

Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report
Phase II (Abridged)

Widening US 421 from Gulf to the Siler City Bypass
Chatham County, North Carolina
TIP No. R-2610
State Project No. 6.529005T

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Report Prepared by Jill Marie Lord

June 1997



Principal Investigator
North Carolina Department of Transportation

24 June 1997
Date



Supervisor, Historic Architecture Resources Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

June 24, 1997
Date

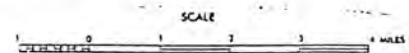
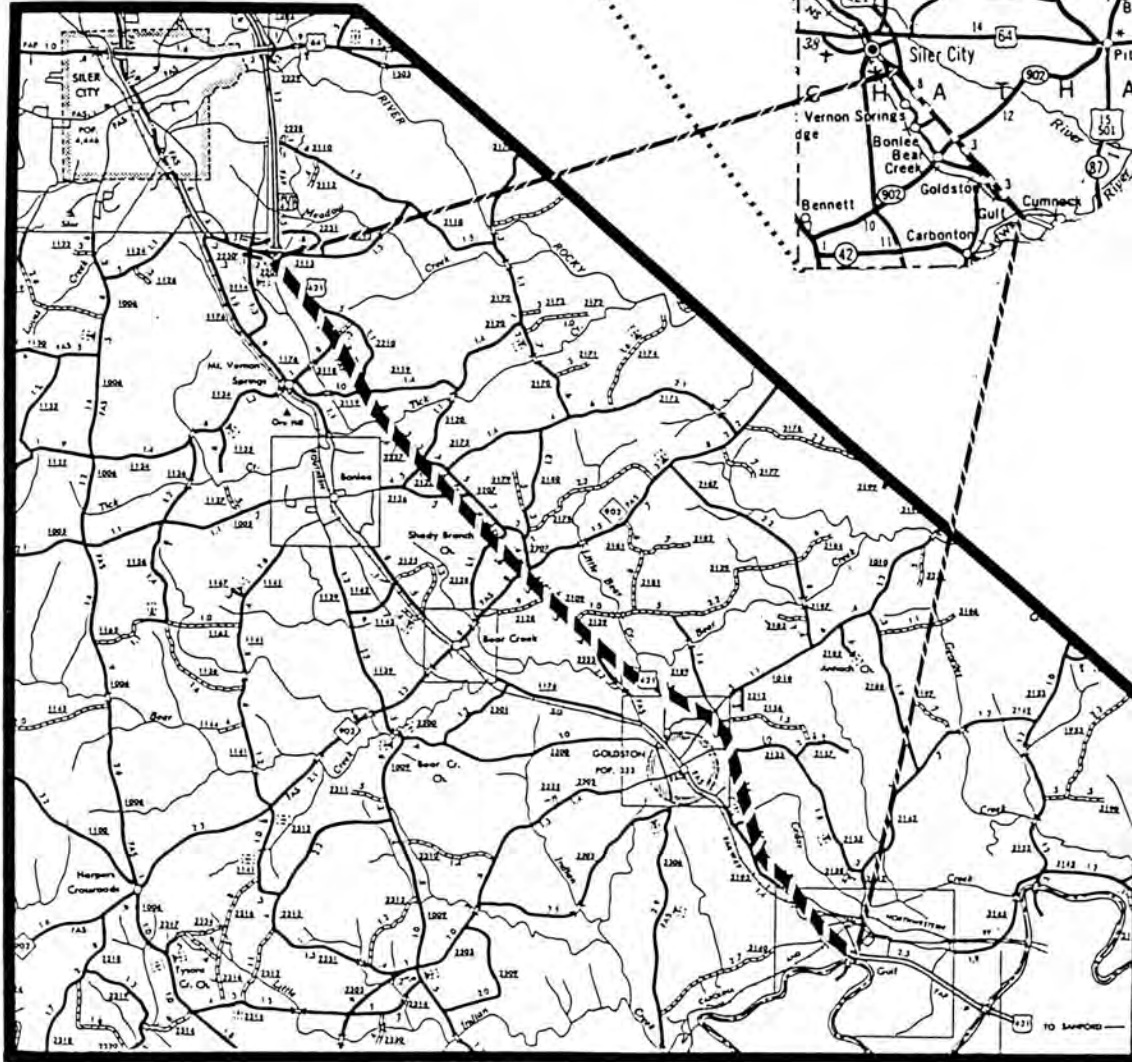
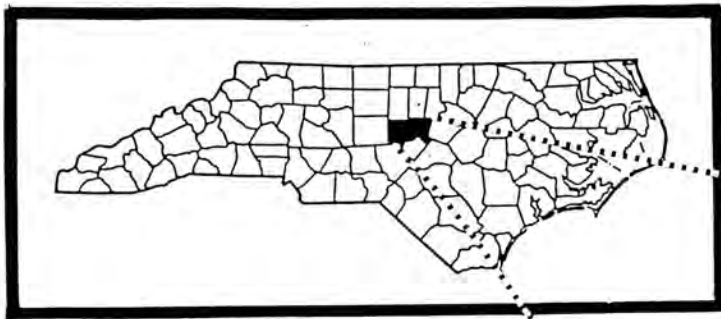
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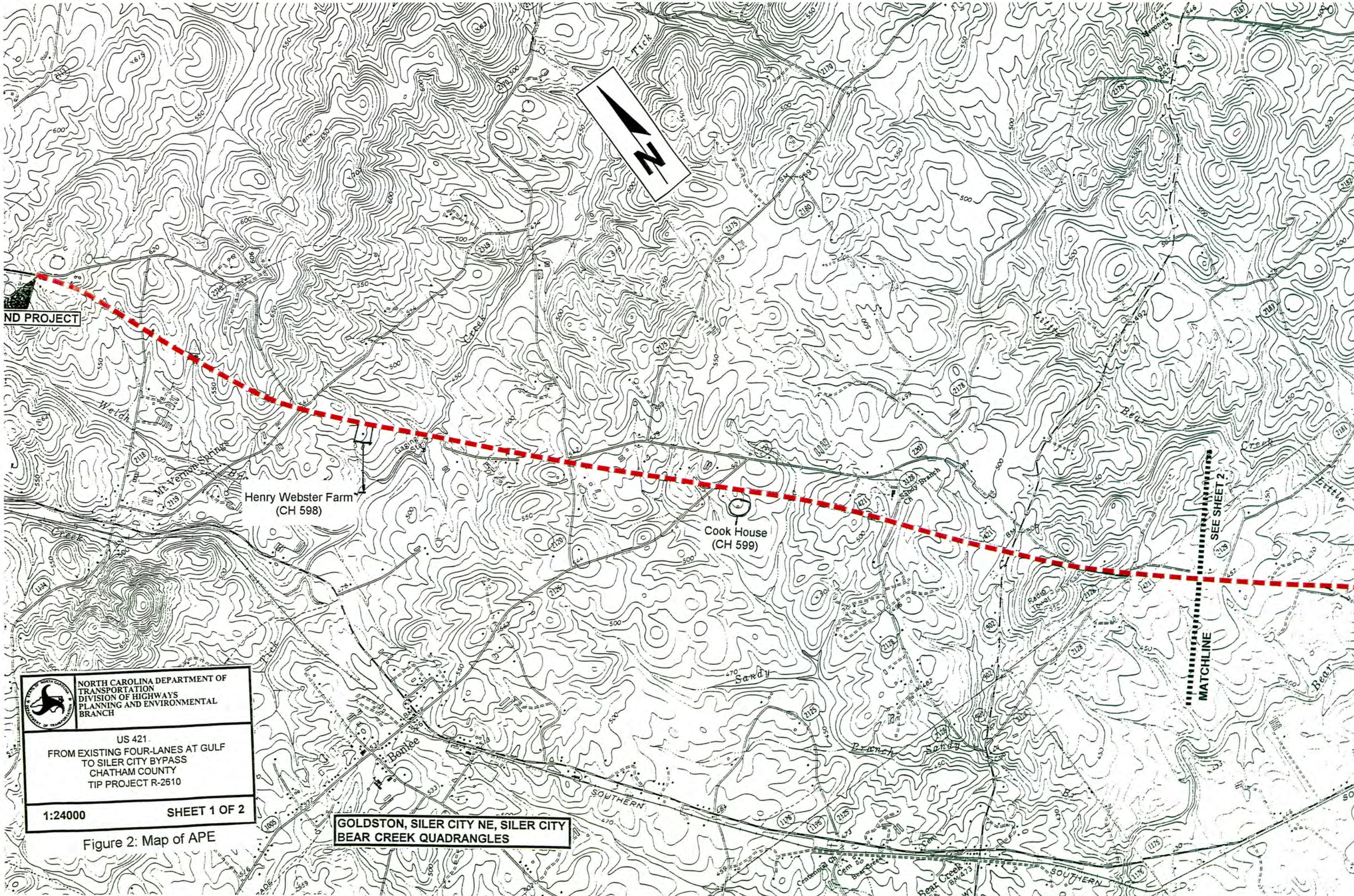
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	<p>NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL BRANCH</p>
<p>US 421 FROM EXISTING FOUR-LANES AT GULF TO SILER CITY BYPASS CHATHAM COUNTY TIP PROJECT R-2610</p>	
<p>Figure 1: Project Map</p>	



ND PROJECT

Henry Webster Farm
(CH 598)

Cook House
(CH 599)

MATCHLINE
SEE SHEET 2



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
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PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL
BRANCH

US 421
FROM EXISTING FOUR-LANES AT GULF
TO SILER CITY BYPASS
CHATHAM COUNTY
TIP PROJECT R-2610

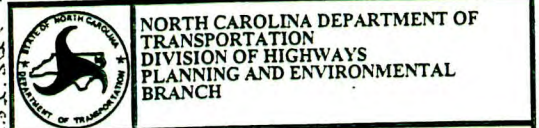
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Figure 2: Map of APE

GOLDSTON, SILER CITY NE, SILER CITY
BEAR CREEK QUADRANGLES

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SEE SHEET 1
MATCHLINE

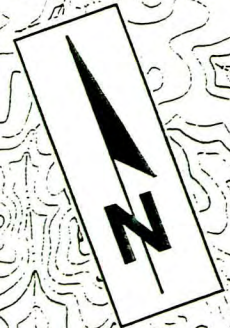
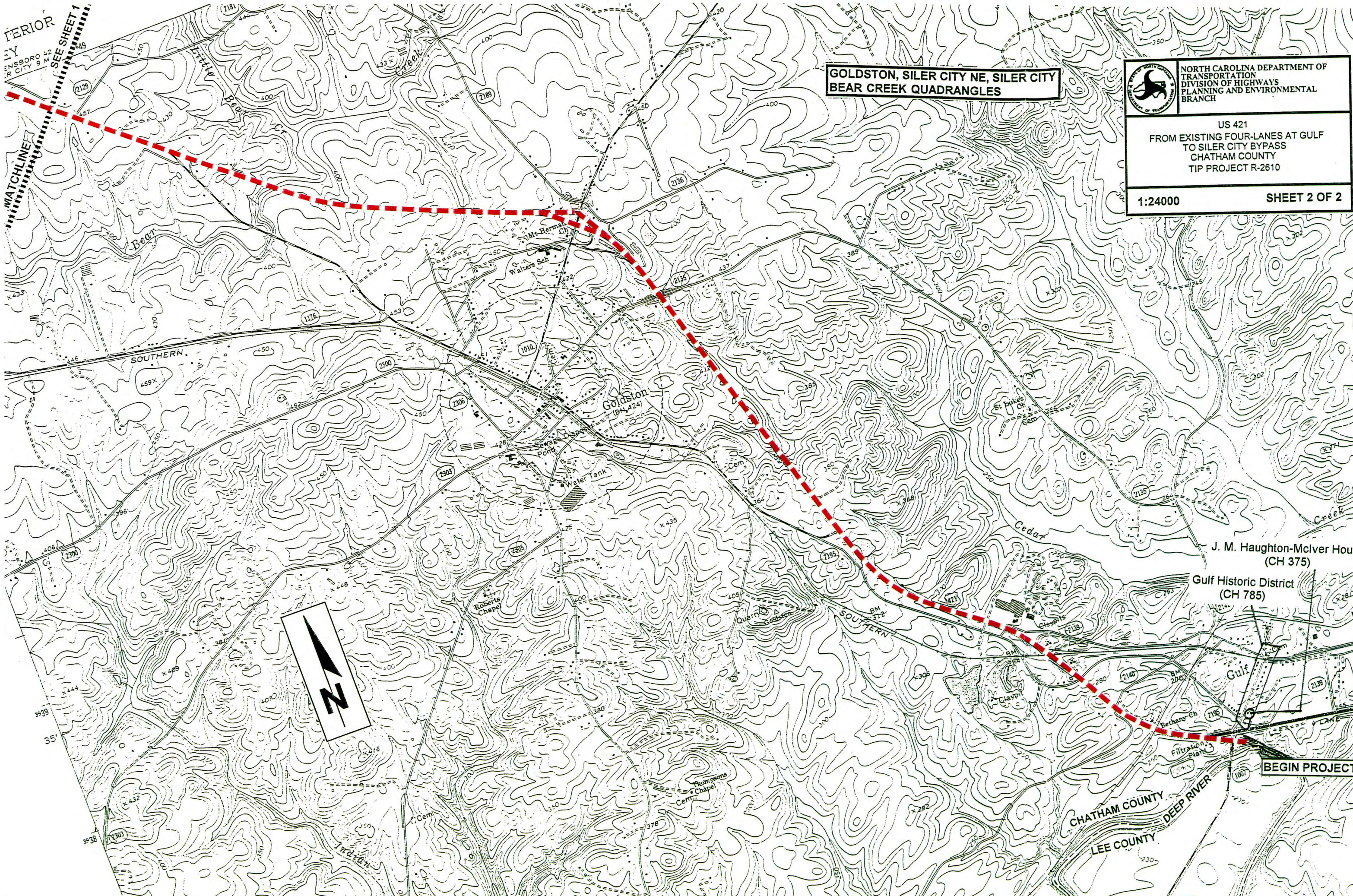
**GOLDSTON, SILER CITY NE, SILER CITY
BEAR CREEK QUADRANGLES**



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BRANCH

US 421
FROM EXISTING FOUR-LANES AT GULF
TO SILER CITY BYPASS
CHATHAM COUNTY
TIP PROJECT R-2610

1:24000 SHEET 2 OF 2



BEGIN PROJECT

CHATHAM COUNTY
LEE COUNTY
DEEP RIVER

Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to widen US 421 to a four-lane facility with a 46-foot (14 meter) median from the existing four lanes at Gulf to the Siler City Bypass (figure 1). The overall length of the project is 13.4 miles (21.6 kilometers). In the 1960s, NCDOT purchased right-of-way to add the proposed lanes to the west of the existing road. Alternatives will be considered pending discovery of wetlands or other natural resources that will be impacted by the proposed highway. As a result, additional right-of-way may be required.

A survey was conducted to determine the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and to identify all properties within the APE listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) requested three other properties be evaluated.¹ Chatham County survey files were consulted in the SHPO in Raleigh, as were the National Register and the North Carolina State Study List files. The boundary of the APE includes all properties adjoining US 421 for the length of the project. On January 6 and February 12, 1997, a survey was conducted by automobile and on foot, covering 100% of the APE to confirm those properties listed on the National Register and those for which SHPO requested evaluation.

Property on the National Register

J.M. Haughton-McIver House (CH 375)²

Property on the State Study List

Gulf Historic District (CH 785)

Property potentially eligible for the National Register

Henry Webster Farm Complex (CH 598)

Property not eligible for the National Register

Cook House (CH 599)

¹ For a copy of the letter see Appendix.

² This references the file at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. "CH" denotes Chatham county. The files are most easily found by property name rather than survey number.

Purpose of Survey and Report

This survey was conducted and report prepared in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the APE (figure 2). This report is submitted pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 121-12(a). Although not required by the above statute, three additional properties were evaluated at the request of SHPO.

Methodology

NCDOT conducted a field 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; and 2) to identify all properties within the APE listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The survey methodology consisted of a field survey and historical background research of the project area. The field survey was conducted by car and on foot, and all structures for which the SHPO requested an evaluation were photographed and keyed to a USGS quadrangle map.

In a scoping meeting of November 7, 1996, Debbie Bevin reported that a search of SHPO's files revealed the presence of four previously surveyed properties within the project area. One of these properties is on the National Register; another is a State Study List Historic District. The remaining properties were surveyed by Rachel Osborn in the 1980s and are evaluated in this report using National Register Criteria.

The background research of the historical and architectural development of the project area was aided by previous architectural surveys of the county. During the 1980s Rachel Osborn conducted an intensive field survey in two phases. Phase I lasted eighteen months from 1982 to 1983. The Phase II survey was completed between September 1985 and March 1986. She then published her results, expanded by those of Ruth Seldon-Sturgill's survey of Pittsboro, in *The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina* (1991).

Summary Results of Survey

Property on the National Register

J.M. Haughton-McIver House (CH 375)

Property on the State Study List

Gulf Historic District (CH 785)

Property potentially eligible for the National Register
Henry Webster Farm Complex (CH 598)

Property not eligible for the National Register
Cook House (CH 599)

Historical and Architectural Contexts

Agriculture in Chatham County

Agriculture and husbandry have always been at the center of the Chatham County economy. Prior to the Civil War, the majority of North Carolinians were employed in agricultural pursuits. Statewide most farmers were engaged in subsistence level farming. Agricultural ventures in North Carolina improved and expanded during the 1830s partially due to the publication of seven Raleigh agricultural journals between 1838 and 1861.³ This led to the incorporation of progressive farming methods, such as use of Peruvian guano for fertilizer.⁴ Between 1850 and 1860, Chatham County's wheat and tobacco crops increased in quantity and price.⁵ In 1851, a government appointed geologist, Ebenezer Emmons, conducted an extensive survey of the state's natural resources. He commented favorably on Chatham County's grain and coal production.⁶ Although the science of agriculture was aggressively developing in the middle of the nineteenth century, ultimately doubling land values, traditional diversified farming remained the norm in Chatham County.

After the Civil War, Chatham, like many other counties in North Carolina, gave rise to small farms and the tenancy system. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, farmers who owned between fifty and one-hundred acres were generally one economic step above tenancy. The average farm complex in Chatham County was around 100 acres.⁷ The emergence of towns and production centers within the County during the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century, drew a portion of the rural population away from their farms. However, this trend had little effect on the agricultural economic base of the county.

Today agriculture continues to dominate the county's economy. In the eighteenth century, corn and wheat were the leading crops. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries Chatham County farmers planted tobacco and cotton fields. Diversified crop farming, dairy farming and poultry production have eclipsed these cash crops. The production of wheat and dairy farming maintain a link between farming of the past and the present. Agriculture forms the backbone of Chatham County's historic and economic development.

The visual manifestation of the agricultural development of Chatham County, and the southern United States as a whole, can be seen in the organization of its

³ Rachel Osborn and Ruth Seldon-Sturgill, *The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina* (Pittsboro: The Chatham County Historic Architecture Survey Committee, 1991): 22.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*, 20.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 22.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 4.

farm complexes. Most farms were planned around a principal house. Surrounding the house was a yard that contained outbuildings important to the daily operation of the farm. The kitchen is the most recognizable of these buildings usually being located near the main house. Other food storage buildings were located in close proximity. This arrangement allowed for ease in food preparation. Livestock barns, tobacco barns, and other outbuildings related to farm production were generally located farther from the house on the edges of the yard. Their access was oriented toward the fields rather than the house which was the sphere of domestic production.

Plank Roads in North Carolina

The need to get agricultural goods and other natural resources to markets in Fayetteville and Wilmington led residents of southern Chatham County to invest in the improvement of transportation routes. As a result of its proximity to the Deep River and sources of coal, iron ore, timber and limestone, Gulf became a regional transportation center for goods going to these markets. In 1852, the Gulf and Graham plank road was chartered connecting Gulf to the Fayetteville and Western Plank road. Ray Manieri wrote about the development of plank roads in North Carolina in his National Register nomination of the J. M. Haughton-McIver House, which he postulated once served as the hotel in Gulf:

Plank roads became popular in North Carolina during the late 1840s as North Carolina's legislature sought, "...a cheap means of transportation which would free her citizens from the bondage of primitive roads." These roads were built by private companies which charged tolls to farmers and other travelers who used them. North Carolina's first plank road, the Fayetteville and Western, was chartered in 1848 and the popularity of this new mode of transportation increased so rapidly that by 1852 forty-eight other plank road companies were chartered in North Carolina, but only 500 miles of road were actually built. Their original popularity did not last, however, and by the 1860s competition for the state's rapidly growing railroad system and high maintenance costs made most plank roads unprofitable to operate.

Although they clearly played an important role in the economic development of the state during the middle part of the nineteenth century by providing better access to major trading centers, plank roads also played a more subtle role in the social development of North Carolina's populace. People from different backgrounds and different parts of the state were brought together during trips along the roads at toll houses and rest stops, such as the hotel in Gulf, to discuss news, politics, social customs and to meet new people. North Carolina plank roads and their hotels, toll houses, and rest stops became a conduit through which "Ideas flowed up and down ... along with the goods for market."

Chatham County business men were quick to capitalize on the popularity of plank roads and the Gulf and Graham plank Road was chartered on November 10, 1852. Construction on the road began [sic] in January, 1853, and when completed it stretched for twenty-two miles through Chatham County, connecting Gulf and Snow Camp in Alamance County. Gulf was the western terminus of the Cameron and Gulf branch of the Fayetteville and Western Plank

Road, which passed south of Gulf on its route between Fayetteville and Bethania.⁸

⁸ Manieri, Nomination.

Nineteenth and Early-Twentieth Century Architecture in Chatham County

In general, Chatham County's architectural character is conservative in its construction and vernacular in its visual character. This trend is consistent from the late-eighteenth century to the present day. Frame construction typified the earliest buildings in Chatham County. Wood was a less expensive material than brick which was more labor intensive in its preparation and use. Brick required the specialized skills of a mason whereas wood could be joined with little technical knowledge. The first known brick structure in the county was the Chatham County Courthouse built in Pittsboro in 1843. Gradually saw mills made larger pieces of timber available within the county, but it is believed that balloon framing did not become a predominant construction technique until after the Civil War.⁹

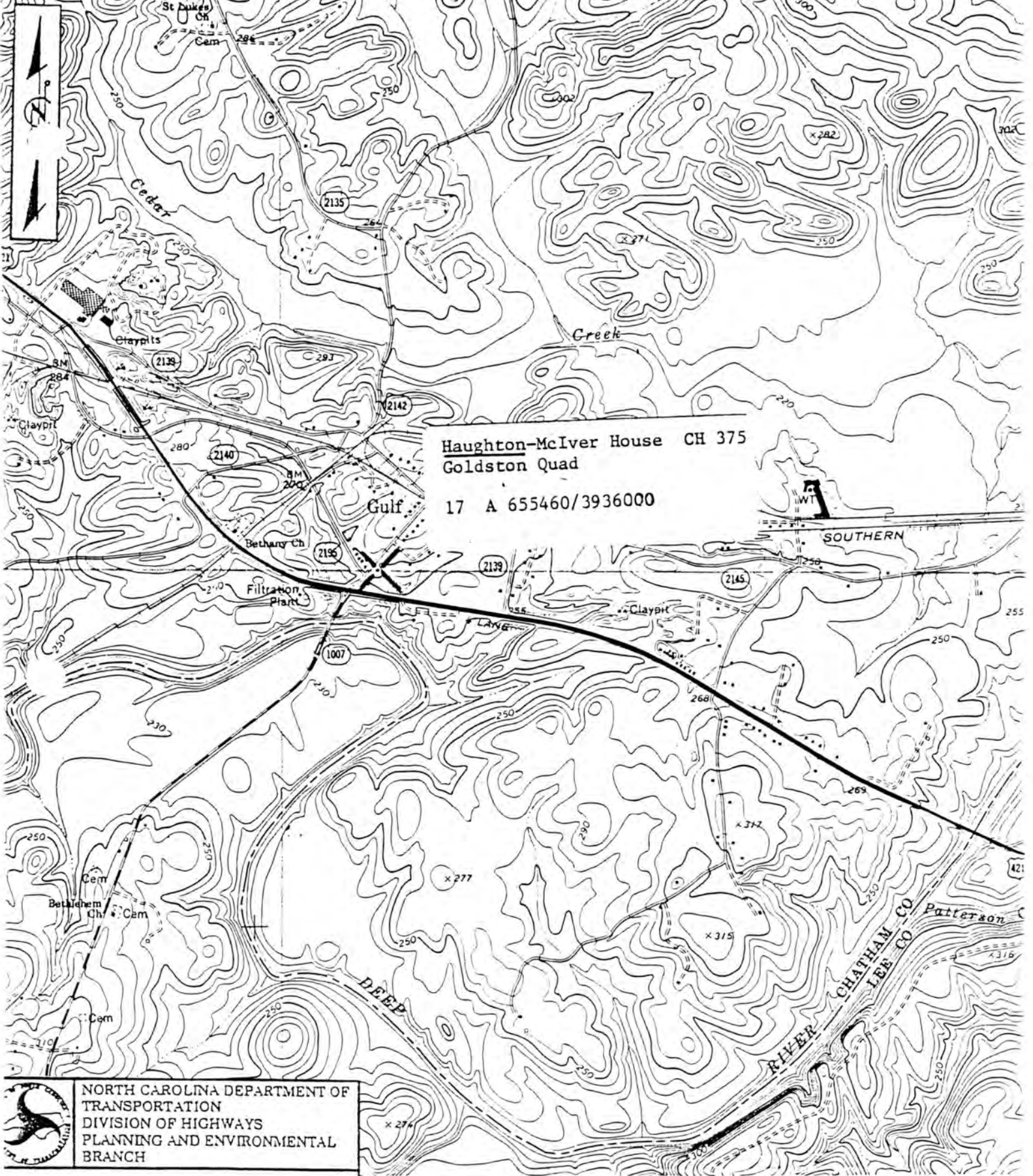
As the county's population grew in the post-reconstruction years a domestic building boom occurred. This boom coincided with the improvement of farm equipment and farming techniques, the arrival of the railroads and the development of new towns.¹⁰ As railroads brought these innovations into towns, they also imported new, cost-effective building materials and methods. For example, inexpensive balloon framing became a common practice within the county. The use of trim and finished woodwork, such as narrow beaded boards as interior wainscoting, became popular as these materials were more readily available due to the emerging technologies that spurred mass production.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the vernacular forms that dominated the Chatham County landscape gave way to national styles, such as the Colonial Revival and the Queen Anne. However, these styles were interpreted within the vernacular traditions of the rural county. Generally, domestic structures retained traditional plans and acknowledged the new styles through the use of fashionable ornament. The addition of these details reflected the current national trends and could often update an older structure. For example, the Haughton-McIver House (CH 375) added a wrap around porch to update its Greek Revival appearance. A more typical incorporation of Queen Anne decorative elements was the use of decorative shingles in the cross gables of the Cook House (CH 599) and the Henry Webster Farm House (CH 598). This turn towards national styles eased as the economic conditions resulting


⁹ Balloon framing is defined in *The Penguin Dictionary of Architecture* as: "a method of timber-frame construction used in the United States and Scandinavia: the studs or uprights run from sill to eaves, and horizontal members are nailed to them. It is said to have been invented in Chicago in 1832;" John Flemming, Hugh Honour, and Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Penguin Dictionary of Architecture*, fourth edition (New York: Penguin Books, 1991): 30. For further information on the history of balloon framing consult Carl W. Condit, *American Building: Materials and Techniques from the First Colonial Settlements to the Present* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1968): 43-45. Kniffen and Glassie, "Building in Wood in the Eastern United States," 42; as cited in Osborn and Seldon-Sturgill, 27.

¹⁰ Osborn and Seldon-Sturgill, 42.

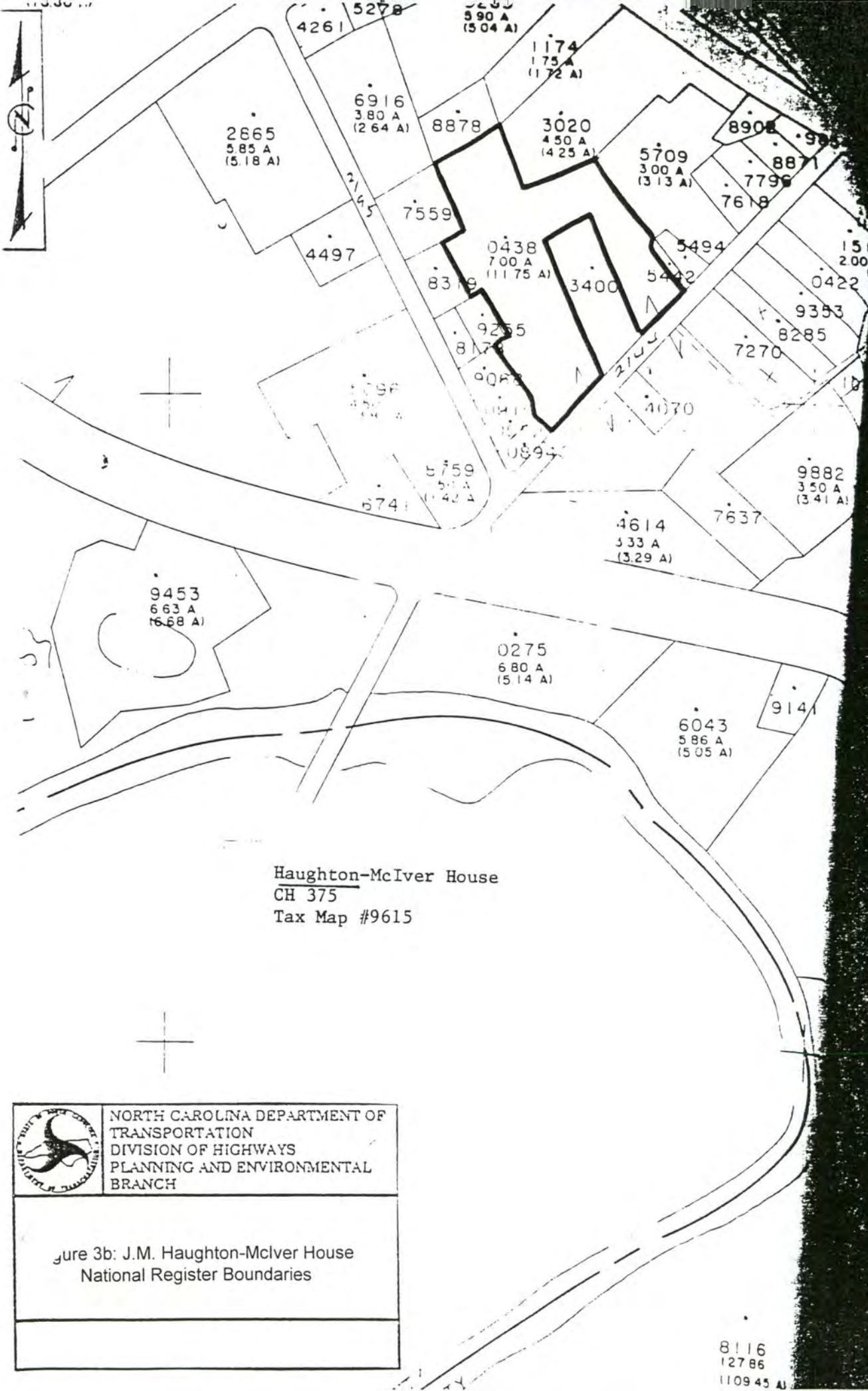
from the Great Depression led to diminished production in building construction and remodeling. This lull in production was not lifted until the building boom that occurred at the end of World War II.



Haughton-McIver House CH 375
 Goldston Quad
 17 A 655460/3936000

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F 3a: J.M. Haughton-McIver House
 National Register Boundaries



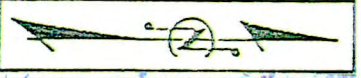
Haughton-McIver House
 CH 375
 Tax Map #9615



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Figure 3b: J.M. Haughton-McIver House
 National Register Boundaries

8116
 12786
 110945 A)



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Figure 3c: J.M. Haughton-McIver House
Map of Boundaries
Property line 
Scale 1"=400'



Figure 4: J. M. Haughton-McIver House (CH 375), facade



Figure 5: J. M. Haughton-McIver House (CH 375), outbuilding



Figure 6: J. M. Houghton-McIver House (CH 375), view west, US 421

Property Inventory and Evaluations

Property on the National Register

J.M. Haughton-McIver House (CH 375)

Location: This property is located on SR 2144 (J.R. Moore's Store Road) approximately two-tenths mile from the intersection with US 421 (figure 2 and 3).

Description: The Haughton-McIver House is an example of the accretive nature of nineteenth century architecture (figures 4-6). It illustrates how buildings were altered to keep pace with fashion. Ray Manieri wrote the following architectural description of the building in his 1983 nomination:

Perhaps originally constructed as a hotel, the Haughton-McIver House is an unusual example of vernacular Greek Revival architecture highlighted by later Queen Anne additions. Located only a short distance from Gulf's business center, the original Greek Revival structure was associated with one of that small Chatham County community's most prosperous citizens, and it was later remodeled by an unknown Greensboro architect in an elaborate Queen Anne motif about 1890.

Dominated by pedimented gables and such characteristic Queen Anne features as slender grouped columns, heavy molded brackets, and various types of wooded shingles, an exuberant two-story porch enlivens the more sedate Greek Revival facade. This elaborate Victorian porch, unusual in rural Chatham County, imparts a fanciful appearance to the house and offsets the square proportions of its original Greek Revival design. The Victorian appearance is enhanced by the addition, on the eastern side of the house, of a three-sided projecting bay, which although Victorian in form, is accented by typically Greek Revival corner boards.

Although the Queen Anne porch and bay overshadow the other elements, the Haughton-McIver House also features a number of typically Greek Revival exterior characteristics. Such features as symmetrically molded corner boards, large double-hung windows with six-over-six sash, and a low hipped roof identify the house's original design as Greek Revival. Elegant paneled double-leaf doors, encircled by transom and sidelights, which may have been defined by an original two-story portico, complete the structure's original vernacular Greek Revival facade.

Late nineteenth century additions, creating a rear bedroom on the western side of the house and a dining room and kitchen on the eastern side, and the enclosure of the rear porch, are vernacular in character but are accented with Greek Revival corner boards which allow these later additions to blend harmoniously with the older section of the house.

The interior of the house, only slightly affected by modern additions, continues the usual combination of Greek Revival and Queen Anne detailing. Plain door and window surrounds and solid corner blocks combined with narrow paneled doors provide evidence of the house's original interior woodwork. Heavy, vernacular Greek Revival mantels remain in the rear kitchen and second floor bedrooms, while the late nineteenth century remodeling is revealed by the existence of several Queen Anne mantels in first and second floor rooms. The rear (western) bedroom addition contains particularly exciting Victorian woodwork. Here, a period mantel, with slim colonettes and beaded shelf, molded door and window surrounds, bull's eye corner blocks and paneled wainscoting, characteristic of Queen Anne interior design, offset the heavy Greek decoration in other parts of the house.

Several interesting outbuildings are located directly behind the house, to the south. Two of these buildings continue the contrast of older, vernacular styling and later Victorian design which runs throughout the Haughton-McIver House. The original board and batten kitchen, now used as a garage and in a decaying condition, stands beside an octagonal lattice-work kiosk, dating from the late nineteenth century, which covers the house's original well. Beside these structures stands a small weatherboard dairy and smokehouse with an appended rear shed.¹¹

Evaluation: On July 4, 1985, the Haughton-McIver House was listed on the National Register. In his statement of significance Manieri stated:

The Haughton-McIver House may have been constructed originally as a hotel for travelers on the Cameron and Gulf Plank Road (a branch of the Fayetteville and Western Plank Road) and later on the Gulf and Graham Plank Road, which ran through the small Chatham County community of Gulf in the 1850s. It is also associated with the life of John M. McIver, one of nineteenth century Chatham County's most important business, civic, and church leaders. With its interesting combination of Greek Revival

¹¹ Manieri, Nomination.

and Queen Anne exterior and interior design, the Haughton-McIver House remains one of the most significant structures built in Chatham County during the middle of the nineteenth century.¹²

In the nomination, Ray Manieri nominated the Haughton-McIver house for its significance under Criterion A for commerce; Criterion B for its association with J. M. McIver; and Criterion C for architecture.¹³

National Register Boundary: The nominated property consists of seven acres upon which the house and outbuildings are located and which is described in Chatham County Deed Book 427, page 868 and detailed on Chatham County Tax Map no. 9615.02.

In his nomination, Ray Manieri correctly identified the UTM coordinates of the J.M. Haughton-McIver House and keyed these to the USGS Goldston Quad map (figure 3a).¹⁴ However, Manieri incorrectly identified the boundaries on the Chatham County Tax Map no. 9615. He selected a parcel that is located across SR 2144 from the Haughton-McIver House (figure 3b). The correct location of the house is identified on the most recent Chatham County tax map no. 9615.02 (figure 3c).

¹² Ray Manieri, "National Register Nomination, Haughton-McIver House," July 1, 1983.

¹³ For definitions of National Register criteria consult *National Register Bulletin* 15, 12, 14, 17 and 21.

¹⁴ The National Register UTM reference is: Zone 17; Easting 65 5460; Northing 39 3600. Manieri, Nomination.



Figure 8: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), view north along SR 2144



Figure 9: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 1, J. R. Moore and Son Store, facade



Figure 10: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 2, facade



Figure 11: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 2, south elevation, oblique angle



Figure 12: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 3, J. M. Haughton-McIver House, facade



Figure 13: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 3, J. M. Haughton-McIver House, view south, oblique angle



Figure 14: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 4, facade



Figure 15: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 4, north elevation, oblique angle



Figure 16: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 4, outbuilding



Figure 17: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 5, facade

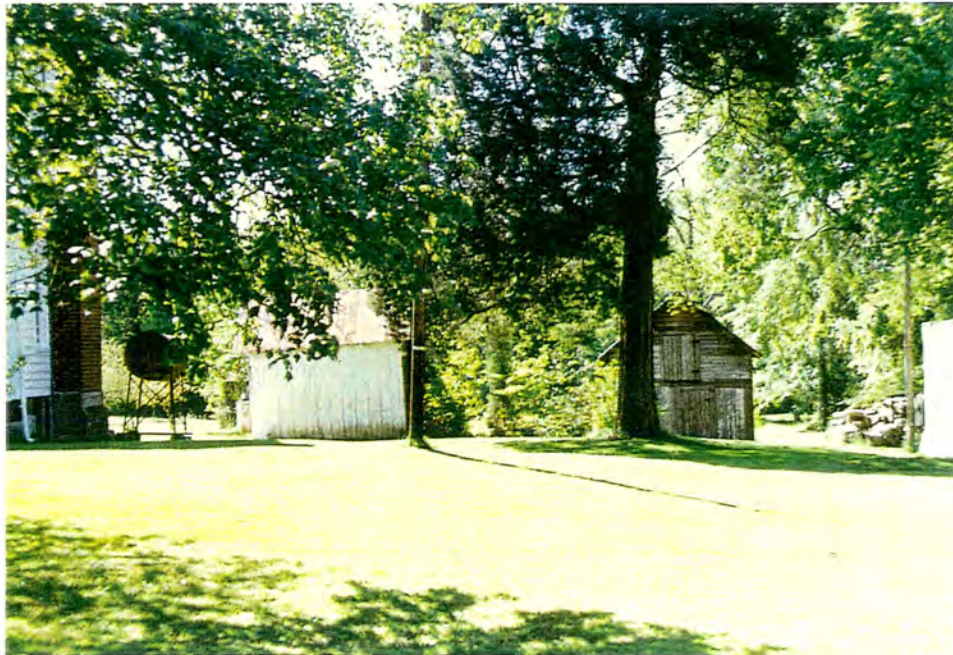


Figure 18: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 5, outbuilding



Figure 19: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 6, facade



Figure 20: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 7, facade



Figure 21: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 8, Gulf Presbyterian Church (CH 764), facade



Figure 22: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 8, Gulf Presbyterian Church (CH 764), east elevation



Figure 23: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 8, Gulf Presbyterian Church (CH 764), south elevation



Figure 24: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 9, facade



Figure 25: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 10, facade



Figure 26: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 11, facade



Figure 27: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 12, facade



Figure 28: Gulf Historic District (CH 785), Property 13, facade

Properties for which SHPO requested evaluation Property on the State Study List

Gulf Historic District (CH 785)

Location: Roughly bounded by US 421, Moore's Store Road (SR 2144), Jordan Road (SR 2139) and the Deep River (figure 2 and 7).

Description: The Gulf Historic District is roughly one block northeast of US 421 along Moore's Store Road (figure 8). The road is named after J. R. Moore's Store, a circa 1920s brick, one-story grocery store (figure 9). On the east side of the road are the older properties of the village, dating to the later half of the nineteenth century. On the corner of SR 2144 and US 421 sits a two story frame house that is currently undergoing restoration (figures 10 and 11). North of the building is the J. M. Haughton-McIver House (figures 12 and 13). A singly-story, hip roof house stands next to the Haughton-McIver House (figures 14-16). The building has a rear ell and one outbuilding that is used for storage. The next house is a two-story single pile house with a two-story porch covering the central bay (figures 17 and 18). The porch is accented with sawn work details, such as ornamental brackets and a balustrade. The next building has a Mount Vernon-style porch that appears to be a twentieth century addition (figure 19). The building retains its corbelled chimneys which suggest an older age. At the end of the street is a small bungalow set farther back from the road (figure 20). It is one-and-one-half stories and has square-in-section posts with plain brackets.

At the end of Moore's Store Road is the Gulf Presbyterian Church (figures 21-23). The facade has three bays including a west tower. Lancet windows articulate each bay. The building is four bays deep with large windows capped with gothic arch details. The apse projects to the rear of the building and is lit from the side by two windows.

Early twentieth century buildings sit on the west side of Moore's Store Road (figures 24-28). Several bungalows and a cottage illustrate the move away from the traditional vernacular styles of Chatham County when builders adopted current national trends.

Historical Background: In 1768, William Thompson and Herman Husband joined John Willcox of Pennsylvania to form the Deep River Company. The company built an iron works, merchant mill and sawmill. The iron works at Gulf was the first established operating iron works in North Carolina. In addition, Willcox and Thompson built a ferry to transport raw materials such as ore, limestone and coal from the north side of the river to the iron works on the south side. Documentary

evidence exists that Willcox and Thompson were also involved in brick making at the iron works.¹⁵

After the Declaration of Independence, the North Carolina Committee of Safety entered into an agreement with the Deep River Company for the state to take over the operation of the iron works for making munitions and other products for the Continental Army. A great freshet on the Deep River occurred in 1779 destroying the iron works. Although there is no documentary evidence, local tradition holds that a second furnace was built after the flood about a quarter of a mile from the river on the north side. This is supported by the remains of a furnace in that location. Willcox continued to operate the iron works on a smaller scale until his death in 1793.

In 1796 the Deep and Haw River Company was created by act of the State Legislature to improve the navigation on these rivers. Between 1849 and 1860, the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company promoted river transportation through construction of a system of dams and locks. By 1859 steamers were at Egypt, south of Gulf, taking on cargoes of coal and iron from Endor Iron Works.¹⁶ The following year navigation was open to Gulf.

In 1852, the Western Railroad was chartered. The company plans called for a line that connected Fayetteville to Egypt. By 1862 constructed was complete two miles south of Egypt. Coal was hauled by wagon from mine to the railhead to supply the Confederate Arsenal at Fayetteville and to fuel blockade runners out of Wilmington. It was not until after the War between the States that Gulf was directly connected to the railroad. In 1879, the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad was completed to Gulf. New businesses related to transportation ventures began in Gulf such as hotels and stores. It was out of its connection with the railroad that the town evolved in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

In 1852, the Gulf-Graham Plank Road was incorporated by L. J. Houghton, John W. Hooker, Aaron Emerson, and David Dixon.¹⁷ Toll houses were placed at seven mile intervals. This road connected Gulf to the Cameron Gulf branch of the Fayetteville-Salem Plank Road.

Evaluation:

Criterion A--Transportation

¹⁵ Study List application cites the documentary evidence as "court papers."

¹⁶ Egypt is now known as Cummock.

¹⁷ Wade Hampton Hadley, Doris Goerch Horton, and Nell Craig Stroud, *Chatham County, 1771-1971*, 2nd edition (Durham: Moore Publishing Company, 1976): 147.

National Register Bulletin 15 states: "Properties can be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history."¹⁸ Gulf is eligible under Criterion A for its role as a transportation hub for southern Chatham County. Partially as a result of its proximity to the Deep River coal fields, Gulf became a center where the natural resources of the surrounding area were shipped to larger markets. The role of transportation via road, river and rails from this commercial village is central to its development as a viable rural community.

Criterion B

National Register Bulletin 15 states: "Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past."¹⁹ Gulf is not associated with the life of a specific significant person, and is therefore not eligible under Criterion B.

Criterion C--Architecture

National Register Bulletin 15 states: "Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction."²⁰ Gulf is eligible under Criterion C for architecture because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century architecture in Chatham County. The buildings standing in the town convey the development of the town as it served southern Chatham County as a transportation center. Gulf is a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction, excepting the Haughton-McIver House.

Criterion D

National Register Bulletin 15 states: "Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they have yielded, or may likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history."²¹ The architectural component of this property is not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology; it is therefore not eligible for the National Register under Criterion D.

Proposed National Register Boundary and Justification: The boundaries of the Gulf Historic District are outlined on Chatham County Tax Map 9615.02 (figure 7). The boundaries incorporate the properties that face SR 2144 (Moore's Store Road). The back line of these properties was used to define the edges of the district.

¹⁸ *National Register Bulletin 15*, 12.

¹⁹ *National Register Bulletin 15*, 14.

²⁰ *National Register Bulletin 15*, 17.

²¹ *National Register Bulletin 15*, 21.

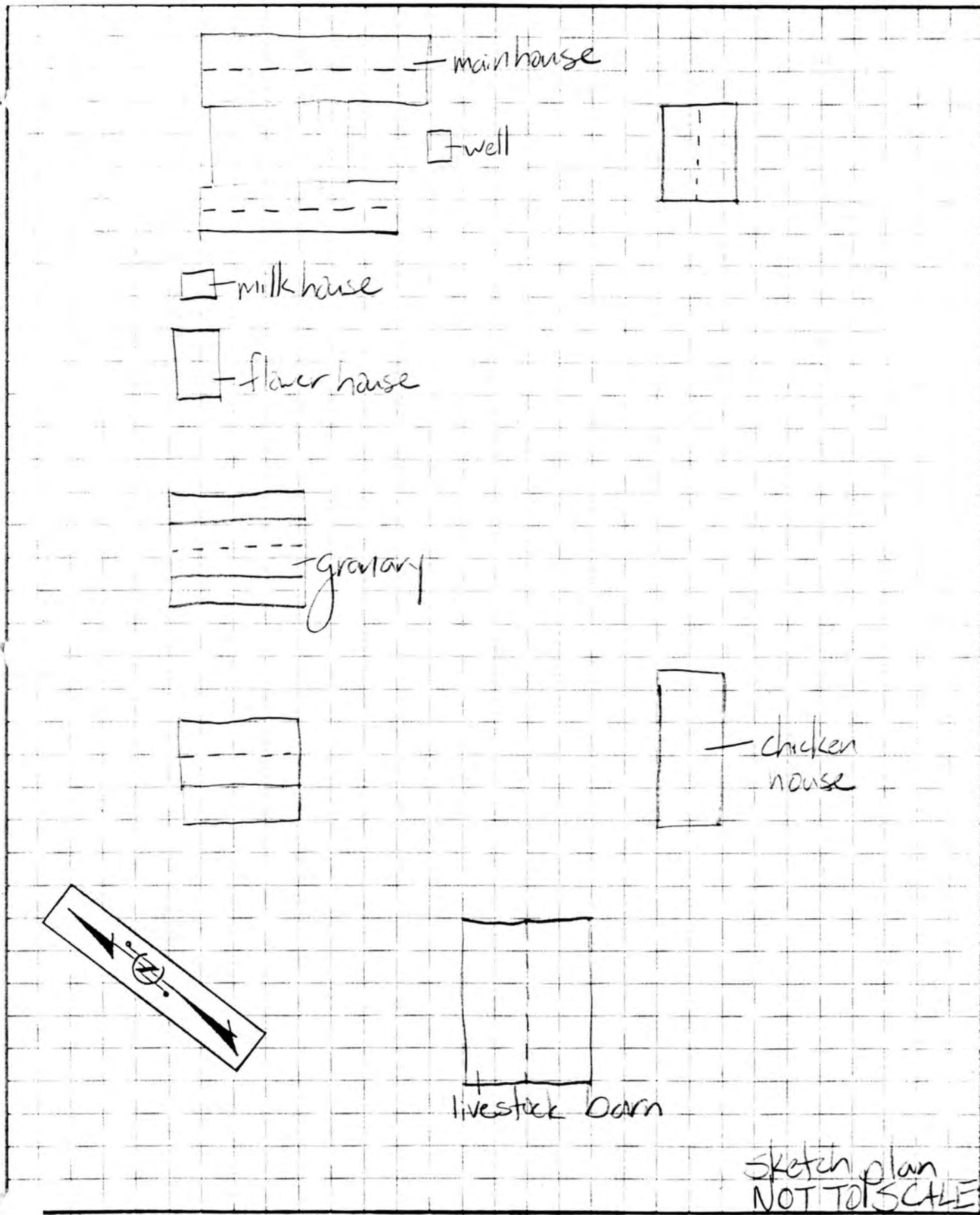
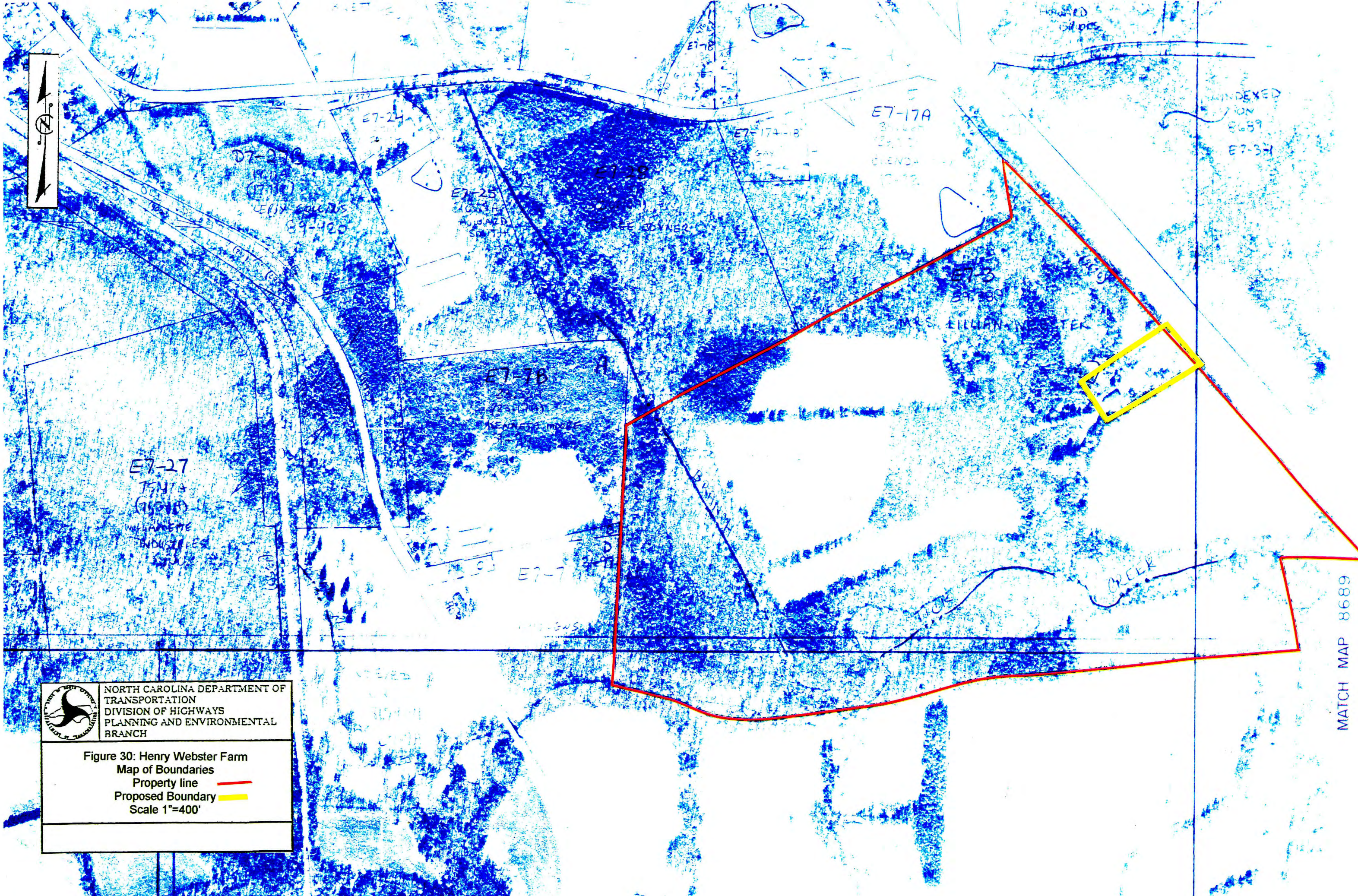


Figure 29: Henry Webster Farm (CH 598), site plan



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL
BRANCH

Figure 30: Henry Webster Farm
Map of Boundaries
Property line ———
Proposed Boundary ———
Scale 1"=400'

MATCH MAP 8689



Figure 31: Henry Webster Farm (CH 598), facade, oblique angle



Figure 32: Henry Webster Farm (CH 598), south elevation with well house in foreground



Figure 33: Henry Webster Farm (CH 598), flower house (left) and milk house (right)



Figure 34: Henry Webster Farm (CH 598), side passage barn (left) and granary (right)



Figure 35: Henry Webster Farm (CH 598), barn



Figure 36: Henry Webster Farm (CH 598), chicken house



Figure 37: Henry Webster Farm (CH 598), chicken house, interior



Figure 38: Henry Webster Farm (CH 598), blacksmith shop and feed mill



Figure 39: Henry Webster Farm (CH 598), view west across US 241



Figure 40: Henry Webster Farm (CH 598), view north, maintained right-of-way



Figure 41: Henry Webster Farm (CH 598), view south, maintained right-of-way



Figure 42: Henry Webster Farm (CH 598), right-of-way markers

Property Potentially Eligible for the National Register

Henry Webster Farm Complex (CH 598)

Location: West side US 421, 0.3 miles southeast of junction with SR 2119 (figure 2 and 30).

Description: The principal house sits on the eastern end of a yard with nine outbuildings forming a rectangular complex (figure 29). The dwelling is a late-nineteenth century vernacular example of the Queen Anne style in Chatham County (figures 31 and 32). The main block of the house is a two-story, three-bay gable roof structure with a brick foundation. The cross gable in the roof is flanked by two corbelled brick chimneys. A single story, wrap-around porch encloses three sides of the building.

The gable ends and cross gables are embellished with decorative shingles, diamond-shaped ventilators and gable returns. Sawn work brackets visually support the eaves. The door and window surrounds have a flat finish. Slender Doric columns support the porch trimmed with an entablature accented with dentil moldings. The windows are two-over-two sash and retain their original shutters and hardware. The original mantels are preserved on the interior.

The plan of the main block is a central hallway with two flanking rooms that are heated by their respective chimneys. To the rear of the building is an ell and an additional room that runs parallel to the main block creating an U-shaped plan.

Eight outbuildings sit in the yard completing the complex (figure 29).²² South of the house is a lattice covered well house. A small brick milk house sits behind the house (figure 33). Next to the milk house is a shed roof, brick building with relieving arches above its openings that was possibly used as a flower house. Buildings associated with farming sit farther out from the main building. A two-story, gable end building with shed extensions along its eastern and western sides is behind the flower house (figure 34). The structure was probably used as a granary. Behind the granary is a two-bay, gable roof building that has an open area and an enclosed storage space. A three-bay livestock barn with a loft sits at the westernmost edge of the complex (figure 35). On the opposite side of the lane is a chicken house (figures 36 and 37). It is a single-story, shed roof structure that retains its original hen boxes. East of the chicken house is a single-story, gable roof building that functioned as a blacksmiths shop and housed a mill to produce grain and feed for the farm (figure 38).²³

²² The complex will be described as they stand, counter-clockwise from the house. The site plan drawn by Rachel Osborn, on file at the SHPO, indicates ten buildings.

²³ Osborn survey notes on file at SHPO.

Historical Background: The farm complex was built by farmer and sawyer Henry W. Webster circa 1900. On this farm he raised cotton, grains and cattle, and maintained a sawmill and a cotton gin. The property is now owned by his daughter Lillian.²⁴

Evaluation:

Criterion A

National Register Bulletin 15 states: "Properties can be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history."²⁵ The Henry Webster Farm Complex is not associated with a significant event. During its period of significance the complex was part of an operating farm, therefore eligibility under Criterion A for agriculture will be specifically evaluated. *National Register Bulletin 30* outlines several factors that establish the eligibility of a property for significance in agriculture on a local level.²⁶ Although the farm fits into the typical pattern of farming in the County, it no longer cogently reflects these historic agricultural patterns through its landscape characteristics. As a result of the cessation of farming and subsequent loss of historic field patterns, the Webster Farm no longer retains the necessary integrity to be eligible under Criterion A for agriculture.

Criterion B

National Register Bulletin 15 states: "Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past."²⁷ Although the farm complex is associated with a particular person, Henry Webster was not significant in his contribution to the past. He was a typical farmer.

²⁴ Henry W. Webster does not have a last will and testament on record at the Chatham County courthouse. However, Lillian Webster appears to have inherited the land from her father, Henry W. Webster. In a November 1, 1966 deed (*Chatham County Deed Book 318, 109*) between Lillian Webster and the State Highway Commission, the first tract of land described is a 125 acre tract conveyed to H. W. Webster by deed from W. S. Webster and wife in March of 1892. Unfortunately, this deed was not recorded at the courthouse. It is reasonable to draw the conclusion that Lillian was conveyed the title of the property upon her father's death since there are no records of conveyances to her.

²⁵ *National Register Bulletin 15, 12.*

²⁶ *National Register Bulletin 30, 13* states: "Eligibility for significance in agriculture on a local level depends on several factors. First, the characteristics must have served or resulted from an important event, activity or theme in agricultural development as recognized by the historic contexts for the area. Second, the property must have had a direct involvement in the significant events or activities by contributing to the area's economy, productivity, or identity as an agricultural community. Third, through historic landscape characteristics, the property must cogently reflect the period of time in which the important events took place."

²⁷ *National Register Bulletin 15, 14.*

Criterion C

National Register Bulletin 15 states: "Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction."²⁸ The Henry Webster Farm Complex has a superlative collection of early-twentieth century buildings. The complex is representative of the buildings on similar middling farms that dominated the Chatham County landscape. Extant examples of similar collections of buildings associated with farming include the Nathaniel Joseph and Etta Dixon Farm in the Bennett Vicinity and the James A. Thomas farm near Pittsboro. Each of these properties is similar in size to the Henry Webster Farm. The Nathaniel and Etta Dixon Farm is on the State Study List and is noted for its excellent collection of farm related outbuildings.²⁹ The James A. Thomas Farm is listed on the National Register. Examples of the agricultural life pursued by Chatham County citizens are rapidly disappearing as development of the Triangle encroaches on the county. The Henry Webster Farm Complex represents the distinctive types and arrangement of early-twentieth century farm related structures. Therefore, the complex of buildings is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural significance.

Criterion D

National Register Bulletin 15 states: "Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they have yielded, or may likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history."³⁰ The architectural component of this property is not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology; it is therefore not eligible for the National Register under Criterion D.

Proposed National Register Boundary and Justification: Although the Henry Webster Farm is comprised of many excellent outbuildings that visually describe agricultural life at the turn of the twentieth century, the farm is no longer being operated today. As a result, the surrounding land does not convey the historical association of the farm with the agricultural economy of Chatham County. Instead, the surviving complex of house and farm outbuildings is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C for architecture. Therefore, the property's boundaries enclose the yard that contains all of the outbuildings and the main house (figure 30).

²⁸ *National Register Bulletin 15*, 17.

²⁹ Osborn and Seldon-Sturgill, 212.

³⁰ *National Register Bulletin 15*, 21.



Figure 43: Cook House (CH 599), facade



Figure 44: Cook House (CH 599), northern elevation



Figure 45: Cook House (CH 599), tobacco barn



Figure 46: Cook House (CH 599), well

Property Not Eligible for the National Register

Cook House (CH 599)

Location: West side US 421, 0.1 miles southeast of junction with SR 2126 (figure 2).

Description: The Cook House is a one-and-a-half story frame house with a hip roof and a cross gable (figure 43). Two-over-two double-hung sash flank the central doorway. The door holds remnants of panes of colored glass. A hip porch screens these openings and is supported by square-in-section posts. There is a decorative window in the cross gable. It has a simple surround and possibly, like the front door, held colored glass panes. The weatherboarding in the cross gable is scalloped hinting at the Queen Anne style. The roof is covered with pressed iron shingles. There is one corbelled chimney on the south of the main block. Given the symmetrical facade, it is probable that the house had another chimney on the north side that has disappeared.

The side elevation of the house also has a cross gable, giving the main block a square plan (figure 44). A rear ell is attached to the north side of the building. The ell was probably built at the same time as the main block because it has the same windows as the facade and has a similar chimney to the main block. There is an L-shaped porch on the rear of the house supported by turned porch posts. The six-room interior includes a wainscot of vertical beaded boards in the hallway and simple Victorian mantels in the main block. One outbuilding, a tobacco barn located north of the house, remains on the site (figure 45). There is also a well in front of the house (figure 46). At the time of its construction, the Cook House was the principal building on a sixty acre farm.

Evaluation:

Criterion A

National Register Bulletin 15 states: "Properties can be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history."³¹ The Cook House is not associated with any significant events, activities or themes contributing to the history of Chatham County.

Criterion B

National Register Bulletin 15 states: "Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past."³²

³¹ *National Register Bulletin 15*, 12.

³² *National Register Bulletin 15*, 14.

The Cook House is not associated with the life of a specific significant person and is therefore not eligible under Criterion B.

Criterion C

National Register Bulletin 15 states: "Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction."³³ The architectural characteristics of the Cook House are neither strongly representative of its type nor unique in Chatham County. Therefore in its evaluation, the property must be compared to other properties of the same type, in other words, properties that would convey a similar significance within a county-wide context. The county context in which the house is evaluated encompasses the visual representation of turn-of-the-twentieth-century architectural types and agricultural patterns. The Cook House is unable to convey these associations because of its insufficient integrity.³⁴ The farm lacks its original outbuildings and field patterns thus greatly compromising the house's ability to convey its significance within the county. As a result of the Cook House's abandonment and subsequent deterioration it lacks integrity of setting, materials, feeling and association.³⁵

Criterion D

National Register Bulletin 15 states: "Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they have yielded, or may likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history."³⁶ The architectural component of this property is not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology; it is therefore not eligible for the National Register under Criterion D.

³³ *National Register Bulletin 15*, 17.

³⁴ Integrity is defined as the ability of a property to convey its significance. *National Register Bulletin 15*, 44.

³⁵ For definitions of these concepts consult *National Register Bulletin 15*, 44-45.

³⁶ *National Register Bulletin 15*, 21.

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APPENDIX

Memorandum from David Brook to H. Franklin Vick
December 27, 1996



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

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

December 27, 1996

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: US 421 from existing four lanes at Gulf to
Siler City Bypass, Chatham County, State
Project 6.529005T, TIP R-2610, 97-E-
4220-0349

We have received information concerning the above project from the State Clearinghouse.

There is one prehistoric archaeological site located west of US 421 near its intersection with SR 2140 that is likely to be affected by the proposed widening. This site should be relocated and tested to determine its eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Wilcox Cemetery is also to the west of US 421 at the railroad tracks, but is likely outside the area of potential effect. Information concerning the amount and location of new right-of-way to be acquired for the project will be necessary prior to our recommendations concerning areas for archaeological survey.

We have conducted a search of our maps and files and have located the following structures of historical or architectural importance within the general area of the project:

Henry Webster Farm Complex (CH 598), west side of US 421, 0.3 mile southeast of junction with SR 2119, Bonlee vicinity.

Cook House (CH 599), west side of US 421, 0.1 mile southeast of junction with SR 2126, Bonlee vicinity.

Gulf Historic District (CH 785), along Moore's Store Road, Jordan Road, Deep River, and US 421. This property was placed on the state study list on April 9, 1992.



J. M. Haughton-McIver House (HC 375), south side of SR 1007, 0.05 mile east of junction with US 421. This property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 4, 1985.

While we note that this project is to be state funded, the potential for federal permits may require further consultation and compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

These comments are made in accord with G.S. 121-12(a) and Executive Order XVI. If you have any questions regarding them, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919/733-4763.

DB:slw

cc: State Clearinghouse
B. Church
T. Padgett