House

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

100. House

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

105. House

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

159. House

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

160. House

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

166. Farm

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

175. House

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

176. House

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

211. Farm

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

213. Farm

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

220. House (TY 136)

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

223. House

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*

227. Chapel Hill Baptist Church Cemetery (TY 113; SL)

- *Loss of integrity*

242. Store

- *Loss of integrity*
- *No historical or architectural significance*



1. House



2. House



3. House



4. House



5. House



6. House



7. House



8. House



9. House



10. House



11. House



12. House



13. House



14. House



15. House



16. Macedonia Zion Church, A. M. E.



18. House



19. House



20. House



21. House



22. House



23. House



24. House



25. House



26. House



27. House



28. Mizell Cemetery



29. Jordan Turner House



30. House



31. House



33. House



34. House



36. House



37. House



38. Cemetery



39. Walker (Harrison) House Site and Cemetery (WH 373)



40. Farm



43. House



44. House



45. House



46. House



47. House



87. House



88. House



89. House



90. House



91. Tobacco Barn



92. Cemetery



93. House



94. Williams Cemetery



95. Farm



96. House and Store



97. Farm



98. House



99. House



100. House



101. Store



102. House



103. House



104. House



105. House



106. House



L: 107. House
R: 108. House



109. House



L: 110. House
R: 111. House



112. House



114. House



116. House



117. House



119. House



120. Store



124. House



125. House



126. House



127. Farm



128. House



130. Store



132. House



L: 136. House (see p. 241)
M: 137. House
R: 138. House



139. Farm



140. House



141. House



143. House



147. House



148. House



149. House



150. House



151. House



154. House



155. House



156. House



157. House



158. House



159. House



160. House



161. House



162. House



163. House



164. House



165. House



166. Farm



167. House



168. House



169. Store



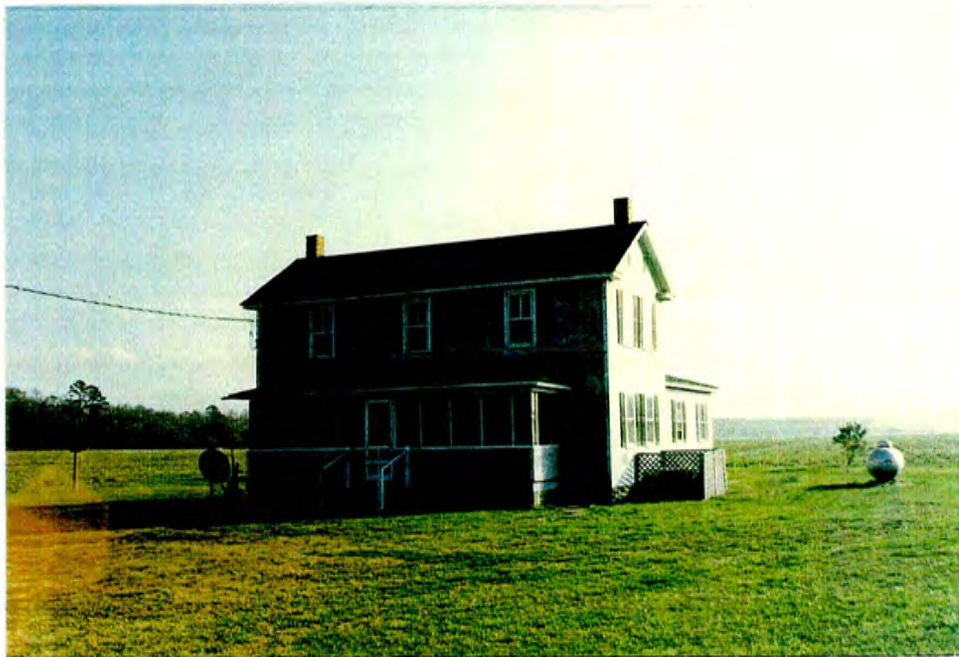
170. House



171. House



174. House



175. House



176. House



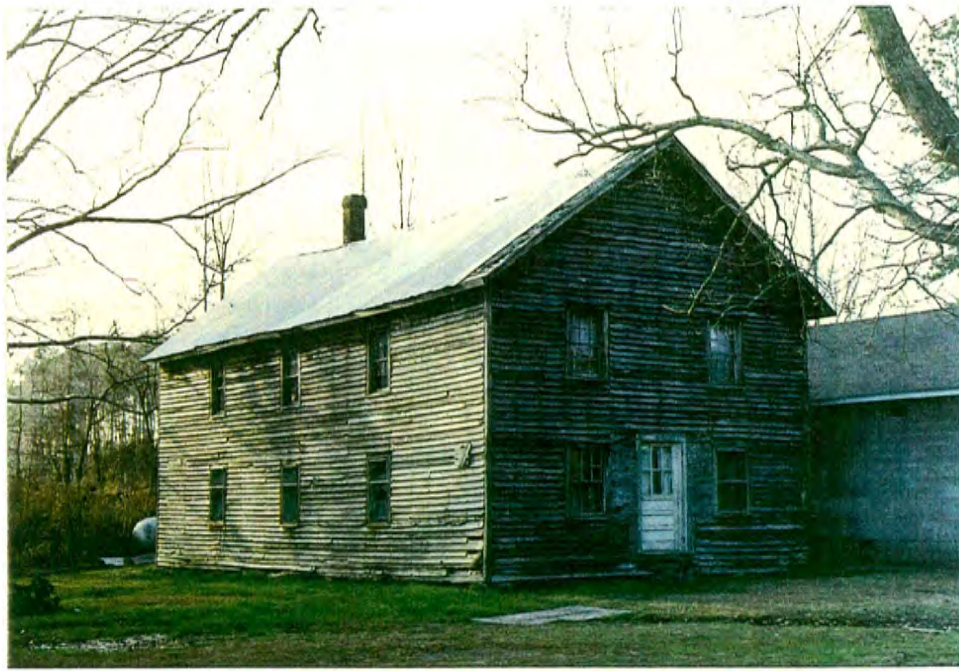
177. House



178. House



179. House



180. Store



181. Cemetery



182. House



183. House



L: 184. Store
R: 185. Store



186. House



187. House



188. House



189. Store



190. House



191. House



193. House



194. House



195. House



197. House



198. House



199. House



200. House



201. House



202. House



203. House



204. House



205. House



206. House



207. Warehouse



208. House



210. House



211. Farm



L: 212c. House
M: 212b. House
R: 212a. House



213. Farm



214. Farm



215. House



216. House



217. House



218. House



219. House



220. House (TY 136)



221. House



222. House (TY 138)



223. House



224. House



225. House



226. House



227. Chapel Hill Baptist Church Cemetery (TY 113; SL)



228. House



229. House



230. House



231. House



232. House



233. House



234. Cemetery



235. House



236. House



L: 238. Store
M: 237. House
R: 195. House (partially shown)



L: 239. House
R: 240. House



241. House



242. Store



243. House



244. Waterfront commercial building



245. Waterfront commercial building