



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

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator


Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

November 6, 2017

MEMORANDUM

To: Kate Husband, Architectural Historian
NCDOT/PDEA/HES klhusband@ncdot.gov

From: Renee Gledhill-Earley 
Environmental Review Coordinator

Subject: Historic Structures Survey Report, Widen and Improve NC 46 from NC 48 in Gaston to the Virginia State Line, R-5739, Northampton County, ER 17-1457

Thank you for your August 8, 2017, memorandum transmitting the above-referenced report. We apologize for the delay in our reply, which was caused by a severe staffing shortage. We have reviewed the report and offer the following comments.

We concur that the following properties are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the reasons outlined. We also agree that the proposed boundaries for the properties appear to be appropriate.

- St. Luke's Church (NP0285) under Criterion C as an excellent, example of the Carpenter Gothic style and Criteria Consideration A.
- Gaston Drive-In Theatre (NP1133) under Criterion A for its association with the development of the drive-in theatre as an American property type at the local level
- Squire Elementary School (NP1134) under Criterion A as a segregated schools established after *Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas* and under Criterion B for its association with local Civil Rights activist, James H. Jones.
- Jasper and Betty Jones House (NP1135) under Criterion C and Criteria Consideration G as a property that has not yet reached 50 years of age.

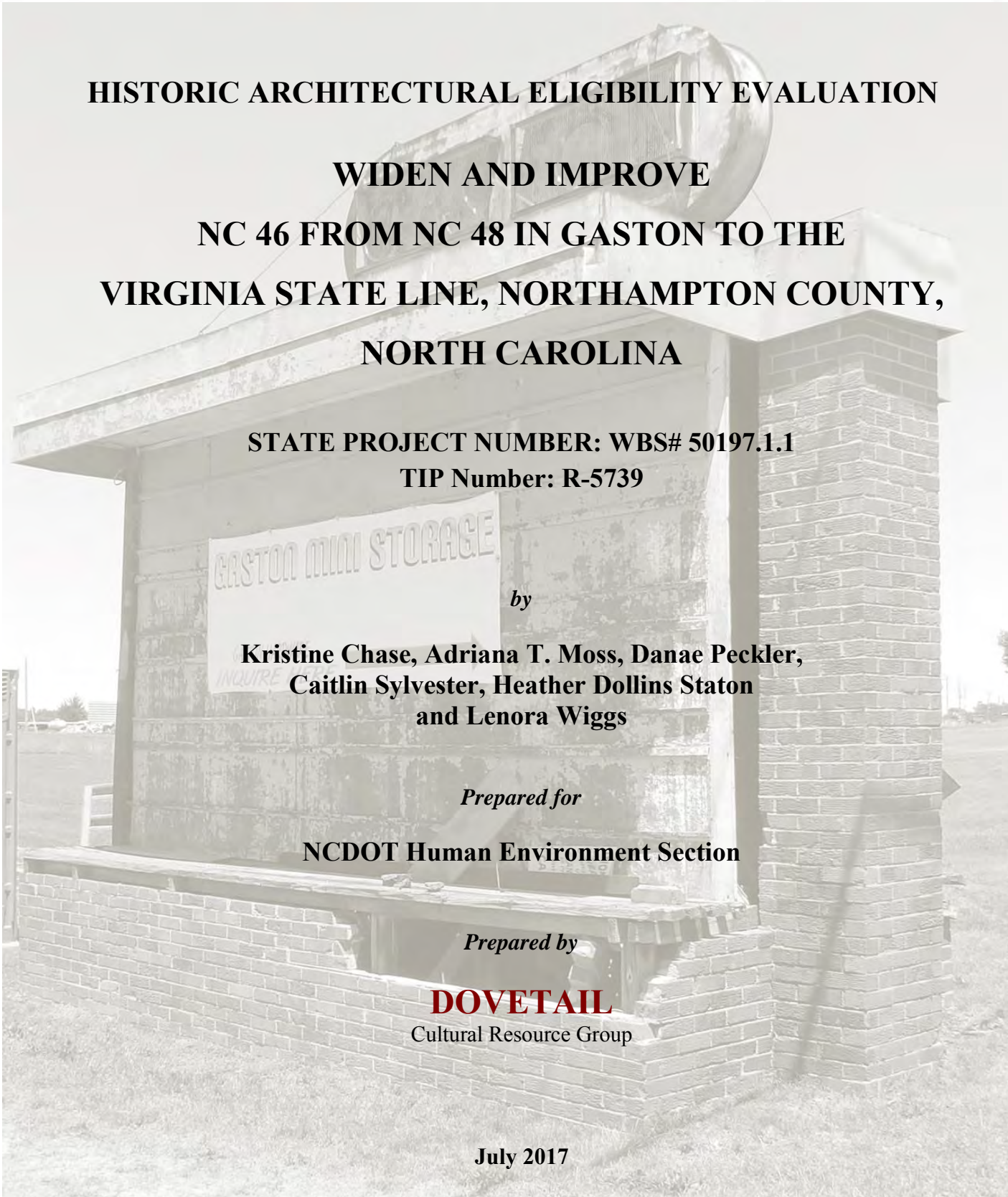
We also concur, that barring additional information to the contrary, the remaining 11 resources are not eligible for the National Register (NP0278, NP0283, NP0284, NP0285, NP0414, NP1127, NP1129, NP1132, NP1136, NP1137, and NP1138).

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 919-807-6579 or renee.gledhill-earley@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above-referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT

mfurr@ncdot.gov



HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

WIDEN AND IMPROVE

NC 46 FROM NC 48 IN GASTON TO THE

VIRGINIA STATE LINE, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY,

NORTH CAROLINA

STATE PROJECT NUMBER: WBS# 50197.1.1
TIP Number: R-5739

by

**Kristine Chase, Adriana T. Moss, Danae Peckler,
Caitlin Sylvester, Heather Dollins Staton
and Lenora Wiggs**

Prepared for

NCDOT Human Environment Section

Prepared by

DOVETAIL
Cultural Resource Group

July 2017

Historic Architectural Eligibility Evaluation

**Widen and Improve
NC 46 from NC 48 in Gaston to the
Virginia State Line, Northampton County, North Carolina**

**State Proect Number: WBS# 50197.1.1
TIP Number: R-5739**

Prepared for

**North Carolina Department of Transportation
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Dovetail Job #17-027
July 2017



Principal Investigator
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July 31, 2017
Date

Supervisor, Historic Architecture Group
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Dovetail Cultural Resource Group (Dovetail) conducted a historic architectural eligibility evaluation on behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in preparation for a project to widen and improve NC 46 from NC 48¹ in Gaston to the Virginia State Line in Northampton County, North Carolina. The NCDOT state project number is WBS# 50197.1.1 and the Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) number is R-5739. The R-5739 project is subject to review under the Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects.²

In February 2017, NCDOT architectural historians conducted a survey of the project's area of potential effects (APE)—defined as the project footprint plus any areas where an alteration to a historic resource's setting and feeling could occur—at which time they identified 14 properties that were chosen for further evaluation. The scope of the current investigation included an eligibility evaluation of those 14 properties (Table 1, p. ii) identified by NCDOT. Of those resources, all are previously recorded with the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (NC-HPO); however, none have received a formal eligibility evaluation prior to the beginning of this survey.

The goals of this investigation were to: first, document the architectural and landscape features of the properties; second, gather archival data on the properties; and third, examine the physical and historical information collected within the appropriate context(s) to properly evaluate each property under established criteria for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The fourth goal of this investigation was to propose NRHP boundaries for any property should it be recommended eligible for listing. Work on this project was conducted in May and June 2017, in accordance with relevant state and federal regulations as part of the compliance process established in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800).

As a result of this investigation, Dovetail recommends that four resources are eligible for the NRHP (St. Luke's Church, NP0285; Gaston Drive-In Movie Theatre, NP1133; Squire Elementary School, NP1134; and Jasper and Betty Jones House, NP1135). St. Luke's Church (NP0285) is **recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C as an excellent, example of the Carpenter Gothic style and Criteria Consideration A**. The Gaston Drive-In Theatre (NP1133) is **recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A for its association with the development of the drive-in theatre as an American property type at the local level**. The Squire Elementary School (NP1134) is **recommended eligible under Criterion A as a segregated schools established after *Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas* and under Criterion B for its association with local Civil**

¹ In the scope of work presented by NCDOT these roads were listed as NC 46 and NC 48. However, because roads appear as North Carolina (N.C.) Highway 46 and 48 in local records, Dovetail will refer to these roads as N.C. Highway 46 and N.C. Highway 48 in the remainder of this document.

² NCDOT/NC-HPO/Federal Highway Administration 2007.

Rights activist, James H. Jones. As an excellent, intact, and rare example of the Contemporary style in rural Northampton County, the Jasper and Betty Jones House is **recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C and Criteria Consideration G as a property that has not yet reached 50 years of age.**

The remaining 11 resources are **recommended not eligible for the NRHP (NP0278, NP0283, NP0284, NP0285, NP0414, NP1127, NP1129, NP1132, NP1136, NP1137, and NP1138).**

Table 1: Eligibility Recommendations. *Note:* This table is organized in an east-to-west order to match the order of the report

Property Name	NC-HPO Survey Site Number	Eligibility Determination	Criteria
Gaston Community	NP1127	Recommended Not Eligible	N/A
Gaston Drive-In Theatre	NP1133	Recommended Eligible	Criterion A
Gaston Hardware Store	NP1132	Recommended Not Eligible	N/A
Cool Spring Baptist Church, 120 Cherry Street	NP1129	Recommended Not Eligible	N/A
Squire Elementary School, 4671 N.C. Highway 46	NP1134	Recommended Eligible	Criteria A and B
Jasper and Betty Jones House, 4590 N.C. Highway 46	NP1135	Recommended Eligible	Criterion C and Criteria Consideration G
Moody House	NP0414	Recommended Not Eligible	N/A
Lassiter House	NP1137	Recommended Not Eligible	N/A
D.R. Allen Farm, 3412 N.C. Highway 46	NP1136	Recommended Not Eligible	N/A
Vincent House	NP0278	Recommended Not Eligible	N/A
Cleaton House	NP0283	Recommended Not Eligible	N/A
Wesson House	NP0284	Recommended Not Eligible	N/A
Saint Luke's Church	NP0285	Recommended Eligible	Criterion C and Criteria Consideration A
Gaston Baptist Church	NP1138	Recommended Not Eligible	N/A

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INTRODUCTION

Dovetail conducted a historic architectural eligibility evaluation on behalf of the NCDOT in preparation to widen and improve NC 46 from NC 48 in Gaston to the Virginia State Line in Northampton County, North Carolina (Figure 1). The project (WBS# 50197.1.1 and TIP# R-5739) is federally funded and will require a federal permit. The R-5739 project is subject to review under the Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects.³



Figure 1: Map of Northampton County within State of North Carolina.⁴

Documentation and research for this project was conducted in accordance with relevant state and federal guidelines as part of the compliance process established in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800). NDOT architectural historians defined the current project APE and determined that 14 resources required additional evaluation: NP0278, NP0283, NP0284, NP0285, NP0414, NP1127, NP1129, NP1132, NP1133, NP1134, NP1135, NP1136, NP1137, and NP1138. Dovetail Architectural Historians Kristine Chase, Danae Peckler, Caitlin Sylvester, and Heather Dollins Staton, with Preservation Technician, Lenora Wiggs, performed the work for this project with Dr. Kerri Barile serving as Project Manager. Dr. Barile and Misses Chase, Peckler, Sylvester, and Staton all meet and exceed the standards established for Architectural Historian and Historian by the Secretary of the Interior (SOI).

Following a review of NC-HPO records, Dovetail conducted fieldwork and archival research between May 15 and May 26, 2017. During this period, archives were consulted at the NC-HPO Survey and Planning Archives in Raleigh, North Carolina; Northampton County Register of Deeds in Jackson, North Carolina; the Northampton Memorial Library in Jackson, North

³ NCDOT/NC-HPO/Federal Highway Administration 2007.

⁴ NCPedia 2017.

Carolina; and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources (NC-DCR) Government and Heritage Library, Genealogical Collection, and Search Room in Raleigh, North Carolina. Oral history was contributed by local Northampton County residents, including Harold Wray, L. Thomas Baird, and Anna Jones.

This report includes an eligibility evaluation of 14 previously recorded resources recommended for study by the NCDOT within the project APE (Figure 2–Figure 5, pp. 3–6). Within this document, the resources are organized east-to-west in the following order: NP1127, NP1133, NP1132, NP1129, NP1134, NP1135, NP0414, NP1137, NP1136, NP0278, NP0283, NP0284, NP0285, and NP1138. This report meets the standards set forth by the NC-HPO’s Architectural Survey Manual, *Practical Advice for Recording Historic Resources*, as well as those outlined by NCDOT in *Sections 106 Procedures and Report Guidelines*.

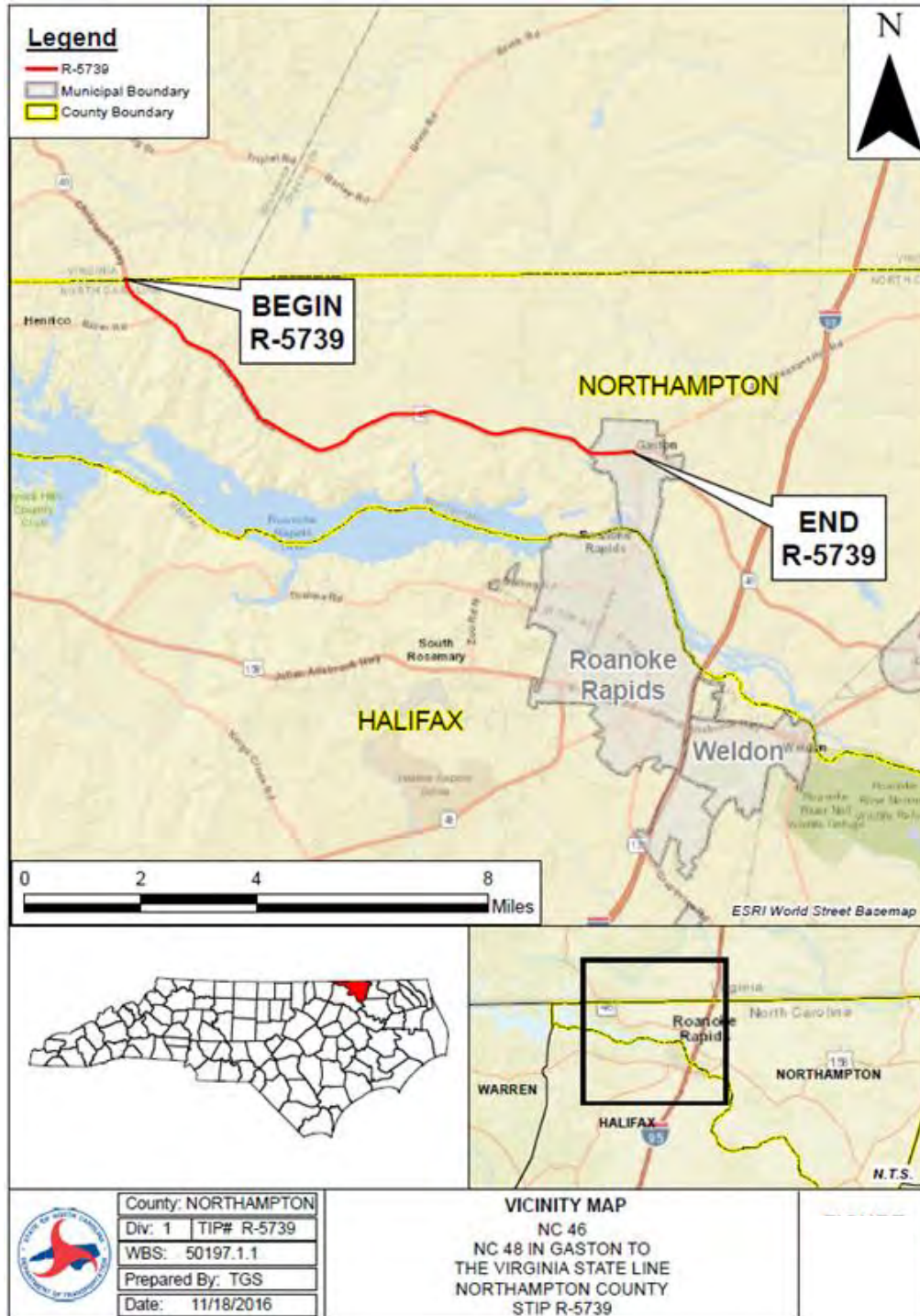


Figure 2: Aerial Map Showing the APE along N.C. Highway 46.⁵

⁵ NCDOT 2017.

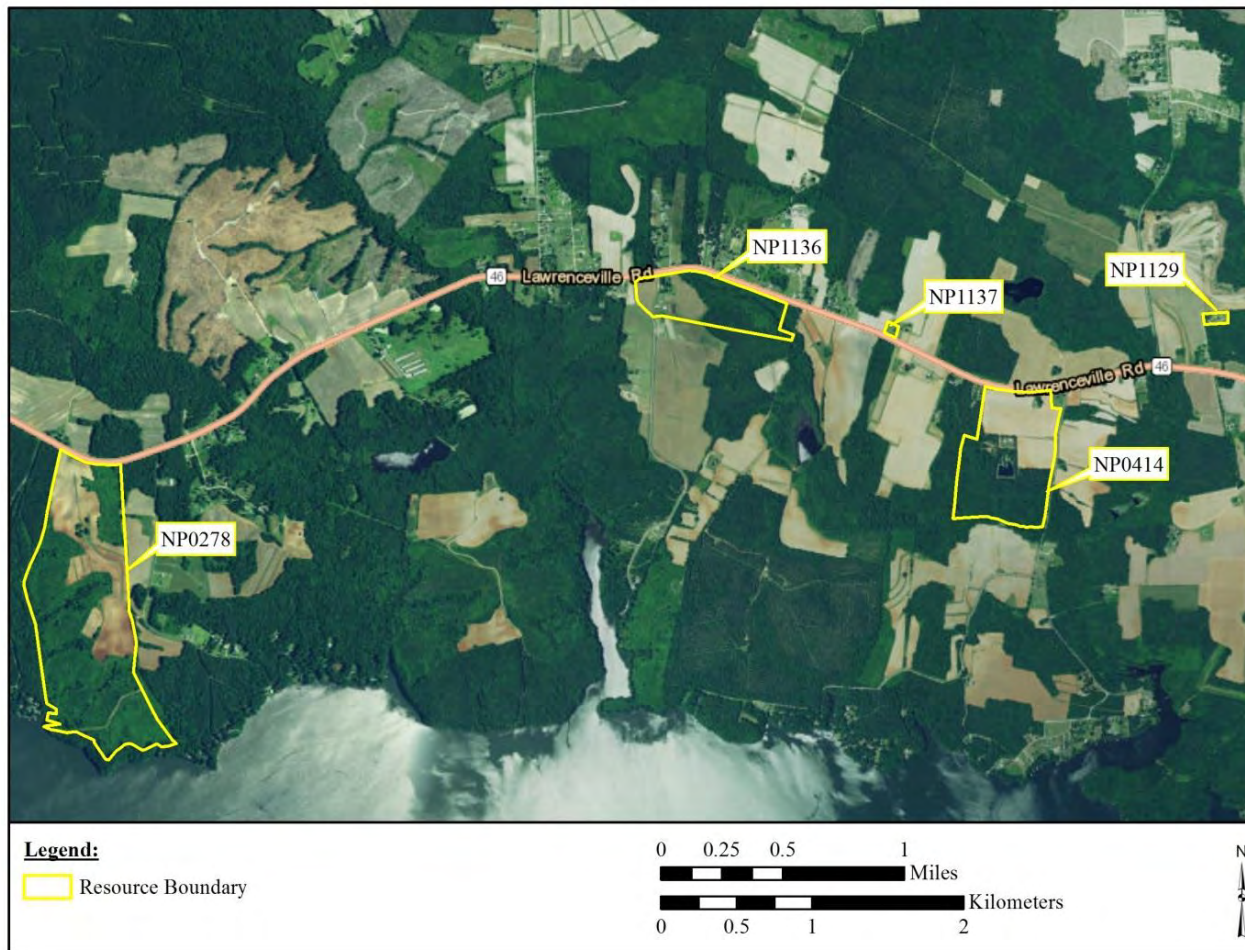


Figure 4: Central Segment of the Surveyed Resources (Yellow) as Shown on a Current Aerial.⁷

⁷ Esri 2017.

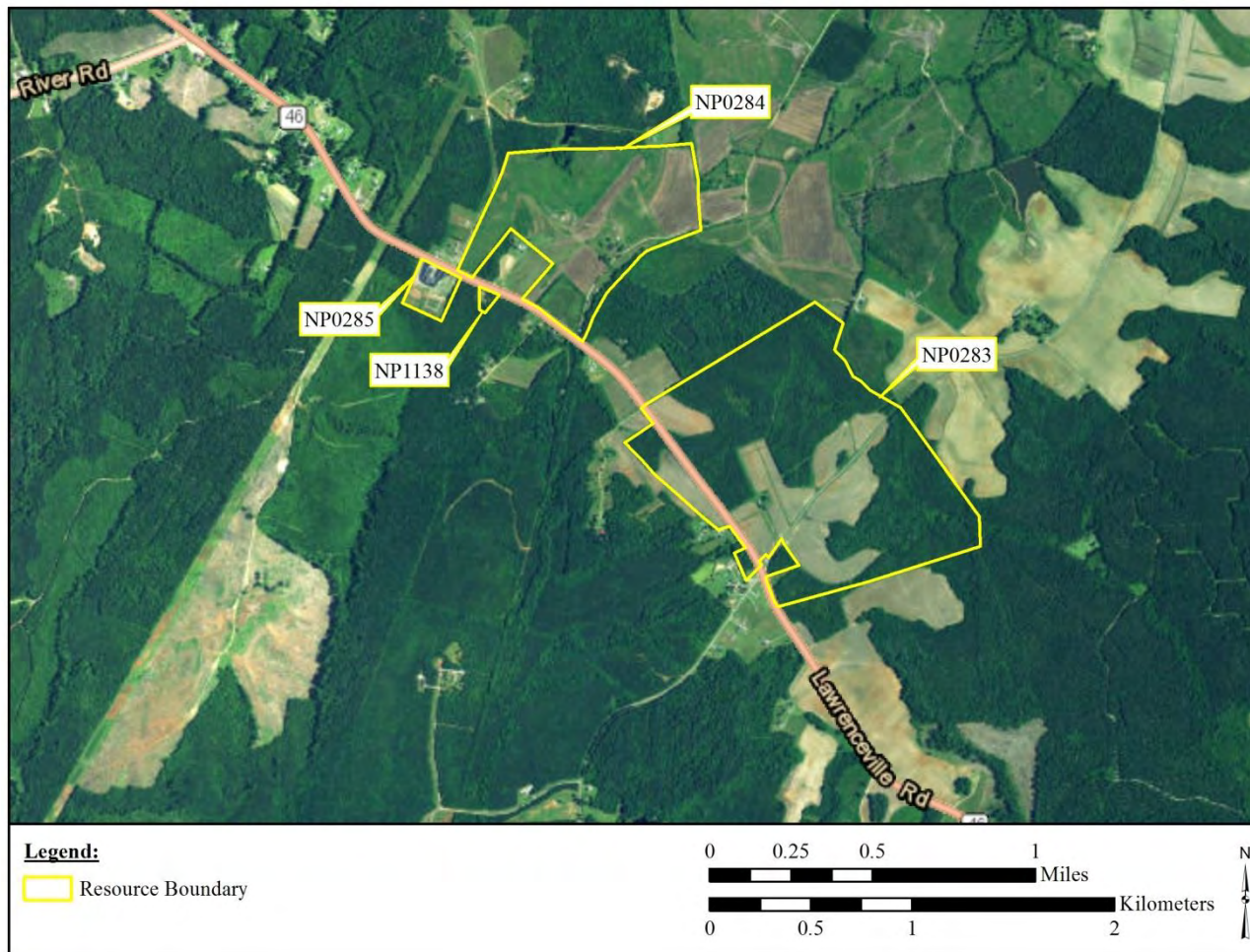


Figure 5: Western Segment of the Surveyed Resources (Yellow) as Shown on a Current Aerial.⁸

⁸ Esri 2017.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

NP1127: Gaston Community

Date of Construction: Circa 1923–Present
Town Incorporated: 1949

Gaston, Northampton County, North Carolina
PIN: Multiple
Eligibility Recommendation: Not Eligible



Architectural Description

The Town of Gaston is a twentieth-century locality that emerged around the intersection of several important area roadways including N.C. Highway 46 (also known as Lawrenceville and Garysburg Roads), N.C. Highway 48 (Roanoke Rapids and Pleasant Hill Road), and the Old Emporia Road in Northampton County, North Carolina. In contrast, the Gaston Community (NP1127) has been identified as a historic district within the town limits. Situated in the northwestern corner of the county, the Town of Gaston maintained an estimated population of 1,152 people in 2010, just below its peak population of 1,218 people in 1950.⁹ Originally known as Camp’s Store, this rural community was the site of a small store owned by the Camp family before it was incorporated in 1949 (Figure 6, p. 8). As noted in the town’s architectural survey form, the community has developed “rapidly since the 1960s as a commercial area servicing Lake Gaston. Gaston’s few historic and architectural resources are scattered among modern shopping centers and stores to the south and west of the crossroads along N.C. Highway 48 and N.C. Highway 46.”¹⁰

The original Camp’s Store is no longer extant and little physical evidence of the Camp family’s presence in the area remains, but Gaston’s origin as a small rural crossroads community is still visible as are many of its early-twentieth-century roadways despite new highway construction and improvements in the latter half of the century. The oldest plat subdividing farmland in the community was produced in December 1923 for the Roanoke Rapids Real Estate Company (RRREC) with a number of smaller subdivisions created by aspiring developers—often entrepreneurial residents of neighboring mill town, Roanoke Rapids—in the immediate vicinity during the 1930s and 1940s.¹¹

For the purposes of this investigation, the historic resource previously identified as the Gaston Community (NP1127) features the oldest sections of the Town of Gaston which possess a dense collection of architectural resources dating from around 1920 to 1960 (Figure 7, p. 9). This period of time highlights the rise and peak of the community’s development, particularly

⁹ United States Census Bureau 2010.

¹⁰ NC-HPO 2010a.

¹¹ Northampton County Plat Book (NCPB) 1:118.

during the shared growth and prosperity resulting from the economic influence of neighboring mill town, Roanoke Rapids, and construction of the Roanoke Rapids Lake and area dams in the 1950s and 1960s.

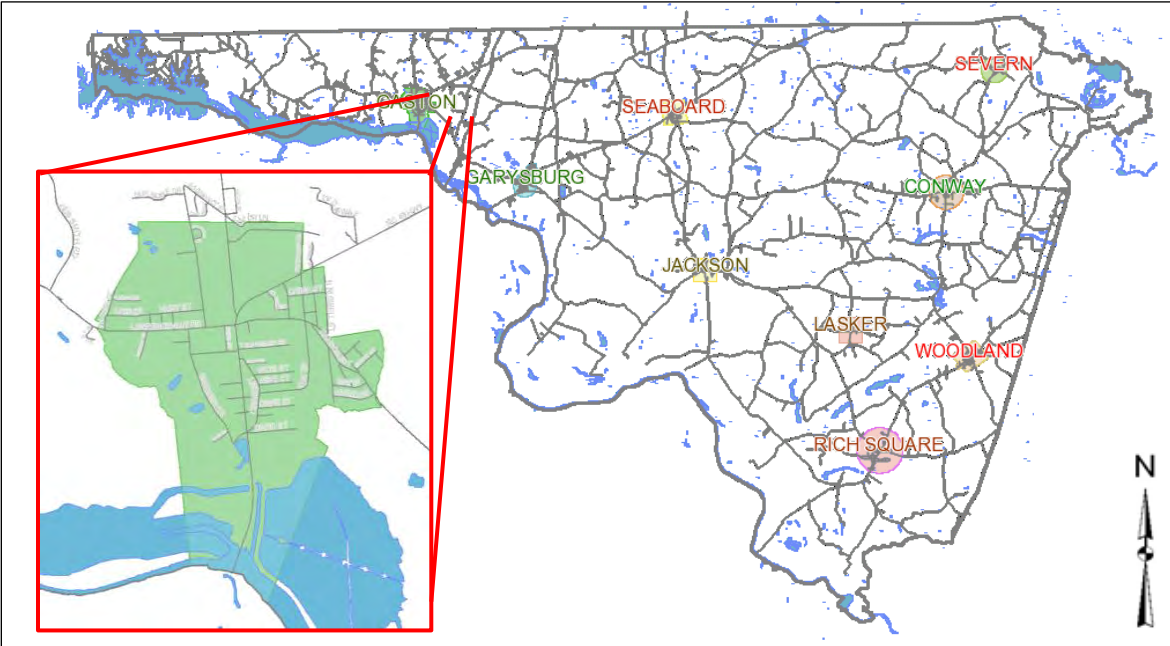


Figure 6: Northampton County and Incorporated Towns with Town of Gaston City Limits Inset.¹² Map not to scale.

The Gaston Community contains more than a hundred residential properties along with a few dozen civic, commercial, religious, and industrial properties dating from the early-twentieth century to present day. The oldest extant architectural resources are predominantly modest, one-story, single-family dwellings dating from the mid-1920s; however, a majority of houses throughout the community were constructed later in the 1940s and 1950s. The forms of these dwellings are largely vernacular, being what Rebecca Spanbauer identified as “Front-Gable Massed-Plan Houses” and “Modest Bungalows” in the 2010 study of Northampton County’s architectural resources (Photo 1–Photo 3, p. 10).¹³ Stylistic features of these resources are often seen in porches and window configuration with elements of the nationally popular Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles. Spanbauer identified six examples of “front-gabled, massed-plan, bungalow-type resources” on Gate and Ashe Streets, yet a larger number of such resources can be found throughout the community. Few, however, retain a high level of historic integrity, many featuring replacement windows, porch posts, roofing, siding, and some foundation materials.

¹² Northampton County Geographic Information System (NCGIS) 2017.

¹³ Spanbauer 2010:93–94.



Figure 7: Map Showing Selected Boundary of Gaston Community.¹⁴

¹⁴ Esri 2017.



Photo 1: View of Houses on West Side of North Bay Street Looking Northwest.



Photo 2: View of House and Garage at 227 South Bay Street Looking Southwest.



Photo 3: View of House 306 Craige Street, Looking Northeast.

Some of the oldest dwellings in town are believed to be situated on Craige and Bay Streets as these were once the primary roads through the community with lots subdivided in the early 1930s. Many of these resources are front- or sided-gabled frame dwellings resting on brick piers or a continuous brick foundation and often appear in clusters, suggesting that they were likely built by a single builder or developer (Photo 4 and Photo 5). One older building, perhaps once used as a dwelling at the south end of South Russell Street, was likely built circa 1930 during a revival of the rustic Log Cabin style and identified on a map of J.H. Camp's property in 1937 (Photo 6, p. 12).¹⁵ In addition to modest front-gabled bungalows, other common mid-century house types include nationally popular Cape Cod, Minimal Traditional, and Ranch styles (Photo 7–Photo 10, pp. 12–13). Few outbuildings are associated with these dwelling, but frequently include a single-car, detached, frame garage. Other domestic resources include a number of premanufactured mobile homes, one of which dates circa 1955 on South Bay Street (Photo 11, p. 13).



Photo 4: House at 103 East Hill Street, Northeast Oblique.



Photo 5: House at 118 Reid Street, Northwest Oblique.

¹⁵ NCPB 1:69.



Photo 6: Ruinous Dwelling Once Attributed to J.H. Camp at End of South Russell Street, Northwest Oblique.



Photo 7: House at 207 Davie Street, Northwest Oblique.



Photo 8: View of 307 and 305 Lawrenceville Road (N.C. Highway 46), Looking Northeast.



Photo 9: View of Houses on North Side of School Road, Looking West.



Photo 10: House at 206 Davie Street, South Elevation.



Photo 11: View of Circa-1955 Mobile Home on South Bay Street, Looking Southeast.

In addition to its older residences, the Gaston Community contains three churches and one school built between 1940 and 1960. These churches include the circa-1950 Grace Baptist Church at 213 Roanoke Rapids Road, the circa-1940 Doors of Praise Church on South Bay Street, and the circa-1960 First Evangelical Methodist Church (Photo 12 and Photo 13). The history of a fourth church, the Shiloh Methodist Church, pre-dates its current building, erected post 1960. All four of these churches follow traditional forms and stylistic features common across the country in this era. A portion of the circa-1950 Gaston School remains extant although the resource has been abandoned for a number of years (Photo 14, p. 15). This Modern-styled school building has been loosely attributed to North Carolina architect, Leslie N. Boney, but is in poor condition.



Photo 12: First Evangelical Methodist Church at 709 Garysburg Road, South Elevation.



Photo 13: Doors of Praise and Worship Church on South Bay Street, East Elevation.



Photo 14: View of Gaston School from School Road, Looking Southwest.

A number of commercial resources are located within the boundaries of the Gaston Community, approximately 14 of which are thought to date between 1940 and 1960. A singular circa-1920 frame building, likely a gas station, on Craige Street is perhaps the oldest commercial resource in town; most of these resources are one-story, one-part-commercial-block buildings constructed from concrete block—many with stretcher-bonded, brick-veneer facades and parapet walls (Photo 15–Photo 16, p. 16). Another commercial resource in the community, the circa-1952 Gaston Drive-In Theatre (NP1133), does not contain extant buildings, but its neon sign and marquee illustrates the stylistic trends of this post-World War II (WWII) period.

A handful of industrial resources are also located within the Gaston Community boundaries, including the Clary Lumber yard at the east end of town, portions of which date to the 1950s, and the circa-1945 Wray’s Roofing and Metal Shop at the west end on Lawrenceville Road (N.C. Highway 46) that is known to have once served as a roller rink (Photo 17, p. 16).¹⁶

Only a few civic resources are located in the Gaston Community, including a circa-1960 building that currently serves as the U.S. Post Office, a circa-1980 Town Hall, and a circa-1990 Rescue Squad Station. Another circa-1955 commercial resource has recently been re-adapted to serve as a community center (Photo 18, p. 17).

¹⁶ Harold Wray, personal communication 2017.



Photo 15: View of Probable Gas Station, 303 Craige Street, South Elevation.



Photo 16: At Left, 335 Roanoke Rapids Road, Southeast Oblique, and Right, 116 Roanoke Rapids Road, West Elevation.



Photo 17: View of Commercial/ Light-Industrial Building, 417 Lawrenceville Road (N.C. Highway 46).



Photo 18: View of Town Hall and Re-Adapted Community Center, Craige Street.

A number of more recently constructed resources are also located in the Gaston Community, including a few dozen pre-manufactured homes. Most of these resources appear to date from 1975 up to present day, with a larger concentration infilling open lots on South and North Bay Streets (Photo 19). Other dwellings have been constructed post-2000 and reflect contemporary home building materials and styles (Photo 20).



Photo 19: View of Circa-1980s Pre-Manufactured Homes on South Bay Street, Looking South.



Photo 20: View of Circa-2000 Dwelling, 509 Ransome Road, Looking South across Garysburg Road (N.C. Highway 46).

A number of commercial buildings have been constructed in and around the older areas of Gaston in recent decades. Many of these resources are not included in the Gaston Community boundary, but several have infilled lots or demolished previous resources located on some of the original land and subdivided lots in the community. This includes the Hardee's fast food restaurant at the southwest corner of the intersection of N.C. Highway 46 and 48 as well as the Shell gas station directly across Lawrenceville Road at the northwest corner of the same intersection (Photo 21).



Photo 21: Shell Station at Left and Hardee's at Right Looking South Along Lawrenceville Road (N.C. Highway 46).

Historic Context

At the turn-of-the-century, the Town of Gaston was no bigger than a couple store buildings and perhaps the houses of those individuals who ran them. In 1923, a surveyor for the RRREC platted the first large-scale subdivision at this crossroads—the highest point of land on the opposite side of the Roanoke River from the thriving industrial community of Roanoke Rapids. Then known as the Zollicoffer Farm and George Daniel Tract, 26 blocks were laid out in this initial survey (Figure 8, p, 19).¹⁷ Several of the blocks in this plat contained narrow rectangular lots likely intended as an urban core to the future community that the RRREC envisioned.

¹⁷ NCPB 1:118.

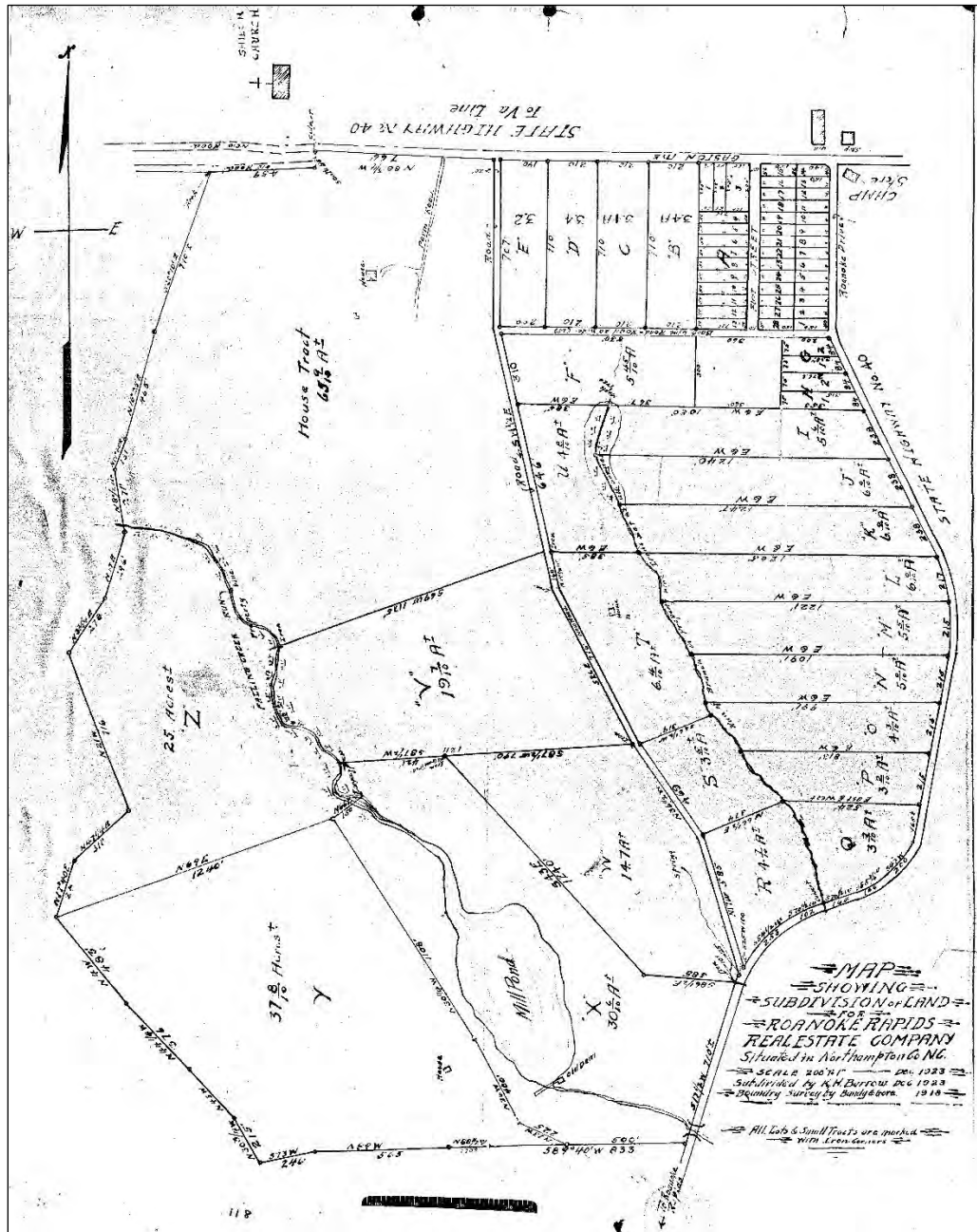


Figure 8: 1923 “Map Showing Subdivision of Land for Roanoke Rapids Real Estate Company.”¹⁸ Image not to scale.

Nearby Roanoke Rapids prospered in the first half of the twentieth century. As the town’s population grew, so did the need for new housing to support its workforce. At this time, a number of local banks and prominent citizens began speculating in land development, including the three Roanoke Rapids residents who formed the RRREC. These same individuals

¹⁸ NCPB 1:118.

were also the leaders in the First National Bank and the Roanoke Avenue Development Company.¹⁹ Lots in Gaston were offered for sale in a 1923 advertisement that noted “small acreage sites” and encouraged the promise of a new house for any wife (Figure 9).



Figure 9: Advertisement Placed in *The Roanoke Rapids Herald*, December 14, 1923.²⁰

It is not known how much success the RRREC had in selling these lots at that time, but it seems to have been slowed substantially by the Great Depression. By the mid-1930s, other area residents made efforts to subdivide and develop land in and around “Camp’s Store,” yet these lots appear to have been designed solely for residential use, being small and narrow for reasons of affordability rather than commercial uses. Three such subdivisions extended the suburban residential character to the east side of Craige Street, then the main road north from Roanoke Rapids, and the west side of Ransome Street—historically, the main road to Garysburg—between 1934 and 1937. These suburban developments led to the creation of South Bay Street, Gate Street, and Sawdust Street, now known as Ashe Street.²¹

The growth and development of what would become the Town of Gaston was further sparked by a number of road improvements between 1930 and 1960. This included the straightening of N.C. Highways 48 and 46 south and east of the original crossroads in the late 1930s and early 1940s and the completion of the concrete bridge crossing the Roanoke River between 1957 and 1959.²² A 1925 soils map details older patterns of road networks through town (Figure 10, p. 22).²³ Additional impetus came with the completion of the Roanoke Lake and dam by the Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO) in 1955 and that of Lake Gaston and its dam

¹⁹ Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald 1915, 1921.

²⁰ Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald 1923.

²¹ NCPB 1:50, 69, 214.

²² Butchko 1998.

²³ United States Bureau of Chemistry and Soils 1925.

in 1963.²⁴ These advancements in transportation and technology had such a significant impact on the community that the Town of Gaston incorporated in 1949—the ninth and most recent locality to do so in Northampton County.²⁵ Boundaries established in this incorporation included the sprawling and haphazard arrangement of the town’s development at that time as well as surrounding farmland, leaving room for growth (Figure 11, p. 23).

Given its location, the Town of Gaston has more in common with neighboring Roanoke Rapids—“by far the largest city in Halifax County” with a population of 15,722 people in 1990—than other communities in Northampton County.²⁶ The residential architecture of Gaston pre-WWII shares many similarities with worker housing in Roanoke Rapids that has been preserved in the City’s historic district. A 1998 NRHP nomination for Roanoke Rapids identified three varieties of “one-story, gable-roofed, traditional houses... double-pile dwellings with a semi-engaged front porch” as well as two types of “one-story mill houses beneath front-gable roofs.”²⁷ As many of the land developers in Gaston had projects and financial interests in Roanoke Rapids, it is probable that the builders and banks working with prospective buyers were also dealing in similarities. House forms and styles throughout the Gaston Community constructed after WWII and up to the present day follow common national trends in design seen elsewhere in rural North Carolina and were likely constructed by local contractors from popular books.

Commercial and institutional architecture in Gaston followed a similar path, but was more economical in form and materials. Commercial architecture was particularly vernacular in design, while the Gaston School (NP1129) is one of the most elaborate and perhaps the only architect-designed structures in the community. Since the 1960s, new commercial construction has largely followed corporate design schemes while the amount of land dedicated to paved parking around these resources has also increased.

²⁴ Butchko 1998.

²⁵ Powell and Hill 2010.

²⁶ Butchko 1998.

²⁷ Butchko 1998.

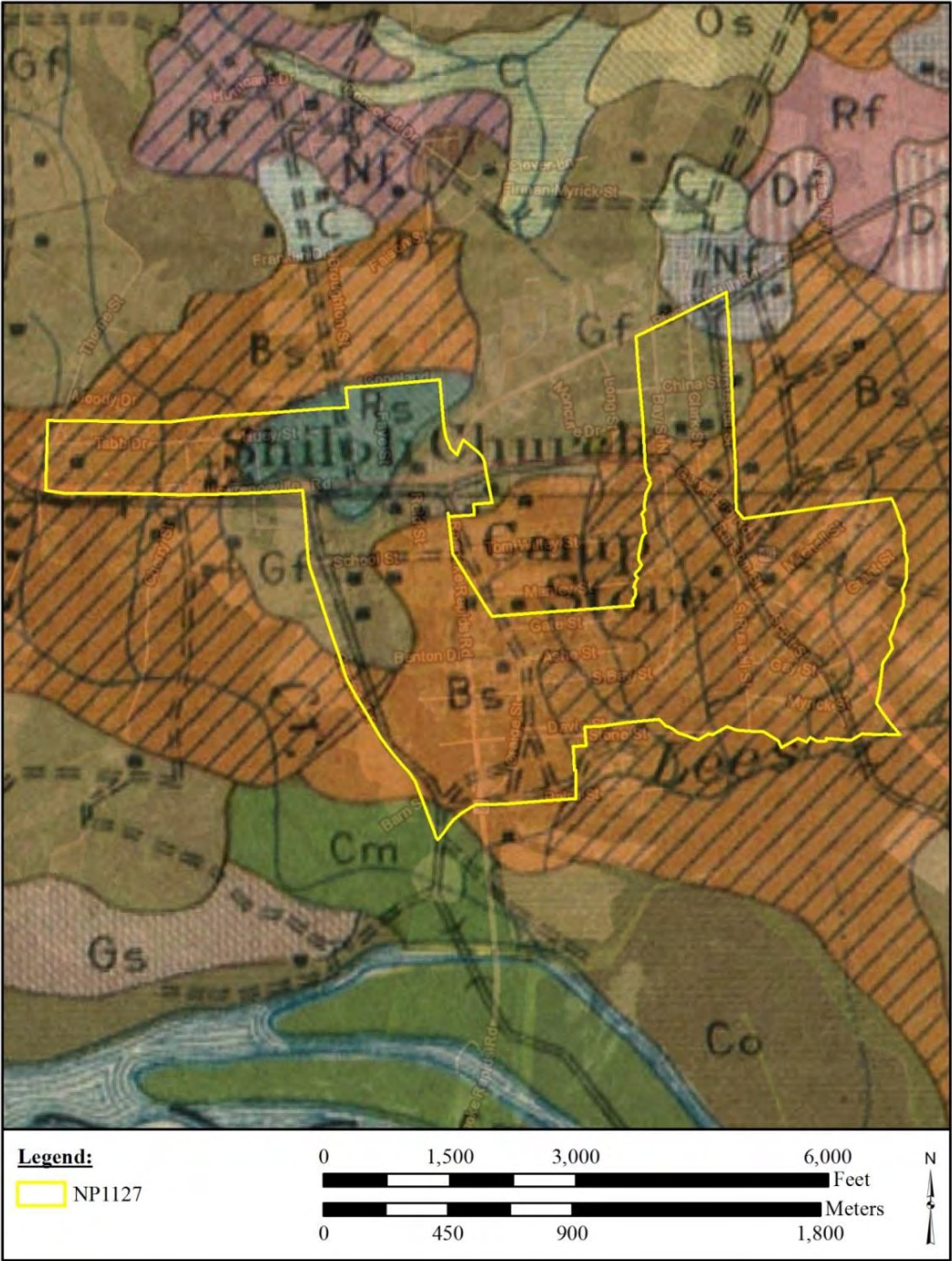


Figure 10: Detail of 1925 Soils Map Over Current Satellite Imagery with Gaston Community Boundary.²⁸

²⁸ Esri 2017; United States Bureau of Chemistry and Soils 1925.



Figure 11: Detail of Gaston in 1959 Aerial Photograph.²⁹ Image not to scale.

Evaluation

Today, the Town of Gaston continues to grow at its edges and redevelop land at its center around the crossroads of N.C. Highway 46 and 48. As defined by this study, the Gaston Community (NP1127) highlights what remains of the historic fabric in town across a number of small subdivisions created between 1923 and 1960. The Gaston Community is overwhelmingly residential in character, with more than a hundred houses clustered together on a series of narrow lots. Commercial, industrial, religious, and civic properties are also found

²⁹ United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) 1959a.

within the community, but at a much smaller scale than many of Northampton's other older towns.

The oldest architectural resources in the Gaston Community likely date from the 1920s and 1930s, while a majority was constructed post-WWII. A substantial amount of built features have emerged post-1960, many infilling vacant lots, but more recently, through the activity of demolishing older resources that have fallen into disrepair. Architectural forms and styles in the community are relatively common in rural areas across the state and the country, at large.

A 2010 comprehensive architectural survey of Northampton County did not identify any boundaries for a potential historic district in the Town of Gaston, but did result in districts in six other incorporated towns being added to the NC-HPO's study list per a review of NC-HPO forms.³⁰ The report resulting from this study further noted more than a dozen rural crossroads villages and small towns with historic character that emerged between 1900 and 1929, citing Jackson, Seaboard, Conway, Woodland, and Rich Square as all retaining "their street layouts, commercial districts, and residential areas that developed in the early-twentieth century..." as well as the "cultivated fields that surrounded the clusters of residential houses at the edges of town."³¹

The Gaston Community retains a high to moderate level of historic integrity in its location, as a number of its historic roadways and architectural resources remain extant, despite new highway construction in the latter half of the twentieth century. However, new commercial growth along the main highway corridors continues to erode the historic character of the community and negatively impacts its integrity of setting, design, feeling, and association. In the NC-HPO form completed for the Gaston Community following the 2010 investigation, surveyors noted: "Surrounding the commercial crossroads are large modern schools and small neighborhoods of modest houses, most dating from 1950 to present day."³² Furthermore, this resource has a relatively low level of integrity of materials and workmanship. Nearly all of the historic resources in the Gaston Community have been altered over time in a manner that diminishes their historic architectural character. Replacement windows, siding, and porch materials are the rule rather than the exception with many resources being currently vacant or in a ruinous state. In addition to the regular incidence of replacement materials, historic resources on most streets in Gaston are clustered in small numbers with the repetitive pattern interrupted by more recently constructed resources, including an abundance of pre-manufactured homes and mobile trailers in the past three decades.

In order for any resource to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, it must first retain sufficient historic integrity to convey any potential cultural significance. Although the Gaston Community is the only town in Northampton County to incorporate in the twentieth century, the patterns of development evidenced by its haphazard subdivisions can be seen elsewhere in the county and rural North Carolina, at large. Furthermore, these trends in suburbanization have not yet been found to be important at the level which merits NRHP inclusion. Therefore,

³⁰ Spanbauer 2010:82.

³¹ Ibid.

³²NC-HPO 2010a.

this resource is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A. At this time, the Gaston Community has no known associations with significant individuals who have made lasting contributions to area history and is also recommended not eligible under Criterion B. Continued growth in the community increasingly erodes much of its early-twentieth-century historic character, therefore, the Gaston Community is not believed to “represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.”³³ Therefore, this resource is also recommended not eligible under Criterion C.

For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered significant.³⁴ The Gaston Community is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology, nor of significant patterns of history or prehistory in the area. Therefore, it is recommended not eligible under Criterion D.

In sum, the Gaston Community is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under any criteria.

³³ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

³⁴ Ibid.

NP1133: Gaston Drive-In Theatre

Date of Construction: 1952–1953
Modifications: 1955; Post-1988

N.C. Highway 46
Gaston, Northampton County, North Carolina
PIN: 3090-74-8389
Eligibility Recommendation: Eligible; Criteria A



Architectural Description

The Gaston Drive-In Theatre is located on the north side of N.C. Highway 46 in the Town of Gaston, North Carolina. Situated just west of the intersection of N.C. Highway 46 and N.C. Highway 48, this resource sits on a 6.6-acre parcel and has not been in use as a theatre since the late 1980s (Figure 12, p. 27).³⁵ All that remains of the drive-in is the entrance sign, screen, and the poured-concrete foundation of the projector house (Figure 13, p. 28). An abandoned grassy roadbed leads north from N.C. Highway 46 to a point near the screen where it turned and led traffic east to park on the large grassy lot that remains undeveloped between the screen and Old Emporia Road. It is believed that cars exited the lot to the west, onto Old Emporia Road.

The primary resource of the Gaston Drive-In Theatre is the large metal screen that is estimated to be around 85 to 90 feet long and around three stories tall (Photo 22, p. 29). General access to the property was granted by the current owner, Harold Wray, whose family has owned the property since the late 1990s. Due to some overgrowth around the screen itself, close inspection of the screen's foundation was not possible, but each of the steel trestles supporting it appear to be set in poured-concrete footings. All three of these trestles are created from a series of welded steel beams that form a vertical truss (Photo 27, p. 31). The screen consists of long panels of corrugated metal positioned vertically and riveted to wide bands of steel stacked horizontally and welded to each the large trusses (Photo 24, p. 30). The extant screen was constructed shortly after its predecessor was destroyed by hurricane Hazel, a category-4 storm, in October 1954.³⁶

Other features of the Gaston Drive-In Theatre include the foundation of the projector house and a sign, or marquee, that likely dates from the mid-1950s. The foundation of the sign was not visible, but is clad in a textured brick veneer (Photo 25, p. 30). This veneer also covers its frame structural system and is topped by a flat metal roof that extends around the sign to create a large overhang. On top of the sign is a metal neon sign in the shape of an oval with two parts that read "GAS TON" on both the east and west elevations (Photo 26 and Photo 27, p. 31).

³⁵ NCGIS 2017.

³⁶ Harold Wray, personal communication 2017.

The drive-in theatre continued to serve Gaston-area residents until the early 1990s under the operation of several members of the Wilson family.³⁷ Historic aerial photographs indicate that the projector house was intact as late as 1994, while the parking rows remain visible from above today.³⁸ Currently, the property is uninhabited, largely cleared with some mature trees and shrubbery along the west boundary line and at the northwest corner.



Figure 12: Current Tax Parcel Containing the Gaston Drive-In Theatre (NP1133).³⁹

³⁷ Harold Wray, personal communication 2017.

³⁸ Nationwide Environmental Title Research, LLC (NETR) 1994.

³⁹ Esri 2017.

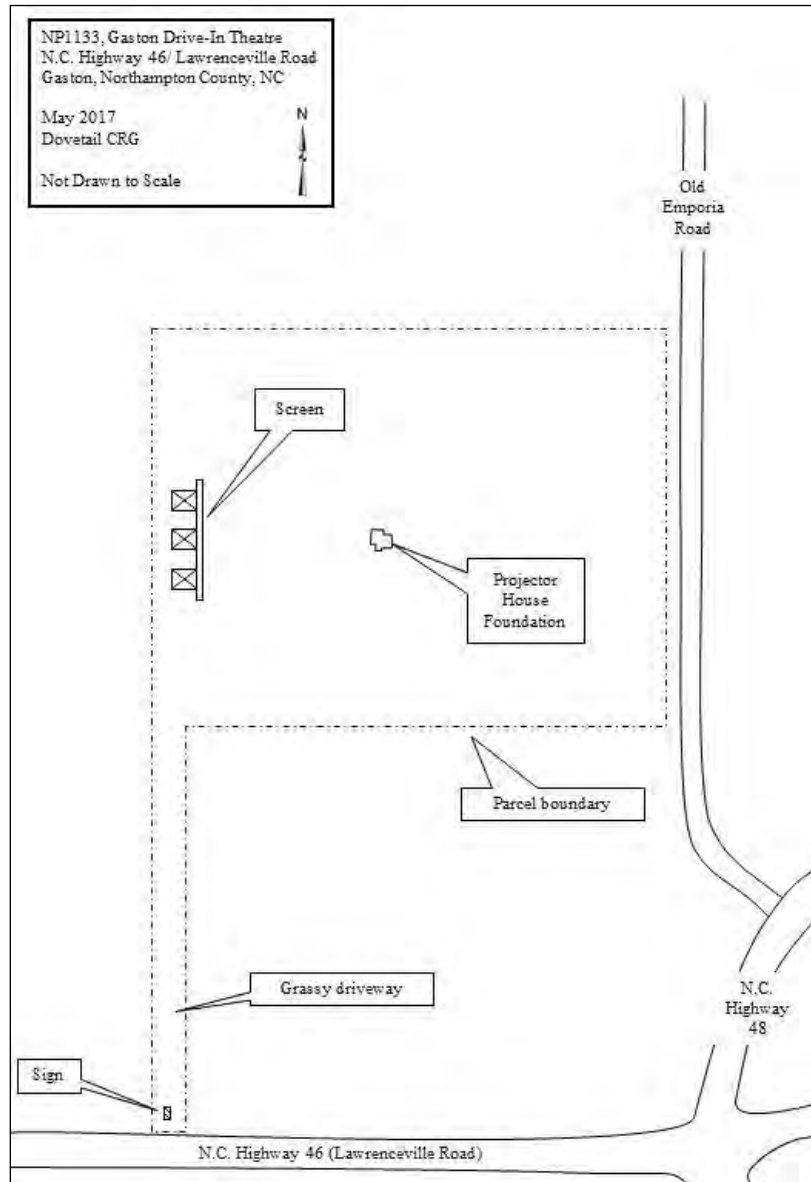


Figure 13: The Gaston Drive-In Theatre (NP1133) Site Plan.



Photo 22: View of Drive-In Screen, Looking South.



Photo 23: View of West Side of Screen, Looking South.



Photo 24: Detail of North Bottom Corner of Screen Showing Construction.



Photo 25: View of Projector House Foundation and Screen, Looking West.



Photo 26: Sign, Southwest Oblique.



Photo 27: Sign, Northeast Oblique.

Historic Context

The parcel on which the Gaston Drive-In Theatre is located contains 6.6 acres of land and was created precisely for this resource in June 1952 when it was carved from a tract known as the Fitzhugh farm by members of the Long family.⁴⁰ Shortly after the land was plotted, a deed was made in July that same year, transferring the land to a company known as Roanoke Amusements, Inc., based in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina.⁴¹ City directories from the town of Roanoke Rapids indicate that Roanoke Amusements, Inc. was one of at least two companies operating traditional movie theatres in that town on Roanoke Avenue as early as 1938.⁴²

By 1954, the Gaston Drive-In Theatre appeared as one of five such venues—three drive-ins and two classic movie theatres—listed in the area.⁴³ The three drive-ins identified at this time were the Fifth Street Drive-In on Bolling Road, the Starlite Drive-In on Weldon Road, and the Gaston Drive-In. In 1962, the number of theatres reported in Roanoke Rapids and its environs had decreased to three, including both the Gaston and Starlite Drive-ins.⁴⁴ The first drive-in theatre in the area was the Starlite. Constructed between 1949 and 1950, the Starlite Drive-In was built by Max Zager of Greensboro and located on land now occupied by Oakland Shopping Center.⁴⁵ It was closed sometime after 1962 and before development of the shopping center in the early 1970s.⁴⁶ The Fifth Street Drive-In appears to have gone out of business by 1958.⁴⁷ Only remnants of the Gaston Drive-In remain extant today though it operated continuously until 1986 when one of its original investors, Lyle Wilson, retired and the property was sold to Carmike Cinemas who closed the facility in January 1987.⁴⁸

A historic architectural resources survey conducted in 1999 by Richard L. Silverman intensively examined the Raleigh Road Outdoor Drive-In Theatre (VN0329) in Henderson, North Carolina, and the drive-in property type as a whole. As a distinct American creation, the drive-in theatre originated in the early 1930s after a man named Richard M. Hollingshead, Jr. experimented with the idea and later patented his concept in 1933.⁴⁹ Hollingshead built the first drive-in theatre in Camden, New Jersey, and formed a company that sold rights to investors for use of his drive-in design. This design included a driveway that led cars through a ticket collection booth to what Hollingshead called a “stallway” on series of radiating ramps in front of a large screen while a “screen house” sheltered equipment to project the film onto the screen. The features of this design has remained largely consistent since the 1930s, even after “the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the drive-in theatre was not a patentable idea” in 1949.⁵⁰

⁴⁰ NCPB 3:138.

⁴¹ Northampton County Deed Book (NCDB) 382:659.

⁴² Miller 1938:190

⁴³ Miller 1954:279.

⁴⁴ Miller 1962:319.

⁴⁵ Miller 1948:275; Miller 1950:291; Robinson 1997:225.

⁴⁶ Miller 1962:319; USGS 1974

⁴⁷ Miller 1958:305.

⁴⁸ Robinson, 1997:225.

⁴⁹ Silverman 1999:14.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

Some common alterations to the design of the drive-in as a property type emerged after more than a decade of use, made necessary by changing technologies and increased popularity. One such modification was to change the placement of the screen and ticket booth, positioning these features at a greater distance from the roadway to accommodate lines of automobiles waiting to enter the property.⁵¹ Another significant change in the design of drive-ins was a widening of the screens following technological improvements to the projection format of films known as Cinemascope in the 1950s, resulting in addition of wings on either side of older models.⁵² At this time, new screens were being constructed at an angle to minimize distortion of the film once projected at this larger scale. Another change in technology was the establishment of in-car speakers in the 1940s that improved sound quality and synchronization.⁵³ In the last decades of the twentieth century, many drive-ins began to use FM radio stations to broadcast the movie's sound.

Between 1945 and 1950, the number of drive-in theatres in America grew from 102 to roughly 1,700, with a boom in construction following the Supreme Court ruling that lasted until 1958.⁵⁴ Construction of the Gaston Drive-In began in 1952 and was completed in 1953 and opened for its first show on Easter Sunday at the cost of \$1 per car. In October 1954, Hurricane Hazel destroyed both the Gaston and Starlite drive-ins, each of which was rebuilt at the same location.⁵⁵ At the Gaston Drive-In, the extant screen is supported by three steel trestles—likely a design created as a result of this disaster to withstand severe storms.

Silverman's 1999 study of the Outdoor Drive-In Theatre in Henderson indicated that the growth and decline in the number of drive-in theatres in North Carolina mirrored that of the nation. "Between 1948 and 1954, the number of drive-in theatres in North Carolina increased from 66 to 206. In 1958, the number...peaked at 209 and then began a steep decline to only 23 by 1987. In 1999, there are approximately 12 drive-in theatres remaining in North Carolina."⁵⁶ At present, five drive-in theatres appear to be in operation throughout the state, one of which was constructed and opened in 2016.⁵⁷

A number of websites have attempted to catalog the number and location of the drive-in theatres that existed across the state, some of which contain historic and recent photographs of these properties. One such inventory, prepared by Mike Rivest of movie-theatre.org, identified nine drive-in theatres around Roanoke Rapids including in Halifax, Martin, and Northampton counties. These nine theatres were said to have been constructed between 1950 and 1961 with the Gaston Drive-In having been in service the longest and with the largest capacity at 340 cars.⁵⁸ No detailed historic images of the Gaston Drive-In while it was in operation were uncovered online or in local archives to detail its missing features, but historic aerial images

⁵¹ Silverman 1999:15.

⁵² Silverman 1999:16.

⁵³ Silverman 1999:15.

⁵⁴ Silverman 1999:14.

⁵⁵ Robinson 1997:225.

⁵⁶ Silverman 1999:16.

⁵⁷ Badin Road Drive-In in Albemarle; Sunset Drive-In in Shelby; Eden Drive-In in Eden; Hounds Drive-In in Kings Mountain; and the Raleigh Road Outdoor Theatre in Henderson.

⁵⁸ Rivest 2011:22.

illustrate its overall composition and setting in 1959 and 1974 (Figure 14). By 2010, satellite imagery indicates that the projection house, ticket booth, fencing, and driveways had been removed (Figure 15, p. 35).



Figure 14: Detail of 1959 Aerial Photograph of Gaston Drive-In at Top and 1974 Aerial Photograph at Bottom.⁵⁹ Images not to scale.

⁵⁹ USDA 1959a, 1974a.



Figure 15: Detail of 2010 Satellite Imagery Showing Gaston Drive-In.⁶⁰
Image not to scale.

Evaluation

Construction of the Gaston Drive-In Theatre was approved by the Roanoke Amusements, Inc. directors in June 1952 and completed by the spring of 1953.⁶¹ Today, the property consists of a large metal screen, a sign or marquee, and remnants of the foundation of a projector house. Land within the 6.6-acre parcel is regularly mowed with some mature trees and overgrowth

⁶⁰ USDA 2010.

⁶¹ Robinson 1997:225.

around the base of the screen. The marquee has deteriorated as parts of its wooden sign and brick veneer are missing.

The Gaston Drive-In Theatre is believed to have been the second such venue established in Northampton County, although the company behind its creation had been in the business of operating movie theatres for more than a decade prior to its inception. It was also the longest-running drive-in theatre in the county. Lyle M. Wilson, Secretary of Roanoke Amusements, Inc. and General Amusements, Inc., oversaw the Gaston Drive-In from 1952 until his retirement in 1986, shortly after which it was permanently closed.

As an American property type with its peak of its popularity from 1949 until 1958, construction of the Gaston Drive-In Theatre was somewhat ahead of the curve in 1952–1953.⁶² In addition to the Gaston Drive-In Theatre, seven other such properties in the state have been recorded in NC-HPO survey files: Badin Drive-In Theatre (ST049), Bel Air Drive-In Theatre (FY3269), Broadway-North Drive-In Theatre (LR0806), Cairo Drive-In Theatre (WA7829), Raleigh Road Outdoor Drive-In Theatre (VN0329), Sunset Drive-In Theatre (CL0140), and the Twilight Drive-In Theatre (MT1035). The circa-1950 Cairo Drive-In has since been demolished, while the Broadway-North Drive-In is completely overgrown and no longer visible in aerial imagery. The Twilight Drive-In in Martin County has been modified to serve as mini-storage, with just the screen extant.

The Sunset Drive-In Theatre (CL0140) was placed on the Study List in 1998 and is still in operation today (Photo 28 and Photo 29, p. 37). According to the NC-HPO survey file, the circa-1949 Bel Air Drive-In Theatre in Walkerton closed in the 1990s, but was determined eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A by NC-HPO staff in 2013. The Raleigh Road Outdoor Drive-In Theatres is still in operation and was determined eligible for NRHP listing by NC-HPO staff under Criteria A and C in 2005 (Photo 30, p. 38). All three of these drive-in properties contained a moderate level of historic integrity with extant ticket booths, projection houses, screens, and distinct driveways with rows for parking.

Given their size, the most visible and lasting feature of a drive-in theatre appears to be the screen structure itself. In addition to the eight drive-ins recorded with the NC-HPO, another seven examples were examined during this investigation, a majority of which feature screens made of corrugated metal sheeting attached to a framework of wooden boards supported by a series of braced, wooden, telephone poles (n=12) (Photo 31, p. 38).⁶³ The design of the screen, using steel trestles instead of a wooden truss, is atypical for drive-ins constructed in this time period in the state. The Sunset Drive-In (CL0140) screen is supported by a framework of steel piping, but this appears to be a more recent modification to the structure. A few images of a Rocky Mount Drive-In, historically known as the Tower Theatre, taken in 1995 and 2008 during its dismantling for salvage, reveal a similar construction to the screen at Gaston (Figure

⁶² Silverman 1999:15–16.

⁶³ Eden Drive-In, Fireman Club Road, Eden; Belmont Drive-In, McAdenville Road, Belmont; Bessemer City Drive-In, Highway 161, Bessemer City; Starlite Drive-In, East Club Boulevard, Durham; Bright Leaf Drive-In, N. Andy Griffith Parkway, Mount Airy; Tower Drive-In, East Raleigh Road, Rocky Mount; Waynesville Drive-In, Asheville Road, Waynesville.

16, p. 39).⁶⁴ All built features of the Tower Drive-In, located at the intersection of Raleigh Road and Meadowbrook Road, have been removed and the lot is overgrown with mature trees and other vegetation.



Photo 28: View of Sunset Drive-In (CL0140) Ticket Collection Booth, Shelby, North Carolina.



Photo 29: View of Sunset Drive-In (CL0140) Projection Booth, Parking Area, Speaker Stands, and Screen, Shelby, North Carolina.

⁶⁴ Drive-ins.com 2017.



Photo 30: View of Raleigh Road Outdoor Drive-In Theatre (VN0329) Screen, Marquee, and Ticket Booth, Henderson, North Carolina.



Photo 31: View of Screen and Ticket Booth at Belmont Drive-In Theatre, McAdenville Road, Belmont, North Carolina. Screen displays pole-type construction exhibited by a majority of drive-in screens throughout the state.



Figure 16: At Left, “Back of screen,” 1995 Photograph Submitted by Rick Hasley, Tower Drive-In Theatre, Rocky Mount, North Carolina.⁶⁵ At right, detail of Gaston Drive-In Theatre trellis.

The Gaston Drive-In Theatre is one of less than two dozen surviving mid-twentieth-century drive-ins in the state and the only extant example in Northampton County and the Roanoke Rapids vicinity. As a property type, drive-in theatres reflect the rise of America’s commercial architecture designed for and around the automobile in a time when recreational activities like going to the movies was popular across the country. As such, this resource embodies an important trend that impacted the commercial and physical development of a number of rural communities across the state, including the Town of Gaston.

The Gaston Drive-In Theatre is a local example of an important trend in American pop culture that had a significant impact on the rural landscape during the mid-twentieth century. Taken in context of the state’s remaining drive-ins, the property retains a moderate level of historic integrity. Although it has lost a number of its design features, including the ticket booth, projection house, fencing, speakers, driveways, and parking areas, the property retains its original location, iconic screen, marquee, and general design layout. Although the screen and sign are in fair to poor condition, character-defining features are still discernable. The screen and sign retain integrity of feeling and association for this resource. Though its setting has changed over time with a number of commercial resources have been constructed in viewshed,

⁶⁵ Drive-ins.com 2017.

the general character of the area around the property remains rural. For these reasons, the Gaston Drive-In Theatre is recommended to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A at the local level.

For a resource to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion B, it must be associated with an important individual within a specific historic context or they must be considered significant within their profession or group.⁶⁶ While the developers of this property were involved in the operation of a number of theatres in the area, these individuals are not known to have made lasting significant contributions to its history or to theatre business practices in the region. Therefore, the resource is recommended not eligible for the listing under Criterion B.

In order to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C, a resource must retain history integrity reflecting distinct characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or be the work of a master, possessing high artistic value. As the integrity of materials, workmanship, and design of this resource have been diminished by the loss of the ticket booth, projector house, and driveways, this property is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C.

According to the NPS, a property must meet two requirements in order to be eligible under Criterion D. The property but likely to contribute historic or prehistoric information and the information must be considered significant.⁶⁷ The Gaston Drive-In Theatre is not likely to yield new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology or outdoor theatre operations and is, therefore, recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D.

In sum, the Gaston Drive-In Theatre is **recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A for its association with the development of this American property type at the local level.** A recommended period of significance for this resource is based on the construction of its extant built features (1952–1954). The NRHP boundaries for the property as determined during the current investigations conform to the existing tax parcel. The boundary follows a 40-foot-wide stretch of land extending north from N.C. Highway 46 roughly 440 feet, then turning east and running 560 feet to the existing right-of-way along Old Emporia Road. It then follows this right-of-way north another 450 feet before turning west and running 600 feet and then turning south for 880 feet to the edge of N.C. Highway 46 (Figure 17, p. 41). The boundaries include the original path of the driveway, sign, screen, and foundation of the projection house, all of which contribute to the property’s eligibility.

⁶⁶ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

⁶⁷ Ibid.



Figure 17: Proposed NRHP Boundaries of the Gaston Drive-In Theatre (NP1133) as Shown in Red.⁶⁸

⁶⁸ Esri 2017.

NP1132: Gaston Hardware Store

Date of Construction: Circa 1948
Modifications: 1980s, 1995

206 Lawrenceville Road (N.C. Highway 46)
Gaston, Northampton County, North Carolina
PIN: 3090-73-7556
Eligibility Recommendation: Not Eligible



Architectural Description

The Gaston Hardware Store at 206 Lawrenceville Road is located approximately 500 feet west of the intersection of N.C. Highway 46 and N.C. Highway 48 in the Town of Gaston, North Carolina. The resource currently stretches across three parcels of land totaling roughly 1.15 acres on the south side of N.C. Highway 46. The Gaston Hardware Store faces north and is separated from the highway by a paved parking lot (Figure 18, p. 44). Along the west side of the resource is a graveled driveway that extends south from N.C. Highway 46 to the southwest corner of the building. Land to the east of this resource is occupied by a circa-1940 single-family dwelling surrounded by a grassy manicured yard.

The Gaston Hardware Store appears to have been constructed in three primary phases. Originally, this resource was a one-story, two-bay, one-part, commercial block constructed sometime in the late 1940s.⁶⁹ After the property was purchased by Walter and Harold Wray in the mid-1980s, a large rear addition was made to the southern end of the building. Shortly afterwards, circa 1995, a one-story masonry addition was made to extend along the east elevation of the original store, more than doubling its initial size (Photo 32–Photo 34, pp. 43–45).⁷⁰

The original section of this resource rests on a continuous foundation that was not visible at the time of survey, but is likely concrete. The masonry walls of the original structure are clad in a stretcher-bonded brick veneer and topped by a low-pitched shed roof surrounded by a stepped parapet wall currently clad in a metal coping. A small brick flue was observed in the center of the west elevation.

Stretching across the façade or north elevation is a standing-seam, copper, shed roof with wooden soffit and fascia that shelters the main entrance to the building. The original portion of the building is divided into two distinct bays by three brick columns, each topped by a flat, pre-cast, concrete coping. Two sets of contemporary, double-leaf, full-length, fixed-glass, metal-framed doors mark the façade and currently provide access to the interior of the resource. These storefront doors are flanked by modern, fixed, metal-framed, display windows filled by float glass. All doors and windows at the façade, as well as the brick bulkhead that supports them, date from the circa-1995 renovation of the building (Photo 35, p. 45). A secondary

⁶⁹ Northampton County Tax Records (NCTR) n.d.; Harold Wray, personal communication 2017.

⁷⁰ Harold Wray, personal communication 2017.

entrance, filled by another set of modern, double-leaf, full-length, glass-and-metal doors is located at the southwest corner of the original portion of the building. This secondary entrance also dates from the 1995 renovation and is accessed via a poured-concrete ramp designed for loading and unloading merchandise.

A large, one-story, frame addition extends across the rear or south elevation of the original portion of the building.⁷¹ It rests on a poured-concrete foundation and has vinyl-clad frame walls topped by a low-pitched gabled roof with pre-manufactured wooden trusses. This addition is marked by a series of garage bays filled with overhead doors on the west elevation (Photo 36, p. 46). A second sizable addition was made to the east side of the building circa 1995 that nearly doubled its size. This addition rests on a poured-concrete slab foundation and has concrete-block walls covered by a brick veneer at the façade. Fenestration is limited to the storefront windows and doors at the façade, and a garage bay and single-leaf door at the south end of the east elevation.

A detached loading dock is situated near the northwest corner of the building and was likely constructed in the late 1980s (Photo 37, p. 46). The dock rests on a continuous concrete block and is topped with a poured slab of concrete. A frame shelving unit is situated between this dock and original store building and holds a number of pipes and long wooden dowels that are for sale.



Photo 32: Gaston Hardware Store, North Elevation.

⁷¹ Harold Wray, personal communication 2017.

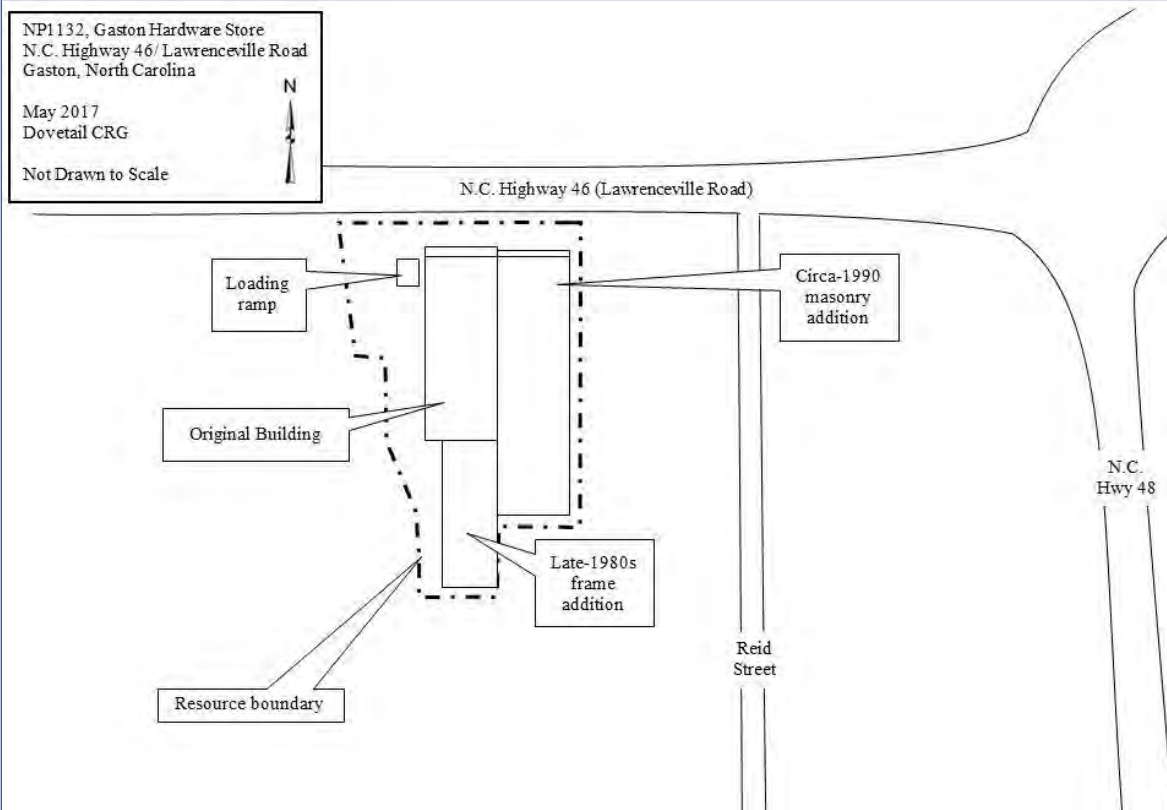


Figure 18: Gaston Hardware Store (NP1132) Site Plan.



Photo 33: Gaston Hardware Store, Northwest Oblique.



Photo 34: East Elevation of Store Showing Circa-1990 Addition Taken from Reid Street.



Photo 35: Detail of Storefront Windows at Gaston Hardware Store, Looking East.



Photo 36: View of West Elevation of Circa-1980s Frame Addition to Gaston Hardware Store.



Photo 37: View of Loading Dock and Frame Shelving Unit, Looking Southeast.

Inside, the original section of the store primarily consists of one large rectangular room with metal posts regularly spaced across the center to support the span above (Photo 38; Photo 39,

p. 48). Near the center of the south wall of the store, a single-leaf wood door opens into small storage area off which a small bathroom, a closet, and framed storage area are situated. The doors and associated hardware in this section of the building appear to be original. This small service and storage area does not open into the larger, 1980s frame addition that extends from the south elevation of the original building. Circa 1995, a steel I-beam was inserted into the north end of the east wall of the original building to make space for a large opening into a new concrete-block addition. This modification more than doubled the floor space within the store and consists of one large open space with no interior divisions.

Hardwood floors are found in the original section of the store, while poured-concrete floors were observed in the storage area and both later additions. A portion of the original plaster attached directly to the brick is seen at the northwest corner of the building, but a majority of the walls in the oldest section are currently covered in wooden pegboard or drywall. A dropped ceiling has been inserted into the original and circa-1995 addition in the store, while the 1980s addition remains open to the rafters.



Photo 38: Image of Harold Wray, Proprietor, Behind the Checkout Counter.



Photo 39: Interior of Original Building Looking South from Main Entry at Facade.

Historic Context

The original section of the Gaston Hardware Store is believed to have been constructed in the late-1940s for Joseph Otis (J. O.) Baird as a grocery store.⁷² Located on Lot #1 of the RRREC's subdivision of the "Zollicoffer Tract," Mr. Baird seems to have resided in the vicinity of Garysburg at the time he purchased this property in December 1934 (Figure 19, p. 50).⁷³ This lot is not specifically referenced on local tax records for J. O. Baird, but did note one lot of land valued at \$67 along with other land holdings in Garysburg in 1935.⁷⁴ The 1940 Census identified J. O. Baird as a 40-year-old white male working as a contractor and owning his home in Gaston Township, but did not detail the road on which he resided, while his 1942 WWII draft registration card reported a Garysburg address.⁷⁵ This suggests that he purchased the lot as an investment and did not operate the store himself. Baird does not appear to pay taxes on this property until 1955, when "Lot #1, Block A, Zollicoffer" is valued at \$5,805.⁷⁶

⁷²Harold Wray, personal communication 2017; NCTR n.d.

⁷³ NCDB 268:35; NCTR n.d.

⁷⁴ NCTR 1935.

⁷⁵ National Archives and Records Administration n.d.; United States Federal Population Census (U.S. Census) 1940.

⁷⁶ NCTR 1955.

This same year, he is also assessed taxes for Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and part of Tract B of the Zollicoffer tract—none of which are valued as high as Lot 1.⁷⁷

In June 1962, J. O. Baird sold the lot and “also all of the store equipment, furnishings, supplies, and merchandise now located in the building...” thereon to Joseph and Nancy Hobbs.⁷⁸ Joseph Hobbs owned and operated a grocery store in this location until it was purchased at public auction by current owner, Harold Wray, his wife, Shirley, and his father and mother, Walter and Peggy Wray.⁷⁹ Prior to moving his hardware business to this location, Wray operated out of the circa 1960s commercial building now in use by the NC Glass Company at 116 Roanoke Rapids Road.⁸⁰ Shortly after purchasing the property of study, Mr. Wray moved his hardware store to this location and made a number of improvements to the structure to better suit its operation. These alterations led to the building’s expansion and purchase of neighboring Lots #2 and 3 in 1990⁸¹.

The Town of Gaston, historically known as Camp’s Store, grew around the intersection of several important area roadways. Few pre-WWII commercial buildings remain standing there, however, more than a dozen modest stores along the town’s main transportation corridors appear to date from the decades following the war’s end, emerging around the same time that the Town of Gaston incorporated in 1949.⁸² Identified in Rebecca O. Spanbauer’s *Comprehensive Architectural Survey of Northampton County*, modest postwar commercial buildings appeared in many of the county’s rural communities, often one-story in size and featuring streamlined parapet roofs, concrete-block structural systems, plate-glass storefronts, and brick-veneered facades with minimal ornament.⁸³

As Richard Longstreth notes in his book, *The Buildings of Main Street*, the one-part commercial block form “is a simple box with a decorated façade and thoroughly urban in its overtones.”⁸⁴ The facades of these buildings “have few if any historical references. Particularly with retail stores, the configuration permits little embellishment except near the roofline.”⁸⁵ Ornament at the Gaston Hardware Store appears to have been largely limited to the façade where a pent roof, now clad in standing-seam copper, also acts as a cornice. The size and form of this feature suggests that it may have originally been clad in terra-cotta tiles—a stylistic influence of the Spanish Mission variety of the Colonial Revival style in commercial settings; however, no images were uncovered to detail the previous cladding of this feature.

⁷⁷ NCTR 1955.

⁷⁸ NCDB 474:234.

⁷⁹ NCDB 622:595; Harold Wray, personal communication 2017.

⁸⁰ NCGIS 2017; Harold Wray, personal communication 2017.

⁸¹ NCDB 875:416.

⁸² Powell and Hill 2010:200.

⁸³ Spanbauer 2010:117.

⁸⁴ Longstreth 2000:54.

⁸⁵ Longstreth 2000:62.

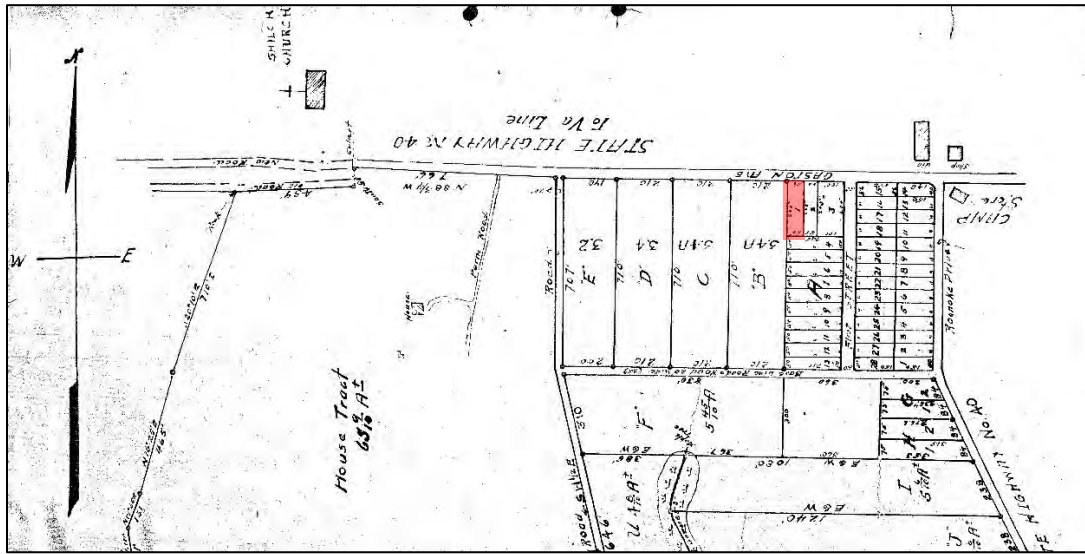


Figure 19: Detail of 1923 “Map Showing Subdivision of Land for Roanoke Rapids Real Estate Company” With Lot #1 Highlighted in Red.⁸⁶ Image not to scale.

Evaluation

The Gaston Hardware Store is a one-story, one-part, masonry commercial building constructed circa 1948 with minimal styling. Both the form and style of this building are relatively common throughout the country, region, and in Northampton County. The store was built by contractor, J.O. Baird, and operated as a grocery store in the 1950s and up to the early 1980s by local grocer, Joseph B. Hobbs.⁸⁷ In addition to this property, J. O. Baird was responsible for the development, and likely construction, of several residential areas in Gaston during mid-twentieth century, including a number of houses and lots on either side of Baird Street at the southern end of town.⁸⁸

The Gaston Hardware Store retains a relatively high level of historic integrity of location and setting, having not been moved and continuing to be surrounded by mid-century resources on the south side of Lawrenceville Road on one of the original Roanoke Rapids Real Estate Company subdivision lots. Given recent modifications to suit its new function as a hardware store, including replacement storefront windows and doors along with several additions, this resource has a moderate level of historic integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

In a 2010 comprehensive survey of Northampton County, several examples of commercial buildings from the post-war period were identified as good examples from the time period of 1929 to 1970. This included the Motzno’s Department Store (NP0866) in Woodland and the

⁸⁶ NCPB 1:118

⁸⁷ Harold Wray, personal communication 2017.

⁸⁸ NCPB 2:6.

paired commercial buildings at 105–107 West Main Street in Conway (NP0758).⁸⁹ Looking at similar resources in the Town of Gaston, an estimated 13 commercial buildings constructed between 1945 and 1960 remain extant today. A few of these resources possess architectural features akin to those of the Gaston Hardware Store, including the pent roof and pre-cast-stone-capped brick columns seen in the small commercial building at 310 Lawrenceville Road (Photo 40). A pent roof lines the façade of another commercial building, currently operating as an ABC store at 107 Garysburg Road (N.C. Highway 46) (Photo 41). The pent roof in both of these examples has been re-clad in asphalt shingles, while their storefronts have been somewhat modified, but not entirely replaced.

The most intact commercial building from this period in the town is likely the circa-1955, Modern resource at 105 Garysburg Road (Photo 42, p. 52). This building contains two separate businesses, but retains original angled storefronts with aluminum-framed windows and a brick-veneered façade with a decorative recessed panel at the cornice (Photo 43, p. 52).



Photo 40: Store at 310 Lawrenceville Road (N.C. Highway 46), Northeast Oblique.

⁸⁹ Spanbauer 2010:117.



Photo 41: Store at 107 Garysburg Road (N.C. Highway 46), Northeast Oblique.



Photo 42: 105 Garysburg Road (N.C. Highway 46), Northeast Oblique.



Photo 43: Detail of Façade, 105 Garysburg Road (N.C. Highway 46).

In order for a resource to be considered eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, “a property can be associated with either (or both) of two types of events: [...] a specific event marking an important moment in American prehistory or history [or] a pattern of events or a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a State, or the nation.”⁹⁰ However, “mere association with historic events or trends is not enough, in and of itself, to qualify under Criterion A: the property’s specific association must be considered important as well.”⁹¹ The resource of study operated as a grocery store in the Town of Gaston for a little more than 30 years and was replaced by a larger store in the mid- to late-1980s, now located about a block away on Roanoke Rapids Road. No significant events are known to have taken place in this building and its historic function is commonplace throughout rural communities in the state and not of particular importance to shaping commerce in the Town of Gaston. For these reasons, this resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

The known builders, owners, and merchants historically associated with the Gaston Hardware Store are not known to have attained historic significance at the state or local level for important events or accomplishments in their respective fields. Therefore, they do not meet the requirements for Criterion B which requires association with a person who is “individually significant within a historic context” and has “gained importance within his or her profession or group.”⁹² Harold Wray has played a large role in the development of the Town of Gaston and Northampton County, at large, having served as a town commissioner in the 1960s and on the County Zoning Board for a decade. Although his family business began as sheet metal and roofing, Wray erected a number of residential, commercial, and industrial buildings in the area, including his own residence at 308 Craige Street. Wray’s Sheet Metal LLC currently uses the resource at 417 Lawrenceville Road (N.C. Highway 46). As Mr. Wray and his family business do not have a historical association with the study property, purchasing it in 1983, this resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

Eligibility for Criterion C encompasses buildings, structures, sites, and objects that 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.⁹³ The Gaston Hardware Store is typical of commercial buildings constructed in the mid-twentieth century. Furthermore, several additions and modifications have been made to the building as it has changed over time, somewhat diminishing the historic integrity of this resource. For these reasons, this property is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.

For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered significant.⁹⁴ The Gaston Hardware Store

⁹⁰ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Shrimpton et al. 1990.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology, nor of significant patterns of history in the area. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible under Criterion D.

In sum, the Gaston Hardware Store **is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under any criteria.**

NP1129: Cool Spring Baptist Church

Date of Construction: 1945–1953
Modifications: ca. 1970, ca. 1985, late 1990s.

120 Cherry Street
Gaston, Northampton County, North Carolina
PIN: 3090-53-1075, 3090-52-5790;
3090-52-3883; 3080-96-0620

Eligibility Recommendation: Not Eligible



Architectural Description

The Cool Spring Baptist Church (also referred to as the Cool Spring Missionary Baptist Church) at 120 Cherry Street is situated on the south side of N.C. Highway 46 within the boundaries of the Town of Gaston, North Carolina. The resource comprises four separate parcels that, together, total 21.86 acres (Figure 20–Figure 23, pp. 56–59). Densely wooded areas line the western and southern edges of the resource, while the northwestern section is a cleared, grassy field. Immediately south of N.C. Highway 46 is a circa-2016 community center and a pre-2008 sign situated west and east of Cherry Street, respectively. Cherry Street is a paved asphalt one-lane road that spans southward from N.C. Highway 46 to the church parking lots. The church itself is surrounded on all sides by an asphalt parking lots and small patches of manicured grass; poured-concrete walkways connect the building to the parking lots. The area immediately surrounding the resource on the east, west, and south remains largely undeveloped and the lots are composed of dense woods and small- to medium-sized agricultural fields. The area north of N.C. Highway 46 has been subdivided into smaller lots and development with single-family dwellings to the second, third, and fourth quarters of the twentieth century. Associated with this church is the Cool Spring Baptist Church Cemetery located nearly 2 miles north of N.C. Highway 46 (PIN 3080-96-0620).

The original core of the current Cool Spring Baptist Church building is a one-story building constructed between 1945 and 1953.⁹⁵ The brick foundation and structural system are laid in an irregular pattern: one row of Flemish bond to five rows of stretcher bond. Although rectangular in shape, the building features two front-gabled projections: one on the southern end of the east elevation and one on the southern end of the west elevation (Photo 44, p. 60). Variances in the brick color and smoothness of the mortar within the gable of these projections suggest that there has been some brick replacement since the building was first constructed. Near the center of both the east and west elevations is a singular, slender brick buttress with a concrete cap. Asphalt shingles cover the moderately pitched, front-gabled roof that is lined with narrow eaves. Two interior brick chimneys pierce the original core's roof: one near south elevation of the western projection and the second at the east elevation near the southeast corner.

⁹⁵Date of construction is noted on a date stone.



Figure 20: Location and Parcel Boundaries of the Cool Spring Baptist Church (NP1129).⁹⁶
The church parcel is located to the east and the cemetery parcel is located to the west.

⁹⁶ Esri 2017.

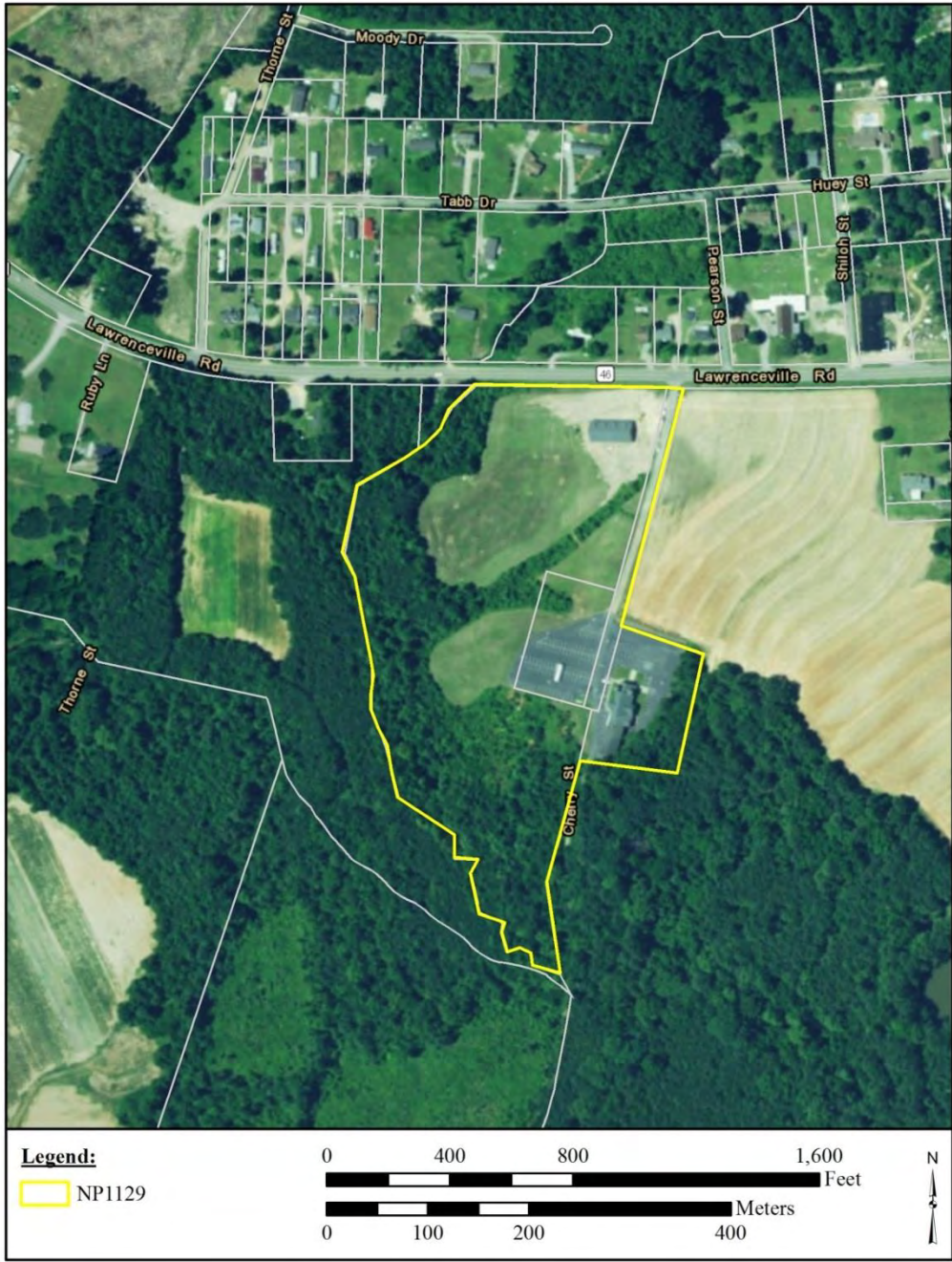


Figure 21: Location and Parcel Boundaries of the Cool Spring Baptist Church (NP1129).⁹⁷
This map depicts the parcel that contains the church, parking lots, community center,
and sign.

⁹⁷ Esri 2017.

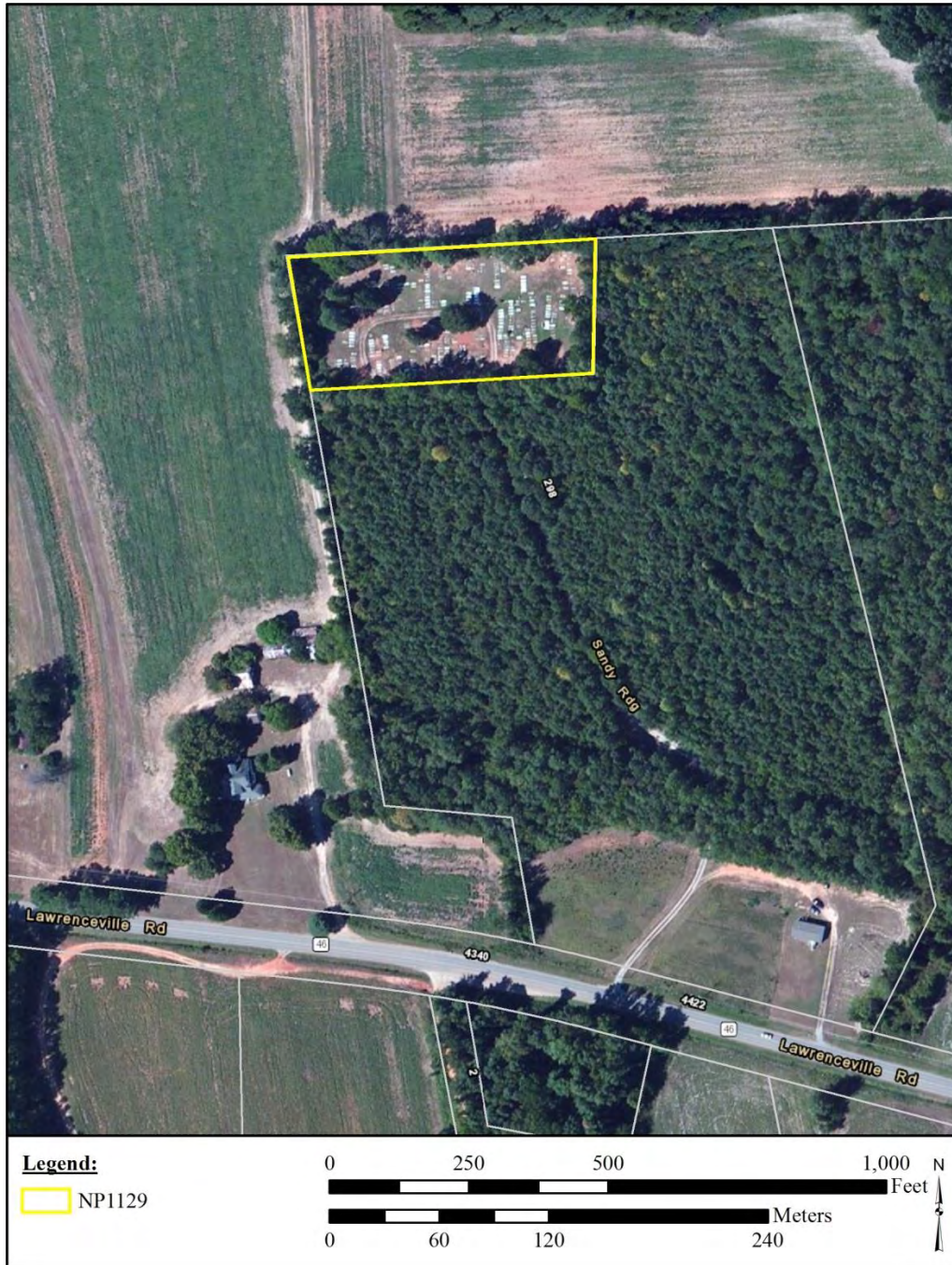


Figure 22: Location and Parcel Boundaries of the Cool Spring Baptist Church (NP1129).⁹⁸
This map depicts the parcel that contains the cemetery only.

⁹⁸ Esri 2017.

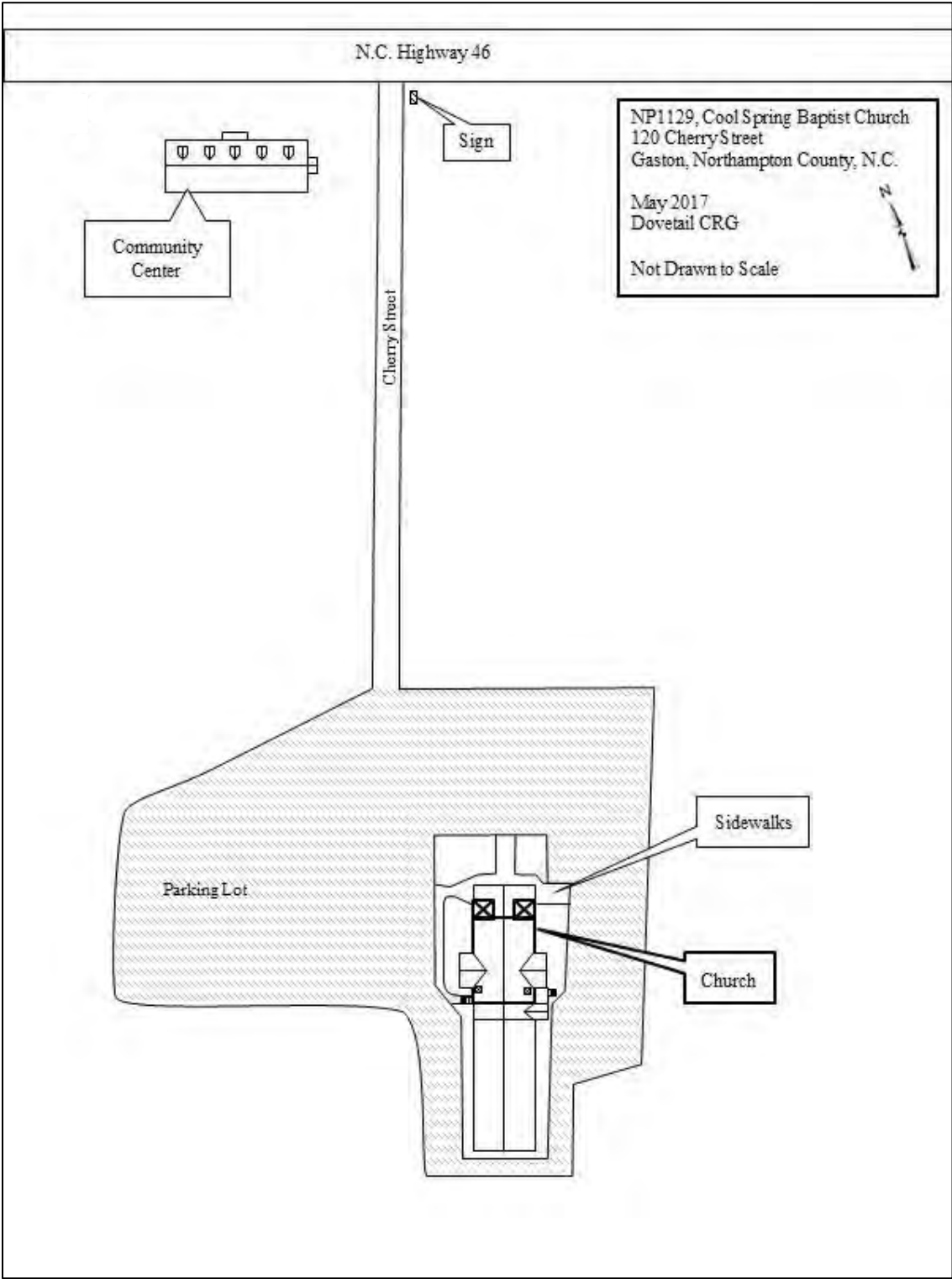


Figure 23: Site Plan of the Cool Spring Baptist Church (NP1129) Showing only the Parcel that contains the Church, Parking Lots, Community Center, and Sign.



Photo 44: Northeast Oblique of the Cool Spring Baptist Church.

Two robust, square, asymmetrical, brick towers stand at the primary (north) elevation: one at the northeast corner and the other at the northwest corner. Each tower is capped by a low-pitched, pyramidal roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. Originally, these two towers each contained an entrance and inset cross on the north elevation, short brick buttresses at the northwest and northeast corners, and pentagon-shaped vents (Photo 45 and Photo 46, p. 61). In the late 1990s, the front of the building underwent a major renovation and included the construction of a large front-gabled narthex and modifications to the towers.⁹⁹ It appears that a brick, stretcher-bond veneer was applied to each tower, the pentagon-shaped vents were replaced with square metal ones, the brick buttresses were removed, and the lancet window on the eastern tower was removed and filled in with brick.¹⁰⁰ The original entrances on the towers were also bricked over and replaced with a double-leaf, metal-framed door centered on the north elevation of the late-1990s narthex addition. This front-gabled narthex addition spans the full width of the original core's north elevation and is clad in a brick veneer laid in the stretcher bond.¹⁰¹

⁹⁹ Cool Spring Missionary Baptist Church n.d.; Google 1994, 1998, 1999, 2003.

¹⁰⁰ Cool Spring Missionary Baptist Church n.d.

¹⁰¹ Google 1994, 1998, 2003.



Photo 45: Northeast Oblique of the Cool Spring Baptist Church before the Late-1990s Narthex Addition.¹⁰²



Photo 46: Cool Spring Baptist Church, Northwest Oblique.

¹⁰² Cool Spring Missionary Baptist Church n.d.

Spanning the north elevation of the narthex addition is a recessed entry porch set on a poured-concrete foundation lined with a brick arcade comprising three arches on the north elevation and an additional arch on both the east and west elevations (Photo 47). While there is a brick step on the north and west elevations, at the eastern arch is a handicap accessible concrete ramp. On this addition just west of the primary entrance is a date stone, a trend that first emerged in Jim Crow-era churches,¹⁰³ that reads: “Cool Spring Baptist Church Est. by Rev. W.H. Shaw – 1872. Rebuilt 1945–1953 Under Pastorial ADMRN of Rev. F.L. Bullock, D.D.” (Photo 48).



Photo 47: North Elevation Showing the Late 1990s Narthex, Brick Arcade, Recessed Entryway, and Tower Modifications.



Photo 48: Date Stone Located on the North Elevation of the Narthex Addition.

¹⁰³ Center for Historic Preservation Middle Tennessee State University (CHP) 2000: 37.

There is one secondary entrance on the original core of the church building; located on the west elevation near the southwest corner is a single-leaf metal door accessed by a set of brick stairs lined with metal railings and set below a metal awning (Photo 49). Another secondary entrance is located on the east elevation of a build-out that likely occurred when the church underwent a variety of updates and modifications in the late 1990s (Photo 49). Windows on the original core include lancet windows within brick surrounds with concrete sills and concrete keystones at the apexes (Photo 50). Metal frames hold the painted glass that mimic stained-glass. While most of the lancet windows are singular, the wings feature a grouping of three—including two smaller windows that flank a larger central one all set above a concrete sill (Photo 51, p. 64).



Photo 49: Secondary Entrances on the East (Left) and West (Right) Elevations.



Photo 50: Windows on the Original Core (East Elevation) and the Filled-in Window on the Tower.



Photo 51: Window on the Eastern Front-Gabled Wing.

Around 1970, the congregation constructed a two-story, gabled addition to the south elevation (Figure 24, p. 65).¹⁰⁴ Clad in a brick veneer, this addition features single two-over-two, double-hung sash, wood-framed windows with horizontal muntins and a single-leaf door (Photo 52, p. 65). A metal awning just above the first-story fenestration spans the west elevation of this section of the building and extends over the first bay of a later addition (described below).

A circa-1985, rectangular addition extends from the south elevation of the previously mentioned circa-1970 addition.¹⁰⁵ A brick veneer laid in a stretcher bond covers the structural system, likely concrete block, which is capped by a moderately pitched, gabled roof sheathed in asphalt shingles (Photo 52, p. 65). Like the circa-1970 addition, window openings are filled with wood-frame, two-over-two, double-hung sashes with horizontal muntins. A double-leaf door set below a metal awning (previously mentioned) is situated on the northernmost bay of the west elevation. Three single-leaf doors (two on the first story and one on the second story) are visible in the east elevation. The first story doors have concrete-block stoops and stairs lined with metal rails, while the second story door is accessed by a metal staircase that leads to a square, metal stoop. Also on the east elevation is an exterior-end, brick chimney (Photo 52, p. 65). Access to the interior of the building could not be obtained for the current study.

¹⁰⁴ USDA 1974, 1977.

¹⁰⁵ Google 1994; USDA 1977.



Figure 24: 1974 Aerial Showing the Church Original Core (Blue) and the Circa-1970 Addition (Yellow).¹⁰⁶ Aerial not to scale.



Photo 52: Cool Spring Baptist Church West Elevation Showing the Original Core (Blue), Circa-1970 Addition (Yellow), and Circa-1985 Addition (Pink).

¹⁰⁶ USDA 1974.



Photo 53: West Elevation of the Church. The circa-1970 addition is noted in yellow and the circa-1985 addition is noted in pink.

North of the church and southwest of the intersection of N.C. Highway 46 and Cherry Street is a one-and-a-half story, five-bay community center constructed in 2016 (Photo 54).¹⁰⁷ A moderately pitched, side-gabled roof sheathed in asphalt shingles covers the brick-clad, frame building. Four front-gabled dormers pierce the roof's northern slope and feature one-over-one, double-hung sash, vinyl windows. Fenestration includes one single-leaf door below a shed roof on the primary (north) elevation and two covered by a front-gabled roof on the east elevation. Filling the first story window openings are single-light fixed sashes with applied vinyl grids.



Photo 54: Cool Spring Baptist Church Community Center, Northeast Oblique.

¹⁰⁷ Cool Spring Missionary Baptist Church n.d.

Situated immediately southeast of the N.C. Highway 46 and Cherry Street intersection is a brick sign for the church. Although the exact date of construction is unknown, it is clearly visible on a 2008 aerial image.¹⁰⁸ This square-shaped structure features an opening in the center for the written text of the sign (Photo 55).



Photo 55: Cool Spring Baptist Church Sign, Looking Northeast.

Approximately 2 miles west of the church itself is the Cool Spring Baptist Church Cemetery. Situated on a rectangular, 2-acre lot north of N.C. Highway 46, the cemetery surrounded by dense woods in the east, south, and west and an agricultural field in the north and is accessed by a gravel driveway. It is composed of approximately 75 to 100 interments dating from around 1960 to present, all of which appear to be marked with granite headstones and poured-concrete slabs with either a flat or arched top (Photo 56 and Photo 57, p. 68).



Photo 56: Cool Spring Baptist Church Cemetery, Looking North.

¹⁰⁸ Google 2008.



Photo 57: Cool Spring Baptist Church Cemetery, Looking Southwest.

Historic Context

Throughout the eighteenth and early- to mid-nineteenth century, in the rural South, it was most common for enslaved African Americans to attend the church of their white owner, or, in the rare case, a church that was specifically established for them by their owner.¹⁰⁹ It was not until the emancipation following the Civil War that they were free to worship where and as they pleased. William E. Montgomery wrote in his book *Under Their Own Vine and Fig Tree: The African-American Church of the South, 1865–1900*, “No longer required to attend racially mixed churches or chapels established for them by whites, thousands of blacks began organizing their own autonomous congregations. The months that followed emancipation marked the beginning of a new era for the black church, a time during which it began to mature and to take on new forms and functions.”¹¹⁰ In Northampton County, one year after the end of the Civil War, several African American members of the Elam Baptist Church separated to form their own congregation called the Roanoke Salem Baptist Church; although they had no church building, in 1866 the members met under a traditional brush arbor. According to local sources, this is one of the oldest African American congregations in the county and throughout the next several decades, many more would follow in their lead, including the congregations of Roanoke Salem Baptist Church, Roanoke Chapel Baptist Church, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Gaston Baptist Church, and Cool Spring Baptist Church.¹¹¹

The Cool Spring Baptist Church congregation was founded in 1872 by Annanias N. Buck and on May 18 of that same year trustees of newly formed church, Elijah Porch, Nelson Squire,

¹⁰⁹CHP 2000:28; Northampton County Bicentennial Committee 1976:10.

¹¹⁰ CHP 2000:28; Montgomery 1995:42.

¹¹¹ Northampton County Bicentennial Committee 1976:11.

and Harry Floyd, purchased a 1-acre lot of land from Newit Grand and his wife, Elizabeth.¹¹² It was bounded on the northeast and south by the lands of Newit Grant, on the west by lands of Allen Turner, and “lying on the path leading from E.J. Thomas Store to Avent and Thomas’s Mill.”¹¹³ It was on this land that the congregation constructed their first house of worship. The church continued to buy additional, small tracts of land immediately surrounding their original lot over the next 145 years, which would eventually allow the congregation the space for parking areas, a new church building, and a community center.¹¹⁴

During the first half of the twentieth century—the Jim Crow era—“churches were among the few public spaces where African Americans could and would gather. They became more important as a nurturing center for African-American identity.”¹¹⁵ For these reasons, it was common for centers of local community activity to be places in proximity to churches, including, but not limited to schools. In the first quarter of the twentieth century, a two-room, frame Rosenwald School called Cool Spring School was constructed west of Gaston near Cool Spring Baptist Church. It was one of several similar educational institutions in the area that operated an elementary school for the African American children of the community.¹¹⁶ Many of them continued to be used until they were consolidated into one school—Squire Elementary School (NP1124)—in the late 1950s.

The church that was the predecessor of the current building was a Gothic Revival, frame church likely clad in weatherboard (Figure 25, p. 70).¹¹⁷ It was situated on the west side of present-day Cherry Street immediately northwest of the parking lot.¹¹⁸ A front-gabled roof covered the building and featured a full cornice return and a pentagon-shaped vent on the north elevation gable.¹¹⁹ Asymmetrical, unmatched towers stood at the church’s northwest and northeast corners. The shorter tower (easternmost) was covered by a front-gabled roof and pyramidal roof capped the taller (westernmost) tower (Figure 25, p. 70). Double-leaf doors topped by conical pent roofs were located on the north elevation of both towers. Tall, narrow, arched, four-light windows filled the two central bays on the primary (north) elevation.¹²⁰

¹¹² Cool Spring Missionary Baptist Church n.d. This date is also obtained from the date stone.

¹¹³ NCDB 42:72–73; Roanoke Salem Missionary Baptist Church n.d.

¹¹⁴ NCDB 42:72, 148:10, 185:325, 276:373, 435:110.

¹¹⁵ CHP 2000:32.

¹¹⁶ Anna Jones, personal communication, 2017; Fisk University 2001.

¹¹⁷ Cool Spring Missionary Baptist Church n.d. *Note:* Although it is known that this church was a predecessor for the current church, it is not known if it was the original or first church building at this site.

¹¹⁸ USDA 1950, 1974.

¹¹⁹ Cool Spring Missionary Baptist Church n.d.

¹²⁰ Cool Spring Missionary Baptist Church n.d.



Figure 25: Predecessor Church to the Current Cool Spring Baptist Church Building, Date of Photograph Unknown.¹²¹

In the mid-twentieth century, many African American congregations in Northampton County began the process of building new churches, often in the same vicinity as their existing structure. The CHP at Middle Tennessee State University completed a study of rural African American churches in Tennessee and in their analysis of the findings, they state that:

It is clear that the years of 1945 to 1970 were important years of change and improvement. Congregations that possess surviving historical photos or illustrations of earlier church buildings—or whose members can give a verbal description—indicate that the vast majority of this new construction resulted in a brick building, with indoor plumbing and electricity, which replaced a frame building that had neither indoor plumbing or electricity. It was a quantum leap in physical comfort.¹²²

While advancement in utilities, plumbing, and electrification appeared in many white churches before WWII, it was not until the third quarter of the twentieth century that these conveniences spread to the rural African American churches of the south.¹²³ CHP goes on to state that the “intensified period of church building and modernization [between 1945 and 1970] is further associated with demographic change in rural communities and towns, where the expectations of WWII veterans, the rising number of professionals, and the expansion of a black middle class combined to provide the leadership and financial infrastructure for the push for civil rights.”¹²⁴

Undoubtedly for many of these same reasons, in the mid 1940s, the Cool Spring Baptist Church congregation, like so many other congregations throughout the county, decided to construct a

¹²¹ Cool Spring Missionary Baptist Church n.d.

¹²² CHP 2000:42–43. Although their study was limited to Tennessee churches, it is likely that many of these trends are widespread among African American congregations throughout the south, including North Carolina.

¹²³ CHP 2000:43.

¹²⁴ CHP 2000:43.

new church. Situated just southeast of the older church, this new building mirrored the style, form, and shape of its predecessor.¹²⁵ In the early 1950s, construction ended and the congregation began to worship out of their new church building. The original frame structure stood on the west side of Cherry Street until around 1977, when it was demolished.¹²⁶ Cool Spring Baptist Church continues to be an active church today under the leadership of its current pastor, Reverend Wayne I. Welch.



Figure 26: 1950 (Left) and 1974 (Right) Aerials Showing an Earlier Cool Spring Baptist Church Building (Yellow) and the Cool Spring Baptist Church Building.¹²⁷
Image not to scale.

Evaluation

Cool Spring Baptist Church was constructed between 1945 and 1953. The building has not been moved and continues to operate and function and as a Baptist church. Furthermore, its surroundings, including wooded area, agricultural fields, and some residential development, have changed very little since construction on the building began in the mid-1940s. For these reasons, it retains a high level of integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. Because much of the original fabric on the 1945–1953 church core remains intact, this resource retains

¹²⁵ Cool Spring Missionary Baptist Church n.d. The dates of construction were obtained from the Cool Spring Baptist Church date stone.

¹²⁶ USDA 1977.

¹²⁷ USDA 1950, 1974.

a moderately high level of integrity of materials and workmanship. The additions to the front (1990s narthex and tower modifications) and rear (1970s and 1980s) have diminished the church's overall integrity of design.

Although the congregation formed in the early 1870s and there was an earlier church on that site, the current Cool Spring Baptist Church is a mid-twentieth century brick building. As previously mentioned in the historic context for this resource, it was common during second quarter of this century for older congregations to build new, modernized buildings to replace their older frame churches. For this reason, many brick churches constructed in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s dot the rural Northampton County landscape.

Roanoke Salem Baptist Church (NP0405) is one of the earliest Northampton County African American churches formed following the Civil War. They worshiped out of a nineteenth-century frame church until the current brick church building was constructed in 1944.¹²⁸ Lancet windows and double-leaf, wooden doors set below pointed-arch transoms fill the openings on the original core. Square, brick buttresses capped with concrete stand at the each corner, not unlike those that once lined the Cool Spring Baptist Church towers. In recent years, the top of the original square, brick tower in which the primary entrance is located, was removed and replaced with the steeple that still stands today (Photo 58 and Photo 59, p. 72). This church has not received a formal eligibility evaluation.



Photo 58: Early-2000s Photograph of the Roanoke Salem Baptist Church (NP0405) Showing the Original Tower Top.¹²⁹

¹²⁸ Northampton County Bicentennial Committee 1976.

¹²⁹ NC-HPO 2017.



Photo 59: Current Photograph of the Roanoke Salem Baptist Church Showing the Modified Tower and New Steeple.

Oak Grove Baptist Church (NP0431) is a one-story, brick, cross-gabled building. Although the congregation formed in 1885, the current church is composed of a circa-1900 frame church clad in a brick veneer added in 1940. The Oak Grove Baptist Church's primary entrances are located on two square, brick towers, a design that is similar to what was seen on Cool Spring Baptist Church before the façade renovation. Multi-light, lancet windows are located in the original core's primary and side elevations (Photo 60). It was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A in 2003 "for its role in the history and development of African American religion in the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries in Northampton County."¹³⁰



Photo 60: Oak Grove Baptist Church (NP0431), East Oblique.

¹³⁰ NC-HPO 2003.

In order for a resource to be considered eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, “a property can be associated with either (or both) of two types of events: [...] a specific event marking an important moment in American prehistory or history [or] a pattern of events or a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a State, or the nation.”¹³¹ However, NPS goes on to say that “mere association with historic events or trends is not enough, in and of itself, to qualify under Criterion A: the property's specific association must be considered important as well.”¹³² Cool Spring Baptist Church is associated with the trend of mid-twentieth-century churches constructed by congregations, specifically African American congregations, as a result of the financial boom following WWII and updated conveniences such as indoor plumbing and electricity. Archival research and the current architectural survey, however, could not determine that this resource individually exhibits significance within that trend. It is not the first example of this historic trend in the county, nor has it been found that the church played a notable or important role in this pattern among religious facilities. For these reasons, the Cool Spring Baptist Church is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

The church has no known association with an individual who is “significant within a historic context” or has “gained importance within his or her group or profession” which are necessary qualifications for it to be eligible under Criterion B.¹³³ Therefore, the resource is recommended not eligible under Criterion B.

The Cool Spring Baptist Church has undergone many modifications since it was first constructed between 1945 and 1953. The original façade, including the towers, was heavily altered with the addition of a large front-gabled narthex in the late 1990s. Furthermore, in the third quarter of the twentieth century, two additions were appended to the church’s rear elevation. This church building is one of many brick churches constructed in the mid-twentieth century. Furthermore, it is not the known work of a master. For these reasons, the resource is recommended not eligible for the NPHP under Criterion C.

For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered significant.¹³⁴ The Cool Spring Baptist Church is not likely to yield to any new information pertaining to the history of architectural design or technology for education facilities. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D.

For a church to be considered eligible for the NRHP it must meet Criteria Consideration A which states that a religious property is “eligible if it derives its primary significance from

¹³¹Shrimpton et al. 1990:12.

¹³² Shrimpton et al. 1990:12.

¹³³ Shrimpton et al. 1990:14.

¹³⁴ Shrimpton et al. 1990:21.

architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance”.¹³⁵ As discussed within this section, the Cool Spring Baptist Church does not meet any of these conditions to qualify for the NRHP.

In sum, the Cool Spring Baptist Church **is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under any criteria.**

¹³⁵ Shrimpton et al. 1990:26.

NP1134: Squire Elementary School

Date of Construction: 1956–1957
Modifications: 1961–1962, 1964, ca 1975, 1999

4671 N.C. Highway 46
Gaston, Northampton County, North Carolina
PIN: 3090-25-3505
Eligibility Recommendation: Eligible, Criteria A and B



Architectural Description

The Squire Elementary School campus is located on the north side of N.C. Highway 46 just west of the Town of Gaston, North Carolina. Single-family residences, almost all of which date to the twentieth century, surround school on the south, west, and southeast, and dense swaths of trees border the property on the north and northeast. A gravel access road extends north from the road just east of Moody Lane and forks to create a circular drive with a grassy patch, trees, and some park benches in the circle's center, which has remained mostly unaltered since the late 1950s. An additional square parking lot was added just east of the original road and immediately south of the gymnasium/cafeteria. A metal chain-linked fence lines the western boundary and another creates a border between the square parking lot and the northern half of the parcel, spanning from the circa-1975 addition eastward to the property boundaries. There are 10 secondary resources located on the Squire Elementary School campus, including two signs, two sheds, two trailers, a cistern, a playground, an electric box, and a baseball dugout fence. The faculty of the school allowed access to the exterior of the property; however, because it is an active school, survey and photographs of the interior were not permitted (Figure 27 and Figure 28, pp.77–78).

The original core of Squire Elementary School was constructed as an L-shaped structure comprising a short wing oriented east-west facing N.C. Highway 46 and from this wing's north elevation extends a longer wing oriented north-south. Designed by Wilmington, North Carolina architect Leslie Boney, this one-story, concrete-block school was constructed as an elementary school between 1956 and 1957 in the Modernist style (Figure 29, p. 79; Photo 61, p. 80). A brick veneer laid in a bond that comprises one row of Flemish bond separated by five stretcher-bond rows covers the structural system on the south (primary) and east elevations, leaving the west and north (rear) elevation exposed. On the primary elevation, narrow vertical lines of projecting brick extend from the ground to the roof line, acting as a subtle emphasis on verticality (Photo 62, p. 80). A flat roof lined with metal coping and wide eaves on the south elevation covers the building and is pierced by an interior, brick chimney laid in a stretcher bond.



Figure 27: Location and Parcel Boundaries of the Squire Elementary School (NP1134).¹³⁶

¹³⁶ Esri 2017.

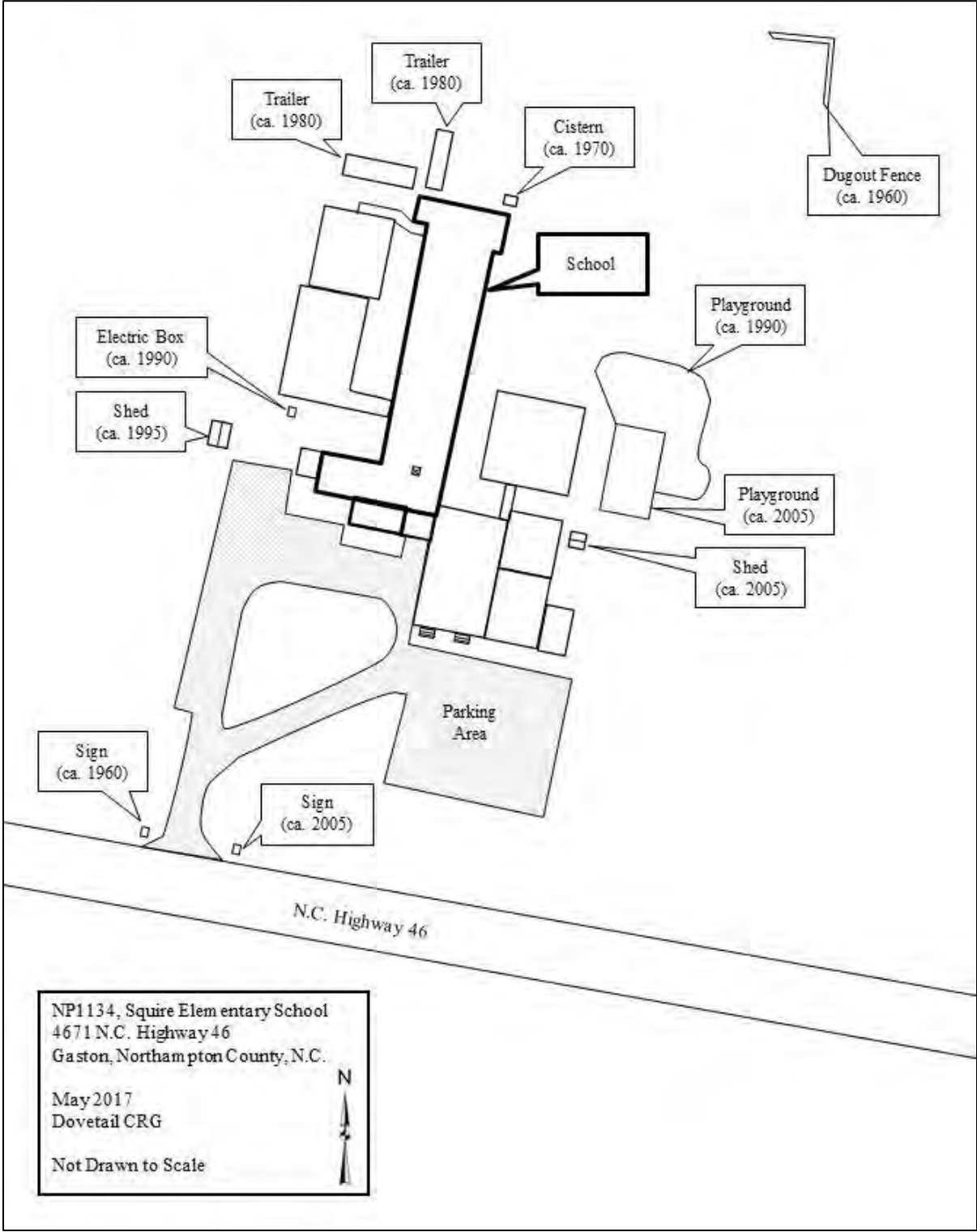


Figure 28: Site Plan for the Squire Elementary School.

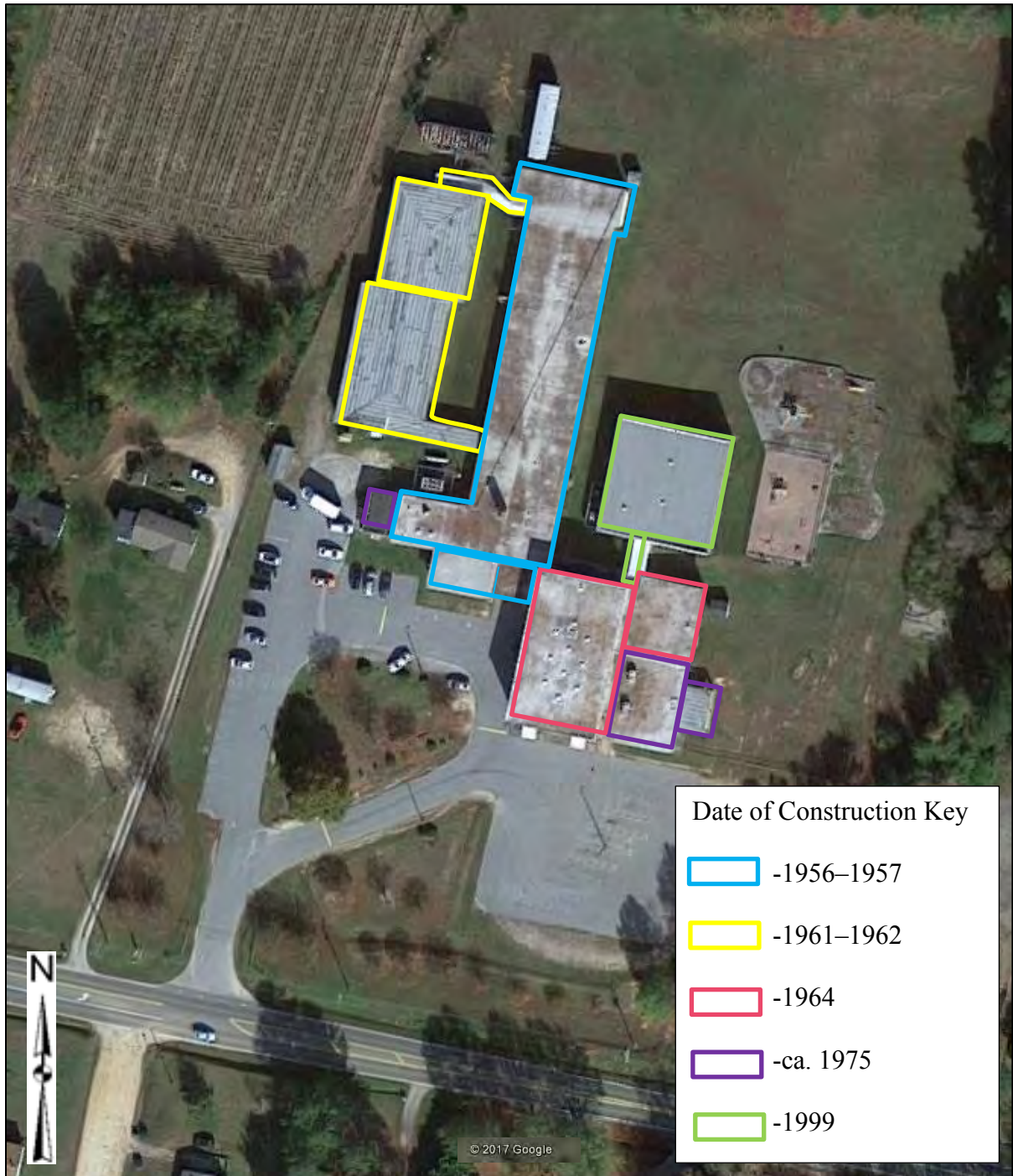


Figure 29: Current Aerial Image Showing the Dates of Construction for the Original Core and Several Additions of the Squire Elementary School.¹³⁷ Aerial not to scale.

¹³⁷ Google 1999, 2003, 2010; Squire Elementary School 2002; USDA 1959, 1974, 1978.



Photo 61: South Elevation of the Squire Elementary School Noting the Original Core (Blue).



Photo 62: The Westernmost Half of the Original Core's South Elevation.

The primary entrance is a set of double-leaf, metal doors—each of which has a single fixed light at the top—recessed beneath a canopy on the south elevation of the north-south wing (Photo 63, p. 81). There are two secondary entrances, single-leaf solid metal doors set below a fixed transom, located on the west elevation. Both of these doors lead to a covered walkway that provide access between the original core and the 1961–1962 classroom building addition (this addition is described on page 82); the northernmost walkway is partially enclosed and clad in a brick veneer laid in the same bond as the original core's veneer (Photo 64, p. 81). Short metal poles support the flat roof lined with metal coping. The southernmost walkway is entirely open with the exception of metal poles that support the flat roof. The remaining

fenestration on the original core includes large window openings filled with metal-framed, 10-light windows that likely feature either hopper or awning fixtures. On the south elevation is a one-story, two-bay canopy that surrounds the primary entrance. It has a poured-concrete foundation and step and a flat roof lined with metal coping and supported by square, brick posts. Decorating the wide frieze are the words “SQUIRE SCHOOL” (Photo 63).



Photo 63: Primary Entrance (Green Arrow) and Covered Entrance at the Original Core, Looking Northeast.

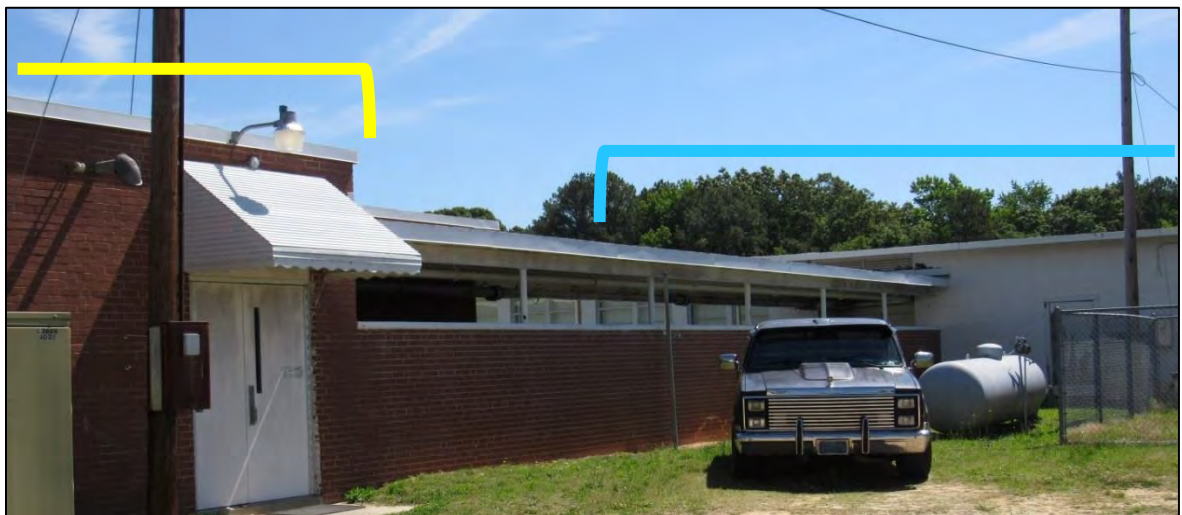


Photo 64: Partially Enclosed Walkway Connecting the Original Core (Right/Blue) to the 1961–1962 Addition (Left/Yellow), Looking Northwest.

Almost immediately after opening, the growing school attendance numbers necessitated additional classroom space and between 1961 and 1962 the Northampton County Board of Education (NCBE) constructed a building almost parallel to the original school, to which it is connected by the previously mentioned walkways. Between the two buildings is a manicured

grassy area. In style, materials, and scale, this early addition closely mirrors that of the 1957 building. The brick-veneer-clad, concrete-block structural system is covered by a flat roof lined with metal coping. Fenestration includes two single-leaf doors on the east and north elevations, both of which connect to the breezeways and a double-leaf, metal door with a metal awning on the south elevation. This addition also contains metal, 10-light, hopper or awning windows (Photo 65 and Photo 66).



Photo 65: Southwest Oblique of the 1961–1962 Addition.



Photo 66: Courtyard, Original Core (Left/Blue), 1961–1962 Addition (Right/Yellow), Looking South.

In 1964, the NCBE constructed yet another addition; this time it was a tall structure used as a gymnasium and cafeteria (Figure 30). The concrete-block structural system is clad in a brick stretcher-bond veneer and covered by a flat roof lined with metal coping and narrow eaves. Although minimally decorated like the original core, multiple narrow lines of projecting brick

vertically break up the bays (Photo 67, p. 84). There are four entrances to the gymnasium/cafeteria: two double-leaf, metal doors on the south elevation, each of which is accessed by poured-concrete steps, and a single-leaf door and a double-leaf door on the west elevation below the covered entrance. On the south elevation, the two doors are set below a flat, metal awning and accessed by concrete-block stoops and stairs lined with a metal rail. Window openings are filled with 12-light, metal-framed awning windows. Contemporary with the gymnasium/cafeteria and built onto its east elevation is a one-story, brick-clad addition. A flat roof covers the building and fenestration includes four metal-framed awning windows (Photo 68, p. 84).

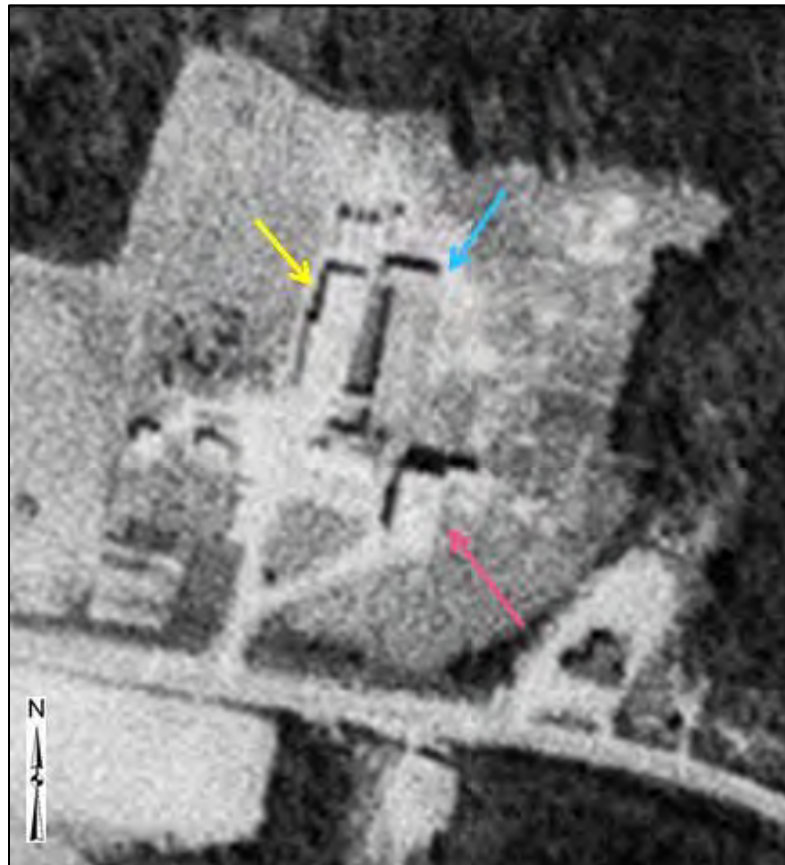


Figure 30: 1973 Aerial Showing the Original Core (Blue), 1961–1962 Addition (Yellow), and Gymnasium/Cafeteria Addition (Pink).¹³⁸ Aerial not to scale.

¹³⁸ USDA 1973.



Photo 67: 1964 Gymnasium/Cafeteria Addition, South Elevation.

Around 1975, the NCBE appended another addition to the gymnasium/cafeteria building's east elevation.¹³⁹ Constructed in the same form and style as the other one-story addition to its north, this addition is clad in a brick veneer and is covered by a metal-coping lined flat roof (Photo 68 and Photo 69, p. 85). Fenestration includes a single-leaf metal door with two fixed sidelights on the south elevation and four-light windows comprising two large fixed windows above two awning windows. Another door is located on the addition's east elevation; however, cars almost entirely obstructed the view of it during the current survey. This door leads to a poured concrete pad covered by a flat, metal roof supported by square, brick posts.



Photo 68: Southeast Oblique of the 1964 Gymnasium and One-Story Addition (Pink) and Circa-1975, One-Story Addition (Purple).

¹³⁹ USDA 1974, 1977.



Photo 69: South Elevation of the Circa-1975 One-Story Addition.

Also around the 1970s, a small, concrete-block structure was appended to the west elevation of the original core. The moderately pitched corrugated-metal, shed roof covers this addition and features metal-coping-lined parapets on the east and west elevations. A single-leaf door within a wooden frame is one the west elevation.



Photo 70: Northwest Oblique of the 1970s Concrete-Block Addition.

In 1999, a one-story classroom addition was constructed northwest of the existing building and connected to the 1964 one-story addition by a narrow hyphen. The brick-clad structure is covered by a flat roof with parapets on the north and south elevations. Fixed, four- and two-light windows line the east and west elevations (Photo 71, p. 85).



Photo 71: Southeast Oblique of the 1999 Addition.

There are 10 secondary resources located on the Squire Elementary School campus. Located immediately north of the school building is a circa-1970 cistern. A metal gutter spans from the school's roof to the cistern's shed roof. The frame surrounding structure is clad in vertically laid wooden boards and accessed by a door on the south elevation (Photo 72).



Photo 72: Cistern, West Elevation.

Immediately north of the school are two one-story trailers likely used of spill-over classroom or office space. The westernmost trailer was constructed around 1980. Supported by concrete block piers, the metal-clad structure is covered by a shallow-arched metal roof. Fenestration on the south elevation includes two single-leaf, metal doors and two one-over-one, metal-framed, double-hung sash windows (Photo 73). A wooden deck accessed by a ramp lines the eastern portion of the primary (south) elevation. The second trailer, also constructed around 1980, is raised on concrete-block piers and clad in metal. A flat metal roof lined with metal coping covers the buildings. The northernmost bay on the west elevation contains a metal, single-leaf door accessed by wooden stairs and a deck. Other fenestration includes metal-framed, four-light awnings windows (Photo 74).



Photo 73: Circa-1980 Trailer (Westernmost), Southwest Oblique.



Photo 74: Circa-1980 Trailer (Easternmost), Southwest Oblique.

A prefabricated shed constructed around 1995 is located southwest of the 1961–1962 classroom addition. This side-gabled structure stands on concrete-block piers. The frame structural system is clad in T1-11 siding and features a double-leaf door on the east elevation (Photo 75).



Photo 75: Southeast Oblique of the Circa-1995 Shed.

Immediately east of the cafeteria/gymnasium is a one-story, one-bay prefabricated shed constructed around 2008. The T1-11 clad building has a front-gabled roof and a double-leaf door centered on the east elevation (Photo 76).



Photo 76: Southeast Oblique of the Circa-2005 Shed.

Located east of the school is a playground that consists of two sections. The oldest (circa 1990) is an unenclosed, irregularly shaped cluster of metal objects such as uneven pull-up bars, monkey bars, a swing set, and dome climber. The later portion of the playground dates to around 2005; this rectangular area is bordered by a chain-linked metal fence and includes a singular metal modular play set made up of several components including several slides, money bars, even bars, and a pole. Small picnic tables and benches are located throughout the playground (Photo 77).



Photo 77: Playground (Circa-1990 and Circa-2005 Sections) Looking North.

A circa-1990 electric box is located immediately south of the 1961–1962 addition. The metal box stands on a poured-concrete pad and is covered by a flat roof. The entire southern side is an asymmetrical set of metal, double-leaf doors with a metal handle on the eastern leaf (Photo 78).



Photo 78: Electric Box, Southwest Oblique.

The northeastern most secondary resource associated with Squire Elementary School is a circa-1960 chain-link metal baseball dugout fence (Photo 79). Historic aerials show a cleared area where students likely played baseball and/or softball here, but currently it is mostly covered with overgrown trees and vegetation.¹⁴⁰



Photo 79: Baseball Dugout Looking North (Noted By a White Arrow).

There are two signs associated with Squire Elementary School along N.C. Highway 46: one on the east side and one on the west of the gravel road that connects the road to the parking lot. The older (westernmost) of the two was constructed around 1960. It stands in a brick-lined planter laid in a stretcher-bond configuration and the sign itself is an irregularly shaped, green object placed upon a single wooden post. The sign reads “Squire Elementary School” and depicts filled-in outlines a small boy and girl (Photo 80, p. 91). The easternmost sign was constructed around 2005. This banner-style sign has two vinyl posts each topped with a vinyl spire and connected by horizontal, unadorned pieces of vinyl; this forms a rectangular shape where the following items are listed: Squire Academic Center, Gaston Pre-K, Gaston Primary School, Northampton County High School Early College, and Alternative Learning Program (Photo 80, p. 91).

¹⁴⁰ Google 1994; USDA 1973, 1978



Photo 80: Circa-1960 Sign (Left) and Circa-2005 Sign (Right).

Historic Context

Beginning in the early-twentieth century, the State Board of Education began a movement to construct new educational facilities across Northampton County; it was often the case that this effort materialized as a one-story, brick Colonial Revival School, almost always for the white population. It was largely the Rosenwald Fund program that provided the African American communities improved schools for their children. On the Rosenwald Program, Thomas W. Hanchett says:

Conceived in the 1910s by black educator Booker T. Washington and his Tuskegee Institute staff, the Rosenwald program represented a massive effort to improve black rural school in the South through public-probate partnership. The name came from philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck, and Company. Rosenwald offered matching grants to rural communities interested in building black schools. Washington and Rosenwald hoped not only to improve black school facilities but also to promote black-white cooperation in those dark days of Jim Crow and support southern locations to increase support for black education.¹⁴¹

Northampton County was one of many throughout the state to benefit from the Rosenwald program. The Rosenwald Fund database at Fisk University lists 24 known schools throughout the county attributed to the Rosenwald Program, including, but not limited to, the Potecasi Rosenwald School (NP0528), Meherrin Rosenwald School (NP0661), Squire School (not

¹⁴¹ Hanchett 1988:387.

previously recorded with HPO), and Cool Spring (not previously recorded with HPO).¹⁴² These were almost always one-story, two-room, frame buildings covered by a hipped or gabled roof with large, multi-light windows on both the primary and rear elevations.¹⁴³

However, by the mid-twentieth century, many of the schools constructed in the decades prior were becoming outdated and were not equipped with modern conveniences. The economic boom following WWII meant that additional funds could be allocated to the school systems. In the early 1950s, North Carolina received a \$50 million bond specifically designated for the construction of new school buildings and as a result of these funds, new schools began to spring up across the state. Also happening during this time was the controversial 1954 Supreme Court ruling *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas (Brown v. Board)*, which stated that "separate education facilities are inherently unequal."¹⁴⁴ The social change was not immediate; however, as it spread slowly, originally was limited to large cities. Increased Federal financial support for schools paired with changes in technology played a role in the great number of new educational buildings constructed during the late 1940s throughout the 1960s. Northampton County was no exception.

In March 1956, Willie "Buck" Turner and his wife, Blanche Turner, sold 15.6 acres of their farm land in western Northampton County to the NCBE for \$4,500 for a new school.¹⁴⁵ Prior to this, many of the African American children of this area west of Gaston went to the Cool Spring, Vulture, or Squire schools.¹⁴⁶ The NCBE obtained this land for the purposes of building a new, consolidated elementary school for the area's African American children, despite the *Brown v. Board* ruling three years prior. Construction began on Squire Elementary School¹⁴⁷ in 1956 and, with Jasper W. Jones as the first principal, it opened its doors in the fall of 1957.

The school, however, did not have many of the standard amenities, such as a gymnasium or cafeteria, sufficient water fountains, toilets, outdoor lighting or landscaping (Figure 31, p. 93).¹⁴⁸ The first president of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for Squire Elementary School was James H. Jones (1916–1984), a former sharecropper near Garysburg, who had recently moved his family to the Gaston area.¹⁴⁹ It was this opportunity in the PTA that first gave James Jones a proper platform on which to fight for equality within the African American schools and he:

parlayed that position into a voice for the voiceless and used it as his ticket into the School Board room [...] He pushed parents covered by Jim Crow culture to register to vote and to lobby the all-white school board members for improvements at Squire school. He appointed independent farmers, Prince Hall

¹⁴² Fisk University 2001; NC-HPO 2017.

¹⁴³ Fisk University 2001.

¹⁴⁴ Justesen and Matthews 2006.

¹⁴⁵ NCDB 416:502.

¹⁴⁶ Anna Jones, personal communication, 2017

¹⁴⁷ This new school building bears the same name as one of the early-twentieth-century Rosenwald Schools in the area: Squire School.

¹⁴⁸ AdvancEd 2012; Anna Jones, personal communication, 2017; Jones 2016:43; Squire Elementary School 2002.

¹⁴⁹ Anna Jones, personal communication, 2017; Jones 2016:43.

Masons, and other black men to committees to speak for Squire School PTA and make appeals at school board meetings. He was organizing and planting seeds of activism for equal education.¹⁵⁰



Figure 31: 1959 Aerial Showing the Original Core of Squire Elementary School (Blue Arrow).¹⁵¹ Aerial not to scale.

Although the *Brown v. Board* ruling in 1954 was a key moment in racial equality within the country's schools, the integrated educational system relied on additional rulings that followed, such as the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the *Swann vs. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, and the activism of the countless individuals, like James H. Jones, across the state who saw first-hand the continued injustice in school systems following these court orders.¹⁵² As part of the Freedom of Choice Plan of 1964, which stated that all pupils (and their parents) could go to the school of their choice, the first African American students in Northampton County chose to attend all-white Gaston High School and Northampton County (East) High School in 1965.¹⁵³ However, Northampton County did not integrate their schools until nearly 15 years after *Brown v. Board* when in 1969,

¹⁵⁰ Jones 2016:43.

¹⁵¹ USDA 1959.

¹⁵² Justesen and Matthews 2006.

¹⁵³ Brown 1968:455–457.

U. S. District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, John David Larkins Jr., ordered the school systems of Edenton, Chowan County, and Northampton County, North Carolina, to integrate. Larkins's order required, in part, the transfer of 100 black students from Gumberry High School to Gaston School, and twenty-five percent faculty integration at all of the county's high schools.¹⁵⁴

In the late 1940s through the 1960s, it became extremely common for the NCBE to hire North Carolina-based architects and firms to design these new buildings, such as Hollow, Weber, and Reeves, a Raleigh firm (Perry School, FK0549, Franklin County), Frank B. Simpson, a Raleigh architect, and his partner Eugene Savage (Enfield Grading School, HX1554), Halifax County, and W.W. Hook, who worked in his father's firm in Charlotte before starting his own practice in Wilson during the late 1950s (Richard B. Harrison School, JT1253, Johnston County).¹⁵⁵ One notable architect designed over 1,000 schools throughout North Carolina in the 1940s and 1950s: Leslie N. Boney. According to the Gaston School NRHP nomination, Boney "specialized in Modernist institutional structures, to design several schools. Boney was a graduate of North Carolina State College, now University, who began practicing architecture in 1918. He was a prolific designer of schools, from the elementary to the university level, as well as other public and commercial buildings in eastern North Carolina."¹⁵⁶ In an article on Boney in *North Carolina Architects and Buildings*, his son, Leslie N. Boney, Jr. states of his father contributed as a "school architect who could take an owner's needs and his budgets and quickly deliver a new school within the funds available. He was especially interested in the statewide effort to improve schools and became a leader in the development of consolidated schools to replace the previous era's many one-room schools."¹⁵⁷ He often designed schools in the Modernist style, a popular architectural style for mid-twentieth-century education buildings; many of his buildings had brick veneers and although the schools as a whole were rambling and remained low to the ground, Boney also placed emphasis on verticality. Some sources suggest that Boney designed approximately seven schools in Northampton County, including Squire Elementary School. Other possible examples of his work in Northampton County include: W.S. Creecy School, Garysburg Elementary School, Northampton County (East) High School, Coates Elementary School, Willis Hare School, and Gaston School.¹⁵⁸ Although archival research conducted for this project could not confirm or deny his involvement in Squire Elementary School or the other schools listed above, it is evident that Boney's work throughout the state heavily influenced the their look, feel, and overall design.¹⁵⁹

¹⁵⁴ Turco and Daniel 2011.

¹⁵⁵ Keane 2008; Mitchell 2010, 2012.

¹⁵⁶ Turco and Daniel 2011.

¹⁵⁷ Boney, Jr. 2012.

¹⁵⁸ Turco and Daniel 2011.

¹⁵⁹ North Carolina State University 2017a. Although he is attributed to these buildings in a 2008–2010 survey of Northampton County and the NRHP nomination for Gaston School, there are no Northampton County buildings attributed to Leslie N. Boney, Sr. on the North Carolina Architects & Builders website. Furthermore, although additional research may uncover them, no primary resources discussing Boney's involvement in the designing these seven buildings was found during this survey.

Around 2016, Squire Elementary School campus became known as the Squire Academic Center. It was at this time that the elementary school changed its name from Squire Elementary to Gaston Elementary and the campus became home to three additional programs: Gaston Pre-K, Northampton County High School Early College, and the Alternative Learning Program.¹⁶⁰

Evaluation

The Squire Elementary School retains a high level of integrity of location despite a notation in the 2010 survey form that the school was moved. Nothing uncovered during the current archival or architectural survey suggests the school was once located elsewhere. Because it continues to operate as a school along the outskirts of Gaston that has not changed greatly since the 1950s, this resource also has high levels of integrity of association, setting, and feeling. Although Squire Elementary School has undergone some modifications and additions have been added, the original core remains intact and largely unaltered; furthermore, all of the additions, including the most recent one (1999), were constructed in a style and form that reflect and are complimentary to the school's original design.

In order for a resource to be considered eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, "a property can be associated with either (or both) of two types of events: [...] a specific event marking an important moment in American prehistory or history [or] a pattern of events or a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a State, or the nation."¹⁶¹ The Squire Elementary School was one of several mid-twentieth century schools constructed for the African American children of the county, including the W.S. Creecy School (NP0959), circa 1955, the Willis Hare School (NP0834), circa 1950, Garysburg Elementary School (NP1119), circa 1965, and Gumberry High School (previously unrecorded), pre-1952 and refurbished in 1975.¹⁶² Of these, several were built in the late 1950s and early 1960s as segregated schools, despite the 1954 ruling *Brown v. Board*, exemplifying the deep rooted and continued issues surrounding the desegregation of schools within Northampton County and the state as a whole. The Squire Elementary School is associated with the pattern of African American education in segregated educational facilities following the *Brown v. Board* ruling of 1954. As such, it is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A.

Recognized within the community as being one of the leaders in the fight for equality among Northampton County's school system, James H. Jones was the first president of the Squire Elementary School PTA and it was here that he was first able to engage the African American community at a larger level. During these meetings he worked with the parents to donate money to ensure that their children went to a school that had enough water fountains and classrooms, and proper landscaping; he also used this time to urge people to register to vote

¹⁶⁰Northampton County Schools 2016.

¹⁶¹Shrimpton et al. 1990.

¹⁶²Anna Jones, personal communication 2017; Jones 2015, 2016: 44.

and encouraged them to voice their opinions and needs to the school board members.¹⁶³ In the late 1950s, Jones:

and a secret group of black men, known as The Ten, were the force behind Mrs. Louise Lassiter's challenge to North Carolina's literacy tests at the Northampton County Board of Elections when a white registrar denied her the right to register to vote because she mispronounced a word in the U.S. Constitution. This case went to the U.S. Supreme Court (*Lassiter vs Northampton County Board of Elections*, 1959) and prompted North Carolina to amend its laws.¹⁶⁴

Jones also was active in the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) chapter; he along with two other NAACP leaders, Clifton Manley and Jack Faison, addressed "the school board with veiled threats of disturbance and future retaliation at the polls if they are not allowed to participate in the planning for carrying out the Judge's orders. They become an advisory committee of three."¹⁶⁵ Jones ran for and lost election on the Northampton County School Board in 1968 and 1970; however, in 1971, the power of constituency in politics began to work in his favor.

James Jones and The Ten formed an alliance with then, State Representative Perry W. Martin. These black leaders agreed to help Martin get reelected to the NC House of Representatives if he would introduce a bill to increase the number of members and name James H. Jones to the Northampton County Board of Education. Reverend Charles Tyner, local citizen and civil right activist says, 'Mr. Jones' appointment in July 1971 was the highlight of the struggle for equal rights in Northampton County.¹⁶⁶

James H. Jones would become North Carolina's first African American School Board chairman for an entire County system.¹⁶⁷

His significance also comes as a peacemaker among the different races and political parties of Northampton County; it is said that he and "conservative white farmer and community leader, Marshall Grant" helped keep peace and address issues of equality and fairness in their community.¹⁶⁸ Former Mayor of Woodland, Margaret Burgwyn, has said of James H. Jones that he "helped integration 'tip toe' into Northampton County. It was slow going, but by 1976, Northampton County had achieved a unitary school system. Neighboring Halifax County today remains divided into three school systems, along old racial lines: Weldon City Schools, Halifax County Schools, and Roanoke Rapids City Schools."¹⁶⁹ James H. Jones and faculty of Squire

¹⁶³ Anna Jones, personal communication 2017; Jones 2015.

¹⁶⁴ Jones 2016:44.

¹⁶⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶⁶ Anna Jones, personal communication 2017; Jones 2016:44.

¹⁶⁷ Anna Jones, personal communication 2017; Jones 2015.

¹⁶⁸ Anna Jones, personal communication 2017.

¹⁶⁹ Jones 2016:47.

Elementary School, “together with the parents, [...] built both community and black leadership in the western part of the County at the PTA Meetings”¹⁷⁰ In 2014, 30 years after his death, as a result of his accomplishments and legacy, James Jones was inducted (posthumously) into the Educators Hall of Fame at East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.¹⁷¹ For these reasons, Squire Elementary School is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B for its association with local Civil Rights activist, James H. Jones.

The Squire Elementary School is one of several mid-twentieth century Northampton County schools reflective of the Modernist architectural style. The closest example, Gaston School (NP1128), is just 1.25 miles in a southeasterly direction on N.C. Highway 46 within the town boundaries. The concrete-block school was constructed in multiple phases spanning from around 1950 to the late-1960s; however, the brick veneer, flat roof, and metal windows create a cohesiveness throughout the entire building (Photo 81). The school is composed of classrooms, offices, a two-story gymnasium, library, lobby, courtyard, cafeteria/kitchen, boiler room (basement), an athletic field comprising a field, scoreboard, bleachers, and field goals and auto, home-economics, wood-working, and metal shops. In 2012, the NPS listed Gaston School to the NRHP under Criterion A as an example of the “county’s efforts to expand and modernize its public school facilities” and Criterion C as an early and intact example of a Modernist institutional building.¹⁷²



Photo 81: Gaston School (NP1128), Northeast Oblique.

Garysburg Elementary School (NP1119) is a one-story, concrete-block rambling school clad in a brick veneer in the Modernist style. The square-shaped, circa-1965 school features an open courtyard at its center accessed by breezeways decorated with concrete-block panels that have “geometric patterns modeled into the blocks.”¹⁷³ Two wooden doors are recessed on the primary elevation. There are also a two-story gymnasium and a one-story cafeteria (Photo 82 and Photo 83, p. 98).

¹⁷⁰ Anna Jones, personal communication 2017.

¹⁷¹ Ibid.

¹⁷² Turco and Daniel 2011.

¹⁷³ NC-HPO 2009a.



Photo 82: Garysburg Elementary School (NP1119), Southeast Oblique.



Photo 83: Garysburg Elementary School (NP1119), East Elevation.

The W.S. Creecy School (NP0959) in Rich Square was constructed around 1955 as a large, one-story, concrete-block school covered by a flat roof. The building, which reflects the Modernist style, features large steel-framed windows on the east and west elevations and a double-leaf metal doors on the primary elevation (Photo 84, p. 99). According to the 2009 survey, “the façade has also has a large area of plywood siding with large, steel-frame windows to the east of the front entrance that light the auditorium.”¹⁷⁴ Like Squire Elementary School, additions and some secondary buildings are connected to the main core by a series of covered breezeways.

¹⁷⁴ NC-HPO 2009b.



Photo 84: W.S. Creecy School (NP0959), Northwest Oblique.

Another example of education buildings constructed in the Modernist style is the former Northampton County (East) High School (NP1028) in Conway. The one-story, circa-1964 structure is clad in a brick veneer and is covered by a flat roof with wide eaves. Like Garysburg Elementary School, Northampton County (East) High School is decorated with geometric patterns molded into the concrete (Photo 85 and Photo 86, p. 99). Four-light, steel-frames fill the window openings and each is set above plywood panels. In front of the primary entrance is a flat-roofed canopy. Garysburg Elementary School, W.S. Creecy School, and the Northampton County High School were all approved for the North Carolina Study List for the NRHP by the North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee in February 2010.



Photo 85: Northampton County (East) High School (NP1028), Northeast Elevation.



Photo 86: Northampton County (East) High School (NP1028) Entrance Detail,
Looking South.

Eligibility under Criterion C encompasses buildings, structures, sites, and objects that 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. The Squire Elementary School is one of several mid-twentieth century Modernist schools in Northampton County. Although it has some elements that are representative of the Modernist style, individually it does not possess the distinctive characteristics that define this style. Furthermore, although the school is one of several in the county attributed to architect Leslie N. Boney, this claim could not be confirmed during the current survey. As such, Dovetail recommends that Squire Elementary School is not individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C.

However, there is a clear visual cohesiveness among the number of Modernist one-story, concrete-block, brick-veneered schools that dot rural Northampton County. Collectively, the numerous Modernist schools listed above, among others, demonstrate a notable mid-twentieth century architectural trend. While individually many may lack individual distinction, as a unit, they are significant because they demonstrate a notable mid-twentieth-century architectural trend. For these reasons, Dovetail recommends that a Multiple Property Listing through a Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPD) be considered for the Modernist schools of Northampton County.

For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered significant.¹⁷⁵ The Squire Elementary School is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology, nor of significant patterns of history in the area. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible under Criterion D.

In sum, the Squire Elementary School is **recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and B**. Dovetail also **recommends that an MPD be considered in the future for the Modernist schools of Northampton County**.

The proposed period of significance for this resource is the period during which it operated as a segregated school following the *Brown v. Board* ruling: 1957–1969. The proposed NRHP boundaries for the Squire Elementary School as determined during the current investigations conform to the existing tax parcel (Figure 32, p. 101).¹⁷⁶ The boundaries include the school, two signs, two sheds, baseball dugout, playground, two trailers, electric box, and cistern. Only the school and circa-1960 sign and baseball dugout were constructed during the resource's period of significance and contribute to the property's eligibility.

¹⁷⁵ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

¹⁷⁶ NCGIS 2017.



Figure 32: Proposed NRHP Boundaries for the Squire Elementary School (NP1134).¹⁷⁷

¹⁷⁷ Esri 2017.

NP1135: Jasper and Betty Jones House

Date of Construction: Circa 1971
Modification: N/A

4590 N.C. Highway 46
Gaston?, Northampton County, North Carolina
PIN: 3090-15-2033
Eligibility Recommendation: Eligible, Criterion C
and Criteria Consideration G



Architectural Description

The Jasper and Betty Jones House at 4590 N.C. Highway 46 is located on the south side of road, and set back approximately 90 feet. The resource is west of the Town of Gaston in Northampton County, approximately 0.3 miles west of the junction of N.C. Highway 46 and Jasper Jones Road (Figure 33, p. 103). It is located on a 2.22-acre rectangular parcel.¹⁷⁸ The area immediately surrounding the resource is partially rural and residential, with N.C. Highway 46 running east to west along the northern boundary of the parcel. Surrounding parcels are residential properties along the western and eastern edges of the resource while N.C. Highway 46 bounds the northern edge. An agricultural parcel abuts the southern boundary. During the 2008 survey of this house, the form called this resource the “Jasper and Bettie Jones House”; however, archival research confirms that her name is spelled “Betty” with a “y.” As such, this resource is now referred to as the Jasper and Betty Jones House.¹⁷⁹

The primary resource, a dwelling, is immediately surrounded by a manicured grass lawn accessed by a poured-concrete drive that runs north-south on the west side of the dwelling leading towards the garage (Figure 34, p. 104). A poured-concrete walkway extends east from the driveway towards the north side of the building and wraps around the east and south elevations. Lining the north, east, and south boundaries of the property are deciduous trees and the dwelling is lined with adolescent shrubbery. Several small brick-lined plant beds dot the north lawn. A garage, barbeque, and lamp post are associated with the dwelling.

The house is a circa-1971, Contemporary-style single-family dwelling designed by the current owner in partnership with the builder (Photo 87, p. 105).¹⁸⁰ During the 2017 survey, access was granted to the interior by the current owner.

¹⁷⁸ NCPedia 2017b.

¹⁷⁹ Cofield Mortuary 2011.

¹⁸⁰ During the survey, Jasper Jones was not available to meet with the survey team; information was obtained through his caregiver, who did not wish to provide her name.



Figure 33: Location and Parcel Boundaries of the Jasper and Betty Jones House at 4590 Lawrenceville Road (NP1135).¹⁸¹

¹⁸¹ Esri 2017.

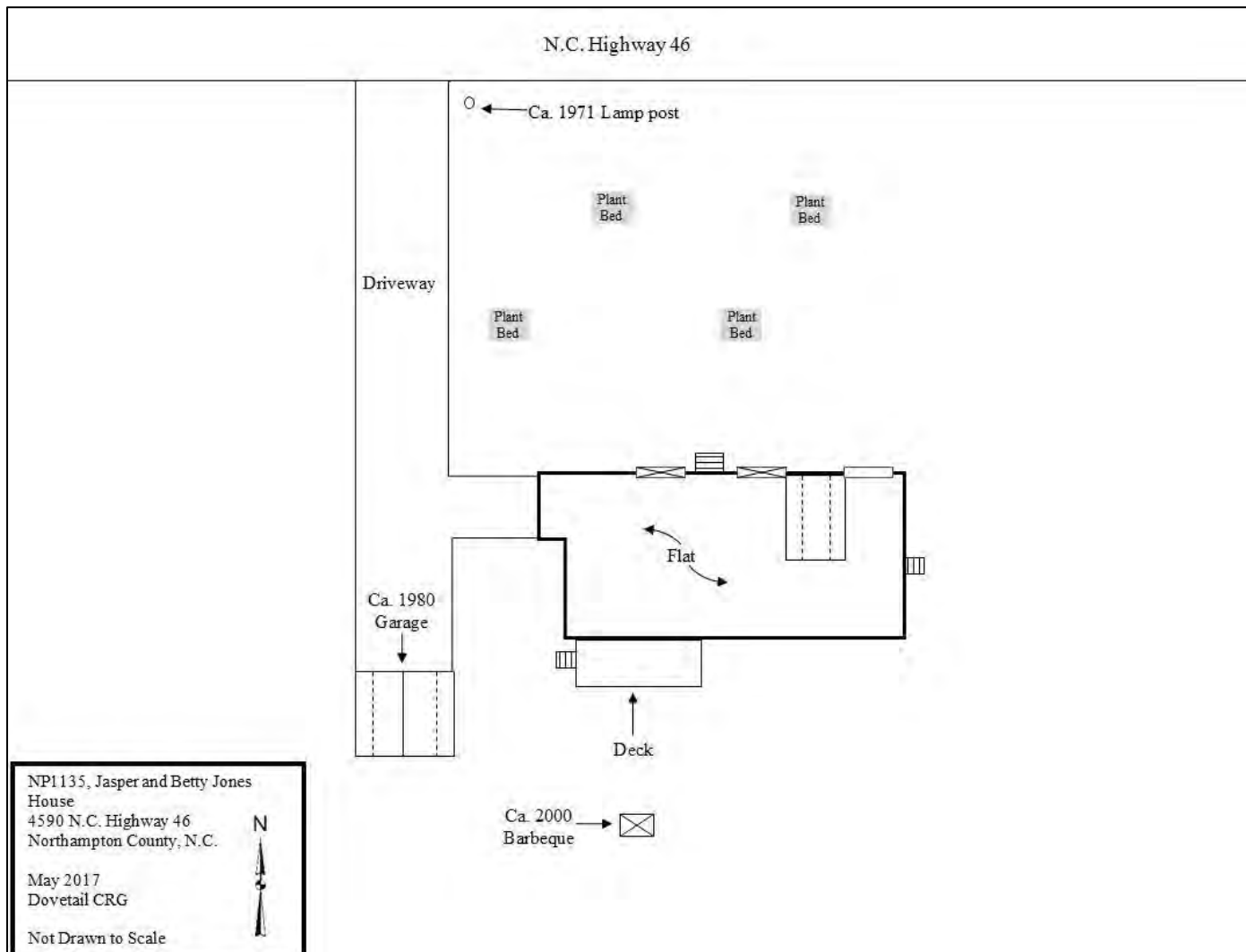


Figure 34: Jasper and Betty Jones House at 4590 Lawrenceville Road (NP1135) Site Plan.

The continuous foundation and frame structural system is clad primarily in a brick veneer laid in an all-stretcher bond with a rusticated stone veneer in the northeast corner of the building (Photo 88, p. 105). Three shallow, ashlar-stone-clad projections that rise approximately 2-feet above the roofline visually divide the façade (north elevation). The central projection functions as an exterior-end chimney. The building is covered by a flat roof with wide, boxed eaves with metal coping and an asphalt-clad, mansard roof is situated in the eastern half of the north elevation (Photo 89, p. 106). The roof material was updated approximately five years ago.¹⁸²



Photo 87: Façade of the Jasper and Betty Jones House, Looking South.



Photo 88: Northeast Oblique of the Jasper and Betty Jones House.

The façade features the primary entrance filled with the original single-leaf, nine-paneled wooden door and a storm door with a large glass pane. Flanking the doorway are three-light,

¹⁸²Information obtained through Jasper Jones' caregiver, who did not wish to provide her name.

wood-frame sidelights (Photo 90, p. 106). Other fenestration includes ribbons of the original fixed, multi-light, floor-to-ceiling windows; single-light, wood-frame, awning windows; and single or paired, one-over-one, wood-frame, double-hung-sash windows. Most windows feature a brick sill. A double-leaf, sliding glass door is situated on the west half of the south elevation and is accessed by a wood deck lined with a squared, wooden balustrade and a set of wood steps that extend from the west elevation of the deck. A recessed, screened-in porch is situated in the north half of the east elevation and is accessed by a set of brick steps lined with an iron rail (Photo 91, p. 107). Two sectional, paneled, metal garage doors with four lights are located on the west elevation (Photo 92, p. 107).



Photo 89: Detail of the Ashlar Projections and the Raised Mansard Roof. The chimney is on the left.



Photo 90: Exterior View of the Primary Entrance (Left) and a Detail of the Door from the Interior, Looking North (Right)



Photo 91: Southeast Oblique of the Jasper and Betty Jones House.



Photo 92: Northwest Oblique Showing the Garage Doors.

The primary entrance on the north elevation opens into a central hall lined with unadorned trim (Figure 35, p. 108). The hall stretches from the primary entrance towards the rear (south) of the dwelling and turns west to access two bedrooms and east to access the master bedroom (Photo 93, p. 109). The ceiling of the hallway is texturized. The entire building features drywall for the interior walls and original carpeting.¹⁸³ The single-leaf door on the hall's west elevation opens into the den that is clad in wood paneling and the ceiling in this room features finished wood beams (Photo 94, p. 110). A brick-faced fireplace centered on the north wall extends from the floor to the ceiling and contains a triangular firebox opening. A single-leaf, wooden door is situated in the east half of the south wall of the den providing access to the garage.

¹⁸³ Ibid.

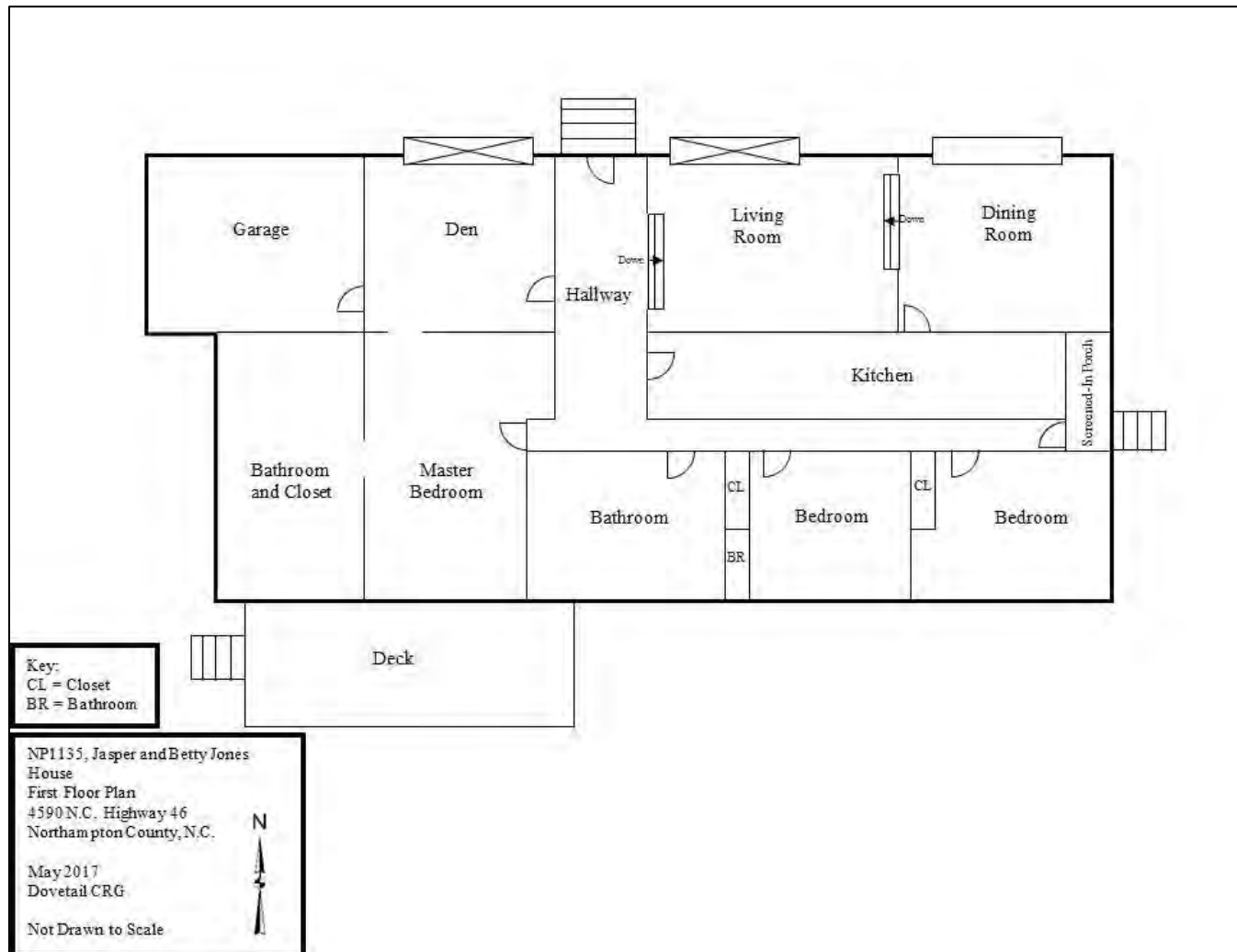


Figure 35: First Floor Plan of the Jasper and Betty Jones House (NP1135).

A doorway and set of carpeted steps lined with an iron rail on the east wall of the hallway opens into the living room. A brick-faced fireplace with two rectangular firebox openings is located in the west half of the north elevation and recessed shelving is located in the east half of the same elevation. The raised mansard ceiling features chandelier-style light fixtures (Photo 95, p. 110). On the east wall of the living room is a large opening into the dining room accessed by two carpeted steps lined with an iron rail. Inset cabinets are situated on the north elevation flanked by a stone veneer. The kitchen is accessed from the north by an entrance from the dining room, from the west by a single-leaf wood door by the hallway, and from the south by another single-leaf door from the hallway. It features finished wood ceiling beams and original wood cabinets laid in a U-shape along the north wall.



Photo 93: Southern Portion of Hallway, Looking East (Left) and the 90 Degree Hallway Corner, Looking South (Right).

At the southern end of the hallway are two single-leaf doors that each provides access to a bedroom, the western of which features a small, half bath attached to the east wall, south of a closet. A full bath is located west of the two bedrooms and has a tiled floor and half tiled walls. On the east wall of the southern portion of the hallway is an exit to the screened-in porch; it is filled with a single-leaf storm door. Although the master bedroom at the west end of the southern portion of the hallway was not accessible during the time of survey, from the entryway of the room it is surmisable that a full bath was attached to the southern half of the west wall and a closet was located to the north of the bath.



Photo 94: View of Den, Looking Northwest.



Photo 95: View of Living Room Fireplace, Looking Northwest (Left) and View of Living Room Looking East Toward the Dining Room.

Associated with the dwelling a one-and-one-half-story, two-bay, garage constructed around 1980. It is set on a continuous concrete foundation and the frame structural system is clad in a mixture of T1-11 and weatherboard siding. The building is covered by a gambrel roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. Two sectional, paneled, vinyl garage doors with four lights are located on the north elevation and other fenestration includes one-over-one, vinyl, double-hung sash windows with faux muntins (Photo 96, p. 111). Located south of the dwelling is a circa-2000 brick barbeque set on a poured-concrete slab (Photo 96, p. 111).



Photo 96: Garage, Northeast Oblique (left); Barbeque, Looking South (Right).

Also associated with this resource is a metal lamp post likely constructed around the same time as the house (circa 1971). It stands just south of the road and west of the driveway and features a hanging sign that notes the house address (north side of the post) and a glass, metal-framed box sits at the top (Photo 97, p. 112).

A series of plant beds dot the north lawn. Likely constructed in the early 1970s, these brick-lined objects are rectangular in shape and project approximately 6 inches above ground level (Photo 98, p. 112).



Photo 97: Lamp Post Looking Northwest.



Photo 98: Two of the Brick Plant Boxes North of the House.

History

The land on which the Jasper and Betty Jones House now sits was once part of several tracts owned by Northampton County native, William “Willie” (also known as “Buck”) Turner. Born to Albert Jim Turner and Lisa “Eliza” Turner in May 1879, Willie worked as a farmer his entire life.¹⁸⁴ He married Lillie Moore (1879–1922), also of Northampton County, in December 1898.¹⁸⁵ Buck and Lillie first purchased land in the county during the first decade of the twentieth century and Buck would continue to buy up many small, adjacent tracts for the following several decades.¹⁸⁶ They lived together with their four children in Northampton County until the time of Lillie’s death in 1922.¹⁸⁷ Within just a couple of years, Willie married Blanche Moody (ca. 1895–?), with whom he had seven children.¹⁸⁸

By the mid-twentieth century, he owned hundreds of acres just west of the present-day Town of Gaston boundaries. During this time, he sold off small tracts of land to nearby organizations, such as the Cool Spring Baptist Church for their cemetery and the NCBE for the establishment of a new, consolidated elementary school for African American children.¹⁸⁹ Willie died intestate in 1964 at the Eastern North Carolina Sanatorium in Wilson, North Carolina. In the late 1960s, the task of dividing his estate among his heirs was placed in the hands of the Northampton County Superior Court and in 1971 the court gave their official ruling on the subdivision of the land.¹⁹⁰

In that subdivision, Blanche received four tracts of land from her late husband’s estate: the first tract (#7a) contained 62.8 acres, the second (#6) contained 40.4 acres, the third tract (#1) contained 30.9 acres, and the fourth tract (#4) contained 8.8 acres, for a total of 142.9 acres. In March 1971, from the tract known as #7a (formerly referred to as Squire Land), Blanche sold 2.22 acres on the south side of N.C. Highway 46 to her daughter, Clementine T. Moody (née Turner) (Figure 36, p. 114 and Figure 37, p. 115)¹⁹¹ Clementine and her husband, John L. Moody, sold the 2.22-acre tract land to Jasper W. Jones and his wife, Betty Bell Jones, on March 5, 1971.¹⁹²

¹⁸⁴ North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics 1964.

¹⁸⁵ North Carolina County Registers of Deeds 1898; North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics 1922.

¹⁸⁶ Northampton County Grantee Index n.d.

¹⁸⁷ North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics 1922.

¹⁸⁸ North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services 1976; U.S. Census 1930.

¹⁸⁹ NCPB 10:115.

¹⁹⁰ NCDB 551:18.

¹⁹¹ NCDB 551:18.

¹⁹² NCDB 552:78.

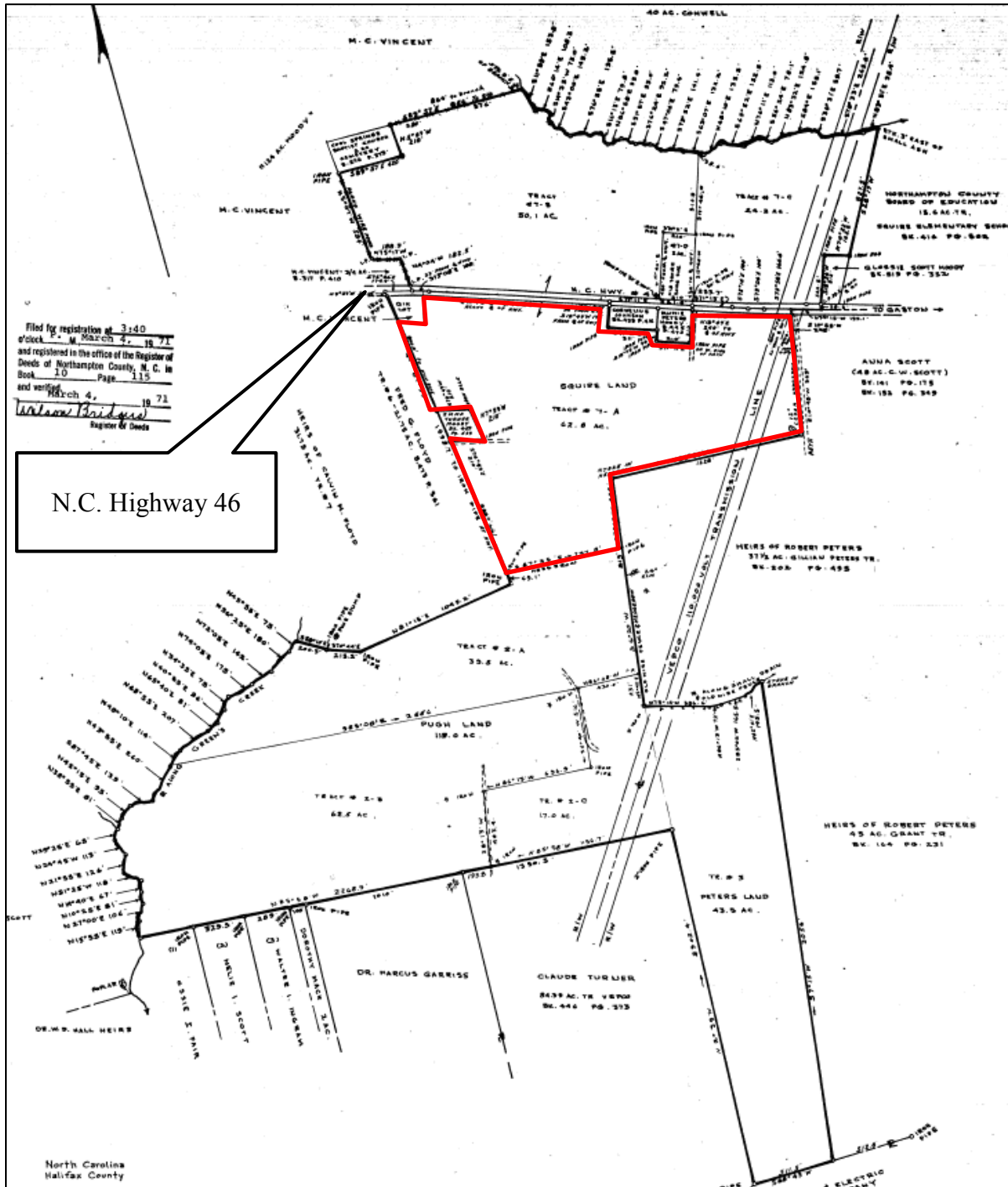


Figure 36: 1969 Map Depicting a Portion of the Division of the W.B. Turner Estate.¹⁹³ Tract #7a obtained by Blanche Turner is outlined in red. Map not to scale.

¹⁹³ NCPB 10:115

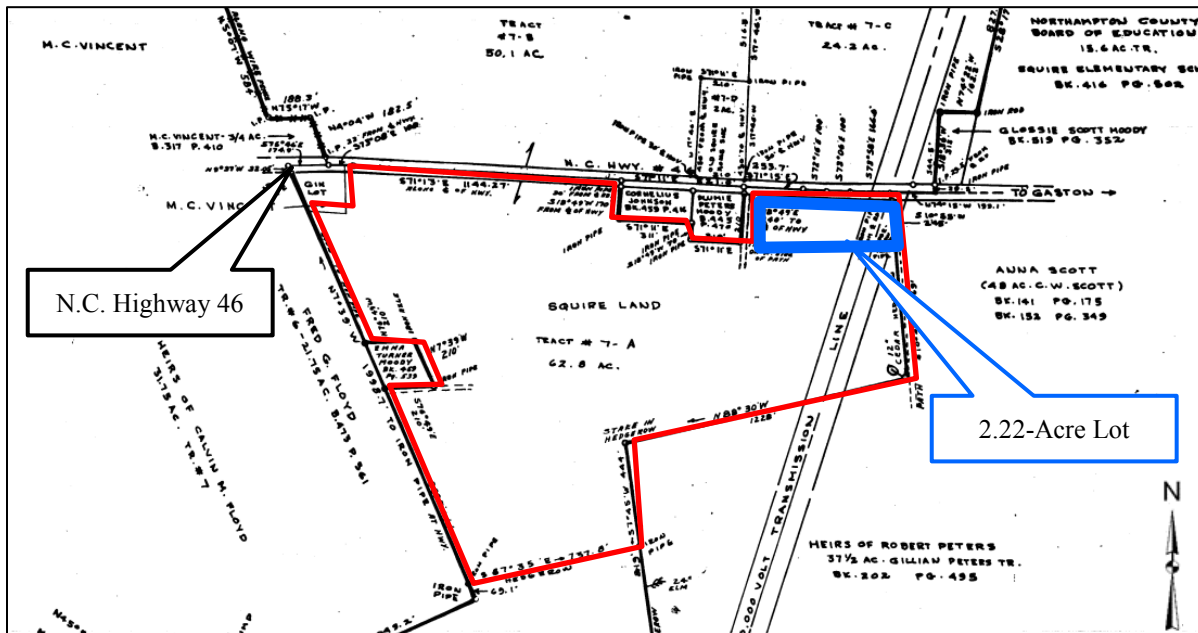


Figure 37: 1969 Map Depicting a Portion of the Division of the W.B. Turner Estate. Tract #7a obtained by Blanche Turner is outlined in red.¹⁹⁴ The location of the 2.22-acre lot sold to Clementine Moody is outlined in blue. Map not to scale.

Jasper Washington Jones, born in 1922, is the son of Lafayette and Rebecca Alexander Jones.¹⁹⁵ Until his late teens, he worked as a laborer on a rented farm in Warren County on which his family lived.¹⁹⁶ Jasper graduated with an M.A. degree in history from Shaw University and an M.A. degree in Education administration at New York University. He also “completed course requirements for the professional diploma in Educational Administration in North Carolina College at Durham.”¹⁹⁷ In 1957, Jasper Jones became the first principal of the Squire Elementary School and eight years later, he married Betty Bell, who was born around 1926 (Photo 99, p. 116). In 1971, the couple purchased the 2.22-acre lot that was formally part of the Willie B. Turner estate and it was on this land they built the high-styled, one-story house that is currently known as the Jasper and Betty Jones House (NP1135) (Figure 38, p. 116).¹⁹⁸ Jasper was the principal of Squire Elementary School for nearly 40 years and the couple lived together in the house on N.C. Highway 46 until Betty’s death in 2011. Jasper, aged in his mid-90s, continues to reside there to this day.¹⁹⁹

¹⁹⁴ NCPB 10:115.

¹⁹⁵ National Archives and Records Administration n.d.; U.S. Census 1930, 1940.

¹⁹⁶ U.S. Census 1930, 1940.

¹⁹⁷ The Carolina Times 1965:3A.

¹⁹⁸ During the survey, Jasper Jones was not available to communicate with the survey team; information was obtained through his caregiver, who did not wish to provide her name.

¹⁹⁹ Cofield Mortuary 2011.

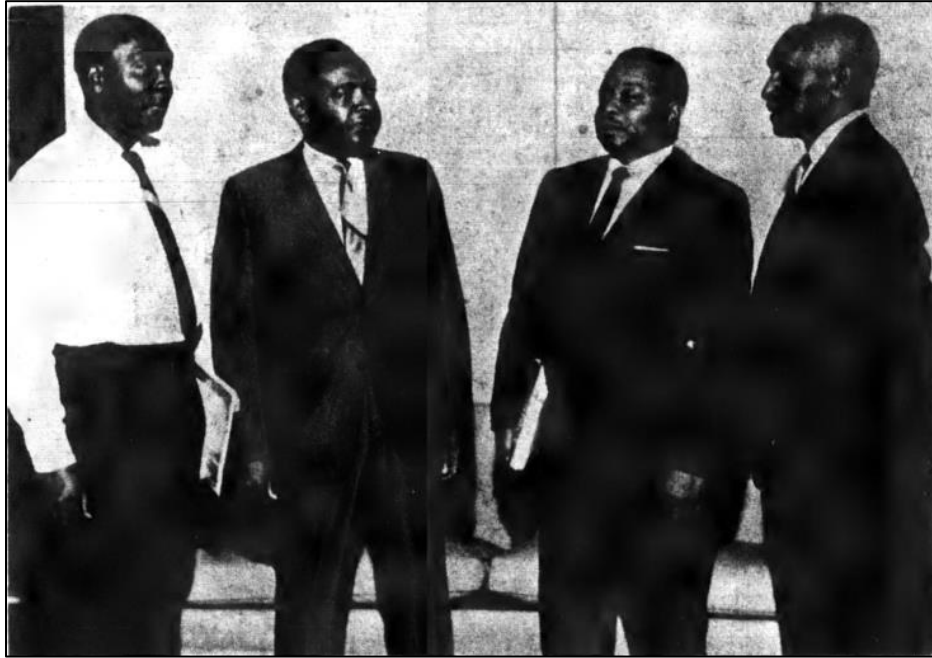


Photo 99: A 1967 Photograph of Jasper W. Jones (Second from the Left) Attending the Principals-Supervisors Conference as Principal of Acquire Elementary School.²⁰⁰

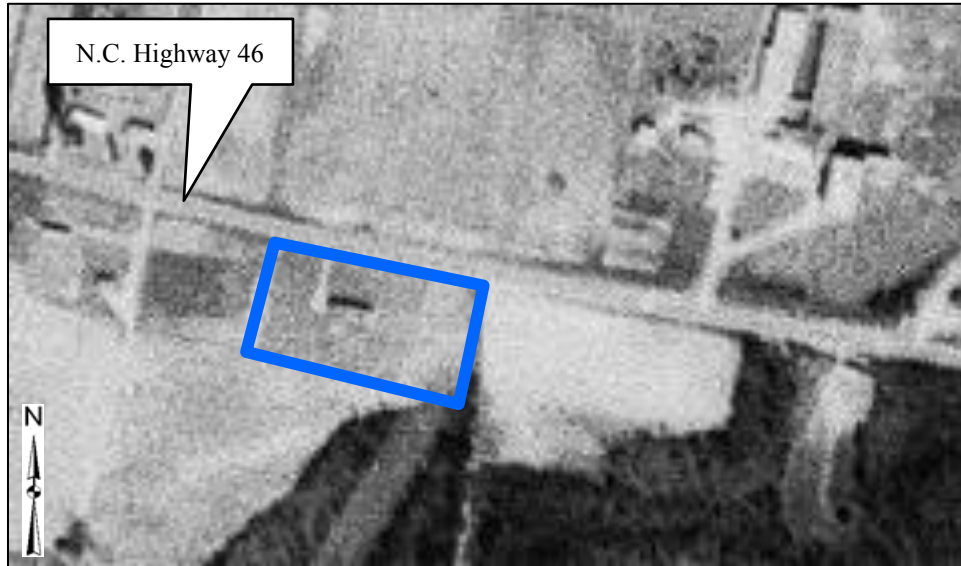


Figure 38: 1973 Aerial Showing the Jasper and Betty Jones House (NP1135). The approximate boundaries of the 2.22-acre lot sold to Jasper and Betty Jones is noted in blue. Aerial not to scale.²⁰¹

²⁰⁰ The Carolina Times 1967:6b.

²⁰¹ USDA 1973.

Evaluation

The circa-1971, Contemporary-style dwelling known as the Jasper and Betty Jones House retains a high level of integrity of location and setting. The building has not moved since it was first constructed and, although there has been some residential development surrounding the property, this area west of Gaston remains only lightly populated and moderately agricultural in nature. Because the building was constructed as a dwelling and continues to be inhabited, it has a high level of association. Jasper Jones has owned the house since he had it built in the early 1970s and under his ownership, very few modifications to the exterior, interior, and landscape has occurred. The house remains wholly unaltered and retains almost all of its character defining features and original fabric. As such, it retains a high level of integrity of materials, workmanship, design, and feeling.

In order for a resource to be considered eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, “a property can be associated with either (or both) of two types of events: [...] a specific event marking an important moment in American prehistory or history [or] a pattern of events or a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a State, or the nation.”²⁰² The Jasper and Betty Jones House has no known association with notable historic event or trend. As such, it is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A.

Although Jasper Jones was the first principal at Squire Elementary School and remained there for several decades, archival research completed during this survey uncovered no evidence that he played a notable role within education in the region. Similarly, it does not appear that Betty Jones gained notable importance, nor is she considered individually significant. Therefore, this resource does not do not meet the requirements for Criterion B which is defined as needing to be associated with a person who is “individually significant within a historic context” and has “gained importance within his or her profession or group”.²⁰³ As such, the Jasper and Betty Jones House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

There are very few known highly styled dwellings in the Gaston vicinity that date to the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Most of the houses from that time period in eastern Northampton County tend to be one-story houses that have Ranch-style attributes with some Colonial Revival detailing. These tend to be vernacular examples of the styles they reflect, often only exhibiting one or two elements of a particular architectural style. Although many of the houses in western Northampton County that date to third quarter of the twentieth century represent this trend, two examples within proximity of Jasper and Betty Jones House were noted: 109 Swift Lane and 4564 N.C. Highway 46 (both not previously surveyed with the NC-HPO) (Photo 100 and Photo 101, p. 118). The house at 109 Swift Lane is a one-story, Ranch house constructed around 1970. A side-gabled roof covers the brick-clad building, which features a denticulated cornice below the eaves. The other example is a circa-1960 house at 4564 N.C. Highway 46, also a one-story, brick-clad building covered by a side-gabled roof. Scalloped wood trim lines the eaves and an engaged porch is situated on the north elevation.

²⁰² Shrimpton et al. 1990:12.

²⁰³ Shrimpton et al. 1990:14.



Photo 100: 109 Swift Lane, Southeast Oblique.



Photo 101: 4564 N.C. Highway 46, North Elevation.

Two additional dwellings were found in the Town of Weldon (approximately 10 miles southeast of Gaston) that reflect high styles of the mid- to late-twentieth century. The Benjamin Mills, Jr. House (HX0912) was constructed in 1947 and is an example of the International style. The smooth parged veneer, flat rooflines lined with metal coping, corner metal-framed windows, and the use of glass block all reflect the International style that first gained popularity in the second quarter of the twentieth century (Photo 102, p. 119).²⁰⁴ The Benjamin Mills, Jr. House has not been formally evaluated for the NRHP by NC-HPO staff.

²⁰⁴ McAlester 2013:617–618.



Photo 102: The Benjamin Mills, Jr. House (HX0912), North Elevation.

The other dwelling in Weldon is located on the north side of W. Third Street, just west of the intersection of Poplar and W. Third streets. Previously surveyed with NC-HPO, this one-story building was constructed in the mid-twentieth century and displays architectural features typical of Contemporary style. The house is clad in a combination of cut stone and brick veneers and capped by a moderately pitched, hipped roof with extremely wide, overhanging eaves. The focal point of the building is wide stone chimney at the center of the south elevation (Photo 103).



Photo 103: House on W. Third Street in Weldon, Southwest Oblique.

In nearby Louisburg, Franklin County is an excellent example of the Modern style: the Thomas and Lois Wheless House (FK0551) at 106 John Street. This one-story dwelling was constructed in 1955 and designed by architect G. Milton Small who is considered to be “the leading practitioner of modernist architecture in the Miesian mode in North Carolina, especially in the Triangle area, in the 1950s and 1960s.”²⁰⁵ Featuring a combination of materials including wood, stone, and glass, this building is capped by a shallow, front-gabled roof with narrow glass panes in the gable (Photo 104). According to the NRHP nomination, “The house is designed with a strong sense of balance in the arrangement of its horizontal, vertical, and spatial elements; a combination of both privacy and openness; an economy of space in its use of built-in storage; and a use of beautiful materials.”²⁰⁶ This resource was listed in the NRHP in under Criterion C as an excellent example of a Modern-style dwelling that has undergone few changes.



Photo 104: The Thomas and Lois Wheless House (FK0551), West Elevation.

Eligibility under Criterion C encompasses buildings, structures, sites, and objects that 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. The Jasper and Betty Jones House is a rare and excellent example of the Contemporary style in rural Northampton County. It was built around 1971 when Jasper Jones obtained the property and since that time, the house has undergone very few modifications and alterations. Because the house and property as a whole retain a high level of historic integrity and architectural significance, the Jasper and Betty Jones House is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C.

For a resource constructed less than 50 years ago to be considered eligible for the NRHP it must meet Criteria Consideration G. NPS guidelines state that a resource must exhibit “exceptional

²⁰⁵ North Carolina State University 2017b.

²⁰⁶ Phillips 2007:8-6.

importance.”²⁰⁷ The Jasper and Betty Jones House should be considered an exceptional resource because it is the only known resource of this style in rural Northampton County; furthermore, its surviving character defining features, both exterior and interior are intact and in excellent condition. For these reasons, the Jasper and Betty Jones House is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criteria Consideration G.

For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered significant.²⁰⁸ The Jasper and Betty Jones House is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology, nor or significant patterns of history in the area. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

In sum, the Jasper and Betty Jones House is **recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C and Criteria Consideration G.**

The proposed period of significance for this resource is 1971, the date around which archival research suggests the primary resource was built. The proposed NRHP boundaries for the Jasper and Betty Jones House, as determined during the current investigations, conform to the existing tax parcel (Figure 39, p. 122).²⁰⁹ The boundaries include the dwelling, lamp post, garage, plant beds, and barbeque. Only the dwelling, lamp post, and plant beds were constructed during the period of significance and contribute to the property’s eligibility.

²⁰⁷ Shrimpton et al. 1990:42

²⁰⁸ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

²⁰⁹ NCGIS 2017.



Figure 39: Proposed NRHP Boundaries of the Jasper and Betty Jones House (NP1135).²¹⁰.

²¹⁰ Esri 2017.

NP0414: Moody House

Date of Construction: Circa 1915

Modifications: Window replacement and ell addition mid-20th century; renovation 1980

192 Dr. Hall Road (4068 N.C. Highway 46)
Gaston, Northampton County, North Carolina
PIN: 3080-54-5303
Eligibility Recommendation: Not Eligible



Architectural Description

The Moody House at 192 Dr. Hall Road (also addressed as 4068 N.C. Highway 46), is located on the south side of road, set back approximately 200 feet south. The resource is west of the Town of Gaston in Gaston Township, Northampton County, North Carolina approximately 0.3 miles west of the junction of N.C. Highway 46 and N.C. State Road 1210 (Figure 40, p. 124). It is located on a 78.98-acre polygonal parcel.²¹¹

The area immediately surrounding the resource is rural, with N.C. Highway 46 running east to west along the northern boundary of the parcel. Surrounding parcels are forested with young pine or contain agricultural fields. Smaller forested parcels are along the western edge of the resource and Dr. Hall Road runs north-south along the eastern edge of the resource. An agricultural parcel abuts the southern boundary. Smaller, single-family residential properties aline the northeast and northwest corners of the resource.

The primary resource, a dwelling, is immediately surrounded by a grass lawn accessed by an unpaved drive that runs north-south on the west side of the dwelling (Figure 41, p. 125). A few poured-concrete blocks lead up to the dwelling's porch. A shed, pumphouse, and well are associated with the dwelling and are located directly south of the primary resource. Deciduous trees dot the eastern elevation of the dwelling with bushes abutting the front porch. Surrounding the lawn are agricultural fields. The resource was previously surveyed in 1995 and 2009.²¹²

²¹¹ NCPedia 2017b.

²¹² Mattson et al. 1995; NC-HPO 2009c; Spanbauer 2010.



Figure 40: Location and Parcel Boundaries of the Moody House (NP0414).²¹³

²¹³ Esri 2017.

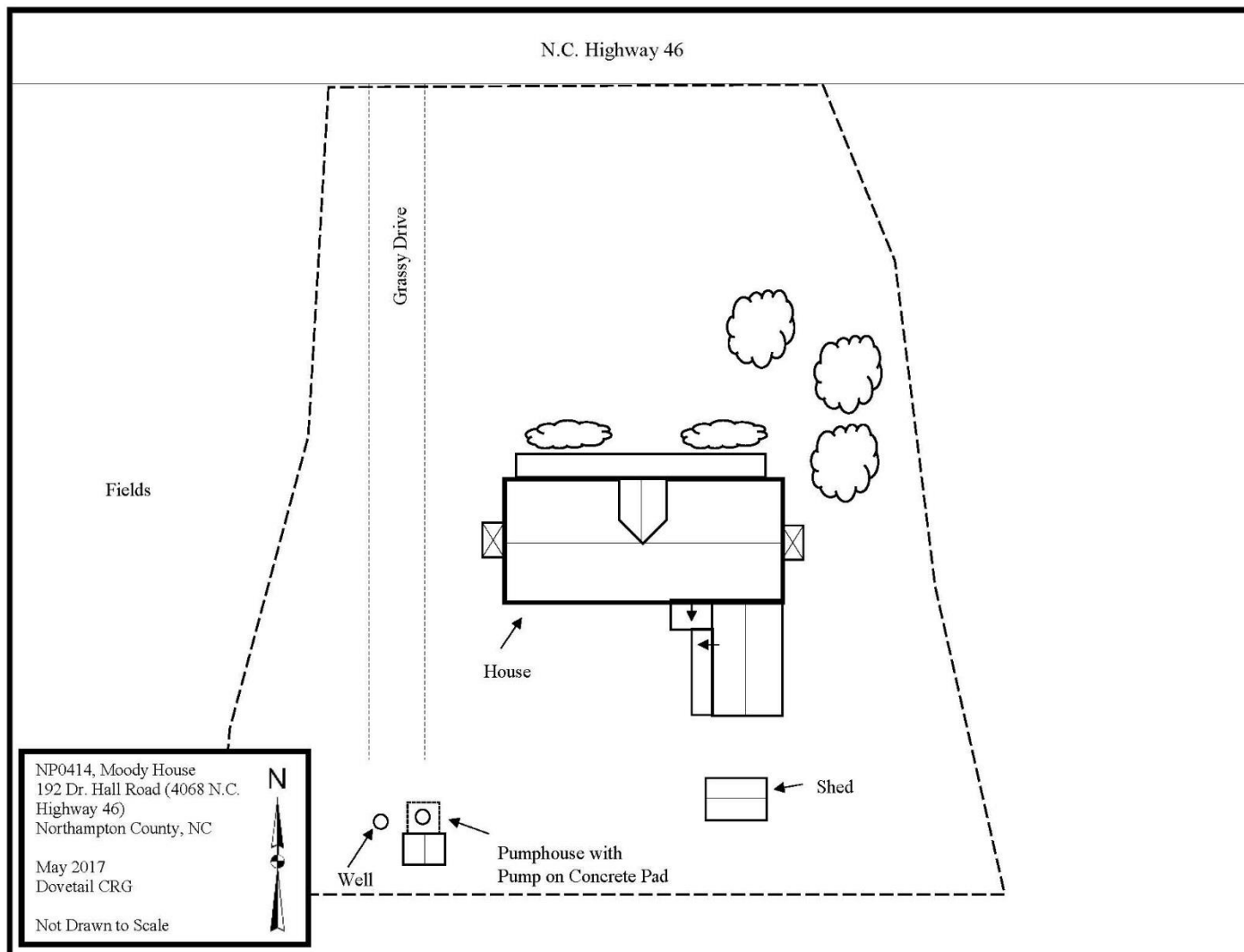


Figure 41: The Moody House Site Plan.

The primary resource, is a circa-1915, Triple-A, single-pile, I-house consisting of two-stories, three bays, a side-gable roof with a central front-gabled peak (Photo 105). The dwelling is two rooms wide and likely has a central hall. During the 2017 survey, access was not given to the interior. A neighbor noted that the property has been vacant for several decades but has continued to be maintained.²¹⁴



Photo 105: View of Façade of the I-House, Looking South.

The foundation is likely composed of brick piers but is obscured by concrete block infill and replacement 2- x 4-inch wood beams (Photo 106, p. 127). The infill appears to also obscure a small crawl space. The raised foundation supports a frame structural system that is clad in wood weatherboard siding with shingle metal roofing on the building's core. The roof features a simple wood, box cornice with prominent partial returns on the gabled ends of the building. An exterior-end brick chimney is located on the west and east elevations. The east chimney appears to have deteriorated and lost its original height (Photo 107, p. 127).

The façade of the dwelling faces north and consists of three bays; a central entry contains a storm door and a single-leaf wood-paneled door with a single-light flanked by sidelights filled with textured glass and wood panels (Photo 108, p. 128). The primary entrance opens onto a one-story, three-bay, hipped porch supported by turned wood posts. The porch contains a shingle metal roof, a tongue-and-groove wood deck, and poured-concrete steps. Window fenestration consists of mid-twentieth-century, replacement, two-over-two, horizontally-divided, double-hung, wood sash with

²¹⁴ Ricky Brantley, personal communication 2017.

storm windows, most of which are bounded by fixed board-and-batten shutters. The front gable contains a decorative circular panel.



Photo 106: Detail of Foundation on West Elevation.



Photo 107: I-House, Northeast Oblique.



Photo 108: Center Entry Opening Onto the Front Porch, Looking South.

The rear elevation (south) is approximately three bays wide. A one-story, gabled addition, likely constructed around the mid-twentieth century, is located on the southeast corner of the rear elevation and connects to a one-story, two-bay, shed addition that likely encloses the former rear entry. Although historic aerials of the area are grainy, a 1961 aerial shows an expansion of the building's core, compared to the 1959 aerial.²¹⁵ The gabled ell has a similar foundation and is clad in the same materials as the dwelling's core. Window fenestration varies from six-over-six to two-over-two horizontal wood sash with storm windows and those on the south and east elevations of the ell feature fixed, board-and-batten shutters (Photo 109, p. 128). The west elevation of the addition contains a one-story, five-bay, enclosed shed porch clad in plywood with four sliding, single-pane windows and a single-leaf, single-light, storm door that opens onto a poured-concrete, two-step stoop with metal rail (Photo 110, p. 129).



Photo 109: Window Detail on Rear Elevation.

²¹⁵ USDA 1959, 1961.



Photo 110: I-House, Southwest Oblique.

The one-story shed addition intersects with the dwelling's core at the meeting of the gabled addition's northwest corner. The addition is clad with a replacement 2- x 4-inch wood beam foundation, wood weatherboard, and a metal shingle roof. Two windows on the south elevation are two-over-one, double-hung wood sash with storm windows.

Access to the interior of the dwelling was not granted during survey. According to the Tax Assessors Office and a realty website, the dwelling was renovated in 1980 and contains five rooms including one bathroom and two bedrooms.²¹⁶

Outbuildings found on the Moody House property include a shed, pump house, and well (Photo 111, p. 130). Aerials depict a modern outbuilding within the agricultural fields, but this resource was inaccessible during the time of survey due No Trespassing signs being posted. The 1960 shed is located directly south of the dwelling and is a one-story, one-bay, side-gable building clad in T1-11 siding with a corrugated metal roof set atop the ground (Photo 112, p. 130). A single-leaf door with a single light opens in the north elevation and a one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window is located on each gable end.

²¹⁶ NCGIS 2017; Realtor.com 2017.



Photo 111: View of the Associated Outbuildings and Well, Looking Southeast.



Photo 112: Shed, Southwest Oblique.

A circa 1950 pumphouse is located southwest of the dwelling and shed (Photo 113, p. 131). The one-story, one-bay, front-gabled building is constructed of concrete block with a wood-framed

roof clad in corrugated metal. A single-leaf, vertical wood door is in the northeast corner of the north elevation. The door opens onto a poured concrete pad that contains a metal water pump and concrete structure. To the west of the pumphouse is a modern small cylindrical, poured concrete well with a flat concrete cap.



Photo 113: View of the Pumphouse in the Foreground and the Well in the Background, Looking Southwest.

Historic Context

The Moody House is currently situated on a parcel of 78.98 acres, but was historically part of a larger tract. Based on a site visit, records at the Northampton County Tax Assessors Office, and previous architectural surveys, it is estimated that the dwelling was constructed circa 1915.²¹⁷ Contact with the current owner was not available during the time of the survey so information was limited to archival research.

Although the dwelling dates to circa 1915, the land was historically part of the Mount Gallant tract from 1739 through 1835, later known as the Ballard Moore Tract, which exceeded the boundaries of Northampton County into Halifax County.²¹⁸ The Mount Gallant Tract was associated with Allen Jones, a prominent colonial and state political leader.²¹⁹ By 1835, the tract was owned by the Ballard Moore family whom later subdivided the tract and sold the parcels to several owners until Annie M. Aderholt purchased the current parcel for \$1,000 in 1905.²²⁰

Annie M. Aderholt and her husband, C.L. Aderholt, from Stanly County, retained the 90-acre property for a few years and sold it to P.N. (Peter Napoleon) Moody in November 1913 for

²¹⁷ Northampton County Tax Assessors Office 2017; Spanbauer 2010.

²¹⁸ North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources 2008; NCDB 27:307.

²¹⁹ North Carolina Department of Cultural Resource 2008.

²²⁰ NCDB 122:549.

\$1,600.²²¹ P.N. Moody (1894–1937) and his family likely constructed the extant dwelling and ancillary buildings and structures. He had married Minnie Lee Jordan (1880–1916), sister to the previous owner Lulu May Jordan Warrick, in 1904.²²² In 1910, prior to purchasing the property, the family was recorded to be living in the Gaston area on their farm along River Road and consisted of Peter N. Moody, Minnie L., and Elton L. (age 1).²²³ By 1916, Minnie had passed away and P.N. Moody was remarried to Ruth Floyd (1899–1991) in 1917.²²⁴

In 1930, P.N. Moody was living on the farm at 192 Dr. Hall Road as a farmer with his wife, Ruth, Elton R. (age 21, general store clerk), Clayton (age 18, farm laborer), Earline, Bennie J., Elbert T., Torica, and Melvin V.²²⁵ P.N. Moody passed away in 1937 and the land the current dwelling now sits upon passed to his heirs, which included his wife, Ruth Floyd Moody.²²⁶ The farm is noted on a 1938 highway map (Figure 42, p. 133). In 1940, his estate was taxed for 127 acres valued at \$2,734 and Ruth was taxed for 18 acres of the Floyd land (located in the vicinity of the farm), four mules, two hogs, two cows, one cattle, and one vehicle.²²⁷ The livestock were likely on the larger farm property. In 1940, Ruth was recorded as being the head of the household and owning the farm. She was living with her children Bene, Elbert, Teresa, Mildred, and Pete Alvin.²²⁸ She was recorded as a farmer with her son, Elbert, working as an unpaid family farm helper. Her son, Pete Alvin, who would later acquire but not occupy the property, was a parts salesman for White Motors, married Ophelia Maxine Epps, recorded as a sales lady, in 1952 in Greensville, Virginia.²²⁹

In 1945, Ruth Moody was taxed for two parcels: 90 acres of Moody land of which the current I-house is associated and 18 acres of Floyd land which was sold to T.E. Buttler.²³⁰ The total value of the parcels was \$2,375. She was also taxed for having four mules, 12 hogs, and one cow. The earliest aerial view for the area is from 1950 and it shows the property much as it is today.²³¹ Between 1950 and 1959, “Tract 1” composed of 1.54 acres, was subdivided from the farm as shown in historic aerials but continued to be owned by the Moody family (Figure 43, p. 133). Between 1955 and 1960, the farm downsized to 82.4 acres; Ruth was taxed for the farm valued at \$3,395.²³²

²²¹ Ancestry.com 2017; NCDB 164:97.

²²² Ancestry.com 2017.

²²³ U.S. Census 1910.

²²⁴ Ancestry.com 2017.

²²⁵ U.S. Census 1930.

²²⁶ NCWB 10:429.

²²⁷ NCPTB 1940.

²²⁸ U.S. Census 1940.

²²⁹ Ancestry.com 2017.

²³⁰ Northampton County Property Tax Book (NCPTB) 1945.

²³¹ USDA 1950.

²³² NCPTB 1955 and 1960.



Figure 42: A 1938 Map Denoting the I-House in Red. The blue square indicates a farm unit.²³³
Not to scale.



Figure 43: A 1959 Aerial Map of the Moody House Along N.C. Highway 46. House is noted in red. Not to scale.²³⁴

²³³ North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission 1938.

²³⁴ USDA 1959.

The Moody family transferred the nearly 90 acres to Pete Alvin Moody in November 1971 for \$10.²³⁵ The land was divided and modified in the 1970s and 1980s. Two smaller parcels were subdivided and sold from the larger 82.4-acre property: a 1.54-acre parcel (PIN 3080-65-2157) at the southwest corner of N.C. Highway 46 and Dr. Hall Road and a 6-acre parcel (PIN 3080-44-8913) at the northwest corner of the tract, leaving a 78.98-acre parcel (Figure 44, p. 135). Additional land was purchased to add to their land which included Tract 2, containing 97.3 acres and was acquired by the family in 1977.²³⁶ The Moody family, headed by Pete Alvin Moody at this time, operated Pete's Glass Shop in Gaston.²³⁷ The Moodys did not live at this property during this period but maintained the dwelling according to a neighbor, family wills, and recent deeds.²³⁸ They resided in a circa-1950 dwelling on the 1.54-acre parcel known as Tract 1.²³⁹

On May 19, 2015, Pete Alvin Moody passed, leaving his estate to his wife, Maxine E. Moody, who died three months later on August 20, 2015, bequeathing the estate to their heirs.²⁴⁰ It appears from the Northampton County Recorder of Deeds that the heirs transferred the property, noted as originally having 90 acres along with the circa-1915 dwelling, to Timothy W. Phelps and Michael H. Wray in January 2017 for \$10.²⁴¹ However, the heirs are recorded as being the current owners according to the Northampton County Tax Assessors Office. Since the transaction is relatively recent, it is likely the office has not yet been notified.

Evaluation

The Moody House retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association as it is not known to have been moved from its original location, nor has the surrounding area changed from its agricultural nature. Its integrity of materials and workmanship survives to a degree on the dwelling's exterior as the building appears to retain many of its original materials; however its foundation appears to have been replaced in portions with 2- x 4-inch lumber. The house has retained a medium level of design; addition to the dwelling is historic and the defining characteristic of the vernacular, I-house form has been retained with its two-story, single-room depth, and central-hall plan construction with an ell.²⁴² Furthermore, the house has experienced some deterioration, such as deterioration of its roof and foundation. Although the dwelling has not been altered with modern additions, the dwelling is a simple example of a common residential form found across the county and the state of North Carolina with many high-styled examples existent.

²³⁵ NCDB 551:625.

²³⁶ NCDB 121:895.

²³⁷ *The Daily Herald* 2015.

²³⁸ NCWB 2015-E-168, 2015-E-169; Ricky Brantley, personal communication 2017.

²³⁹ NCDB 1021:895.

²⁴⁰ NCWB 2015-E-168, 2015-E-169.

²⁴¹ NCDB 1021:895.

²⁴² McAlester 2013:142.



Figure 44: Aerial View of Parcel and Adjacent Parcels Subdivided Away from the Original Farm as Noted in County Deed.

The I-house form is a popular residential style across the county during the time period in which it was constructed, which was observed in previous surveys and the current survey. The form is a relatively common type found in the pre-Railroad Tidewater South. Later examples typically contained decorative Victorian elements like vergeboard along the porch cornice.²⁴³ According to NC-HPO records, 609 I-houses (or I houses) have been previously surveyed within the state, seven of which are located in Northampton County.²⁴⁴ Four of these I-houses within Northampton County were part of the Study List, whereas the remaining three were not given a formal eligibility evaluation by NC-HPO staff.

As previously noted, a 2010 reconnaissance survey report was completed by Rebecca O. Spanbauer.²⁴⁵ The 2010 survey report noted that the Triple-A I-House:

Has the basic I-house structure, but with an engaged front gable at the roofline over the central bay of the façade [...] This roofline developed as a Victorian-era vernacular treatment to complement the highly decorative Queen Anne style [...] These houses also had rear ells that contained kitchens and dining rooms, sometimes separated by breezeways.²⁴⁶

The Harrell-Benthall-Whisnant Williams House (NP0123), located at 107 North Linden Street in Woodland of Northampton County, is a circa-1840, Triple-A, two-story, frame, I-house set on a 3.61 acre parcel (Photo 114, p. 136).²⁴⁷ It was determined potentially eligible for the NRHP by the NC-HPO in 2008 and was part of a 2008 Study List for potential NRHP nominations.²⁴⁸ It is an early example of the I-house form with Gothic-influenced ornamentation in its gabled peak and porch vergeboard, potentially linked to well-known local millworker, William Jessup. The dwelling is claimed to be one of the earliest in the Woodland vicinity.



Photo 114: The Harrell-Benthall-Whisnant Williams House, 107 North Linden Street, Woodland, Northampton County, North Carolina (NP0123).

²⁴³ McAlester 2013:142.

²⁴⁴ NC-HPO 2017.

²⁴⁵ Spanbauer 2010.

²⁴⁶ Spanbauer 2010:72.

²⁴⁷ NC-HPO 2017.

²⁴⁸ NC-HPO 2008.

The I-house at 3050 Britton Road in Galatia of Northampton County was observed during the current survey and was not previously surveyed (Photo 115, p. 137). The circa-1900 frame dwelling is similar to the Moody House in that it is plain in ornamentation and features a one-story ell and enclosed shed porch.²⁴⁹



Photo 115: I-house at 3050 Britton Road, Galatia, Northampton County, North Carolina.

The 1920 triple-A I-house at 108 South Garris Street in Lasker, Northampton County, North Carolina is located within the Lasker Historic District (NP0987). It was determined potentially eligible for the NRHP in 2010 and placed on a Study List for potential NRHP nominations (Photo 116, p. 137).²⁵⁰ The 1920 dwelling retains the simple form of the I-house and was likely clad in wood weatherboard and may have had some Victorian elements, but they have since been removed and replaced with vinyl siding and fenestration.



Photo 116: I-house at 108 S. Garris Street, Lasker, Northampton County, North Carolina.

²⁴⁹ NCGIS 2017.

²⁵⁰ NCGIS 2017; NC-HPO 2010b.

Another contemporary comparative dwelling in Northampton County is the I-house at 112 N.C. Highway 258, constructed in 1910.²⁵¹ The dwelling is an example of a late Victorian-influenced, triple-A I-house (Photo 117, p. 138). The two-story, three-bay, side-gabled, frame dwelling contains wood weatherboard siding, a plain gabled peak, and an ornate Queen Anne-style vergeboard along the porch's cornice.



Photo 117: I-house at 112 N.C. Highway 258, Woodland, Northampton County, North Carolina.

In order for a resource to be considered eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, “a property can be associated with either (or both) of two types of events: [...] a specific event marking an important moment in American prehistory or history [or] a pattern of events or a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a State, or the nation.”²⁵² However, NPS cautions that “mere association with historic events or trends is not enough, in and of itself, to qualify under Criterion A: the property’s specific association must be considered important as well.”²⁵³ The Moody House was historically part of a large agricultural property, but the land has since been heavily subdivided. The property is not known to be associated with any important historical event or trend in Northampton County or rural North Carolina as a whole, and does not merit a listing in the NRHP. For these reasons, the Moody House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

The known owners associated with the Moody House did not gain notable importance, nor are they considered individually significant. Therefore, the property does not meet Criterion B, which is defined as association with a person who is “individually significant within a historic context”

²⁵¹ NCGIS 2017.

²⁵² Shrimpton et al. 1990.

²⁵³ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

and has “gained importance within his or her profession or group.”²⁵⁴ As such, the Moody House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

Eligibility under Criterion C encompasses buildings, structures, sites, and objects that 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. The Moody House is a common vernacular building type found in Northampton County and rural North Carolina during the period in which it was constructed, with approximately 609 I-house/I House’s surveyed across the state. Many have not been surveyed as observed during the recent reconnaissance survey. The dwelling does not embody any distinctive characteristics of a construction type, period or method, nor is it associated with a prominent architect or builder. Although it has retained its original exterior materials, fenestration, and roofline, there are better examples of the I-house type such as the Harrell-Benthall-Whisnant Williams House (NP0123) and the house at 112 N.C. Highway 258 in Woodland (not previously surveyed). Therefore, it is recommended that the resource is not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.

For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered significant.²⁵⁵ The Moody House is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology, nor or significant patterns of history in the area. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D. In sum, the Moody House is **recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP.**

²⁵⁴ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

²⁵⁵ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

NP1137: Lassiter House

Date of Construction: Circa 1954

Modifications: Side addition constructed post-1978

3817 N.C. Highway 46
Gaston, Northampton County, North Carolina
PIN: 3080-36-3343
Eligibility Recommendation: Not Eligible



Architectural Description

The Lassiter House, at 3817 N.C. Highway 46, is located on the north side of the road, approximately 80 feet north of N.C. Highway 46. The resource is west of the Town of Gaston in Gaston Township, Northampton County, North Carolina approximately 0.8 miles west of the junction of N.C. Highway 46 and 1210 (Figure 45, p. 141). It is located on a 1-acre, square-shaped parcel.²⁵⁶

The area immediately surrounding the resource is rural, with N.C. Highway 46 running east-west along the southern boundary of the parcel. A larger 78.73-acre parcel (3080-37-8175) surrounds the resource on its west, north, and east boundaries; the surrounding parcel includes a 1989 single-family, modular dwelling with several outbuildings. It is addressed as 3823 N.C. Highway 46. The two parcels share a dirt driveway which is located on the larger parcel, east of the 1-acre parcel.

The primary resource, a dwelling, is immediately surrounded by a grass lawn dotted by a few deciduous trees (Figure 46, p. 142). A shed, shelter, hunting platform, and well are associated with the dwelling. All are located directly north of the primary resource except for the well which is northeast.

The resource was previously surveyed in 2009 and was described as a circa-1930 bungalow; however, the previous description does not accurately describe the dwelling.²⁵⁷ During the current survey and a review of land records indicate that the dwelling was constructed circa 1954 in the Minimal Traditional style.²⁵⁸

²⁵⁶ NCPedia 2017b.

²⁵⁷ NC-HPO 2009d ; Spanbauer 2010.

²⁵⁸ NCDB 407:116; NCGIS 2017; Spanbauer 2010.



Figure 45: Location and Parcel Boundaries of the Lassiter House (NP1137).²⁵⁹

²⁵⁹ Esri 2017.

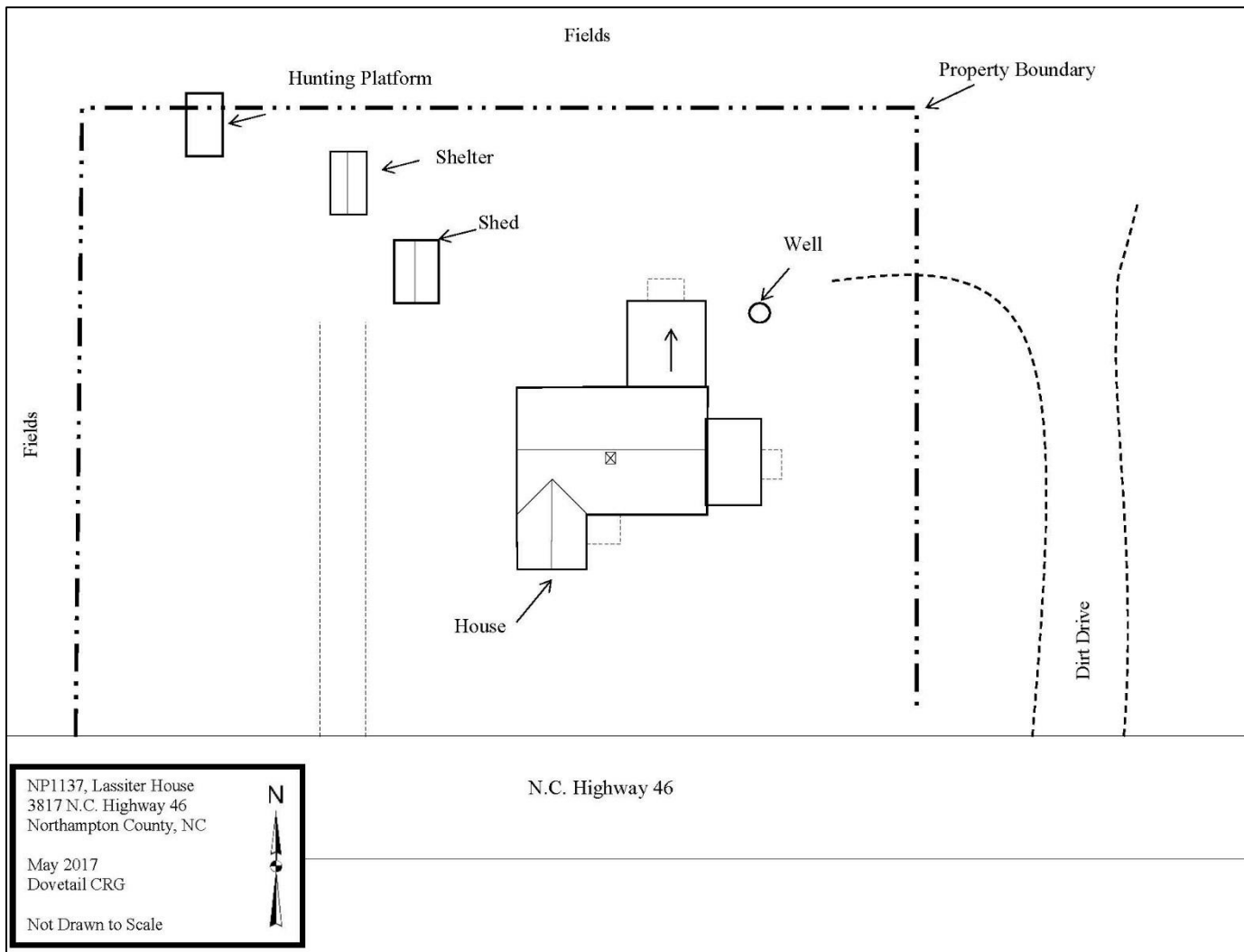


Figure 46: Site Plan for the Lassiter House.

The primary resource is a circa-1954, one-story, three-bay, side-gabled, Minimal Traditional, single-family dwelling with a projecting front gable (Photo 118, p. 143). The dwelling is two rooms wide and one room deep. A one-story, low-hipped, side addition and a one-story, shed, rear addition are located at the east and north elevations. During the current survey, access was not given to the interior, but surveyors were able to interview the property owner.



Photo 118: Façade of the Lassiter House, Looking North.

The foundation is composed of concrete block with vents into the crawl space (Photo 119, p. 144). Plywood obscures access to the dwelling's crawlspace along the foundation. The foundation supports a frame structural system that is clad in asbestos shingle siding with an asphalt-shingle roof with limited roof overhang. An interior brick chimney is located on southern slope of the roof.

The primary elevation of the dwelling faces south and consists of three bays; a central entry contains a storm door and a single-leaf, wood-paneled door with an elliptical light (Photo 120, p. 144). The central entry opens onto a one-story, one-bay, poured-concrete entry porch covered by a shed, metal awning supported by wrought iron. Window fenestration consists of single and paired two-over-two, horizontally-divided, double-hung, wood sash with storm windows as well as a single-pane picture window flanked on either side by two-over-two, double-hung, wood sash windows (Photo 121, p. 144). A one-over-one, vinyl, double-hung sash window with faux muntins is visible in the gabled ends of the building. Several window bays feature metal awnings.



Photo 119: Southwest Oblique, Looking Northeast.



Photo 120: Detail of the Main Entry and Picture Window, Looking North.



Photo 121: Window Detail on North Elevation, Looking South.

A post-1978, one-story, one-bay, low-hipped addition extends from the east elevation (Photo 122, p. 145). The addition is clad in vinyl siding, and it appears that, historically, a single-leaf, side entry provided access in the east elevation as poured concrete step remain.

The shed addition, extending from the north elevation, is clad in asbestos siding and has three bays featuring a central, single-leaf entry flanked by a window on each side (Photo 123 and Photo 124, p. 146). Awnings top each bay. The rear entry with a storm door opens onto a poured concrete stoop with a wrought iron railing.



Photo 122: Southeast Oblique, Looking Northwest.



Photo 123: North Elevation, Looking South.



Photo 124: Detail of Rear Entry, Looking South.

Access was not given to the interior of the property, however, according to the Northampton County GIS Mapping; the dwelling has 992 square feet with six rooms including three bedrooms and one bathroom.²⁶⁰ The attic has a pull-down stair.

Located north of the dwelling are four associated resources: a shed, a shelter, a hunting platform, and a well (Photo 125, p. 147). The two mid-twentieth century sheds along the rear property line are associated with the adjacent property that is no longer standing and is addressed as 3823 N.C. Highway 46. They are outside of the Lassiter House property boundaries.²⁶¹ The circa-2000 shed is a one-story, one-bay, low-pitched, side-gabled, frame building that rests on concrete-block piers. The building is clad in vinyl siding and the roof is sheathed in asphalt shingle. A single-leaf, vinyl door opens onto a poured concrete pad on the east elevation and a one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash window with false muntins is in the south elevation. The circa-2005 shelter is an open-air structure with a standing seam metal, low-pitched gable roof and fiberglass gable ends supported on cylindrical metal posts constructed circa 2003 (Photo 125, p. 147). It serves as storage for a mowing tractor. The circa-2003 hunting platform is wood frame, approximately 3 feet above the ground with steps leading to the platform (Photo 126, p. 147). A modern well is located northeast of the dwelling and consists of a poured concrete cylindrical structure and cap topped with rocks (Photo 127, p. 147).

²⁶⁰ NCGIS 2017.

²⁶¹ NCGIS 2017; Ricky Wayne Brantley, personal communication 2017.



Photo 125: Associated Shelter and Shed, Looking North.



Photo 126: View of the Hunting Platform and Shelter, Looking Northwest.



Photo 127: Well, Located Northwest of the Dwelling, Looking Northwest.

Historic Context

The Lassiter House is currently situated on a 1-acre parcel, but the land was historically part of a larger tract owned by Brigadier General Allen Jones, a colonial and state political leader in the late-eighteenth to early-nineteenth century.²⁶² Upon Jones' death, the property was subdivided numerous times, resulting in the several smaller parcels that came to dot the landscape along N.C. Highway 46 in the twentieth century. Based on a site visit, land records, county property tax records, and the current property owner, it is estimated that the dwelling was constructed circa 1954.²⁶³

Raleigh C. Hodges (1889–1947) acquired the 1-acre property, which was part of a larger tract, in the late-nineteenth century, and in 1910, he sold the 180 acres to his wife, Grace S. Hodges, for \$200.²⁶⁴ Sometime between 1910 and 1930, Mrs. Hodges subdivided her 180 acres, retaining an 80-acre parcel for her family; the 80 acres included the future site of the current study property.

In June 1954, Grace S. Hodges transferred 1 acre derived from her larger 80-acre tract to Lonnie L. Lassiter and wife, Antoinette H., the daughter of Mrs. Hodges.²⁶⁵ The deed describes the parcel as unimproved. The Minimal Traditional-styled dwelling was likely constructed by the Lassiters between 1954 and 1955, although the new home is not clearly depicted on historic aerials (Figure 47, p. 149).²⁶⁶ By 1955, Mrs. Hodges was taxed for a 79-acre property valued at \$3,700, and Lonnie L. Lassiter was taxed for 1 acre referred to as “Hodges & Residence” with a \$2,050 value.²⁶⁷ According to the Lassiters' certificate of marriage, Lonnie was a highway worker in Northampton County.²⁶⁸ He likely did not farm his mother-in-law's adjacent agricultural property. In 1965, Mrs. Hodges was not referenced in the county taxes, but Lonnie L. Lassiter was taxed for 1 acre of land and the 79-acre Hodges tract.²⁶⁹ The side addition was likely constructed circa-1978 (Figure 48, p. 149). It is believed that the Hodges farmhouse burned around 1989 and was replaced with a double-wide dwelling.²⁷⁰

The Lassiters lived on the 1-acre property for over 30 years. Lonnie passed away in October 1986 and Antoinette died in May 2001. The property was left to their heirs: Charles Michael Lassiter, Joan Brown Lassiter, Lonnie Wayne Lassiter, Norma G. Lassiter, and Audrey L. Ransom.²⁷¹ Less than six months later, the Lassiter heirs sold the 1-acre property to Ricky Wayne Brantley in February 2002 for \$10.²⁷² The following year, the deed was rerecorded to add the legal description of the property.²⁷³ A water line was laid along the southern boundary parallel to the N.C. Highway

²⁶² North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources 2008; Ricky Wayne Brantley, personal communication 2017.

²⁶³ NCDB 407:116; Ricky Wayne Brantley, personal communication 2017.

²⁶⁴ Ancestry .com 2017; NCDB 141:445.

²⁶⁵ NCDB 407:116

²⁶⁶ NCDB 407:116; NCGIS 2017; Ricky Wayne Brantley, personal communication 2017.

²⁶⁷ NCPTB 1955.

²⁶⁸ Virginia Department of Health 1940.

²⁶⁹ NCPTB 1965.

²⁷⁰; NCGIS 2017; Ricky Wayne Brantley, personal communication 2017.

²⁷¹ NCDB 797:417; NCWB 00E0131.

²⁷² NCDB 797:417/

²⁷³ NCDB 825:836.

46 in 2007. Mr. Brantley continues to own and live at the property and he added the hunting platform and metal shelter to the property.²⁷⁴



Figure 47: Excerpt of a 1959 Map of the Lassiter House Property Noted in Red. Not to scale.²⁷⁵



Figure 48: Excerpt of a 1978 Map Showing the Lassiter House Noted in Red. Not to scale.²⁷⁶

²⁷⁴ NCGIS 2017; Ricky Wayne Brantley, personal communication 2017.

²⁷⁵ USDA 1950.

²⁷⁶ USDA 1978.

Evaluation

The Lassiter House retains integrity of location, for it has never been moved, and, to a limited degree, integrity of setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship. Although the additions to the dwelling are 30 to 40 years old, the defining characteristic of the Minimal Traditional style is its simplistic form.²⁷⁷ Although its façade has not been altered, its side and rear elevations have been modified with additions. It appears to have retained its original windows, door, asbestos siding, and concrete-block foundation.

Minimal Traditional-styled dwellings are numerous across the county, which were observed in previous surveys and the current survey. About 2,000 Minimal Traditional-styled resources have been previously surveyed within the state with 44 surveyed in Northampton County. The Minimal Traditional dwellings recorded with the HPO in Northampton County have not been individually evaluated for their NRHP eligibility.

“The Minimal Traditional style became popular nationally in the 1930s, but did not reach Northampton County until the 1940s. [...] houses remained popular through the early 1950s, but were supplanted by the Ranch style.”²⁷⁸ The style, promoted by the Federal Housing Authority after WWII, was typically composed of a one- or one-and-a-half-story, frame or masonry dwelling clad with a veneer with a shallow side-gable roof with a front-gable bay. Decorative detailing is limited with no rafter tails, brackets, cornice details, limited roof overhang or prominent porches with columns.²⁷⁹

The Peebles Hill Historic District (NP0522) is a NRHP-eligible district in Jackson, Northampton County that includes Post-WWII single-family dwellings with Minimal Traditional and Ranch styles and the Cape Cod and bungalow forms. The district was determined eligible for the NRHP in 2003 under Criteria A.²⁸⁰

The house at 110 Railroad Street is a circa-1945, one-story, three-bay, side-gabled, frame, single-family dwelling in Jackson located within the Peebles Hill Historic District but was not surveyed (Photo 128, p. 151). Currently vacant, it is a small house with limited architectural detailing, characteristic of the Minimal Traditional dwelling, and has retained its original building materials and form.

²⁷⁷ National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) 2012:15.

²⁷⁸ Spanbauer 2010: 123.

²⁷⁹ McAlester 2013:589; Spanbauer 2010:123.

²⁸⁰ NC-HPO 2017.



Photo 128: House at 110 Railroad Street, Jackson, Northampton County, North Carolina.

Several Minimal Traditional-styled dwellings were also observed in the Town of Gaston. Two such houses on Clark Street possess the classic front-gabled projection, one as a porch and the other as an enclosed space (Photo 129). Another example of this style is seen at 219 Ashe Street where a picture window reflects later architectural trends that extend to Ranch houses (Photo 130, p. 152). The house at 300 Craige Street further depicts the transition of the Minimal Traditional to Ranch styles (Photo 131, p. 152).



Photo 129: Houses on Clark Street in Town of Gaston, Northampton County, North Carolina.



Photo 130: Minimal Traditional House at 219 Ashe Street in Town of Gaston, Northampton County, North Carolina.



Photo 131: Minimal Traditional House at 300 Craige Street in Town of Gaston, Northampton County, North Carolina.

In order for a resource to be considered eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, “a property can be associated with either (or both) of two types of events: [...] a specific event marking an important moment in American prehistory or history [or] a pattern of events or a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a State, or the nation.”²⁸¹ However, NPS cautions that “mere association with historic events or trends is not enough, in and of itself, to qualify under Criterion A: the property’s specific association must be considered

²⁸¹ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

important as well.”²⁸² The Lassiter House is not known to be associated with any important historical event or trend in Northampton County or rural North Carolina as a whole, and although it was constructed during Post-WWII housing boom, this does not merit a listing in the NRHP. For these reasons, the Lassiter House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

The known owners associated with the Lassiter House did not gain notable importance, nor are they considered individually significant. Therefore the property does not meet Criterion B, which is defined as association with a person who is “individually significant within a historic context” and has “gained importance within his or her profession or group.”²⁸³ As such, the Lassiter House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

Eligibility under Criterion C encompasses buildings, structures, sites, and objects that 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. The Lassiter House is a common vernacular building form found in Northampton County for single-family dwellings constructed during the mid-twentieth century with over 2,000 surveyed across the state. It does not embody any distinctive characteristics of a construction type, period or method, nor is it associated with a prominent architect or builder. Although it has retained its original siding materials, doors, windows, and roofline, the side additions have detracted from its historic appearance.²⁸⁴ Therefore, it is recommended that the resource is not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.

For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered significant.²⁸⁵ The Lassiter House is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology, nor or significant patterns of history in the area. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D. In sum, the Lassiter House is **recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under any criteria.**

²⁸² Shrimpton et al. 1990.

²⁸³ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

²⁸⁴ NCHRP 2012:16.

²⁸⁵ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

NP1136: D.R. Allen Farm

Date of Construction: Circa 1948
Modifications: circa-1968 outbuildings; 2012 renovations

3412 N.C. Highway 46
Gaston, Northampton County, North Carolina
PIN: 3070-97-1080; 3080-06-4702
Eligibility Recommendation: Not Eligible



Architectural Description

The D.R. Allen Farm is located at 3412 N.C. Highway 46 on the south side of road, approximately 230 feet south of Highway 46. The resource is approximately 3 miles west of the Town of Gaston in Gaston Township, Northampton County, North Carolina (Figure 49, p. 155). It is located on a 6.12-acre, rectangular parcel (3070-97-1080), part of a larger farm property that had once been 280 acres. An adjacent parcel of 39.37 acres (3080-06-4702) and a discontinuous parcel of 123.87 acres (3070-95-8071) are historically related to the farm (Figure 50, p. 156). However, the current property is more residential in nature than it is agricultural.

The area immediately surrounding the resource is rural, with N.C. Highway 46 running east-west along the northern boundary of the parcel. The surrounding 123.87-acre parcel, used for agricultural cultivation with young pine forests, lines the eastern and southern boundaries while Canoe Creek Road lines the western boundary of the property. Smaller forested parcels and single-family residential parcels are located across the highway from the resource. The primary resource is set back from N.C. Highway 46 on a slight hill rise that slopes southward toward the adjacent associated parcel.

The dwelling is immediately surrounded by a grass lawn and is accessed by a dirt drive that runs north-south on the west side of the dwelling and crosses through the porte-cochere continuing south through the adjacent parcel's farm building complex. Bushes frame the front porch of the dwelling and deciduous trees intermittently surround the house. A poured-concrete walkway leads from the dwelling's front porch to the drive. A shed/well house, and well are associated with the dwelling. A concrete pad, two equipment sheds, a dairy barn, two grain or peanut bins, and a peanut warehouse are historically associated with the dwelling, but are located on the adjacent parcel. Archival research revealed that the currently subdivided parcels were one tract at the time of construction of the primary resource, and therefore, that is why the resource boundaries include these outbuildings and the land of the adjacent parcel to the south.

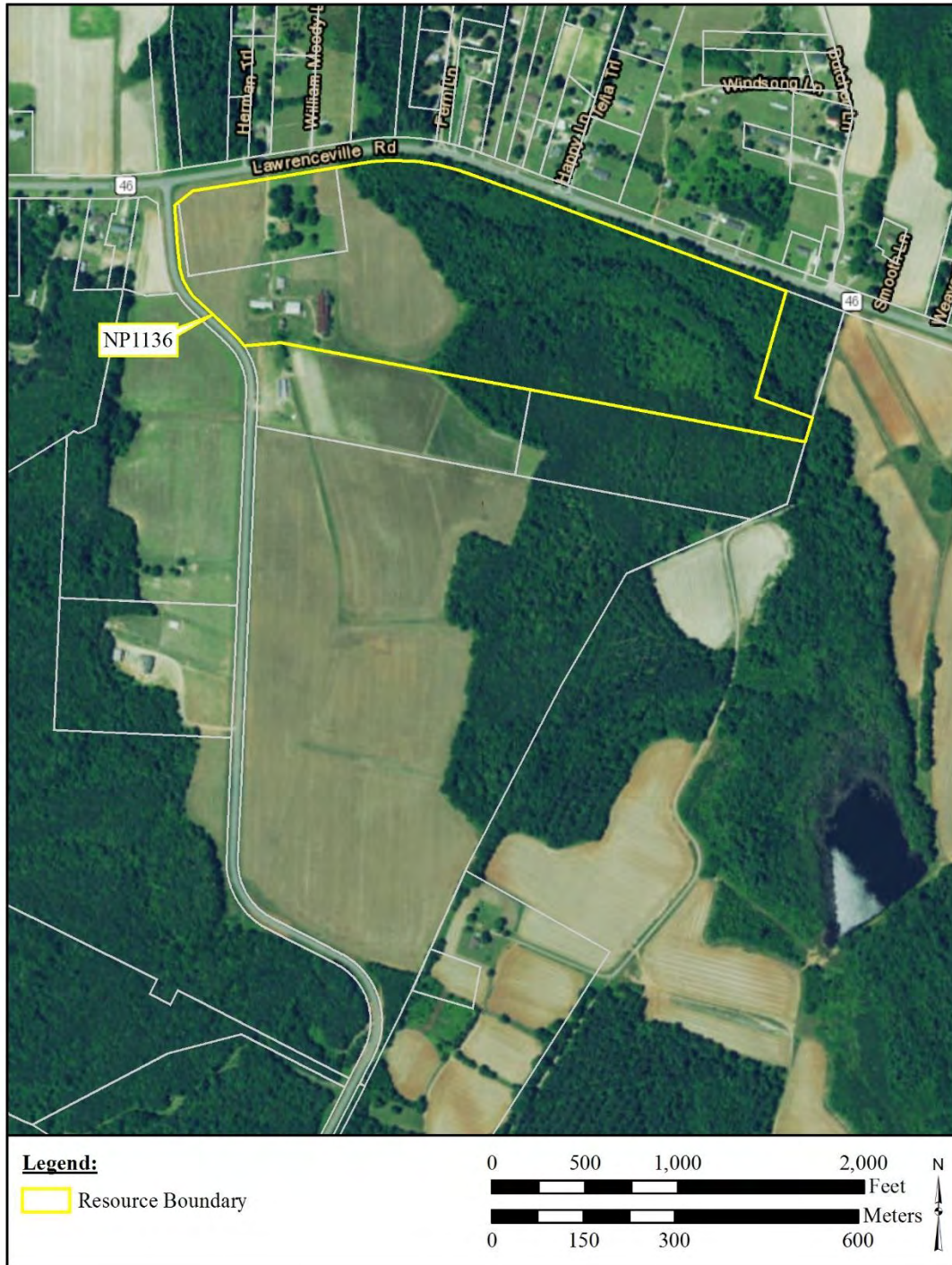


Figure 49: Location and Parcel Boundaries of the D.R. Allen Farm (NP1136).²⁸⁶

²⁸⁶ Esri 2017.

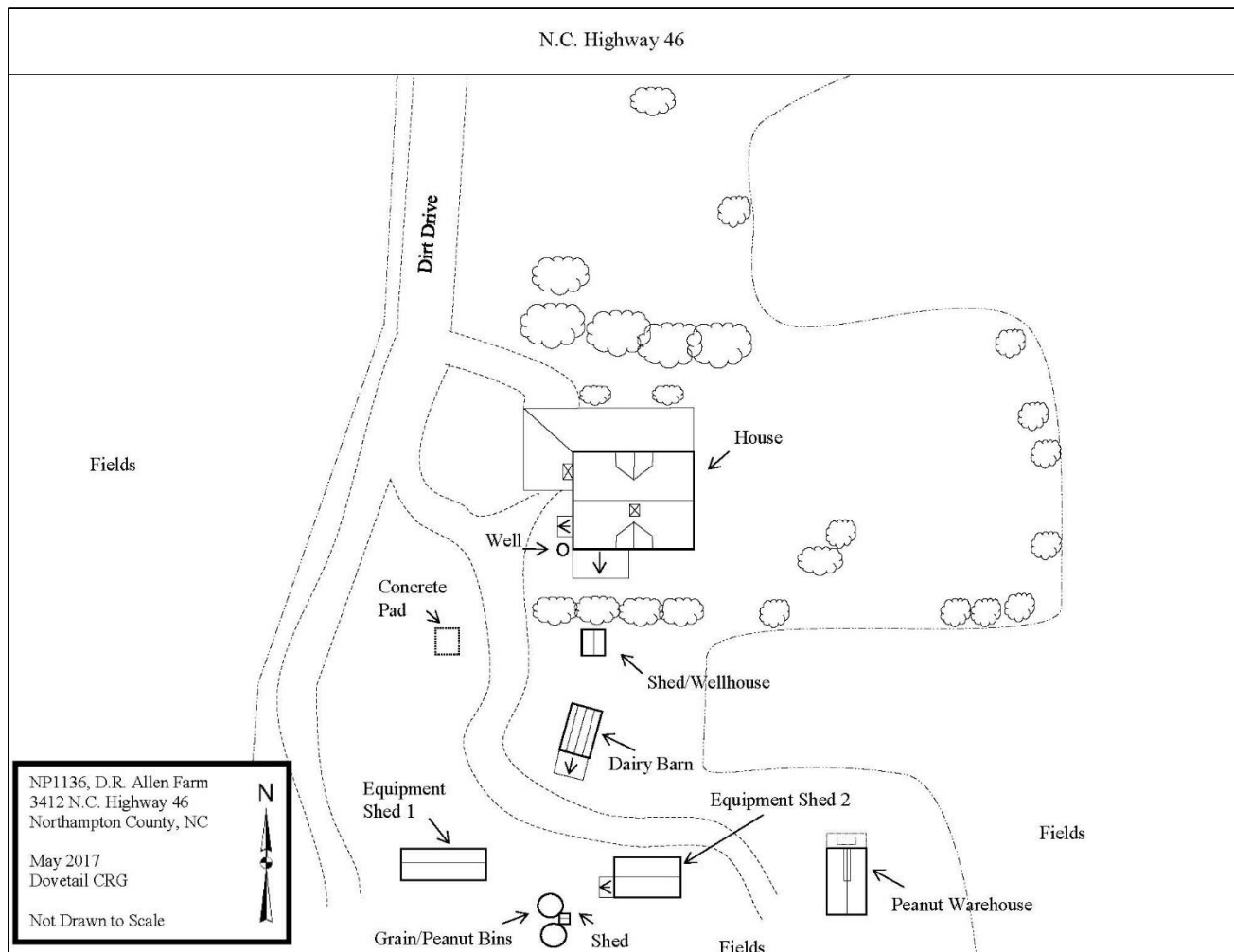


Figure 50: D.R. Allen Farm Site Plan (NP1136).

The primary resource is a circa-1948, double-pile, Craftsman-styled dwelling with a bungalow form set back from N.C. Highway 46 previously surveyed in 2009 (Photo 132).²⁸⁷ The single-family dwelling consists of one-and-one-half stories, three bays, a side-gabled roof, and a central, front-gabled dormer on both the north and south elevations (Photo 133). The dwelling is two rooms wide and one room deep with an open hall plan. A one-story, shed-roofed addition is located on the southwest portion of the rear elevation.



Photo 132: Prominent Setback of the D.R. Allen Farm Dwelling, Looking South.



Photo 133: North Façade of the D.R. Allen Farm Dwelling, Looking South.

The foundation consists of poured concrete clad with a red-brick veneer laid in a stretcher-bond pattern (Photo 134, p. 158). Three rows of basket weave-like bonded brick mark the water table. The gabled ends and dormers are clad in flat-bottomed, asbestos shingles (Photo 135, p. 159). The side-gabled roof is clad in asphalt shingles with boxed eaves. An exterior-end, brick chimney is located on the west elevation and an interior brick chimney pierces the rear slope of the roof.

²⁸⁷ NC-HPO 2009; Spanbauer 2010.

The primary elevation of the dwelling faces north and consists of three bays; a central entry contains a glass-and-metal frame storm door and a single-leaf, wood-paneled door and a window flank the door on either side. The central entry opens onto a one-story, three-bay, shed-roof porch that wraps around the northwest corner of the dwelling creating a porte-cochere (Photo 136, p. 159). The porch contains a poured-concrete deck with poured-concrete steps covered by an asphalt-shingle clad roof supported by tapered, square wood posts on brick piers. The front-gabled dormer is set in the center of the north roof slope with boxed eaves and contains a tripartite window. Window fenestration consists of single and paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl replacement windows with faux muntins imitating six-over-six windows. Storm windows cover these bays and fixed, louvered shutters frame the most of the fenestration.



Photo 134: Window and Brick Details, Looking East.



Photo 135: Southeast Oblique, Looking Northwest.



Photo 136: Northwest Oblique, Looking Southeast.

A circa-1948-story, one-bay, shed addition extends from the west elevation at the southwest corner of the dwelling and contains an exterior single-leaf, wood-door entry to the cellar (Photo 137, p. 160). The addition is clad in similar brick as the building's core with an asphalt roof. A one-story, shed-roofed addition is located on the southwest corner of the rear elevation and is clad in asbestos siding and brick veneer. Fenestration includes one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl replacement windows and two single-pane, sliding windows are in the inner bays. A rear entry, a single-leaf, vinyl and glass door, is located on the east elevation that opens onto a small wood frame porch (Photo 138, p. 160).



Photo 137: Southwest Oblique, Looking Northeast.



Photo 138: Rear Elevation Looking North.

During the current survey, access was given only to the first floor interior. The house had received substantial damage from Hurricane Irene in 2011 and was renovated in 2012 to include a new roof, cabinets, paint, deck, sun room, wiring, plumbing, and windows. According to the property owner, the interior layout retains its historic configuration and the first floor is similar to the upper half story, however the doorways have been widened to create a more open layout (Figure 51, p. 161).²⁸⁸ The property is currently for sale and the

²⁸⁸ Judy D. Allen, personal communication 2017.

advertisement notes that the dwelling contains 1,925 square feet with four bedrooms, two bathrooms, gas heat, and central air conditioning.

The dwelling has a central entry in the south wall that opens onto a somewhat open floor plan that is partially subdivided by activity and two partial walls extending from the east exterior wall (Photo 139, p. 162). A hall, accessed by a doorway in the west wall of the dining room, leads to a family room, bathroom, bedroom, and a closet under the stairs. The living room, concentrated in the southwest corner of the dwelling, features a brick chimney in the east wall. The dining room and kitchen are situated directly north of the living room and separated by partial walls extending from the east exterior wall (Photo 140, p. 162). Flooring is carpeted except for the kitchen and bathroom; the kitchen contains linoleum and the bathroom has 1-foot square, ceramic tile. Walls are composed of drywall with wood baseboards, crown molding, and fenestration trim. The southern wall of the kitchen contains a door opening onto the enclosed porch that serves as a sun room/laundry room (Photo 141, p. 163). To the east of the kitchen are an ironing board closet and a doorway leading to a pantry and stairs lead to the upper half story (Photo 142, p. 163).

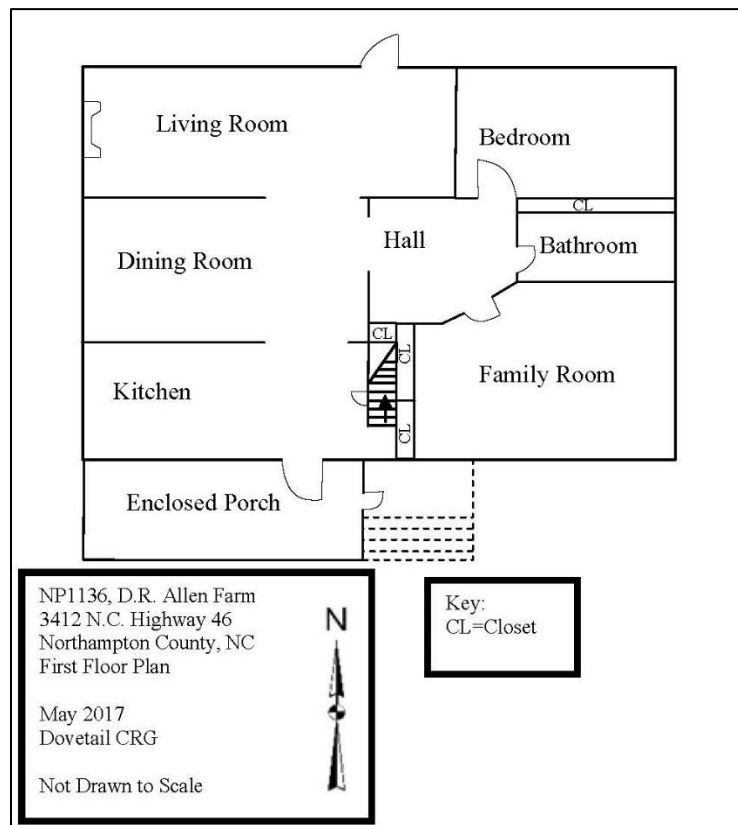


Figure 51: First Floor Plan of D.R. Allen Farm Dwelling (NP1136). Not to Scale.



Photo 139: View of the Open Floor Plan from the Front Entry, Looking South.



Photo 140: View of the Small Hall with Bathroom and Family Room, Looking Southeast.



Photo 141: View of the Added Laundry/Sun Room, Looking East.

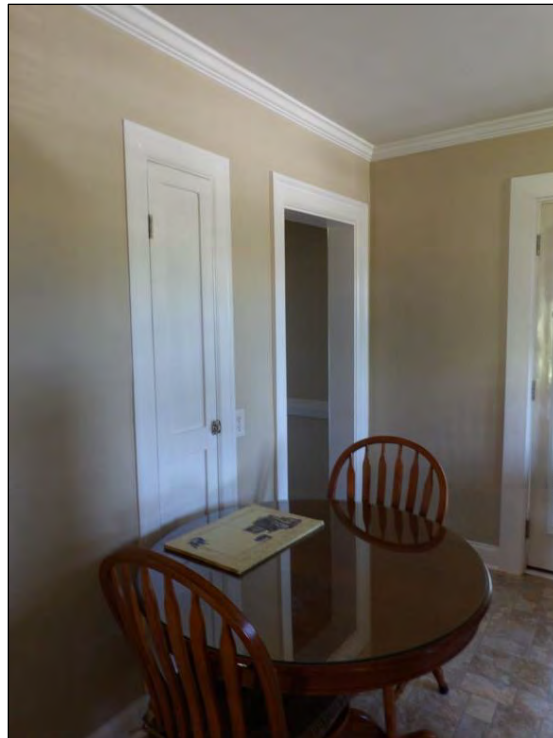


Photo 142: View of the Ironing Board Closet and Doorway Leading to the Stairs, Looking Southeast.

Outbuildings found on the D.R. Allen Farm's 6.12-acre parcel include a shed/well house and a well. The 1968 shed or well house is a one-story, one-bay, front-gabled building located south of the dwelling (Photo 144, p. 165). It is composed of concrete block with a wood-framed roof clad in asphalt shingles. A single-leaf, wood door with 2- x 4-inch wood framing is located on the north elevation. The modern well is located a few feet west of the dwelling's enclosed porch (Photo 137 and Photo 138, p. 160). The structure is circular and composed of poured concrete with a flat round cap.

Other agricultural outbuildings are located on the larger agricultural parcel historically associated with the farm and contain a concrete pad, a dairy barn, two grain or peanut bins, a shed, two equipment sheds, and a peanut warehouse (Photo 143, p. 165). The fields continue to be cultivated (Photo 145, p. 166). The 1968 concrete pad, located west of the dairy barn, may have been what remains of a personal gasoline station for the farm (Photo 146, p. 166). The pad is rectangular with a raised oval base and several metal poles are upright along the west edge.

The 1968 dairy barn, located south of the concrete block shed is one-and-one-half-story, one-bay, front-gambrel building (Photo 147 and Photo 148, pp. 167–167). It is constructed of concrete block with an open vehicular bay on the northeast corner of the façade supported with wood posts with a metal seam, shed roof. The gabled ends are composed of pressed metal with a double-leaf, loft door in the north gable and a window in the south gable. A sliding corrugated metal barn door is located on the west elevation.

Two circa 1968 equipment sheds are located southeast of the dairy barn. Both are one-story, side-gable, three-sided buildings clad in metal siding with a wood frame system. One is six bays wide with a smaller, one-story, side-gable addition or extension protrudes from the west elevation (Photo 149, p. 168). The second is five bays wide (Photo 150, p. 168). Two 1968 metal Butler bins are located south of the equipment sheds. Clad in metal sheathing, they are cylindrical with conical caps and were constructed from a mail-order kit (Photo 151, p. 169). A circa-1968, small front-gabled shed is situated between the two bins. The one-story, one-bay building is clad in metal siding with a metal roof; a double-leaf, metal-clad door is on the east elevation.

The circa-1968 peanut warehouse is located east of the other agricultural outbuildings (Photo 152 and Photo 153, pp. 169–170). The approximate 170-foot long, rectangular, frame building clad in metal sheathing has a front-gabled roof with a monitor at along its peak at the northern portion of the metal-sheathed roof. A concrete pad with a subterranean square hole is located along the warehouse's north elevation where peanut trucks loaded up their cargo of peanuts. The shed canopy noted in the 2009 survey is not extant.



Photo 143: View of the Outbuildings from the Dwelling, Looking South.



Photo 144: Shed, Looking South.



Photo 145: View of Farmland East of the Dwelling, Looking Northeast.



Photo 146: Concrete Pad Looking Southeast.



Photo 147: Dairy Barn, Looking South.



Photo 148: Dairy Barn, Southeast Oblique.



Photo 149: Six-Bay Equipment Shed, Northwest Oblique.



Photo 150: Five-Bay Equipment Shed, Northeast Oblique.



Photo 151: Bins and Shed, Looking West.



Photo 152: Peanut Warehouse, Looking Southeast.



Photo 153: Peanut Warehouse, Looking South.

Historic Context

The D.R. Allen Farm is currently situated on a parcel of 6.12 acres, but was part of a larger agricultural property of 280 acres that was farmed by the Allen family during the early-twentieth century.²⁸⁹ An adjacent parcel of 39.37 acres and a discontinuous parcel of 123.87 are still owned by the Allen family (Figure 52, p. 171).²⁹⁰ The current dwelling was constructed around 1948 by D.R. (Dallas Ross) Allen (1882–1962) after the family’s frame house once located on the same parcel burned.²⁹¹

Dallas Ross Allen was recorded in 1900 as living with his father, Thomas Jefferson Allen, step-mother, Emma, and siblings on a rented farm in Gaston, Northampton County.²⁹² Ten years later, Dallas Ross was a farm manager living on a rented farm in Rich Square, Northampton County with his first wife, Mary B. Hackaday (1887–1920).²⁹³ By 1920, he was living in Oconeechee in Northampton County as a widower; his household included an African American lodger, Robert Simmons (age 16, servant).²⁹⁴

²⁸⁹ Spanbauer 2010.

²⁹⁰ NCGIS 2017.

²⁹¹ Ancestry.com 2017; Judy D. Allen, personal communication 2017.

²⁹² U.S. Census 1900.

²⁹³ Ancestry.com 2017; U.S. Census 1910.

²⁹⁴ U.S. Census 1920.

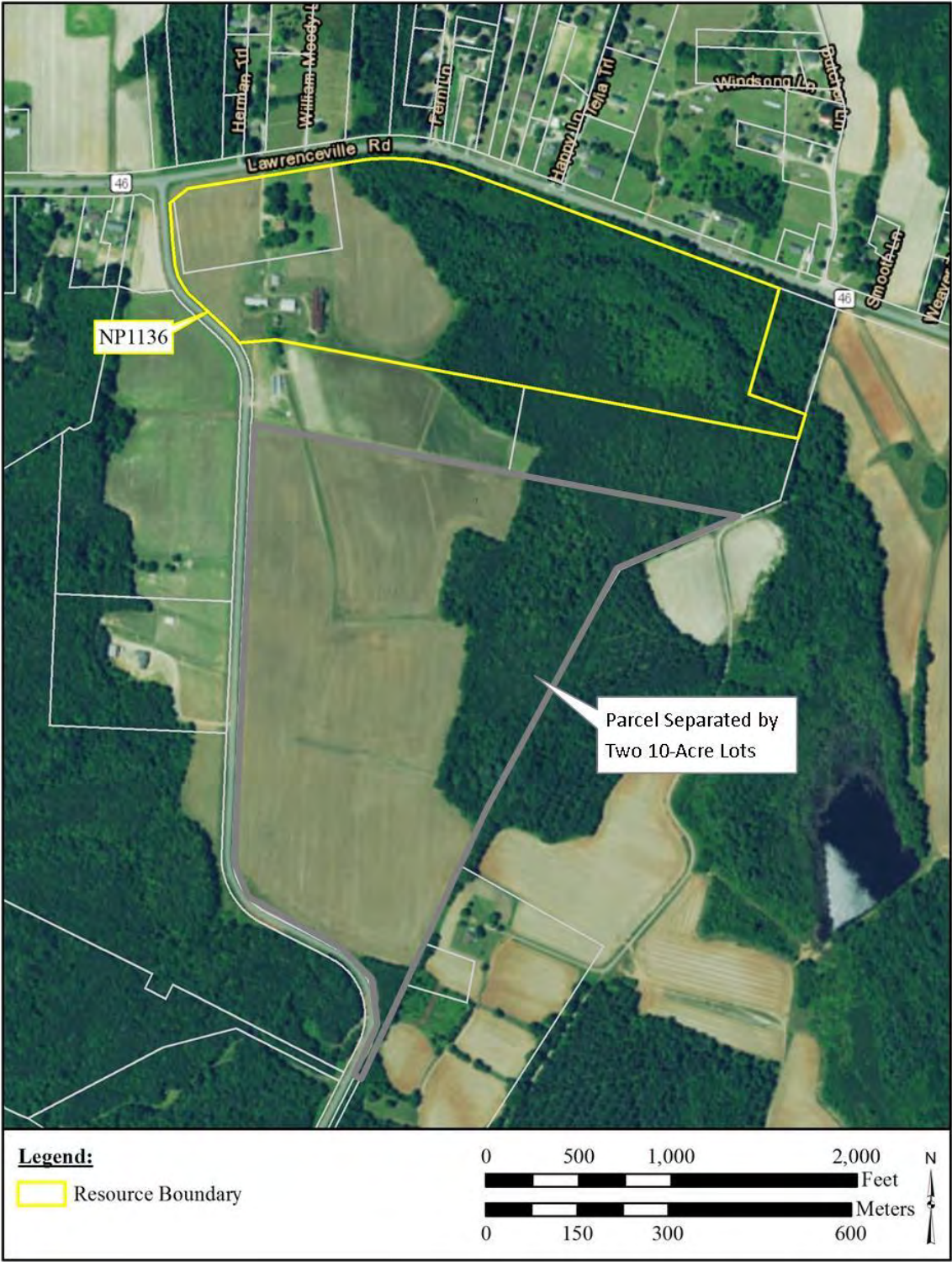


Figure 52: D.R. Allen Farm Denoted in Yellow with the Adjoining Parcel in Grey.
In 1930, he was recorded as living on the farm on the current property in Gaston that he owned with his second wife, Hazel Moss, and their children Rachel, Hazel, and Eloise, and an African

American boarder named Virginia Martha Davis, who was a servant for a family.²⁹⁵ He was taxed for five tracts totaling 595 acres with a value of \$4,946.²⁹⁶ The family operated a farm much larger than their neighbors as noted in the county's property tax books (Figure 53, p. 173).²⁹⁷ In 1940, the Allen family resided on the farm on the current property in Gaston which was valued at \$3,000.²⁹⁸ Dallas Ross was noted as farming his own land and living with his wife, Hazel; by this time his family has expanded by two additional children, sons Dallas, Jr. and Thomas. He was taxed for seven tracts totaling 744 acres with a value of \$6,684.²⁹⁹ He also had 12 mules, 17 sheep, 13 hogs, three cows, four cattle, three vehicles, and three dogs. Five years later, he was taxed for 11 tracts valued at \$19,715 with 17 mules, 15 hogs, three cows, and three vehicles.³⁰⁰ Around 1948, the family's frame farmhouse burned and the Allens rebuilt, constructing the brick Craftsman current located on the parcel.³⁰¹ In 1950, D.R. Allen was taxed for 14 tracts of 1,622 acres, one vehicle, and two dogs.³⁰² The expansive farm was documented in a 1950 aerial photograph (Figure 54, p. 173).³⁰³ Interestingly, the farm buildings noted on this 1950 aerial and a subsequent 1959 aerial (not pictured) do not appear to match the extant 1968 outbuildings, illustrating that notable changes were soon to come.³⁰⁴ In 1960, the farm, known as D.R. Allen & Sons, was valued at \$39,975.³⁰⁵ The family continued to farm even after Dallas Ross' death in 1962.³⁰⁶ The entirety of the Dallas Ross Allen estate must have been subdivided amongst his children because, in 1965, D.R. Allen, Jr. was taxed for 20 acres, Helen Allen was taxed for 3.5 acres, R.P. Allen was taxed for 131 acres, and Thomas J. Allen, Jr. was taxed for nine tracts totaling 936.6 acres.³⁰⁷

The agricultural business became known as Mrs. D.R. Allen & Sons. The family farmed peanuts, cotton, soybeans, and corn.³⁰⁸ Son of D.R. Allen and Helen Allen, Thomas Jefferson Allen (1934–2004), married Judy Elaine Doyle in 1968 around the time of the construction of the agricultural buildings located on the adjacent parcel (Figure 55, p. 174).³⁰⁹ It appears that Thomas and Judy Allen sold several tracts of land during their ownership, especially during the last 30 years.³¹⁰ In 1977, Thomas Allen added his wife to the deed of the two parcels associated with the resource.³¹¹ In 2003, prior to his death, Thomas Allen et. al. transferred in its entirety the 6.12 acres that includes the 1948 dwelling to his wife, Judy D. Allen, as the sole

²⁹⁵ U.S. Census 1930.

²⁹⁶ NCPTB 1930.

²⁹⁷ NCPTB n.d.

²⁹⁸ U.S. Census 1940.

²⁹⁹ NCPTB 1940.

³⁰⁰ NCPTB 1945.

³⁰¹ Judy D. Allen, personal communication 2017.

³⁰² NCPTB 1950.

³⁰³ USDA 1950.

³⁰⁴ USDA 1959.

³⁰⁵ NCPTB 1960.

³⁰⁶ Ancestry.com 2017.

³⁰⁷ NCPTB 1965.

³⁰⁸ Judy D. Allen, personal communication 2017.

³⁰⁹ Ancestry.com 2017; NCGIS 2017.

³¹⁰ Northampton County Grantee Index 1970–2016.

³¹¹ NCDB 579:212.

owner.³¹² In 2011, the dwelling was damaged by Hurricane Irene and was renovated in 2012.³¹³ The agricultural fields are currently leased to farmer David Dunlow who has maintained their cultivation.

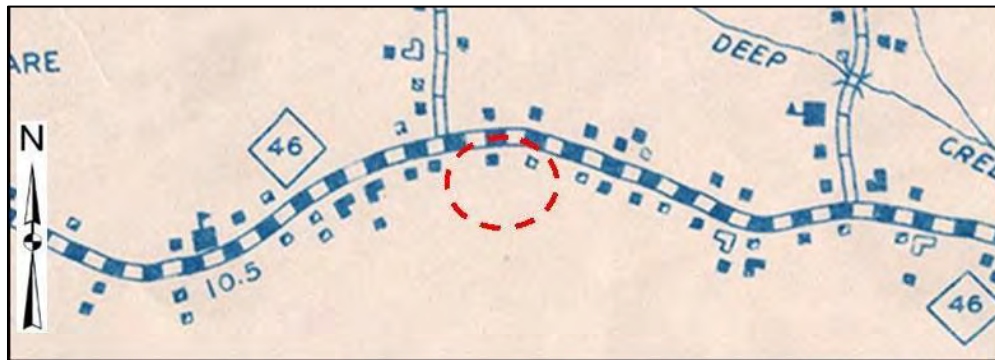


Figure 53: A 1938 Map Showing the Farm in Red. The Solid Blue Square Indicates a farm Unit and the Outlined Square Indicates a Non-Farm or Tenant House. Not to scale.³¹⁴



Figure 54: A 1950 Aerial Showing the Newly Constructed Dwelling in Red. Not to scale.³¹⁵

³¹² NCDB 828:749.

³¹³ Judy D. Allen personal communication 2017.

³¹⁴ North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission 1938.

³¹⁵ USDA 1950.



Figure 55: A 1974 Aerial Showing the D.R. Allen Farm Complex in Red. Not to scale.³¹⁶

Evaluation

The D.R. Allen Farm retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. The primary resource and associated buildings are not known to be moved from their original location of construction, nor has the surrounding land been heavily altered since its inception. However, it has a limited degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The defining characteristic of the Craftsman-style bungalow have been retained with its one and one-half stories, low-pitched, gabled roof, unenclosed eave overhang, full-width porch on tapered square columns.³¹⁷ Although its façade has not been altered with additions, the dwelling has received extensive renovations in 2012 with a new interior and replacement fenestration.

In order for a resource to be considered eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, “a property can be associated with either (or both) of two types of events: [...] a specific event marking an important moment in American prehistory or history [or] a pattern of events or a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a State, or the nation.”³¹⁸ However, NPS cautions that “mere association with historic events or trends is not enough, in and of itself, to qualify under Criterion A: the property’s specific association must be considered important as well.”³¹⁹ The D.R. Allen Farm was historically part of a large

³¹⁶ USDA 1974.

³¹⁷ McAlester 2013:567.

³¹⁸ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

³¹⁹ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

agricultural family business during the first half of the twentieth century, but the land has since been sold and subdivided and the agricultural buildings date to circa 1968.³²⁰ The farm is not known to be associated with any important historical event or trend in Northampton County or rural North Carolina as a whole. For these reasons, the D.R. Allen Farm is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

The known owners associated with the D.R. Allen Farm did not gain notable importance, nor are they considered individually significant. Therefore, the property does not meet Criterion B, which is defined as association with a person who is “individually significant within a historic context” and has “gained importance within his or her profession or group.”³²¹ As such, the D.R. Allen Farm is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

The Craftsman-style dwelling with a bungalow form is a common residential style across the county during second quarter of the twentieth century. The prevalence of this type of residence in this part of North Carolina was observed in previous surveys as well as during the current survey. The side-gabled sub-type makes up approximately 1/3 of Craftsman-style homes surveyed in the country and is commonly found in northeast or mid-western states.³²² According to NC-HPO records, 2,000 Craftsman-styled bungalows have been previously surveyed within the state, 74 of which have been previously surveyed in Northampton County.³²³ The bungalows within Northampton County have only been surveyed and have not been individually evaluated for their NRHP eligibility.

The 2010 county architectural survey report noted that the Craftsman style:

popular in Northampton County in the 1920s through the 1940s [...] is marked generally by one-and-a-half-story, double-pile, front-gable, or side-gable structures, wide overhanging eaves, stick brackets in the gable-end eaves, large gabled, hipped, or shed dormers, and battered (tapered) square or round porch supports mounted on brick piers.³²⁴

The home at 201 Photo Shop Lane in Conway, Northampton County is similar to the D.R. Allen Farm dwelling (Photo 154, p. 176). It is a one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled, three-bay, frame building with a front-gabled dormer and a full-width, shed porch supported on tapered, squared wood posts on brick piers. Constructed in 1928, it is surrounded by agricultural fields.³²⁵ The dwelling is clad in vinyl siding and contains six-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows. It has not been previously surveyed.

³²⁰ Judy D. Allen, personal communication 2017.

³²¹ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

³²² McAlester 2013:567.

³²³ NC-HPO 2017.

³²⁴ Spanbauer 2010: 91.

³²⁵ NCGIS 2017.



Photo 154: Bungalow at 201 Photo Shop Lane, Conway, Northampton County, North Carolina.

The bungalow at 405 West Main Street in Conway, Northampton County is another dwelling similar to the D.R. Allen Farm (Photo 155). The 1927 brick house is a one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled, three-bay, building with a front-gabled dormer and a wrap-around, porch supported on tapered, squared, wood posts on brick piers.³²⁶ The dwelling also contains brackets and rafter tails in the dormer, nine-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows, and a prominent single-leaf central entrance with side lights and transom. It has not been previously surveyed.



Photo 155: Bungalow at 405 West Main Street, Conway, Northampton County, North Carolina.

³²⁶ NCGIS 2017.

The front-gabled bungalow at 432 West Jackson Street (N.C. Highway 305) in Rich Square, Northampton County was constructed in 1938 (Photo 156).³²⁷ The dwelling is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, frame building with overhanging eaves creating a full-width porch with brackets, tapered, square wood posts on brick piers. The dwelling contains its original character-defining elements including its front-gable orientation with full-width porch, wood weatherboard siding, tapered columns, brackets, rafter tails, three-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows, and interior brick chimneys. It has not been previously surveyed.



Photo 156: Front-Gable Bungalow at 432 West Jackson Street (N.C. Highway 305), Rich Square, Northampton County, North Carolina.

A side-gabled bungalow at 107 Peebles Street (NP1083), located within the Peebles Hill Historic District (NP0522) in Jackson, Northampton County, consists of a 1925, one-and-a-half-story, brick dwelling with a front-gabled dormer with brackets and rafter tails, exterior-end brick chimney, substantial tapered squared posts on brick balustrade (Photo 157, p. 178). The posts appear to be clad in stucco and the dormer clad in wood weatherboard. The previously surveyed property appears to have retained much of its Craftsman-bungalow character-defining features. Although located within the NRHP-eligible Peebles Hill Historic District, the dwelling pre-dates the Post-WWII development.

³²⁷ NCGIS 2017.



Photo 157: Side-gable Bungalow at 207 Peebles Street, Jackson, Northampton County, North Carolina (NP1083).

Eligibility under Criterion C encompasses buildings, structures, sites, and objects that 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. The D.R. Allen Farm is a common residential building form found in Northampton County for single-family dwellings with over 2,000 surveyed across the state. Although it does embody distinctive characteristics of a construction type, period, or method, that of the Craftsman-styled dwelling with a bungalow form, it has undergone recent renovations on the interior, which was completely gutted in 2012. The character-defining features on the inside of the home, including its original plan, materials, and detailing, have been significantly changed. The floorplan has been made more open with widened doorways. Interior finishes have been replaced with new drywall, flooring, and trim. More intact examples of this style exist elsewhere in the county, as exhibited by the associated contextual review. . Therefore, it is recommended that the resource is not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.

For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered significant.³²⁸ The D.R. Allen Farm is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology, nor or significant patterns of history in the area. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

In sum, the D.R. Allen Farm is **recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP.**

³²⁸ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

NP0278: Vincent House

Date of Construction: Circa 1900
Modifications: Early-twentieth century

2356 N.C. Highway 46
Gaston Township, Northampton County, North Carolina
PIN: 3060-92-4131
Eligibility Recommendation: Not Eligible



Architectural Description

The Vincent House is located approximately 1.5 miles southeast of the crossroads at Vulture within a rural area of Gaston Township in Northampton County, North Carolina. The resource is approximately 5.8 miles west of the Town of Gaston, and 1150 feet south of N.C. Highway 46. Currently, the resource comprises two parcels and contains a total of 260.7 acres. A long, dirt, driveway extends south from N.C. Highway 46 toward the northeast corner of the house and continues around the east elevation to the eastern side of the lot. The property is filled with agricultural fields composed of strip cropping and thick patches of coniferous tree growth to the west and south of the building complex. The property faces N.C. Highway 46 that runs east to west along the northern boundary of the parcel with Roanoke Rapids Lake bordering the parcel to the south. Access to the property was not granted by the current owner during this survey (Figure 56–Figure 57, pp. 180–181).

The Vincent House is a two-story, multi-bay farmhouse constructed around 1900 that has been uninhabited and unmaintained for over three decades and is currently completely engulfed in overgrown vegetation.³²⁹ The foundation of the primary core of the building was not visible during the time of survey. The wood-framed structural system is clad in lapped weatherboard siding and the building is covered by a moderately pitched, side-gabled roof with a hipped projection in the west half of the north elevation, all sheathed in shingled metal. The hipped projection features a central, front-gabled peak. An interior-slope, brick chimney pierces the roof on the north side of the roof ridge of the side-gabled roof within the hipped projection. Not visible during the time of survey due to overgrowth, but identified in photos taken of the dwelling in 1980, an exterior-end, brick chimney is centered on the east elevation of the side-gabled portion of the building (Photo 158 and Photo 159, p. 182).³³⁰

³²⁹ Esri 2017.

³³⁰ NC-HPO 1980a.



Figure 56: Location and Parcel Boundary of the Vincent House at 2356 N.C. Highway 46 (NP0278).³³¹

³³¹ Esri 2017.

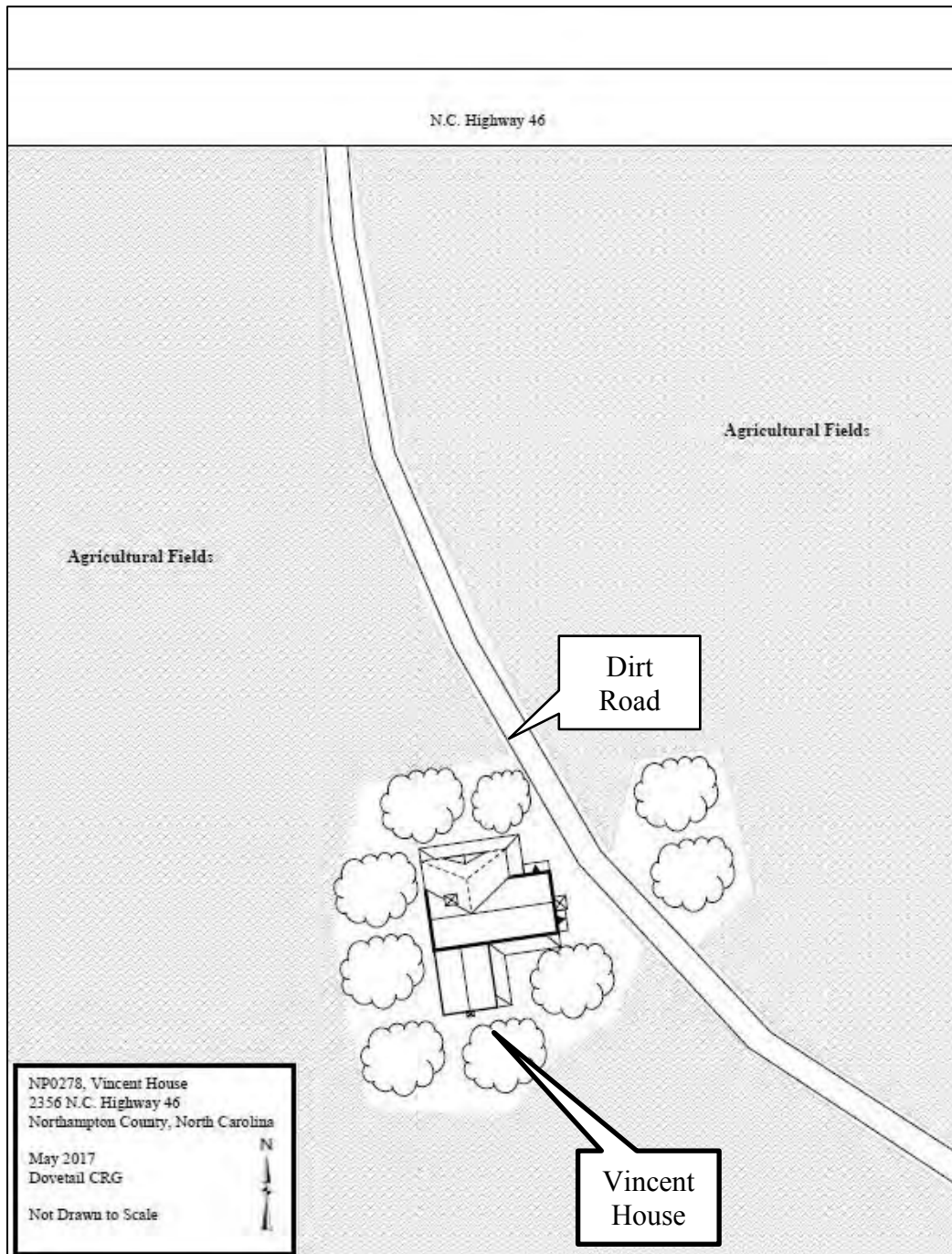


Figure 57: Vincent House (NP0278) Site Plan Based on Current Aerial Imagery and 1980 Survey.³³²

³³² Google 2017; NC-HPO 1980a.



Photo 158: 1980 Photograph of the Vincent House, North Elevation.³³³



Photo 159: Current State of the Vincent House, Looking South.

Current aerial imagery indicates that a two-story, gabled addition extends from the west half of the south elevation.³³⁴ The addition features an exterior-end, brick chimney off-centered on the south elevation. A porch visibly spans the east elevation of the addition; however, the roof is indiscernible.³³⁵ Fenestration or additional architectural details were not visible during the time of survey due to the vegetation. The 1980 survey noted a shed with vertical wood board siding was located south of the dwelling; however, due to lack of access to the property and the severe overgrowth of the surrounding vegetation, it is not clear if the outbuilding still stands.³³⁶

³³³ NC-HPO 1980a.

³³⁴ Google 2017.

³³⁵ Ibid.

³³⁶ NC-HPO 1980a; NCPB 2:13.

Historic Context

The Vincent House is currently situated on a parcel of 183.21 acres, but was once part of a larger tract containing 568.8 acres, which was the typical size for a farm in Northampton County during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries when the resource was constructed.³³⁷ The Vincent Family had been farming Northampton County as early as the mid-nineteenth century and produced cash crops such as cotton, peanuts, and soybeans.³³⁸ The earliest confirmed owner of the Vincent House property is J.A. (James Anthony) Vincent; however, it is likely that the land was previously owned by his father, Benjamin J. Vincent (1839–1908) and his wife, Temperance Mason.³³⁹ Early-nineteenth century deeds for this property, like others in this area, were not available, either due to the transactions not being formerly recorded at the Northampton County Recorder of Deeds, being misrecorded, or being lost.

J.A. Vincent (1866–1940), a local farmer, married Florance Ford Vincent (1868–1942) of Brunswick, Virginia, in November 1893 and established a permanent residence in Northampton County.³⁴⁰ Together, they had four children: William A. (1898–1970), Malvern F. (1900–1984), Elizabeth F. (1903–1975), and Robert C. (1903–1928).³⁴¹ It is likely that the Vincent dwelling was constructed sometime after their marriage. This can be supported by data recorded from a site visit, local tax records, and previous architectural surveys.³⁴²

During his ownership, J.A. Vincent constructed the farmhouse and at least eight associated agricultural buildings. These agricultural buildings no longer exist; however, they do appear on historic aerials of Northampton County and plat maps of the property. The earliest aerial view for the county is from 1950 and it shows the property much as it is today during the Vincent family's ownership (Figure 58, p. 184). The earliest reference to these outbuildings is the 1944 plat of the J.A. Vincent Estate division, and they are given a construction date of "pre-1944".³⁴³

J.A. Vincent lived on the property with his wife until his death in 1940. He died intestate on April 30, 1940, leaving his widow and his surviving children as his sole heirs at law.³⁴⁴ Florence F. Vincent lived in the home until her death on June 6, 1942, and their children agreed upon the division of the real estate inherited to them by their father, J.A. Vincent (Figure 59, p. 185).³⁴⁵

³³⁷ Spanbauer 2010:62.

³³⁸ L. Thomas Baird, personal communication 2017; U.S. Census 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1920, 1930.

³³⁹ Office of the Quartermaster General 2012; U.S. Census 1870.

³⁴⁰ U.S. Census 1900; Virginia Select Marriages 1785–1940.

³⁴¹ Findagrave.com 2012a, 2012b, 2012c, 2016a, 2016b, 2016c; US Census 1900, 1920.

³⁴² NC-HPO 1980a.

³⁴³ NCPB 2:13.

³⁴⁴ NCDB 331:266

³⁴⁵ Ibid.



Figure 58: Vincent House Complex, 1950.³⁴⁶ Aerial not to scale.

Two years later in 1944, J.A. Vincent's children and their respective spouses William. A. Vincent and his wife, Mary Vincent, and Florence Vincent Grant and her husband, R. L. Grant, granted unto their brother, Malvern C. Vincent, all their interest to Lot No. 1 on the J.A. Vincent land division which consisted of 185.4 acres and included the Vincent House (Figure 59, p. 185).³⁴⁷ It is unclear whether Malvern Vincent resided in the dwelling during his ownership, but it remained an agricultural property.

Malvern C. Vincent died in Northampton County in February 1984, and devised his real property to his two children, Malvern F. Vincent (1938–present) and Florance “Elizabeth” Bland (1927–2011).³⁴⁸ Malvern F. and Elizabeth jointly owned the property until her death in 2011, when she devised her share of the property to her brother in her Last Will and Testament.³⁴⁹ The Vincent dwelling remained vacant during the entirety of their ownership; however, the lands remained active in an agricultural capacity.³⁵⁰ Malvern F. Vincent, grandson of J.A. Vincent, continued to own the property until October 2015 when it was sold to Seth Gehman, Ryan Ebersol, and Daniel Aungst of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Though they do not reside on the property, or in Northampton County, the land is currently being used in an agricultural capacity by tenant farmers.

³⁴⁶ USDA 1950.

³⁴⁷ NCPB 2:13.

³⁴⁸ NCWB 84E:31

³⁴⁹ NCWB 15E:142

³⁵⁰ Ricky Wayne Bratley, Personal Communication 2017

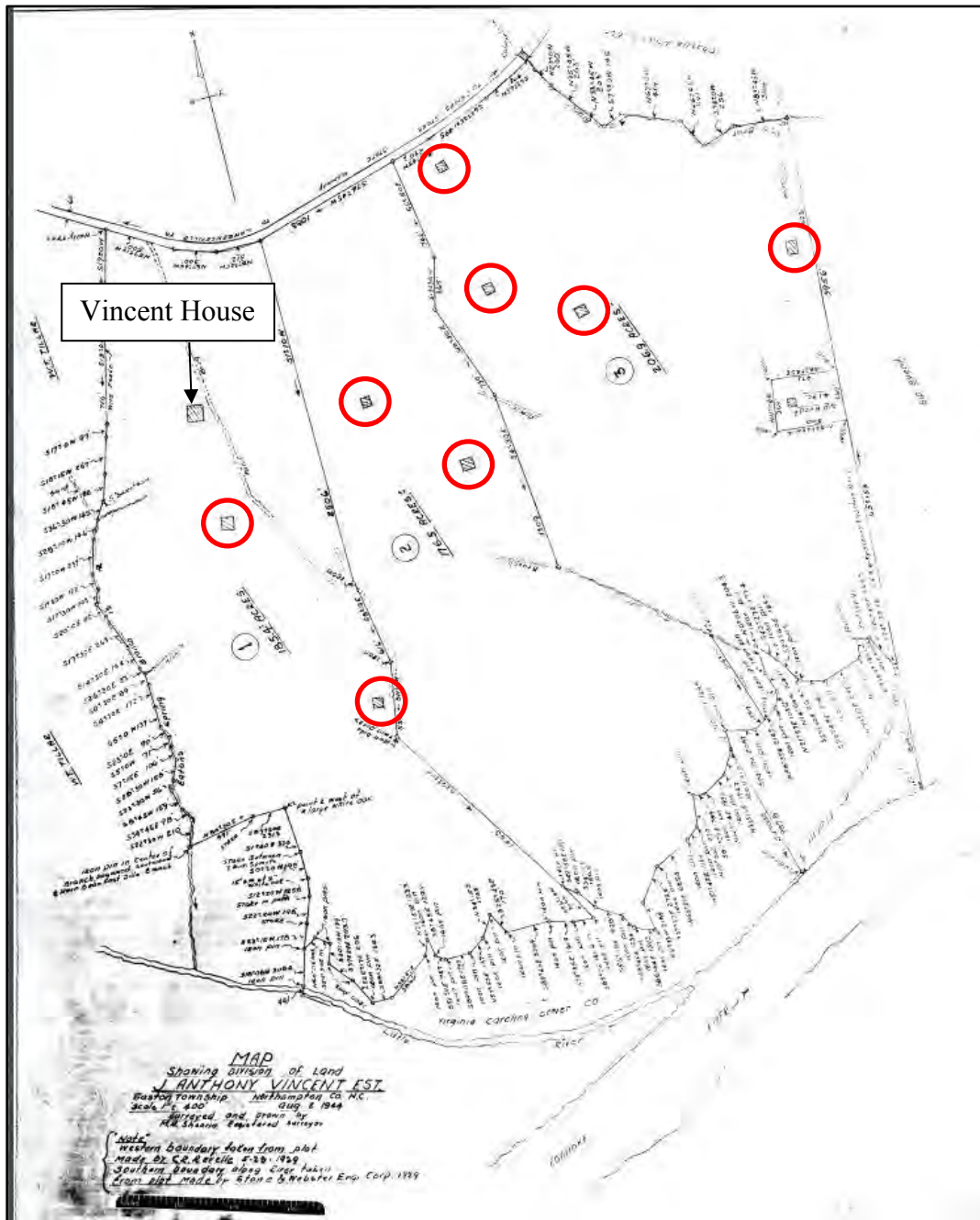


Figure 59: 1944 Plat Showing division of James A. Vincent Estate.³⁵¹ Lot No. 1 Containing Vincent House dwelling, deeded to Malvern C. Vincent. Red circles denote outbuildings that are no longer extant.

³⁵¹ NCPB 2:13.

Evaluation

The Vincent House at 2356 N.C. Highway 46 is a two-story, multi-bay frame dwelling constructed around 1900 in a form that is common for this region of Northampton County, North Carolina. The resource is situated on a moderately sized parcel, and is surrounded by agricultural fields that are currently being utilized by tenant farmers. The dwelling itself was built during the railroad-inspired era of national folk housing (1850–1930), and was once a strong example of a two-story, single-pile, center-passage I-house with Greek Revival characteristics, as mentioned in Spanbauer’s 2010 survey of Northampton County.³⁵² In her report, she states that during the turn of the century:

Homes were built in vernacular forms of one-story, single-pile, center-passage houses and center-passage I-houses. Household technology developed in the late nineteenth century, with the manufacturing of ovens, stoves, and laundry tools, and much of the cooking and cleaning moved indoors, close to the house, now that there was no need for open fires. In Northampton County, rear ells were constructed containing two rooms, a kitchen and a dining room, and were connected to the rear of I-houses by open breezeways. Several vernacular I-houses and one-story houses with late Greek Revival and Italianate characteristics survive throughout the county.³⁵³

Although the building is currently barely visible due to severe vegetation overgrowth, utilizing the NC-HPO form from a previous reconnaissance-level survey conducted in 1980 of the Vincent House, some similar buildings were identified throughout Northampton County that resemble the vernacular form of the house.³⁵⁴ Northampton County’s rural roads are dotted with similar early-twentieth century farms. One comparable property is the Cleaton House (NP0283; later discussed in this report on p. 190) located approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the Vincent House on N.C. Highway 46. This two-story, three bay frame dwelling likely dates to circa 1895. This resource appears to retain some of its original materials, with additions that are sympathetic to Vernacular architecture in this area. There are no known historic outbuildings that remain extant on this property.

Another nearby example that retains moderate historic integrity is located approximately 3.5 miles east of the dwelling on N.C. Highway 46. The Moody House dwelling (NP0414) is discussed further in a separate section of this report (see p. 55), a farm house constructed during the same period as the Vincent House. This two-story, three-bay frame dwelling likely dates to the early-twentieth century. The foundation is likely composed of brick piers, and the building is topped by a side-gabled roof. The foundation supports a frame structural system that is clad in wood weatherboard siding and an exterior-end brick chimney is located on the west and east elevations. This resource appears to retain some of its original material, and comprises the farm house, and mid-to-late-twentieth century secondary resources: a shed,

³⁵² Spanbauer 2010.

³⁵³ McAlester 2013; Spanbauer 2010:65.

³⁵⁴ NC-HPO 1980a.

pump house, and well cap. This dwelling also appears to be missing historic agricultural buildings associated with the property.

The Vincent House retains integrity of location to a degree; the house appears to be in its original location; however, any historic outbuildings associated with this property are no longer extant. Photographs taken during the 1980 NC-HPO survey show the abandoned home in poor condition, with a number of large additions featured on the front and rear elevations (Photo 160, p.187; Photo 161, p. 188). The house has experienced major deterioration, and due to the lack of visibility, integrity of workmanship and materials cannot be evaluated at this time. The Vincent House is surrounded by wooded areas and crop fields that still function in an agricultural capacity. As such it retains a moderate level of integrity of setting, feeling, and association.



Photo 160: 1980 Photograph of the Vincent House, North Elevation.³⁵⁵

³⁵⁵ NC-HPO 1980a.



Photo 161: 1980 Photograph of the Vincent House, Southeast Oblique.³⁵⁶

Although the Vincent House is a farm and is representative of agricultural practices within Northampton County, the property itself did not play a significant role in early- to mid-twentieth century agriculture in the region. Although it was built during the railroad-inspired era of national folk housing (1850–1930) this does not merit a listing on the NRHP.³⁵⁷ In addition, the house has lost all of its agricultural buildings that are shown on the 1950 map. Since 1959, eight agricultural resources have been lost.³⁵⁸ As such, the Vincent House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

For a historic resource to be considered eligible under Criterion B, it must be associated with a person who is “individually significant within a historic context” and who has “gained importance within his or her profession or group”.³⁵⁹ The known owners and people that resided here are not considered individually significant and did not gain notable importance as farmers. For these reasons, the Vincent House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

Eligibility for Criterion C encompasses buildings, structures, sites, and objects that 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.³⁶⁰ The Vincent

³⁵⁶ Ibid.

³⁵⁷ McAlester 2013.

³⁵⁸ USDA 1950, 1959.

³⁵⁹ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

³⁶⁰ Ibid.

House was built circa-1900 and does not represent the work of a master nor possesses high artistic values, nor represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may be, singly, undistinguished.³⁶¹ Furthermore, the building is in a ruinous state. For these reasons, the resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.

For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered significant.³⁶² The Vincent House is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology, nor of significant patterns of history in the area. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible under Criterion D.

In sum, as it is not eligible under any criteria or criteria considerations, the Vincent House is **recommended not eligible for the NRHP under any criteria.**

³⁶¹ Ibid.

³⁶² Ibid.

NP0283: Cleaton House

Date of Construction: ca. 1895
Modifications: early-twentieth century

1610 N.C. 46 Highway
Gaston, Northampton County, North Carolina
PIN: 3061-21-6287
Eligibility Recommendation: Not Eligible



Architectural Description

The Cleaton House is located at 1610 N.C. 46 Highway, approximately 7.5 miles west of the Town of Gaston in rural Northampton County, North Carolina. The resource is situated on the northeast side of N.C. Highway 46, at the crossroads of Vulture.³⁶³ Currently, the resource comprises two parcels and contains a total of 211.68 acres. The property is bisected by Oak Grove Church Road, which runs northeast towards Emporia, Virginia. The Cleaton House is situated approximately 850 feet north of the intersection at N.C. Highway 46 and Oak Grove Church Road (Figure 60, p. 191). A gravel and dirt driveway extends northwest from Oak Grove Church Road toward the east side of the house. The property is filled with agricultural fields and thick patches of coniferous tree growth. Immediately surrounding the driveway and the house is a manicured grass lawn. A cluster of deciduous trees grow along the east side of the dwelling. The primary elevation of the house faces southeast. Currently, the only visible secondary resources associated with this resource are a skinning shed and a well cap (Figure 61, p. 192).

The Cleaton House is a two-story, three-bay, dwelling constructed around 1895 supposedly by R.E. (Robert Elroy) Cleaton, a farmer from Northampton County. The form is an I-house—a plan that is found elsewhere in Northampton County—with subtle Classical Revival elements seen in the porch addition (Photo 162, p. 193). General access to the property was granted by the current owner, L. Thomas Baird, who is a descendant of the family who has owned the property since the late-nineteenth century.

³⁶³ USGS 1919.



Figure 60: Current Tax Parcels Containing the Cleaton House (NP0283).³⁶⁴

³⁶⁴ Esri 2016.

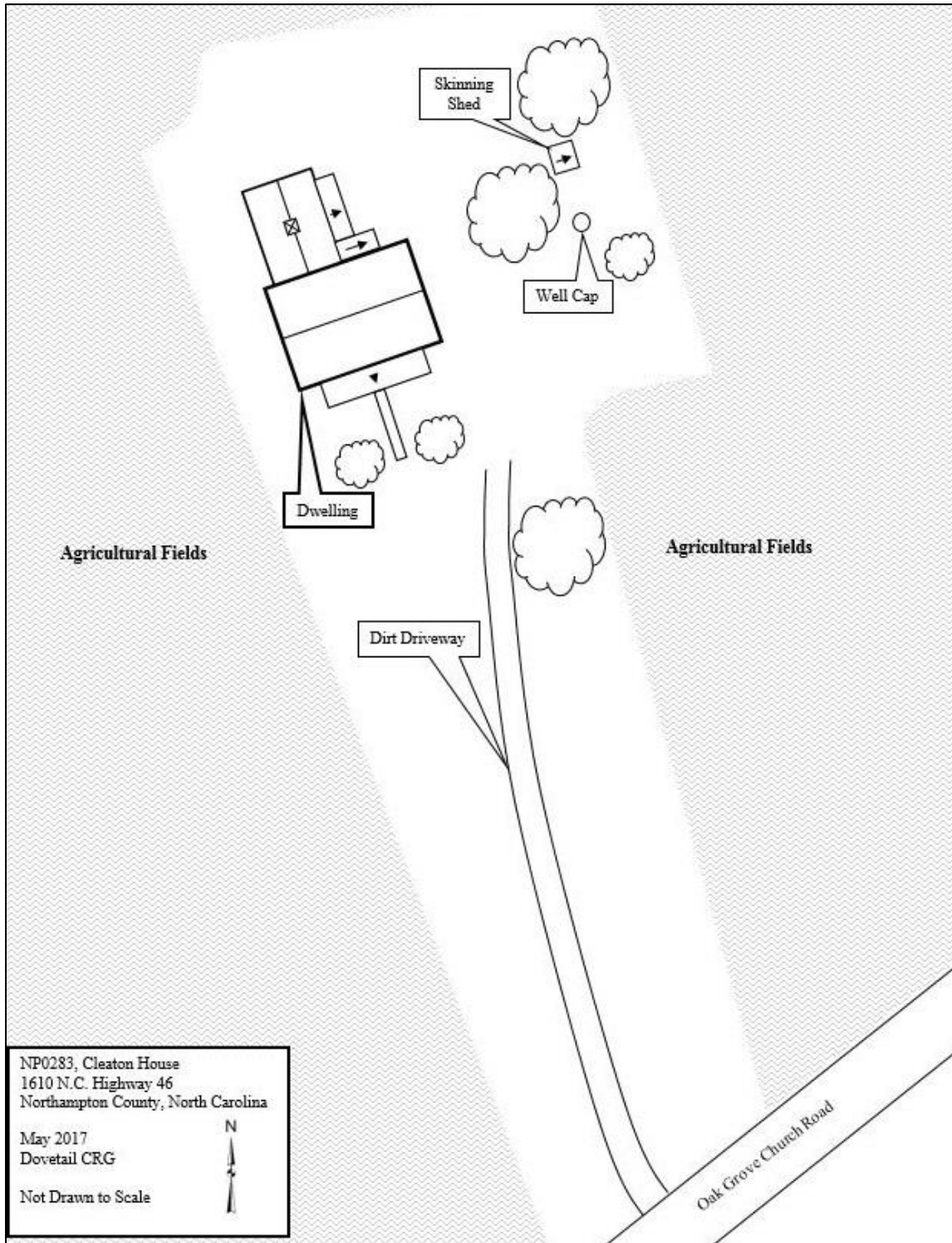


Figure 61: The Cleaton House (NP028) Site Plan.



Photo 162: Dwelling, South Oblique.

The original core of the building is constructed on a stone-pier foundation with concrete-block infill (labeled at No. 1 in Figure 62). The wood-frame structural system is clad in the original weatherboard siding with wood cornerboards. The building is covered by a steeply pitched, side-gabled roof. The roof is sheathed in v-crimp metal and features a wood cornice with prominent partial returns on the gabled ends. Asphalt shingles are exposed under the metal roof on the rear (northwest) elevation (Photo 163, p. 194).

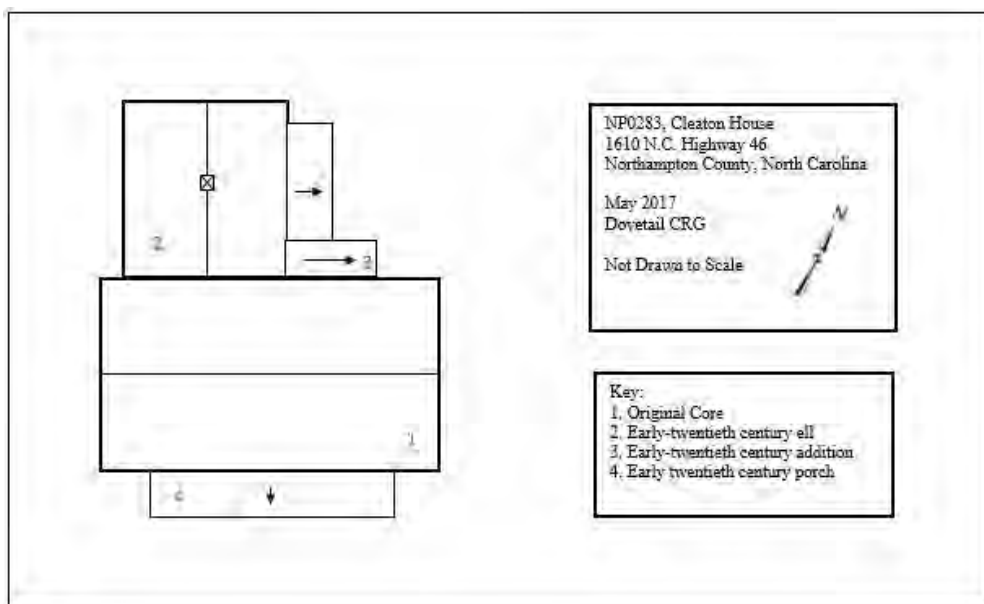


Figure 62: Detailed Map of Cleaton House (NP0283).



Photo 163: Dwelling, South Oblique Overview Featuring Rear Ell Addition.

The main entrance is centrally located on the southeast elevation and filled with a single-leaf, wood, paneled door covered by a screen door (Photo 164). The door is flanked by paneled, wood sidelights with four fixed lights. Other fenestration includes single, six-over-six, double-hung-sash, wood-frame windows and a double-leaf, wooden, door centered on the second story of the primary elevation. The second-story, double-leaf, door likely replaced an earlier window in the early-twentieth century.



Photo 164: Detail of Primary Entrance on Southeast Elevation.

A two-story, three-bay, early-twentieth century, porch addition spans the primary (southeast) elevation (labeled as No. 4 in Figure 62, p. 193; Photo 165) The wood porch presently sits on a continuous, concrete-block foundation with brick infill, and is sheltered by a moderately pitched, shed roof sheathed in v-crimp metal. The roof is supported by squared, wood posts and lattice-work piers, and the porch is lined with a squared, wooden balustrade on the second story. The porch is accessible by a set of plywood stairs located directly in front of the primary entrance, and is connected to a poured-concrete walkway. The walkway extends southeast from the stairs, measuring approximately 50 feet long, with two wooden posts flanking each side at its end where it meets a manicured grass lawn.



Photo 165: Dwelling, Southeast Elevation.

An early-twentieth-century rear ell extends off of the west portion of the northwest elevation (denoted as No. 2 in Figure 62, p. 193; Photo 166, p. 196). The addition sits on a concrete-pier foundation with concrete-block infill. Weatherboard siding covers the wood-frame structural system. The addition is covered by a gabled roof sheathed in pressed-metal shingles, and features a central-interior, brick chimney. Fenestration comprises single, six-over-six, double-hung sash, wood-frame windows. A secondary entrance is accessible through a single-leaf, nine-light, wooden door on its northwest elevation. Covering the entryway is a one-story, three-bay, shed-roof porch. Sheathed in c-crimp metal, the roof is supported by squared, wooden posts that rest on a concrete-block foundation.

A circa-1940, one-story, shed roof addition extends from the east elevation of the rear-ell and northwest elevation of the core of the dwelling (denoted as No. 3 Figure 62, p. 193; Photo 167, p. 197). It currently sits on a continuous, concrete-block foundation and supports a wood-frame

structural system clad in lapped, weatherboard siding with wood cornerboards. The shed roof is sheathed in v-crimp metal, and displays wood rafters on its east side. A secondary entrance is located in the northwest elevation, and it is filled with a single-leaf, six-paneled, replacement door with an exterior, screen door. Other fenestration includes a single, six-light, fixed wooden window.

Interior access was not obtained at this time; however, Rebecca Spanbauer, who completed the previous field survey in 2009, notes that it has a central-passage floor plan.³⁶⁵ During Spanbauer's detailed investigation, she states that the interior "features plaster walls, heavily paneled doors, molded surrounds and cornerblocks with bull's eye patterns, beaded-board ceilings, beaded-board wainscoting in the center hall, and a stair with a turned balustrade".³⁶⁶ Cleaton family tradition states that the home has remained in the family since its erection, and by 2010, was operating as a local Hunt Club.³⁶⁷ Currently, the house is inhabited by renters and it appears that the property is no longer being farmed.



Photo 166: Dwelling and Rear Ell, North Oblique.

³⁶⁵ NC-HPO 2009e.

³⁶⁶ NC-HPO 2009e.

³⁶⁷ Ibid.



Photo 167: Dwelling and Additions, Looking Southwest.

A modern, circa-1975 skinning shed, is located 80 feet northeast of the farmhouse (Photo 168). This one-story, two-bay, wood-frame building features a shed roof, that was likely once covered in pressed metal. The building is not a historic component to the Cleaton property and does not appear on aerials until 1977.³⁶⁸ Immediately south of the skinning shed is a late-twentieth-century, poured-concrete, well cap (Photo 168).

A previous survey conducted in 1980 by Robert Beckwith notes that the only standing outbuilding on the property is the modern skinning shed.³⁶⁹ Current aerial imagery, however, shows a roofline in the area of two historic buildings that are located approximately 1170 feet east of the dwelling (Figure 63, p. 198).³⁷⁰ Due to severe overgrowth of trees, the area was inaccessible and it is unclear whether these resources still stand today. Although there is no reference to the functions of these buildings, they were likely used as tenant houses or agricultural buildings.

³⁶⁸ USDA 1977.

³⁶⁹ NC-HPO 1980b.

³⁷⁰ Google 2017.



Photo 168: Skinning Shed and Well Cap, Looking East.



Figure 63: Aerial Showing Possible Extant Agricultural Buildings. Red Circle Denotes Possibly Extant.³⁷¹ Aerial not to Scale.

³⁷¹ Google 2016.

Historic Context

The Cleaton House is currently situated on a parcel of 199.75 acres, but was part of a larger tract containing 230 acres farmed by the Cleaton from the late-nineteenth century through the mid- to late-twentieth century (Figure 64, p. 199).³⁷² An adjacent parcel of 11.93 acres, originally part of this tract, is still owned by a descendent of the Cleaton family.³⁷³

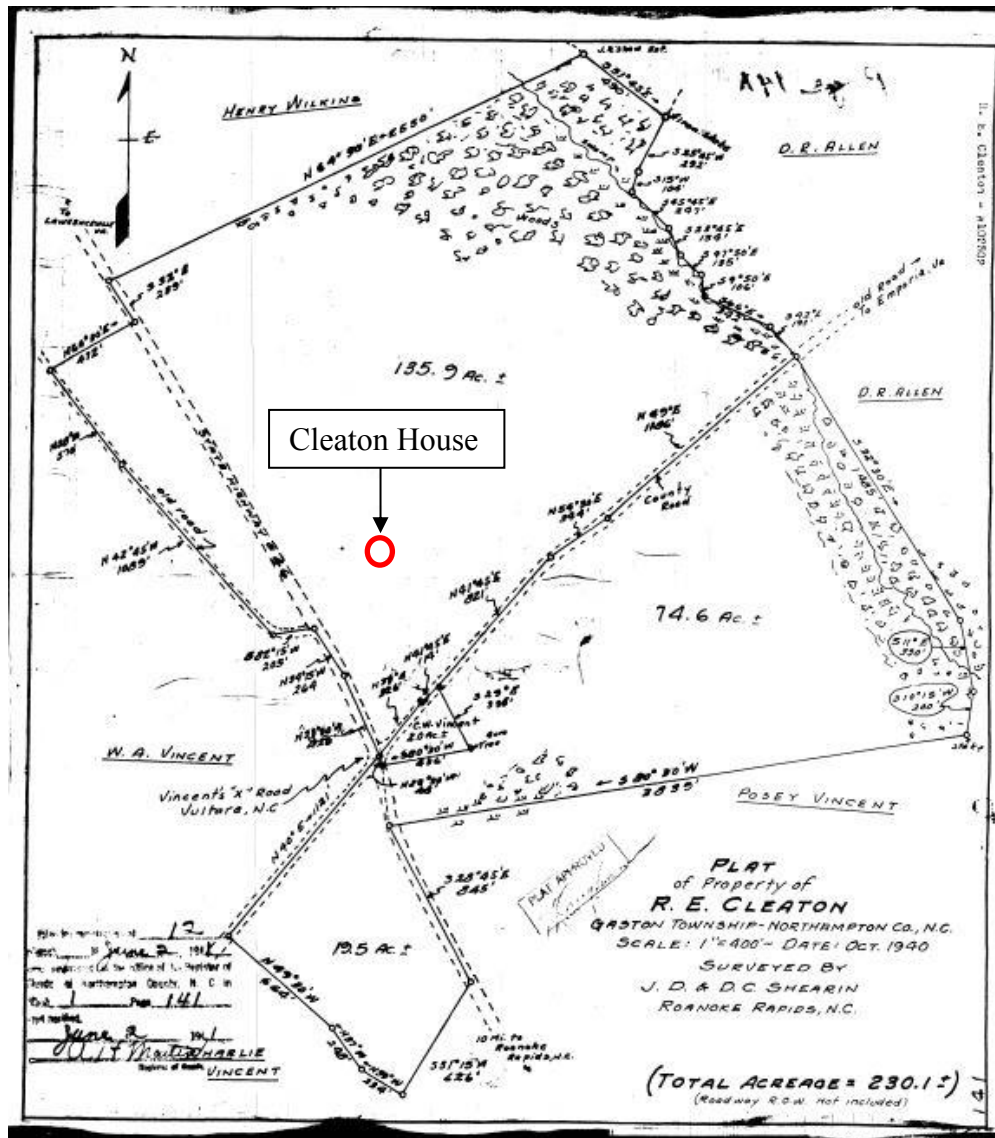


Figure 64: 1940 Map of the Cleaton Property.³⁷⁴

³⁷² NCTB 1935, 1945.

³⁷³ NCGIS 2017.

³⁷⁴ NCPB 1:141.

The earliest confirmed owner of the Cleaton House property is R.E. (Robert Elroy) Cleaton of Northampton County. Prior to the construction of the dwelling, Mr. Cleaton was recorded in 1880 as living with his father, William D. Cleaton, and siblings in Brunswick County, Virginia.³⁷⁵ By 1892, he had moved to Gaston Township, and married Virginia Vincent (1871–1955).³⁷⁶ In 1900, Mr. Cleaton is recorded as living on the subject property with his wife and their three children: Nannie, Tempie, and Robert Jr.³⁷⁷ It is unclear how Mr. Cleaton acquired his farmland, as he is not listed in Northampton County grantee indexes during this time. As previously mentioned, many late-nineteenth century deeds were not available for various reasons detailed in another section of this report (p. 131). Based on a site visit, local tax records, and previous architectural surveys, it is estimated that the dwelling and several outbuildings were constructed circa 1895 by R.E. Cleaton. The outbuildings no longer exist today and are not displayed on historic plats; however, they do appear on early topographic maps and historic aerials (Figure 65–Figure 66, p. 201).³⁷⁸

In 1920, both Mr. Cleaton and his son, Robert Cleaton Jr., are listed as ‘General Farmers’ in the U.S. Census record.³⁷⁹ Mr. Cleaton continued to live on the property with his wife and children, and farmed cash crops such as cotton, peanuts, and soybeans.³⁸⁰ R.E. Cleaton died intestate in 1945, leaving his widow, Virginia and his surviving children, Robert Jr., Nannie, Temperance, Elwood, and Daisey, as his sole heirs at law.³⁸¹ Robert Cleaton Jr. was named executor of the estate, and paid personal property tax on the property while Virginia continued to live in the dwelling until her death in 1955.³⁸² Robert Jr. is listed as paying the personal property tax on the R.E. Cleaton Estate until 1975.³⁸³ It is unclear, however, exactly which of the Cleaton heirs resided in the farmhouse during this time.

After the death of R.E. Cleaton Jr., The Cleaton house changed hands three times through a series of wills. In 2007 the property transferred to Leon Thomas Baird, a descendant of the Cleaton family.³⁸⁴ Mr. Baird continues to own the Cleaton House today, though he does not inhabit the dwelling, nor are the agricultural fields still active for farming. In 2010, Spanbauer notes that the dwelling was used as a hunt club.³⁸⁵ Today, the dwelling is inhabited by renters.

³⁷⁵ U.S. Census 1880.

³⁷⁶ North Carolina Marriages 2007.

³⁷⁷ U.S. Census 1900.

³⁷⁸ USDA 1950a; USGS 1919.

³⁷⁹ U.S. Census 1920.

³⁸⁰ L. Thomas Baird, Personal Communication 2017.

³⁸¹ North Carolina Superior Court Northampton County 2015.

³⁸² L. Thomas Baird, Personal Communication 2017; NCTB 1950.

³⁸³ NCTB 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975.

³⁸⁴ NCWB 07E:78.

³⁸⁵ NC-HPO 2010b.

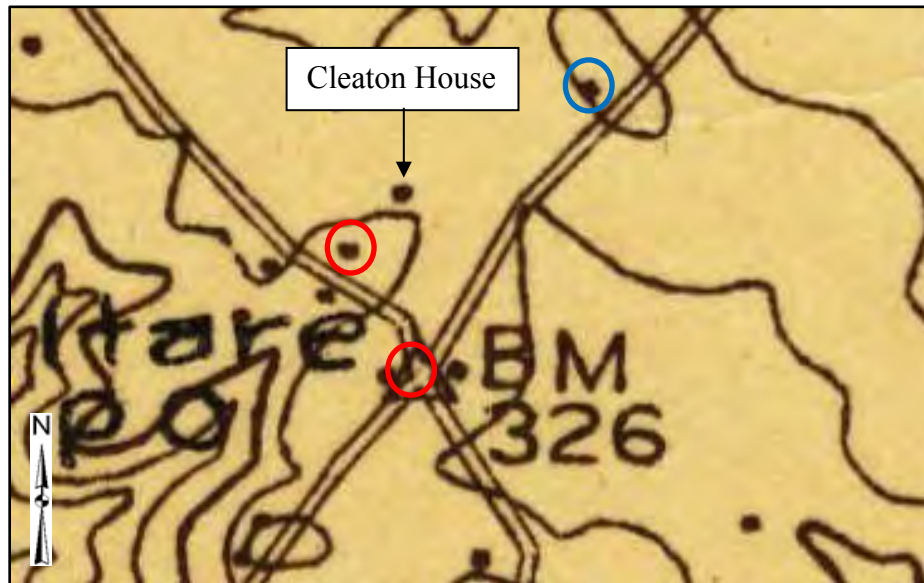


Figure 65: Topographic Map Showing Cleaton House and Arrangement of Outbuildings (1919).³⁸⁶ Red circles denote buildings no longer extant. Blue circle denotes a possibly extant building. Map not to scale.

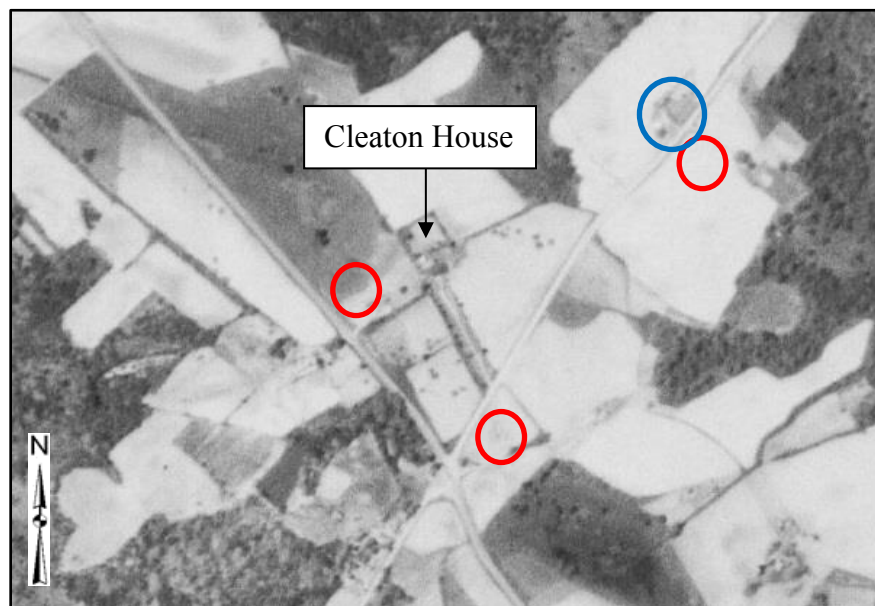


Figure 66: Historic Aerial Map Showing Cleaton House and Arrangement of Outbuildings (1950).³⁸⁷ Red circles denote buildings no longer extant. Blue circle denotes a possibly extant building. Aerial not to scale.

³⁸⁶ USGS 1919.

³⁸⁷ USDA 1950.

Evaluation

The Cleaton House at 1610 N.C. 46 Highway is a two-story, three-bay frame dwelling constructed around 1895 in a form that is common for this region of Northampton County and the era in which it was constructed. This resource is situated on a moderately sized manicured lawn surrounded by agricultural fields (currently not in use) and comprises the house and two secondary resources, which include a modern skinning shed and well cap. It is possible that the remains of two additional agricultural buildings still exist on the property; however, they were unable to be observed at this time.

The Cleaton House retains integrity of location to a minimal degree; the house has not been moved but many of the outbuildings associated with this property are no longer extant. In addition, integrity of materials and workmanship survives to a degree on the dwelling's exterior as the building appears to retain many of its original materials. The house has retained a medium level of design; although there is an addition to the front and rear of the primary resource, it was constructed in a sympathetic way that does not negatively impact the dwelling's original core. The house has experienced some deterioration, such as a hole in the roof. The Cleaton House is surrounded by agricultural fields (currently not in use) and wooded areas, as such it retains medium level of integrity of setting. As the agricultural fields are no longer in use, and it is possible that historic outbuildings may no longer exist, the Cleaton House retains limited integrity of feeling and association.

Northampton County's rural roads are dotted with similar late-nineteenth- to early-twentieth-century, large-scale farms. One comparable property is located approximately 5 miles east of the Cleaton House on N.C. Highway 46. The Moody House at 192 Dr. Hall Road (4068 N.C. Highway 46) is discussed in the Moody House (NP0414) section (p. 123) of this report, and is a fair example of a surviving farm house from the turn of the century. This two-story, three-bay, frame dwelling likely dates to the early-twentieth century. The foundation is likely composed of brick piers, and is topped by a side-gabled roof. The building's frame structural system that is clad in wood weatherboard siding with a shingle metal roofing on the building's core with return eaves. This resource appears to retain most of its original material, and comprises the farmhouse, and mid- to late-twentieth-century secondary resources including a shed, pump house, and a well. This dwelling also appears to be missing historic agricultural buildings associated with the property.

Another nearby house that is similar to the Cleaton House is located at 200 Railroad Street (NP1065) in the Jackson Township of Northampton County. This building is a two-story, three-bay dwelling that is set on a brick foundation and is covered by a side-gabled roof (Photo 169). The front-porch's hipped roof is supported by squared, wooden posts set on the brick foundation. Surviving historic elements include the form/design, wood-frame, six-over-six, double-hung-sash windows, and interior chimneys. This late-nineteenth century dwelling sits abandoned and has no remaining associated outbuildings.



Photo 169: 200 Railroad Street, Jackson, N.C. (NP1065).

In order for a resource to be considered eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, “a property can be associated with either (or both) of two types of events: [...] a specific event marking an important moment in American prehistory or history [or] a pattern of events or a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a State, or the nation.”³⁸⁸ However, NPS cautions that “mere association with historic events or trends is not enough, in and of itself, to qualify under Criterion A: the property’s specific association must be considered important as well.”³⁸⁹ The Cleaton House at N.C. 46 Highway is not known to be associated with any important historical event or trend in Northampton County or rural North Carolina as a whole, and although it was built during the railroad-inspired era of national folk housing (1850–1930) this does not merit a listing in the NRHP.³⁹⁰ For these reasons, the Cleaton House at 1610 N.C. 46 Highway is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

The known owners associated with the Cleaton House did not gain notable importance, nor are they considered individually significant. Therefore, the property does not meet Criterion B, which is defined as association with a person who is “individually significant within a historic context” and has “gained importance within his or her profession or group.”³⁹¹ As such, the Cleaton House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

Eligibility for Criterion C encompasses buildings, structures, sites, and objects that 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.³⁹² The Cleaton House was built circa-1895 and does not represent the work of a master nor possesses high

³⁸⁸ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

³⁸⁹ Ibid.

³⁹⁰ McAlester 2013.

³⁹¹ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

³⁹² Ibid.

artistic values, nor does it represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may be, singly, undistinguished.³⁹³ Furthermore, the building shows signs of deterioration, such as a hole in the roof. For these reasons, the resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.

For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered significant.³⁹⁴ The Cleaton House is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology, nor of significant patterns of history in the area. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible under Criterion D. In sum, the Cleaton House **is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under any criteria.**

³⁹³ Ibid.

³⁹⁴ Ibid.

NP0284: Wesson House

Date of Construction: Circa 1840
Modifications: Demolished circa 2014

207 Summit Trail
Gaston Township, Northampton County, North Carolina
PIN: 3061-04-2070
Eligibility Recommendation: Not Eligible



Architectural Description

The Wesson House is located on the northeast side of N.C. Highway 46 in a sparsely populated, rural area in Gaston Township, Northampton County, North Carolina. Though the primary resource has been demolished, various agricultural outbuildings still remain. The property comprises a rectangular lot measuring 101 acres that is covered by agricultural fields and forested areas. A private road named Summit Trail extends northeast from N.C. Highway 46 leads to the outbuildings. Several unpaved farm roads cross the lot as well.

At the time of this survey, Summit Trail was gated and access was not granted to the property. The only resources that could be evaluated from the public right-of-way were a circa-1920 cotton gin and cotton warehouse (Figure 67 and Figure 68, pp. 206 and 207; Photo 171, p. 208). By looking at current and historic online aerial photography and topographic maps, as well as information gathered during the previous 2009 and 1980 surveys, two outbuildings, two equipment sheds, a store, and a circa-1920 house were noted.³⁹⁵ The Wesson House, which was noted as being a “Federal-Greek Revival tripartite house, likely dating from the 1820s–1840s,” appears to have been demolished around 2014 (Photo 170, p. 208).³⁹⁶

A circa-1920, one-story, one-bay, cotton warehouse is located closest to N.C. highway 46, just to the east of Summit Trail (Photo 172, p. 209). The concrete-block pier foundation supports the frame structural system that is clad in corrugated metal. The low-pitched, side-gabled roof, which is sheathed in pressed metal, is taller on the north end. A single, large open bay is located on the west elevation and a shed-roof overhang extends from the east elevation.

A circa-1920, one-story, one-bay, cotton gin is located directly north of the cotton warehouse and is just to the east of Summit Trail (Photo 173, p. 209). The frame structural system is clad in corrugated metal and is covered by a front-gabled roof sheathed in v-crimp metal. The resource features a taller section to the east which is pierced by two metal flus while a front-gabled roof overhang extends from the west elevation.

³⁹⁵ Google 2017; NC-HPO 2009f; USGS 1990, 1919.

³⁹⁶ NC-HPO 2009f.

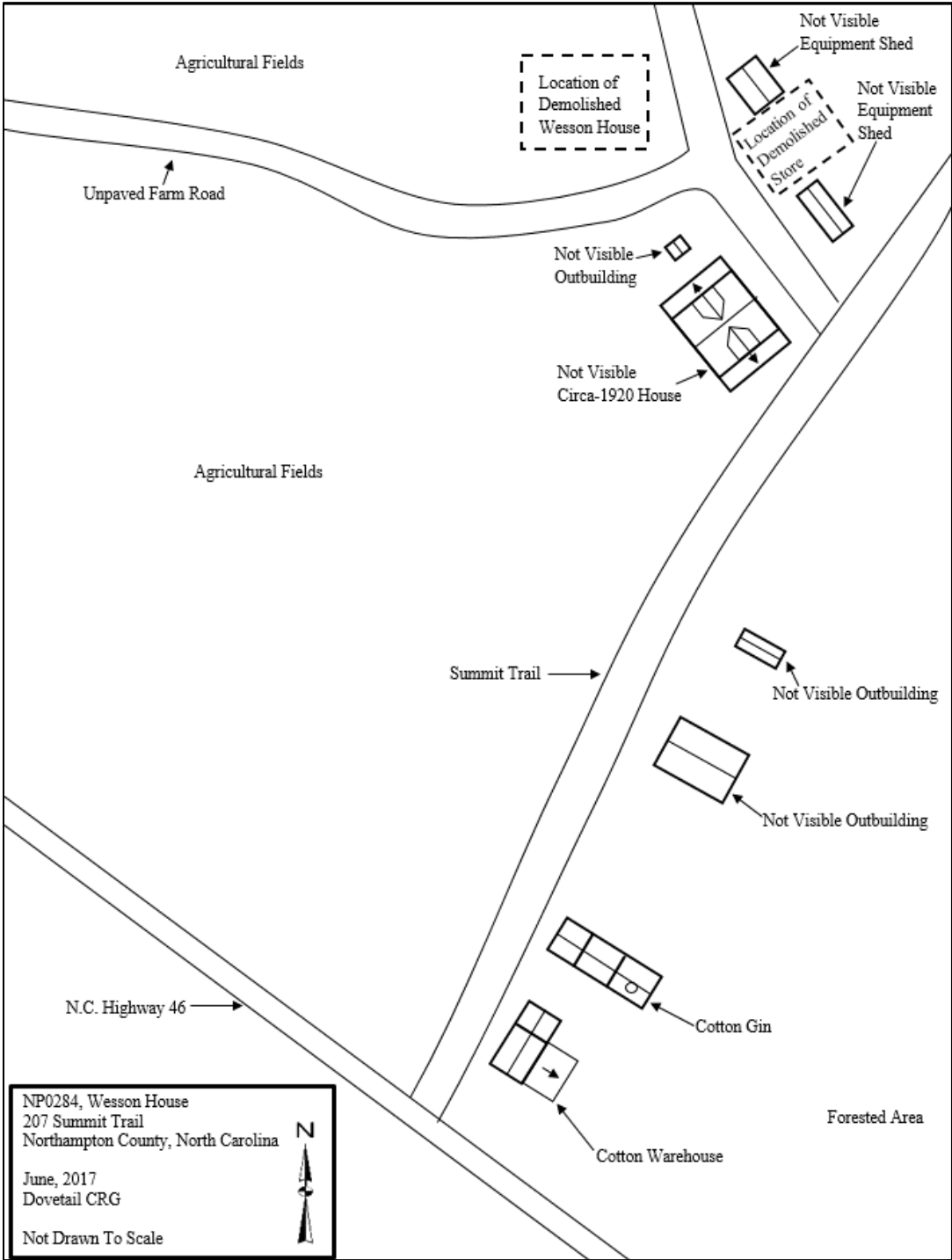


Figure 67: Site Plan of Wesson House (NP0284), Based on Site Visit and Aerial Imagery.³⁹⁷

³⁹⁷ Google 2017.



Figure 68: Location and Parcel Boundaries of the Wesson House (NP0284).³⁹⁸

³⁹⁸ Esri 2017.



Photo 170: Photo of Wesson House from 1980 Survey.³⁹⁹



Photo 171: View of Two Visible Outbuildings, the Cotton Warehouse and Cotton Gin, Looking North From the Public Right-Of-Way.

³⁹⁹ NC-HPO 1980c.



Photo 172: Cotton Warehouse, South Elevation.



Photo 173: Cotton Gin, South Elevation.

The remaining outbuildings were only visible through current aerial images, and as such, their integrity and materials could not be evaluated. These include: two circa-1980 front-gabled outbuildings located approximately 0.25 mile down Summit Trail (not recorded in the previous survey), two circa-1970 front-gabled equipment sheds approximately 0.33 mile down Summit

Trail, a circa-1920 side-gabled house that was previously recorded as being a Craftsman-style bungalow located to the west of the equipment sheds, and a small front-gabled outbuilding located to the north of the house (not recorded in the previous survey) which are all located at the end of Summit Trail.⁴⁰⁰ The previously recorded store located between the two equipment sheds appears to have been demolished.

Historic Context

The Wesson House originally sat on about 700 acres on two different tracts known as the Summit Tract and the Weaver Tract. Though additional references to the name Weaver could not be found, the Summit Tract is named as such because it contains the “summit,” or one of the highest elevations, in Northampton County.⁴⁰¹ William H. Wesson and his wife, Margret, received this land upon the division of Margret’s father’s, Thomas Palmer, estate in 1848 (Photo 174, p. 211).⁴⁰² William Wesson (1813–1892), originally of Brunswick County, Virginia and Margret Anne Palmer (1819–1881) married in Northampton County in 1836 and they had 11 children together.⁴⁰³ William was a wealthy merchant and a farmer.⁴⁰⁴ He had also been a postmaster in Brunswick, Virginia and was made the postmaster of Summit, Northampton County in 1842.⁴⁰⁵ Although they did not technically own the land until the passing of Thomas Palmer in 1848, it is probable that Wesson and his wife resided on the property by around 1840, shortly after their marriage, when they are listed in the federal census as living in Summit, Northampton County.⁴⁰⁶ This is likely when the main house, now demolished, would have been constructed. William and Margret were also willed three enslaved people named Bill, Martha, and Washington and in the 1850 Federal Slave Schedule they are listed as owning a total of 21 slaves.⁴⁰⁷

In 1871, William and Margret Wesson moved to Powhatan County, Virginia and sold their property, called the Weaver and Summit Tracts and containing 700 acres, to Henry A. House.⁴⁰⁸ Henry A. House (1815–1875) was a farmer; his wife, Mary, was a seamstress. Henry A. House died around 1875, and following a special proceeding of the Superior Court of Northampton County, the two tracts were directed to be sold at public auction. The auction occurred in 1878 and Horace R. Reid, of Halifax County, was the highest bidder at \$2,000.⁴⁰⁹ Horace R. Reid was a U.S. Gauger, which was a profession similar to a customs official, as well as a farmer and logger.⁴¹⁰ He most likely did not live on the Wesson House property because he is listed

⁴⁰⁰ NC-HPO 2009f.

⁴⁰¹ NC-HPO 1980c.

⁴⁰² NCDB 33:44.

⁴⁰³ Ancestry 2017.

⁴⁰⁴ U.S. Census 1850; 1870.

⁴⁰⁵ Record of Appointment of Postmasters 1842.

⁴⁰⁶ U.S. Census 1840.

⁴⁰⁷ U.S. Census 1850.

⁴⁰⁸ NCDB 41:276; U.S. Census 1880.

⁴⁰⁹ NCDB 52:373.

⁴¹⁰ U.S. Census 1860, 1870, 1880.

in the federal census as continuing to live in Halifax County.⁴¹¹ It is possible that the Wesson House was occupied by tenants during this time, though records could not be found.

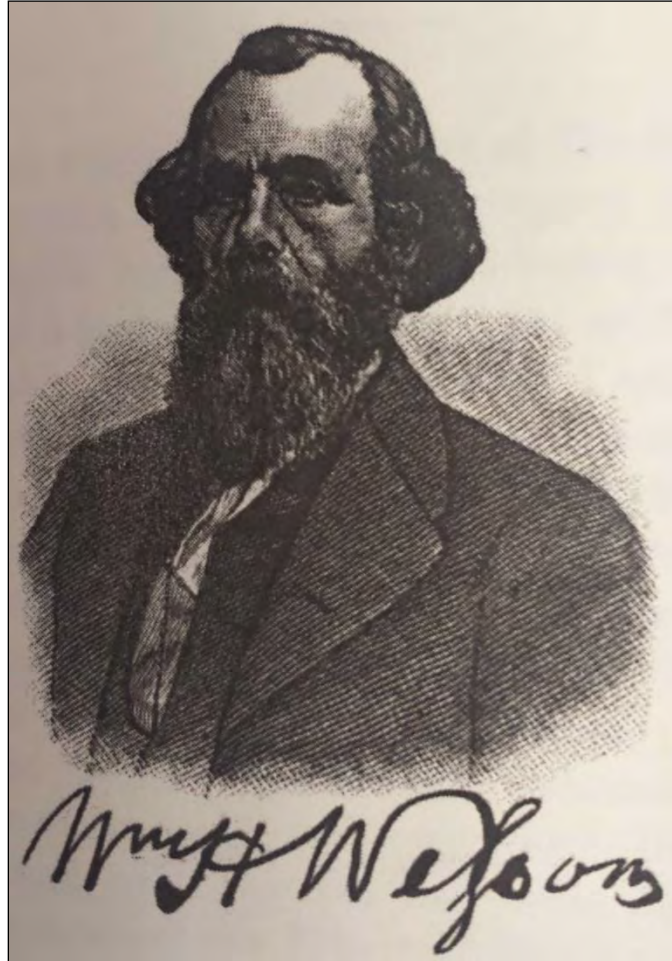


Photo 174: Portrait of William H. Wesson.⁴¹²

Horace Reid sold the property to W.H. Valentine of Brunswick County, Virginia in 1875.⁴¹³ W.H. Valentine was a farmer who resided in Brunswick County, Virginia for his entire life. He owned several tracts of land throughout Brunswick County and Northampton County, North Carolina which he referred to as his farms.⁴¹⁴ In December 1910, W.H. Valentine sold the Weaver and Summit tracts to the Trustees of P.D. Camp and was held in escrow by Edward R. Turnbull.⁴¹⁵ P.D. Camp was a lumber baron, industrialist, and philanthropist who:

⁴¹¹ U.S. Census 1870.

⁴¹² Ancestry 2017.

⁴¹³ NCDB 73:306.

⁴¹⁴ North Carolina, Superior Court Northampton County.

⁴¹⁵ BCDB 61:508.

... formed the P. D. Camp and Company in 1877, and in 1887, with his two brothers founded the Camp Manufacturing Company. This company carried on lumber manufacture of all kinds. They were one of the earliest lumber concerns who chose to purchase the land as well as timber rights which allowed them to conduct extensive reforestation efforts resulting in a sustained yield of timber.⁴¹⁶

On March 1, 1911, just a few months after the initial sale, the Camp Manufacturing Company sold the Wesson House property as well as hundreds of acres of other tracts throughout the area to W.F. Horner and S.B. Pierce.⁴¹⁷ Along with the Deed of Sale was a Timber Deed which stipulated that the Camp Manufacturing Company retained timber rights to “all of the timber laying, standing, being or growing upon said tract of land herein conveyed...[except those] which shall measure at the time of cutting, less than ten inches in diameter across the tree stump” as well as “the right to erect such buildings on said land as it may see fit and to build, use and operate, railroads, tramways or boggy roads”.⁴¹⁸ S.B. Pierce was a physician in Roanoke Rapids who also owned a drug store and W.F. Horner sat on the Halifax County Board.⁴¹⁹ They likely used the land tracts as investment properties for the lumber.

The property went through several more hands in just a few short years. From the ownership of Horace R. Reid in 1878 to D.E. Kefauver in 1919, no one owned the Wesson House property longer than five years and if anyone lived on the property, it would have been tenants. Presumably the property was used as an investment, and the Camp Manufacturing Company retained timber rights to trees greater than 10 inches in diameter. When George T. Ingram bought the property in 1919, he became the first owner in over 30 years to reside on the land.⁴²⁰ It is not likely that he and his family lived in the Wesson House, since around this time the circa-1920, Craftsman-style bungalow was constructed on the parcel which would have served as the Ingram’s home, and it is known that later families lived in the bungalow.⁴²¹ The cotton gin and warehouse were likely constructed by the Ingram’s during this time as well. George Ingram went on to become a merchant after selling the parcel in 1929.⁴²² The cotton gin and warehouse are not unique to the Wesson House property, as these were two of the most common agricultural outbuildings in Northampton County from the early 1900s to the 1960s.⁴²³ The cotton gin, though records could not be found, was likely a Lummus gin, due to the construction method and materials. It would have been a main order kit that would be delivered over rail. In her 2010 context, Rebecca Spanbauer noted that:

The Lummus gins are found at the edges of town commercial districts, on farms, and or at small commercial crossroads... Farmers might have

⁴¹⁶ Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff 1982.

⁴¹⁷ NCDB 154:180.

⁴¹⁸ NCDB 164:323, 164:345.

⁴¹⁹ The Roanoke News 1908, 1912.

⁴²⁰ Ancestry.com 2017.

⁴²¹ NCPB 2:68.

⁴²² U.S. Census 1920, 1940.

⁴²³ Spanbauer 2010.

constructed a Lummus gin on their property for their own use, and as well as a way to supplement their income by charging neighboring farmers to gin their cotton. Lummus gins came in a variety of forms, but are typically, tall, one- or two story, horizontal, side-gable frame buildings with metal roofs and corrugated metal sheathing. They are characterized by a front-gable loading bay projecting from the façade or side elevations. The lower portion of the loading bay was open for trucks and trailers to pull under. The upper enclosed, gabled portion held machinery that would vacuum the cotton up from the truck or trailer and into the gin. Ginning equipment removed the shells, seed, and most impurities from the pods of cotton, sent the clean cotton along an internal conveyor belt, and mechanically baled the cotton. Some cotton gins have monitors along the roof ridgeline that hold conveyor belts and systems of pulleys. Kit cotton gins are seen in the towns of Severn, Gumberry, and Jackson, as well as on individual farms in rural areas, such as the Daniel Family Farms (NP 1050).⁴²⁴

J.A. Shaw purchased the Wesson House property in February 1929. J.A. Shaw, married to Nannie Shaw, was a farmer as well as a store owner. They lived on the property in the Craftsman-style bungalow which is notated on a plat as laying southeast of the other buildings, where the bungalow is located today.⁴²⁵ They had two children as well as the clerk at the store and a black servant living with them on the property.⁴²⁶ In 1939 the Shaw's sold the parcel to Wiley N. Gregory. At the time, the parcel was composed of "two tracts [as well as] all of the gins, presses, engines, scales, conveyers, belts, shafting, pulleys, bearings, and any and all other personal property including tools, wrenches, hammers etc. used in connection with the operation of the gin located on a portion of said real estate above described".⁴²⁷

Although specific transaction records were not found, the land was conveyed back to J.A. Shaw in the latter half of the 1940s, who likely lived on the property in the Craftsman-style house. J.A. Shaw then sold the property to Robert L. Shaw and his wife, Goldie M. Shaw, in 1950.⁴²⁸ Upon the death of Goldie M. Shaw in 2007, the land was willed to L. Thomas Baird who sold the land to PECM, LLC (a timbering LLC) in 2014.⁴²⁹ In 2016, PECM, LLC conveyed the property to VL Director Land Holdings, LLC who holds the property today.⁴³⁰ Currently, the property is still used for timbering.

⁴²⁴ Spanbauer 2010.

⁴²⁵ NCPB 2:68.

⁴²⁶ U.S. Census 1930.

⁴²⁷ NCDB 290:195.

⁴²⁸ NCDB 371:125.

⁴²⁹ NCDB 988:928.

⁴³⁰ NCDB 1019:151.

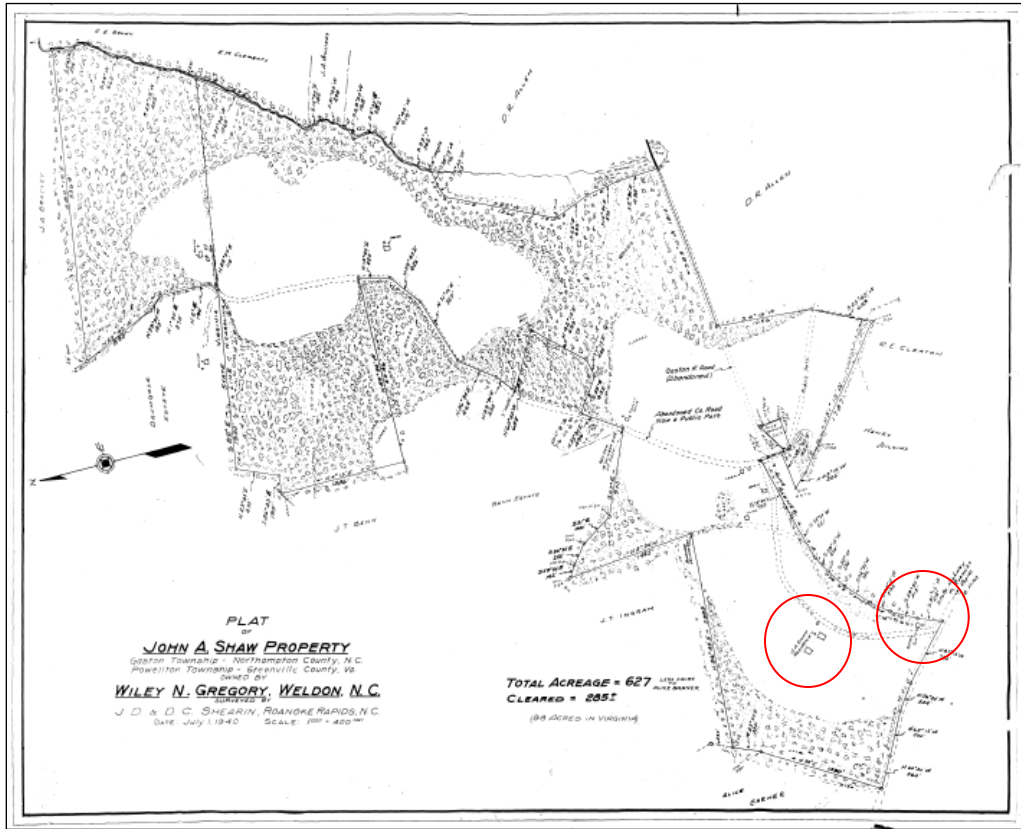


Figure 69: Plat of John A. Shaw Property owned by Wiley N. Gregory, 1940. Note the location of the “Shaw Residence” and the “Cotton Gin” both circled in red.⁴³¹ Map not to scale.

Evaluation

The Wesson House, no longer extant, dated to around 1840, while the associated outbuildings date from about 1920 to 1980. The property has been used for agricultural purposes since the construction of the Wesson House, with a major focus being on timbering since about 1910. The Wesson House though, having been vacant since about 1880, was demolished around 2014.

Due to the demolition of the primary resource associated with this property, the integrity of the Wesson House has been significantly diminished. The surviving outbuildings have not been moved, so the resource does retain a moderate-level of integrity of location. Since the Wesson House is no longer standing and the associated outbuilding are more modern than the primary resource, dating from 1920–1980, the resource has a low-level of integrity of design, workmanship and materials. The property is currently vacant and only used for forestry purposes. As such, it retains a low-level of integrity of setting, feeling, and association.

⁴³¹ NCPB 2:68.

Though the primary resource has been demolished, more significant dwellings with related agricultural outbuildings can be found throughout Northampton County. Mowfield (NP0001) is a large, two-story, five-bay, hipped-roof plantation house with a two-story, full-length porch constructed in several stages starting around 1801 near Jackson with a combination of Georgian- and Federal-style influences (Photo 175, p. 215). Several agricultural outbuildings associated with Mowfield surround the resource which date from the late-nineteenth and into the twentieth century including silos, barns, and other agricultural outbuildings. This outbuilding form a cohesive block, showing the change in agricultural practices from plantation-style farms to commercial agricultural production. It was listed in the NRHP in 1975 under Criteria A and C for architecture as well as recreation due to the history of horseracing at Mowfield stating:

Mowfield is a handsome plantation house of strikingly unusual form, with its dramatic, high hip roof over a double porch, and an interesting combination of Georgian and vernacular Federal finish. It is of considerable importance as the seat of the colorful and prominent Amis family who were horse breeders of national reputation. Mowfield Plantation was also the home of Sir Archie, one of the greatest thoroughbred sires of the nineteenth century and certainly the champion of North Carolina's racing heyday.⁴³²



Photo 175: Mowfield (NP0001), Current Photo of South Elevation (Left), 1974 Photo From NRHP Nomination of Southeast Oblique (Right).⁴³³

A good example of a collection of associated outbuildings is at the farm at 307 Three Bridges Road, located south of Roanoke Rapids in Halifax County (Photo 176, p. 216). The farmhouse was built around 1900 and many of the outbuildings surrounding it date from around that time as well. The clustering at this farm is very common of turn-of-the-century farmsteads in eastern North Carolina, with the domestic outbuildings laying closet to the house and various agricultural outbuildings, mainly supporting the cultivation of cotton or corn, are scattered to

⁴³² Flowers and Cockshutt 1974.

⁴³³ Flowers and Cockshutt 1974.

the rear.⁴³⁴ The farm has retained its rural character and is surrounded by agricultural fields that continue to be cultivated.



Photo 176: Farm at 307 Three Bridges Road, East Oblique (Left), and Current Aerial Showing All Outbuildings (Right).⁴³⁵ Map not to scale.

The NPS outlines the considerations for which a property can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A. They are as follows: “To be considered for listing under Criterion A, a property must be associated with one or more events important in the defined historic context... The event or trends, however, must clearly be important within the associated context... and it must retain historic integrity”.⁴³⁶ Additionally, in a National Register Bulletin titled “Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes,” the NPS further defines what might be eligible for a listing in the NRHP specifically for agricultural complexes. In order for a rural property to attain significance in agriculture, they must “have served or resulted from an important event, activity, or theme in agricultural development as recognized by the historic contexts for the area... 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,” and “cogently reflect the period of time in which the important events took place”.⁴³⁷ Although the area surrounding the resource continues to be used for agricultural purposes since the resource's inception, it does not project historically significant local agricultural patterns or practices and the demolition of the primary resource as well as the addition of modern outbuildings do not merit eligibility for the NRHP under Criterion A. For these reasons, the Wesson House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

For a resource to be considered eligible under Criterion B, it must be associated with a person who is “individually significant within a historic context” and has “gained importance within

⁴³⁴ Spanbauer 2010.

⁴³⁵ Google 2017.

⁴³⁶ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

⁴³⁷ McClelland et al. 1999.

his or her profession or group”.⁴³⁸ The people that owned or resided on the property are not known to have made significant contributions to area history and, as a result, Wesson House is recommended not eligible under Criterion B.

Criterion C as outlined by NPS pertains to “properties significant for their physical design or construction, including such elements as architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, and artwork.” For a resource to be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, it must “embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, possess high artistic value, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction”.⁴³⁹ The primary resource, which was the most architecturally significant building on this property, has been demolished, and although many outbuildings and a secondary dwelling still remain on the property, those that were visible during the current survey were in fair condition due to neglect. Better examples of twentieth-century agricultural complexes exist elsewhere throughout the county and region. As such, this resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.

For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered significant.⁴⁴⁰ The Wesson House is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible under Criterion D.

In sum, the Wesson House is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under any criteria.

⁴³⁸ Shrimpton et al. 1990

⁴³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁴⁰ Ibid.

NP0285: Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

Date of Construction: 1889
Modifications: N.A.

1036 N.C. Highway 46
Gaston Township, Northampton County, North Carolina
PIN: 3051-82-8893
Eligibility Recommendation: Not Eligible



Architectural Description

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church (henceforth known as St. Luke's Church) is located on the south side of N.C. Highway 46 in a rural area within the Gaston Township of Northampton County, North Carolina. Built on a small, rectangular parcel measuring 1.29 acres, the resource is immediately surrounded by a manicured grass lawn (Figure 70–Figure 71, pp. 219–220). It is accessed by a short gravel driveway which continues into an unpaved driveway which extends southeast from the road and loops to the east around the church. The parcel is bordered by densely forested areas to the east, south, and west. An affiliated cemetery is located directly south of the primary resource within the forested area that surrounds the parcel.

The primary resource is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay church built in 1889 in the Carpenter Gothic style with a linear plan (Photo 177, p. 221). Access to the interior of the church was not obtained during the current survey. The foundation, composed of concrete-block piers, supports the frame structural system that is clad in German siding (also known as simple drop weatherboard) with wood cornerboards. The church is covered by a steeply pitched, front-gabled roof sheathed in asphalt shingles with wide, overhanging, open eaves. The eaves feature chamfered rafter tails and plain rake boards as well as bead molding on the cornice and single molding on the fascia. An exterior-end brick chimney topped by a terracotta chimney pot is located in the southwest elevation. The chimney, which stands approximately 20 feet tall, is located about 2 feet from the resource and only connects to the church at a point directly under the roofline. A wood steeple sits at the northwest ridgeline of the roof. The steeple, which is covered by a front-gabled roof with a slim cross at its apex, is louvered on the northeast and southwest sides and features lancet openings to the southeast and northwest.

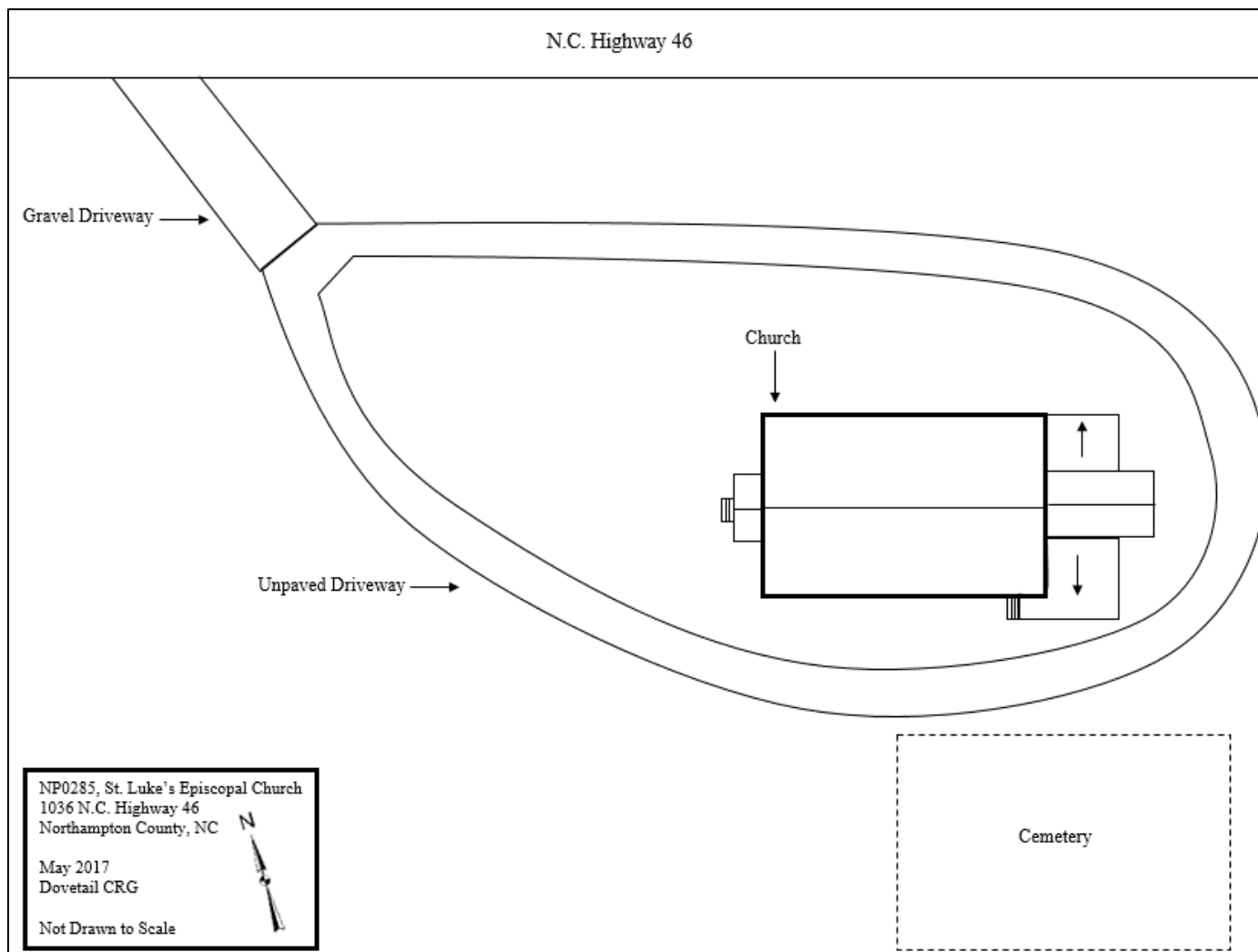


Figure 70: St. Luke's Church (MP0285) Site Plan.

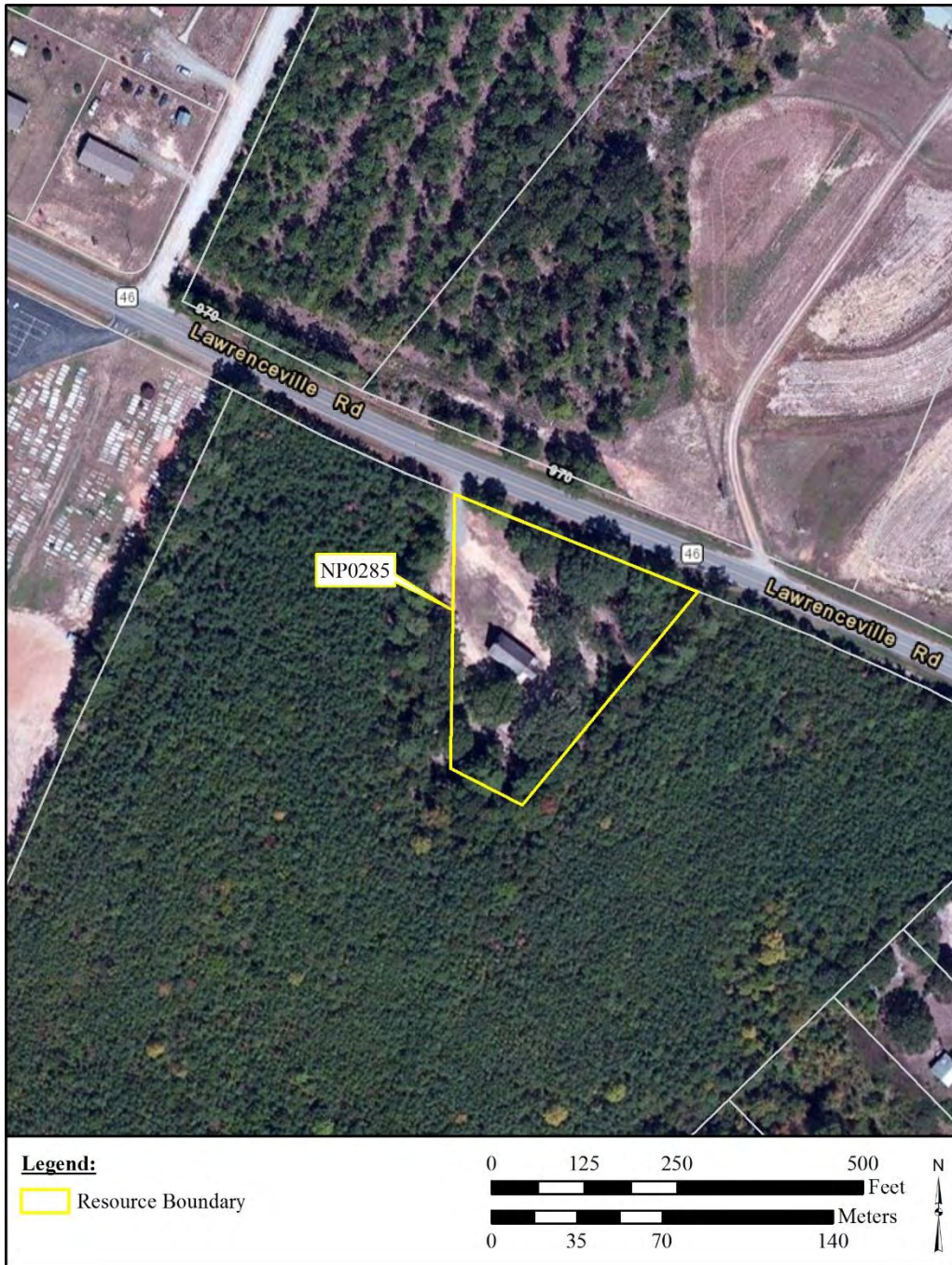


Figure 71: Location and Parcel Boundaries of St. Luke's Church (NP0285).⁴⁴¹

⁴⁴¹ Esri 2017.



Photo 177: St. Luke's Church, North Oblique.

The primary entrance is centered on the northwest elevation and is filled with a double-leaf, paneled, lancet, wood door within a simple wood surround (Photo 178, p. 221). The door is covered by a front-gabled, pent-roof entry porch with an arched verge board which is supported by large, wood brackets. The porch roof is topped by a stylized wood cross at the apex and two poured-concrete steps lead to the door. The door is flanked by 10-light, wood-framed, stained-glass, lancet casement windows with wood sills. Above the door is a seven-light, circular, stained-glass window. The northeast and southwest elevations of the resource mirror each other and both feature four 10-light, wood-framed, stained-glass, lancet casement windows on wood sills.



Photo 178: St. Luke's Church Northwest Elevation (Left) and Northeast Elevation (Right).

Extending off the rear (northeast) elevation of the church is a chancel or sanctuary, where the altar is located (Photo 179, p. 222). Covered by a front-gabled roof, it is composed of the same materials as the main block. A triple, stained-glass, lancet window is centered on the northeast elevation of the chancel. Flanking this extension are two shed-roof additions which are most likely used for the vestry or chapels as is common in Episcopal churches. With roofs sheathed in v-crimp metal, these additions feature four-light, wood-framed, stained-glass lancet windows. The addition to the southwest contains a secondary entry filled with a single-leaf, two-paneled, wood, lancet door within a simple wood surround on the northwest elevation which is accessed by three, poured-concrete steps.



Photo 179 St. Luke's Church Southeast Elevation (Left) and Secondary Entry Detail (Right).

A cemetery associated with the church sits directly south of the primary resource under a cover of thick trees and enclosed by a chain-link fence (Photo 180 and Photo 181, p. 223). The grounds measure about 0.3 acre and are dotted with small shrubbery and mature trees. The cemetery has approximately 50 internments which are primarily laid out in family plots, some of which are surrounded by additional metal or stone fencing or enclosures. The earliest internment dates to 1880, with the majority dating from that time through the 1940s. The cemetery may still be in use as the most recent burial dates to 2007. A majority of the headstones are composed of granite and marble, with some internments also featuring foot stones or grave slabs. Many of the headstones feature Victorian decorations and motifs.



Photo 180: Cemetery, Looking Southeast.



Photo 181: Cemetery, Looking Northeast Toward St. Luke's Church.

Historic Context

The Church of England became the officially sanctioned faith in North Carolina with the passage of the First Vestry Act in 1701. This act created parishes to be run by vestries which allowed for the levying of taxes and fines for the construction of church buildings as well as to

pay ministers.⁴⁴² During that time and throughout the eighteenth century, the Anglican Church had the most significant presence throughout North Carolina, with the other denominations, mainly Methodists and Baptists, receiving little influence or recognition.⁴⁴³ The Anglican Church in Northampton County dates to 1727 with the establishment of Bertie's Northwest Parish (later renamed St. George's), which had four active chapels by 1759.⁴⁴⁴ Though their attendance and influence waned during the time of the American Revolution due to the lack of a bishop and a decline in religious sentiment, the church thrived again with the establishment of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina and was significantly revived in the 1830s and 1840s.⁴⁴⁵ By the mid-nineteenth century, the Episcopal Church would never become as widespread as the Baptist and Methodist church; it was popular among wealthy planters and prominent local leaders.⁴⁴⁶

The first Episcopal Church in Northampton was established in 1848 when the Reverend William H. Harrison was assigned a mission near Jackson.⁴⁴⁷ In 1851, the Right Reverend L. Sullivan, George W. Mordicai, and John W. Wright were established as Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church and bought 0.5 acres from Samuel Calvert "in the town of Jackson...on Church Street".⁴⁴⁸ They built a frame church that same year and it was known as Church of the Savior.⁴⁴⁹ The vestry for that church was composed of Dr. William Barrow, Thomas Bragg (governor of North Carolina from 1855–1859), Henry Burgwyn, John Bynum, Samuel Calvert (previous owner of the land; wealthy landowner and lawyer in Jackson), John Randolph, Thomas Sterling, and Edmund Wilkins (the only resident in the western section of Northampton County).⁴⁵⁰

By 1858, mainly due to the persistence of Edmund Wilkins, the St. Luke's Mission was established in Gaston and a small church was constructed in 1859.⁴⁵¹ In 1867, the building was moved from Gaston to a site adjoining the Wilkins large landholding, known as the Belmont Plantation (Figure 72, p. 225). Though the church had moved to this new parcel, the land and church building remained in possession of the Wilkins family until 1880 when the Trustees of Protestant Episcopal Church purchased the land from E.W. Wilkins and his wife. Noted as "containing one acre of land in which the building known by the name of St. Luke's Church is now Standing".⁴⁵² E.W. Wilkins, son of Edmund Wilkins who had died, conveyed the land for the church obeying his father's wishes.

⁴⁴² Graebner 2011.

⁴⁴³ Spanbauer 2010:21.

⁴⁴⁴ Northampton County Bicentennial Committee 1976:7.

⁴⁴⁵ Northampton County Bicentennial Committee 1976:7; Spanbauer 2010:22.

⁴⁴⁶ Spanbauer 2010:34.

⁴⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁴⁸ NCDB 34:321.

⁴⁴⁹ Spanbauer 2010:34.

⁴⁵⁰ Northampton County Bicentennial Committee 1976:7–8.

⁴⁵¹ Ibid.

⁴⁵² NCDB 56:413.

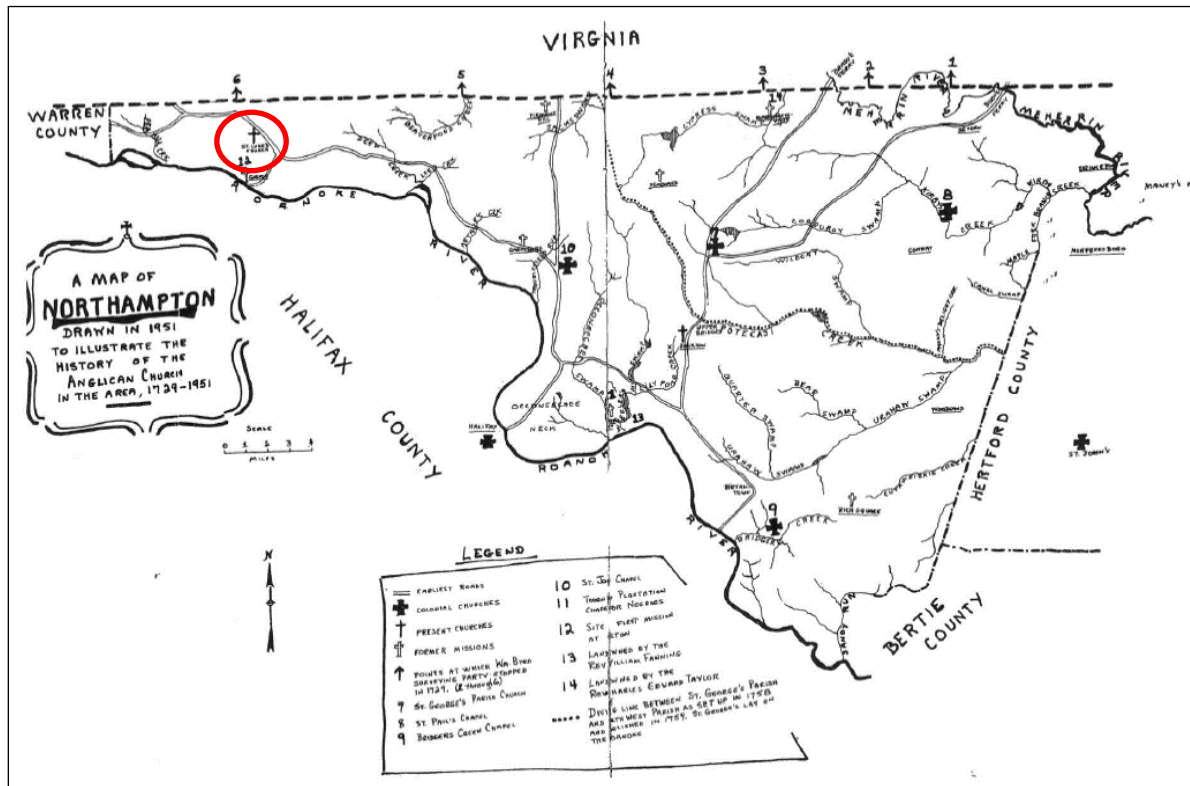


Figure 72: Map of Northampton Parishes. Note the location of St. Luke’s Church.⁴⁵³
 Map not to scale.

St. Luke’s Church was prospering by that point in 1880 and plans were made to construct a newer, larger building as well as set land aside for a cemetery (Figure 73, p. 226). The new building was constructed and consecrated in 1889.⁴⁵⁴ The church was built in the Carpenter Gothic style, which is a variation of the popular Gothic Revival style, but features a wood-framed structural system as well as wood cladding and wood decorative elements.⁴⁵⁵ The church began to lose members into the first quarter of the twentieth century; and although there was a small revival in the 1920s, the congregation continued to shrink.⁴⁵⁶ Today, St. Luke’s Church is considered a “Preserved Historic Church” by the Dioceses of North Carolina. This means that the church is not occupied and used by a congregation, but it is still overseen by a clergyman and preserved by the Episcopal Church as well as volunteers.⁴⁵⁷

⁴⁵³ Graebner 2011.

⁴⁵⁴ Northampton County Bicentennial Committee 1976:8.

⁴⁵⁵ McAlester 2013: 270.

⁴⁵⁶ Northampton County Bicentennial Committee 1976:8.

⁴⁵⁷ The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina 2017.

ST. LUKE'S MISSION, GASTON.

REV. GILBERT HIGGS, *Missionary.*

No. of families, 13. Whole No. of souls, 61. Baptisms—infants, 2. Communicants—added by removal, 1; admission, 1; present No., 14. Marriages, 1. Burials, 1. Public Services—on Sundays, 11. Holy Communion—No. times administered, public, 5. Sunday School teachers—males, 2; females, 3; total, 5; scholars—males, 16; females, 8; total, 24.

OFFERINGS.

Parochial—Rector's salary, \$124.75; Parish expenses, \$6.75; Miscellaneous, \$56; total, \$187.50.

One church; sittings in church, 100.
Estimated value of church, \$300.

The general attendance at Divine worship has been very good, and it is worthy of record that in the congregation the males are largely in the majority.

An acre of land, on which the church is standing, has been given by deed to the Bishop and Trustees of the Diocese of North Carolina, in accordance with the desire of the late Ed. Wilkins, Esq., deceased, by E. W. Wilkins, Esq., M. D., and Mary D. Wilkins, his wife.

The late Ed. Wilkins, Esq., was an earnest layman, who, in 1855, purchased and presented the church building to the Diocese.

Arrangements have been made to enclose at once a portion of this land, for the protection of the church and for burial purposes.

Figure 73: Clip from the Journal of the Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina regarding St. Luke's Mission. Note the size of congregation.⁴⁵⁸

Evaluation

The St. Luke's Church is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay church built in 1889 in the Carpenter Gothic style with a linear plan. The massing and form, are common of rural, turn-of-the-century churches throughout North Carolina, but the Carpenter Gothic style is unique. St. Luke's Church is the only known Carpenter Gothic resource in Northampton County.⁴⁵⁹ The church is situated on a small, rectangular parcel measuring 1.29 acres and features an associated cemetery. St. Luke's Church retains integrity of location; the church has not been moved and the cemetery is in its original location. The church has a high level of integrity of materials, workmanship, and design due to the absence of large additions or material replacements. Though the church is no longer occupied by a congregation, the building and cemetery are well maintained and are still located within a rural area that retains its agricultural nature; thus the resource has a high level of integrity of setting, feeling and association.

To properly evaluate the resource's NRHP eligibility, it must be compared with similar churches within the area. The Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church (NP0246) is a one-

⁴⁵⁸ Diocese of North Carolina 1880.

⁴⁵⁹ NC-HPO 2017

story, four-bay, Gothic Revival-style church constructed around 1910 in a T-shaped form with a cross-gabled roof (Photo 182, p. 227). This resource features a tall, castellated bell tower as well as paired and triple, lancet, stained-glass windows. The church is located in a rural area near Jackson and features an affiliated cemetery and a circa-2000 fellowship hall. Both the church and the cemetery are still in use by the community and congregation.



Photo 182: Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church (NP0246), South Elevation.

A good example of a Carpenter Gothic Episcopal church is the St. James Episcopal Church in Kitterell (VN0010) (Photo 183, p. 228). It is a one-and-a-half-story, one-bay, church constructed around 1872 clad in board-and-batten siding with a linier plan which is set on a stone foundation and covered by a front-gabled roof. The church features lancet, stained-glass windows, a belfry and a king-post and tie-beam decorative element in the gable ends. The church is still used by a small congregation and is served by a part-time minister. St. James Episcopal Church is the closest in distance and appearance to St. Luke's Church and was listed in the NRHP in 1977 under Criteria A and C stating:

The handsome board-and batten Carpenter Gothic church was the focus of a group of small but relatively prosperous farmers, among them some of Vance County's most influential citizens, who lived in and around the village of Kittrell in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The role of the church was heightened by Kittrell's prominence as a resort town in this period; two important resort hotels were here that accommodated hundreds of visitors from throughout the eastern United States who came to enjoy the area's famous warm springs. The springs were dry and the hotels gone by the beginning of the

twentieth century; the church remains as perhaps the chief vestige of the town's late nineteenth century era of prosperity and social prominence.⁴⁶⁰



Photo 183: St. James Episcopal Church (VN0010), Southwest Oblique.

St. Luke's Church is a small, rural church in Northampton County. It was one of the earlier mission's in the county, and though the congregation remained small it was important to the small community in Gaston during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The church is also one of the last extant buildings from historic, nineteenth-century Gaston, before the town moved to its current location several miles east of St. Luke's. As such, St. Luke's church is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

The church has no known association with an individual who is "significant within a historic context" or has "gained importance within his or her group or profession" which are necessary qualifications for it to be eligible under Criterion B. Therefore, the resource is recommended not eligible under Criterion B.

Criterion C, as outlined by NPS, pertains to "properties significant for their physical design or construction, including such elements as architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, and artwork". For a resource to be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, it must "embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, possess high artistic value, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction".⁴⁶¹ St. Luke's Church is an excellent, and likely

⁴⁶⁰ Southern and Sumner 1977:4.

⁴⁶¹ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

only, example of the Carpenter Gothic style in rural Northampton County. The church was built in 1889 when the congregation was growing enough to warrant the construction of a newer and larger building. Since that time the church has undergone very few modifications or alterations. Because the church and property as a whole retain a high level of historic integrity and architectural significance, St. Luke's Church is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C

For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered significant.⁴⁶² St. Luke's Church is not likely to yield to any new information pertaining to the history of architectural design or technology for education facilities. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D.

For a church to be considered eligible for the NRHP it must meet Criteria Consideration A which states that a religious property is "eligible if it derives its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance".⁴⁶³ St. Luke's Church is architecturally significant as the only known Carpenter Gothic style resource in Northampton County and it is in excellent condition. The church also remains as one of the last extant buildings from historic, nineteenth-century Gaston. For this reason, St. Luke's Church is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria Consideration A.

In sum, St. Luke's Church is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C and Criteria Consideration A.

The proposed period of significance for this resource is from 1889 to 1920, the date the resource was built until the date of the last small revival of the church before it was left vacant. The proposed NRHP boundaries St. Luke's Church, as determined during the current investigations, conform to the existing tax parcel, which includes the tree line running parallel to N.C. Highway 46 (Figure 74, p. 230).⁴⁶⁴ The boundaries include the church and the cemetery, which were both constructed during the period of significance and contribute to the property's eligibility.

⁴⁶² Shrimpton et al. 1990.

⁴⁶³ Shrimpton et al. 1990.

⁴⁶⁴ NCGIS 2017.



Figure 74: Proposed NRHP Boundaries of St. Luke's Episcopal Church (NP0285).⁴⁶⁵

⁴⁶⁵ Esri 2017.

NP1138: Gaston Baptist Church

Date of Construction: 1954
Modifications: Late-twentieth Century

962 N.C. Highway 46
Gaston Township, Northampton County, North Carolina
PIN: 3051-82-1997
Eligibility Recommendation: Not Eligible



Architectural Description

Gaston Baptist Church (currently known as the Gaston Missionary Baptist Church) is located on the southwest side of N.C. Highway 46 in a sparsely populated, rural area in Gaston Township, Northampton County, North Carolina. Built on a rectangular lot measuring approximately 8.07 acres, the church is immediately surrounded on all sides by an asphalt parking lot (Figure 75 and Figure 76, p. 232 and p. 233). A large manicured lawn lays just south of the resource and encompasses about half the parcel while an affiliated cemetery is located east of the resource. The resource and parking lot is accessed directly from the road by three short driveways that extend southwest from N.C. Highway 46. A poured-concrete walkway is located directly northeast of the resource to facilitate entering the church from the parking lot. In addition to the cemetery, a garage, well house, utility area, walled garden, and sign are all affiliated with this resource.

The primary resource is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay church constructed in 1954 in the Colonial Revival style with a linear plan (Photo 184, p. 234). The foundation and structural system, though not visible, are both clad in a running-bond brick veneer. The narthex of the church, which was added in 2015 but features all the same materials and fenestrations as the building's core, is slightly wider than the rest of the building and is two bays deep. The rest of the church features decorative buttresses that line the building, flanking each window on the southeast and northwest elevations. The building is topped by a front-gabled roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. An octagonal steeple with louvered vents clad in vinyl siding is set atop a rectangular base and rises from the northeast ridgeline of the narthex roof. It features a pressed-metal pyramidal roof with a slim cross at its apex. This steeple originally sat back on the main body of the church, but appears to have been moved to its current location in 2015 with the addition of the narthex.

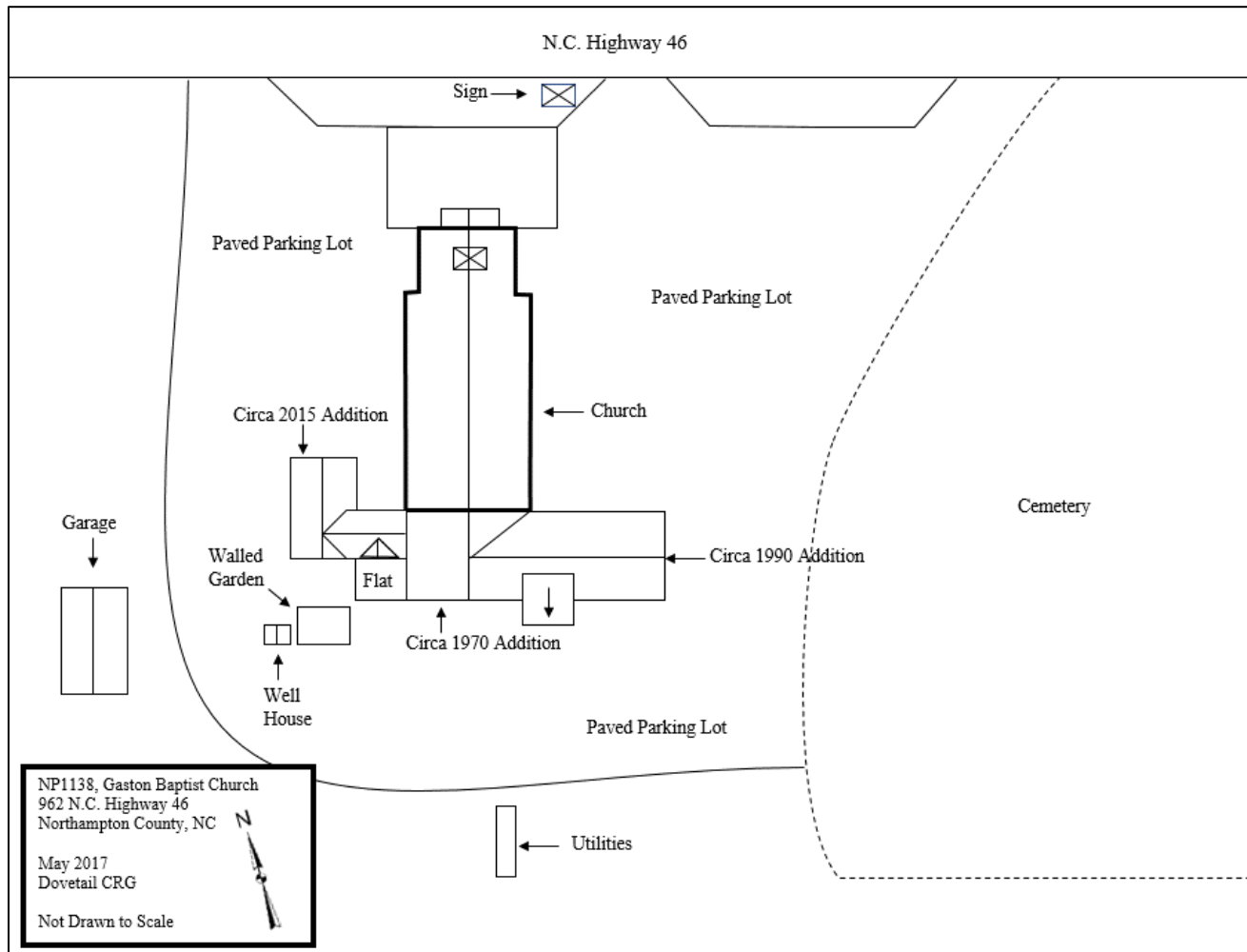


Figure 75: Site Plan for the Gaston Baptist Church (NP1138).



Figure 76: Location and Parcel Boundaries of the Gaston Baptist Church (NP1138).⁴⁶⁶
Based on available aerials from 2014, does not reflect newer additions or garage. See site plan for update.

⁴⁶⁶ Esri 2017



Photo 184: Gaston Baptist Church, North Oblique (Top) and East Oblique (Bottom).

The primary entrance is centered on the northeast elevation and is filled with a double-leaf, metal-and-glass door topped by a metal-frame, two-light transom (Photo 185, p. 235). The door is flanked by one-over-one, single-hung sash, lancet, stained glass windows on brick sills.

The entry is covered by a one-story, three-bay, front-gabled portico. It is supported by vinyl, Doric columns and features vinyl siding as well as a round, louvered vent in the gable end. Additional fenestration on the southeast and northwest elevation includes one-over-one, double-hung-sash, lancet, wood-framed, stained-glass windows.



Photo 185: Gaston Baptist Church, Entry Detail.

A circa-1970, one-story, four-bay addition extends from the rear (southwest) elevation (Photo 186, p. 235). It is clad in a running-bond brick veneer and covered by a low-pitched, front-gabled roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. This addition features an entrance filled with a single-leaf, flush metal door on the northwest elevation. Other fenestration includes one-over-one, double-hung sash, vinyl windows.



Photo 186: Gaston Baptist Church, Southwest Elevation. Note: 1970 addition in red.

A circa-1990, one-story, five-bay, classroom addition extends from the southeast elevation of the circa-1970 addition (Photo 187, p. 236). The addition is clad in a running bond brick veneer and covered by a side-gabled roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. A secondary entrance, which

is located to the east of the northeast elevation, is filled with a single leaf, flush metal door. Three steps and a stoop clad in brick veneer with metal railing lead to the entrance. A shed-roof extension featuring a single-leaf, flush, metal door, is located on the rear facing (southwest) elevation of the addition. Other fenestration include one-over-one, double-hung sash, vinyl windows as well as a single-leaf, flush, metal door located on the southwest elevation.



Photo 187: Circa-1990 Classroom Addition, East Oblique (Top) and Southwest Elevation (Bottom).

A circa-2010, one-story addition extends from the northwest elevation of the circa-1970 addition (Photo 188, p. 237). The addition is clad in a running bond brick veneer and covered by a side-gabled roof with a front-gabled peak sheathed in asphalt shingles. A one-story, open-bay, flat-roof carport supported by square posts clad in brick veneer extends southwest from the addition.



Photo 188: Circa-2010 Addition, Southwest Elevation.

A circa-2015, one-story, one-bay addition extends from the northwest elevation of the other circa-2010 addition (Photo 189, p. 237). The addition is clad in a running-bond brick veneer and covered by a front-gabled roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. This addition features one-over-one, double-hung sash vinyl windows.



Photo 189: Circa-2015 Addition, West Oblique.

A circa-2015, one-story, five-bay, garage is located west of the primary resource (Photo 190, p. 238). The building's structural system and side-gabled roof are both sheathed in pressed metal. The primary entrance is located to the south on the primary (east) elevation and is filled with a single-leaf, flush metal door flanked by four-over-four, double-hung sash, metal-framed windows, which are featured on all elevations. Other entrances on the facade as well as on other elevations consists of roll-up, metal, garage doors.



Photo 190: Garage, South Oblique.

A circa-1955 well house is located southwest of the primary resource (Photo 191, p. 238). It is clad in a running-bond brick veneer and is covered by a front-gabled roof sheathed in asphalt shingles with vinyl in the gable ends. A small, single-leaf, flush, wood utility door is located on the south elevation.



Photo 191: Well House, Southwest Oblique.

A circa-2010 walled garden area is located directly east of the well house (Photo 192, p. 239). The short wall is composed of concrete blocks and surrounds a small garden filled with medium-sized shrubbery, a concrete bird bath, and concrete stepping stones. This garden area also features a corner stone from a previous church building that sat on the property. It reads “First Baptist Church Gaston Rebuilt 1900 by Rev. J. W. Wood”. A circa-2010 utility area featuring a metal well cap and utility box is located south of the primary resource (Photo 193, p. 239). It is surrounded by a vinyl fence. Located north of the primary resource is a circa-2010

sign built on a metal foundation (Photo 194, p. 240). The metal-framed sign features a backlit plastic board with shallow plastic trays that hold letters printed on plastic sheet.



Photo 192: Walled Garden, Looking North.



Photo 193: Utility Area, Looking South.



Photo 194: Sign, Looking West.

A cemetery associated with the church sits directly east of the primary resource (Photo 195, p. 240). The cemetery is accessed directly from the church parking lot and also features an unpaved driveway that can be accessed from N.C. Highway 46. The grounds measure about 0.8 acre and has approximately 500 internments, primarily laid out in a grid-like pattern. The earliest internment dates to 1919, with the majority dating between the 1960s and present day, as the cemetery is still in use. A majority of the grave markers are poured-concrete burial vaults painted silver which is a vernacular burial form seen in twentieth-century, African American cemeteries throughout North Carolina and Virginia (Photo 196, p. 241). Some internments also feature headstone of concrete or granite, either alone or associated with a burial vault.



Photo 195: Cemetery, Looking Southwest.



Photo 196: Examples of Grave Markers.

Historic Context

For a more thorough context about African American churches in North Carolina and the South in general, see the narrative regarding Cool Springs Baptist Church on page 68. Gaston Baptist Church was founded in 1869 by Solomon Vincent, Shadrack Jackson, Horace Harrison, Charlie Bradley, Jr., and Mary Anne Walker.⁴⁶⁷ They would meet to hold prayer meeting near the J.C. Squire Farm near Vincent's Crossroads, only about a mile from the current church site. Those first meetings were held under a bush arbor and led by Reverend Reed.⁴⁶⁸ During the years immediately following the Civil War, African Americans were quickly establishing their own institutions as they were no longer required to attend the churches established by their previous slave holders.⁴⁶⁹ The first church building was constructed nearby on land that was donated by Solomon Vincent (~ 1820–1890).⁴⁷⁰ Solomon Vincent was born into slavery in 1820 and married his wife, Vina, sometime before 1870. In the 1870 Federal census, Solomon is listed as a farm laborer with no real estate, but in 1880 when he is 60 years old, Solomon is listed as being a farmer with many of his neighbors still being noted as laborers This potentially indicates that Solomon owned his land at that point and thus was able to donate a portion of it for a church.⁴⁷¹

⁴⁶⁷ Gaston Missionary Baptist Church 2015.

⁴⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁶⁹ CHP 2000:28.

⁴⁷⁰ Gaston Missionary Baptist Church 2015.

⁴⁷¹ U.S. Census 1870, 1880.

As the congregation grew, a decision was made to construct a new church building. In April 1878, the Trustees of the Baptist Religious Society of Gaston including King King, Thomas Squire, and Peter Pincet purchased about 2 acres of land from Julia A. Bradley for this new building.⁴⁷² Julia had received this land in 1867 from her father, Jesse Bradley, when he divided his large estate amongst his four children near the end of his life.⁴⁷³ This is the same land that the current church building was constructed upon (Figure 77, p. 242). At this time, once the building was constructed, the church became known as the First Baptist Church Gaston and Reverend A. N. Buck became the first permanent pastor.⁴⁷⁴ A.N. Buck was a well-known clergyman during this period and helped to found or organize many churches throughout the area including Roanoke Salem Missionary Baptist Church of Garysburg, First Baptist Church of Halifax, Cool Springs of Gaston, Roanoke Chapel of Jackson, Piney Grove Baptist Church of Jackson, and Oak Grove Baptist Church of Littleton. He was also one of the organizers and founders of the Neuse River Baptist Association which is still active today.⁴⁷⁵

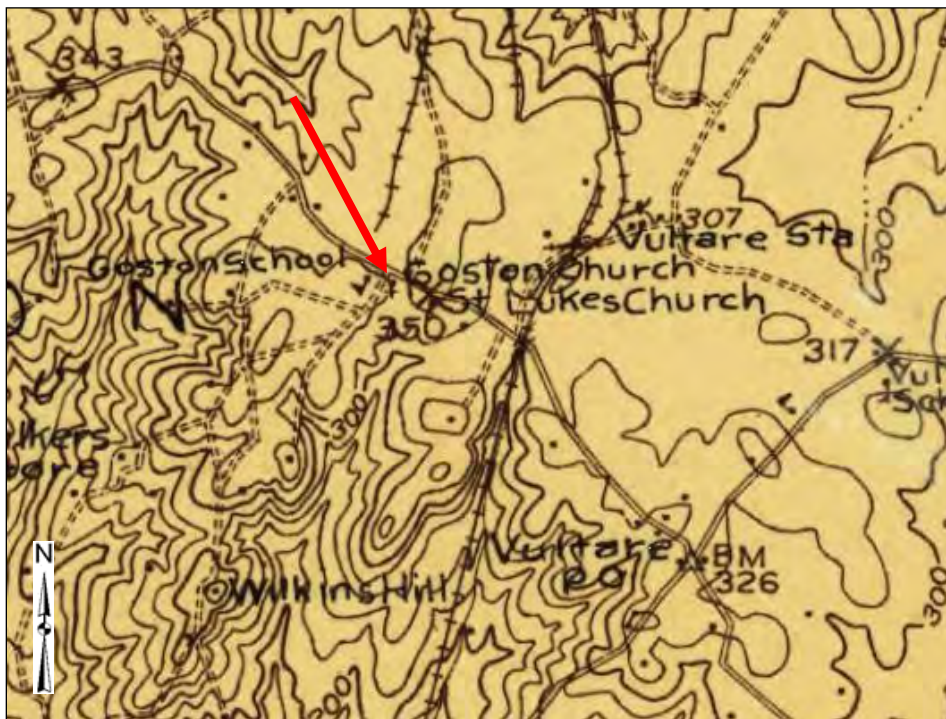


Figure 77: Section of 1919 USGS Topographic Map Showing Gaston Baptist Church Noted as “Gaston Church”.⁴⁷⁶ Map not to scale.

The third church building was constructed due to the growing needs of the congregation in 1900 in the same location as the second under the supervision of Reverend James Wood (Photo

⁴⁷² NCDB 56:14.

⁴⁷³ NCDB 38:618.

⁴⁷⁴ Gaston Missionary Baptist Church 2015.

⁴⁷⁵ Roanoke Salem Missionary Baptist Church n.d..

⁴⁷⁶ USGS 1919.

197, p. 243).⁴⁷⁷ Reverend James Wood (1865–1924) served as the pastor of the Gaston Baptist Church for 39 years.⁴⁷⁸ It is not likely that a parsonage was built due to the fact that the 1900 and 1920 Federal census both list James and his wife, Eldora, as living in a house they owned in Weldon, North Carolina.⁴⁷⁹ In July 1912, D.D. Walker, W.H. Moses, Sr., J.J. Moses, Charlie Powell, Jr., Ruffin Belfield, all “Trustees of the Gaston Baptist Church Colored” purchased about 2 acres of land from Ashley and M.J Wilkins, B.J. and E.C. Wilkins, and Mary M. and C. D. Miller, “adjoining the lands of the said Gaston Colored Church on the north surrounded on the east/south and west by the lands of the said parties of the first part”.⁴⁸⁰ The Trustees of the Gaston Baptist Church Colored including S.L. Vincent, Charlie Powell, Martian Banks, and J.L. Owens purchased another 0.5 acres in November 1939 from Edmonia C. Wilkins “adjoining the lands of Gaston Church and of E.C. Wilkins, and others”.⁴⁸¹ The Wilkins Family were large landowners in Greensville and Brunswick counties, Virginia, and Northampton County, North Carolina. They had been planters and owned land in Northampton since 1803, widely known as Belmont Plantation.⁴⁸²

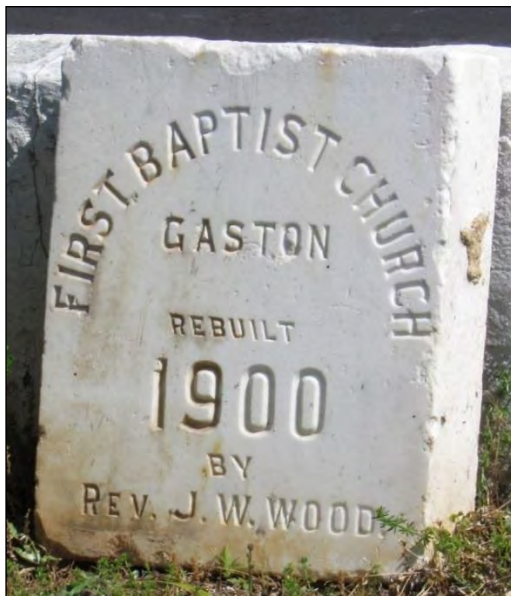


Photo 197: Cornerstone of the Third Church Building for the Gaston Baptist Church (left) and Photo of Reverend J.W. Wood (right).⁴⁸³

After acquiring more of the land surrounding the original plot, the Gaston Baptist Church looked to build a new church by the mid-1940s (Figure 78, p. 244). This follows a trend of new, brick-clad, churches being built to replace older, often frame, churches throughout the

⁴⁷⁷ Gaston Missionary Baptist Church 2015.

⁴⁷⁸ Gaston Missionary Baptist Church 2015; North Carolina Death Records 1924.

⁴⁷⁹ U.S. Census 1900, 1920.

⁴⁸⁰ NCDB 156:530.

⁴⁸¹ NCDB 309:51.

⁴⁸² Smith 1991.

⁴⁸³ Gaston Missionary Baptist Church 2015.

South. This was due partly to the economic boom following WWII as well as the dismantling of some of the Jim Crow-era regulations which allowed for greater economic opportunities for African Americans.⁴⁸⁴ The ground breaking for the new church building took place on July 2, 1954 and was led by the Reverend W.T. Edmonds.⁴⁸⁵

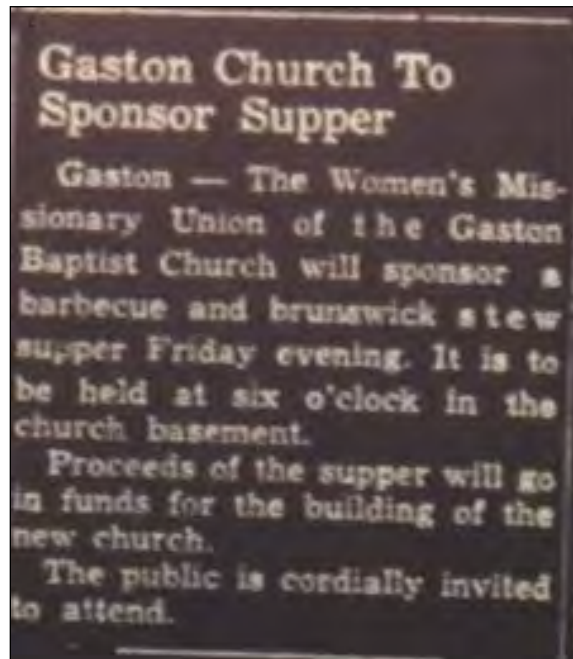


Figure 78: Newspaper Clipping from the Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald from 1948 Advertising a Supper to Fund the New Church Building.⁴⁸⁶

In 1981, Trustees of the Gaston Baptist Church at the time purchased about 0.72 acre from the trustees of the estate of P.A. Lewis. The Lewis family owned large swaths of land in Brunswick County, Virginia and Northampton County. P.A. Lewis was the grandson of Henry Wilkins Lewis (1856–1936) who was a physician as well as the first public health officer in Northampton County. Henry Wilkins Lewis moved to Northampton County from Lawrenceville, Virginia shortly into his career to land that his mother's family, the Wilkin's, had owned in the county known as the Belmont Plantation.⁴⁸⁷ The Lewis family continued to own the Belmont Plantation.

After purchasing the property, the church had all of their land platted stating “the intent of this survey is to establish outside boundaries in accordance with field evidence and as closely as possible with record evidence to show in one plat all of the property of Gaston Baptist Church at the Belmont Tract” (Figure 79, p. 245).⁴⁸⁸ The church chose to do this to rectify some

⁴⁸⁴ CHP 2000:43.

⁴⁸⁵ Gaston Missionary Baptist Church 2015.

⁴⁸⁶ The Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald 1949.

⁴⁸⁷ Smith 1991.

⁴⁸⁸ NCPB 18:53.

discrepancies in the size of their holdings, such as that the land they purchased in 1939 had been listed as one acre, but in reality it was closer to 0.5 acre. Also, the original two parcels that were purchased in 1878 and 1912 now contained land that was located in the public right-of-way.

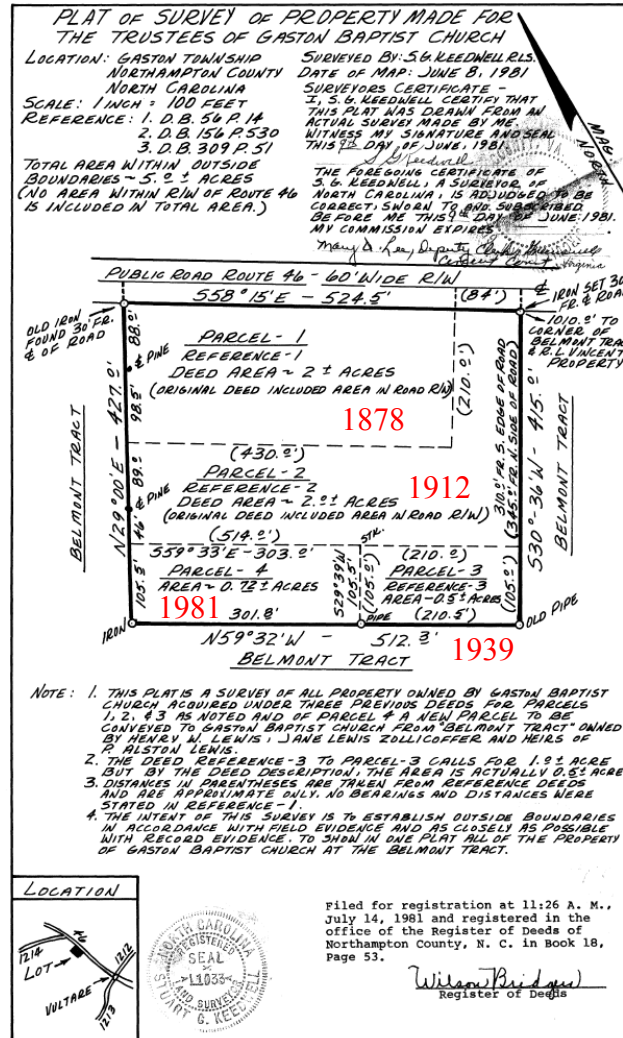


Figure 79: Plat for Gaston Baptist Church, 1981. Note dates purchased for each parcel in red.⁴⁸⁹

The Gaston Baptist Church bought two more parcels from the Lewis family. The first tract consisted of 2.35 acres and was purchased in 1995 and is noted in the deed as "being a part of portion of the larger tract known as the 'Belmont Plantation'" which contained approximately 976 acres".⁴⁹⁰ The second tract was purchased by the Gaston Missionary Baptist Church (as the church was referred to at the time) from the Lewis Belmont Properties, LLC in 2011 and

⁴⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁹⁰ NCDB 715:863.

consisted of 0.72 acres.⁴⁹¹ Finally, in 2014, the Gaston Missionary Baptist Church bought 8.07 acres from Gaston Baptist Church (a.k.a., Gaston Missionary Baptist Church) to create the parcel that exists today (Figure 80, p. 246).⁴⁹²

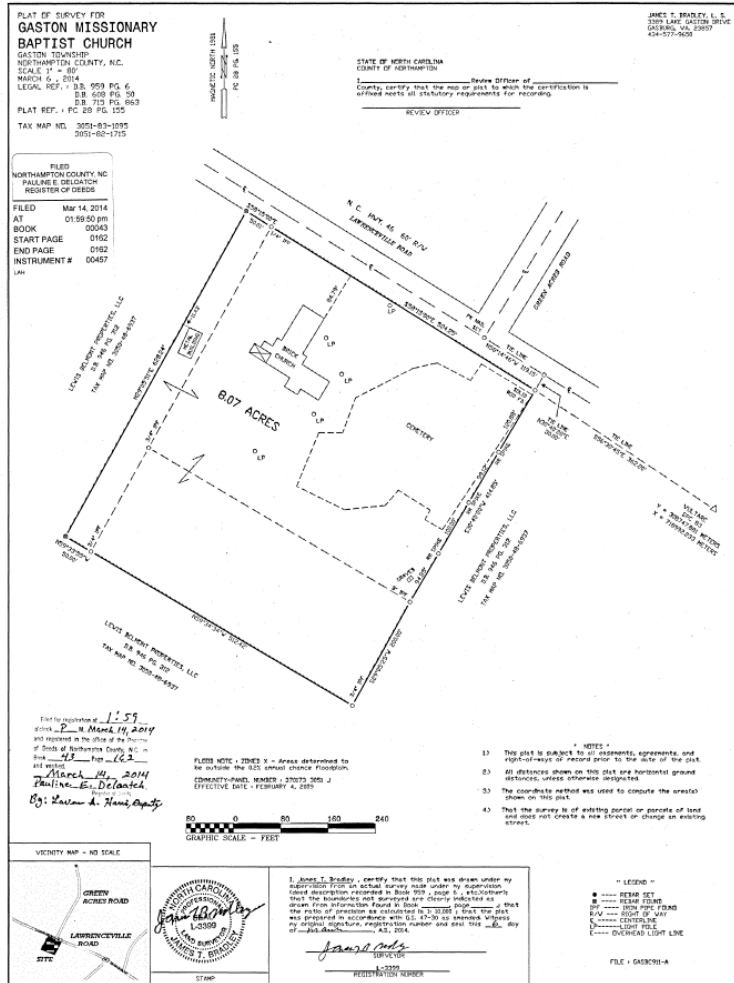


Figure 80: Plat for Gaston Baptist Church, 2014.⁴⁹³

Evaluation

The Gaston Baptist Church is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay church constructed in 1954 in the Colonial Revival style with a linear plan. The massing, form, and style are all common to Gaston as well as Northampton County. The resource is situated on a rectangular lot and is immediately surrounded on all sides by an asphalt parking lot. A cemetery, garage, well house, utility area, walled garden, and sign are all affiliated with this resource.

⁴⁹¹ NCDB 959:6.
⁴⁹² NCDB 988:676.
⁴⁹³ NCPB 43:162.

Gaston Baptist Church retains integrity of location; the church has not been moved and the associated secondary resources appear to be in their original locations. The church has a medium level of integrity of materials, workmanship, and design due to the large rear additions as well as the new narthex. The church is still located within a rural area that retains its agricultural nature. It is also still an operating church and as such, the resource retains a moderate level of integrity of setting, feeling, and association.

To properly evaluate the resource's NRHP eligibility, it must be compared with similar churches within the area. The Roanoke Salem Baptist Church (NP0405), a one-story, three-bay, Gothic Revival-style church located in Garysburg, was constructed around 1886 and is a strong example of a historically African American church in Northampton County (Photo 198, p. 248). A large cemetery is also associated with the resource. The church was originally a smaller, frame building that was renovated and bricked-in in 1944, but it still retains many of its original, Gothic Revival elements. It was the first church established by African Americans in Northampton County in 1866.⁴⁹⁴ Reverend A.N. Buck, who was also the first permanent pastor of Gaston Baptist Church, founded Roanoke Salem Baptist Church and served as the first pastor.⁴⁹⁵ The church has historically been active in the community and served as a school for African American children until public education was introduced in the county.⁴⁹⁶

A significant example of a mid-century, Colonial-Revival church is the Sharon United Methodist Church (NP0828) in Margarettsville in Northampton County (Photo 199, p. 248). It is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, church built around 1954 that is clad in brick veneer.⁴⁹⁷ The resource features large stained-glass windows, brick buttresses, and a pedimented portico with a central lunette supported by tall, Doric columns. The two additions that extend from the rear of the resource are contemporary to the main block and are sympathetic to the materials and massing of the church. A cemetery dating to 1900 is associated with the church.

⁴⁹⁴ Spanbauer 2010:79.

⁴⁹⁵ Roanoke Salem Missionary Baptist Church n.d.

⁴⁹⁶ Roanoke Salem Missionary Baptist Church n.d.

⁴⁹⁷ NC-HPO 2008.



Photo 198: Roanoke Salem Baptist Church (NP0405), West Oblique.



Photo 199: Sharon United Methodist Church (NP0828), East Oblique.

The Gaston Baptist Church is an early African American church in Northampton County; however, it was not the first congregation. And although the growth of the church follows an important pattern in the development of African American churches throughout the South following the Civil War, the current primary resource was constructed significantly later and the church itself is not associated with an important event, or historic trend within the larger community. Therefore, the Gaston Baptist Church is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

Though this church is associated with A.N. Buck, who was a significant African American clergyman during the reconstruction period, he has a stronger connection to other churches,

such as the Roanoke Salem Baptist Church. The church also has no other known association with an individual who is “significant within a historic context” or has “gained importance within his or her group or profession” which are necessary qualifications for it to be eligible under Criterion B.⁴⁹⁸ Therefore, the resource is recommended not eligible under Criterion B.

The Gaston Baptist Church building is a common form and type of the era and region in which it was constructed. It is not the work of a master nor does it possess high artistic values. It also does not represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may be, singly, undistinguished. There are also more noteworthy examples of Colonial Revival-style churches in the surrounding area as discussed above. Furthermore, this resource has had several large additions to the rear as well as the 2015 narthex. For these reasons, the resource is recommended not eligible for the NPHP under Criterion C.

For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered significant.⁴⁹⁹ The Gaston Baptist Church is not likely to yield to any new information pertaining to the history of architectural design or technology for education facilities. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D.

For a church to be considered eligible for the NRHP it must meet Criteria Consideration A which states that a religious property is “eligible if it derives its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance”⁵⁰⁰ As discussed within this section, the Gaston Baptist Church does not meet any of these conditions to qualify for the NRHP.

In sum, the Gaston Baptist Church **is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under any criteria.**

⁴⁹⁸ Shrimpton et al. 1990:14.

⁴⁹⁹ Shrimpton et al. 1990:21.

⁵⁰⁰ Shrimpton et al. 1990:26.

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APPENDIX A: CHAINS OF TITLE

Note: These chains of title are listed in order from east to west and correlate to the order they are presented in the report.

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NP1133, Gaston Drive-In Theatre, N.C. Highway 46

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Deed	734	142	August 6, 1997	Warren Amusements, Inc.	Harold W. & Shirley Wray and Walter & Peggy Wray	6.6	For \$10.00 and other considerations...
Deed	416	590	April 14, 1956	Roanoke Amusements, Inc.	Warren Amusements, Inc.	6.6	For \$10.00 and other considerations...
Deed	382	659	July 15, 1952	W.J. and June Long, Jr.; W.G. and Mildred Long; W.J. Sr. and Caroline	Roanoke Amusements, Inc. of Roanoke Rapids, NC	6.6	For \$100.00... Property shown on map made by J.C. Shearin June 24, 1952. Being part of a tract of land known as the "Fitzhugh or Thomas Tract"... whereas Weldon Production Credit Assoc. is the legal owner of the indebtedness secure by parties of the first part to J. R. Jackson (TR) dated Jan 15, 1952 (NCDB 379 p. 194)
Plat			June 24, 1952		Roanoke Rapids Theatres, Inc.	6.6	Land of W. J. Long, Jr. & W. G. Long
Mortgage	379	194	January 15, 1952	W.J. and June Long, Jr. & W. G. and Mildred Long	J.R. Jackson, Trustee for Weldon Production Credit Assoc.	Tract 5: Fitzhugh Farm	Mortgage for \$88,000 containing 5 large farm tracts, the fifth of which was the "Fitzhugh Farm in Gaston Township... bounded on the north by M.A. Floyd & Jim Squire estate; east by J.A. Camp, C.L. Poytress and others; south by County Road from Garysburg to Gaston; wWest by part of Fitzhugh land sold by W. J. Long in 1943. Said land shown in survey (Plat Book 2 p. 7) containing 304.35 acres, excepting 31.4 acres...."

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NP1132, Gaston Hardware Store

Note: This chain traces three primary parcels of land that are now associated with the Gaston Hardware Store. The deeds and associated legal transactions are listed in chronological order.

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Deed	875	415	February 3, 2006	Peggy Wray	Michael Wray	5 Tracts, including Lots 2 & 3, Block A; part of Lot 4, Block A; and Lot 1, Block A	Tract 1: South side of Hwy 46 and W side of First St... Lots 2 & 3 in Block A of plat subdividing land for Roanoke Rapids Real Estate Company in Map Book 1 p. 118; being the same Lot 2 & 3 see Plat of July 19, 1990; being a portion of property conveyed to Katie Rook by Mary R. Lyerly et al Jan 10, 1956, Book 415 p. 593. Tract 2: Lot 1, Blk A in plat of property formerly owned by E.T. Zollicoffer known as "Geo Daniel Tract" as platted in Map Bk 1 p. 118... Katie Rook died on Apr 24, 1989 devising the property to Alice R. Ligon (Will recorded in File No. 89-E-65); TRs 2 & 3 are same props conveyed to Harold & Walter Wray by W. Lunsford Crew & Pat Atkins by deed Nov 16, 1983 (Book 622 p. 595).
Deed	622	595	November 16, 1983	W. Lunsford Crew(sub TR) & Patricia Akins and her hubby Vernon L. Jr	Harold & Shirley Wray and Walter & wife Peggy Wray (both tenants by the entirety)	Lot 1, Block A & 0.1 acres	For \$51,000... one-half undivided interest each, Tract 1: That lot #1 in Block A near the town of Roanoke Rapids... described in deed from G. W. Crew and wife (wf) Mary to W. L. Jordan on Aug 24, 1926 and rec in Bk 223 p. 126... being same land in deed from W. L. Jordan & wf to J.O. Baird rec in Bk 268 p. 355. Also all of the Fixtures, store equipment, furnishings, supplies, and merchandise now located in the building situated on the lot; Tract 2: land containing 0.1 acres on S side of Hwy 46 on map showing property of Patricia Akins being part of land conveyed by Baird to Hobbs... "There is a brick store and block building on the above described properties, both of which are included in the sale." Whereas Joseph B. Hobbs and Wife Nancy sold to Kelly Jenkins TR, lands herein described (Bk 474 p 235) on 25 June 1962... but they failed to pay their mortgage and were foreclosed on, so the property was sold at public auction on 5 Oct 1983 and then Harold & Walter purchased it.

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Lein	608	732	July 21, 1981	Joseph B. & Nancy S. Hobbs	Patricia B. Akins	0.1 Acres	For \$3,100... certain lot in Town of Gaston beginning on S side of Hwy 46 and bordered by land of Jackie Baird on E & lot 4 on the south... containing 0.1 acres shown on map to P Akins made 14 July 1981 - payment taken as a credit on debt owed from a deed of trust given by parties of the first part to Kelly Jenkins and J.O. Baird & Wife on June 25, 1962... leaving a balance of \$1,500... Other options listed as this is a lien (W. Lunsford Crew, Atty)
Deed	474	235	June 25, 1962	Joseph B. & Nancy S. Hobbs	Kelly Jenkins, Trustee (TR)	Lot 1, Block A	As the parties of the first part are indebted to those of the second for \$52,000... Parties of the first do convey Lot 1 in Block A near the town of Roanoke Rapids... "also all of the fixtures, store equipment, furnishings, supplies, and merchandise now located in the building thereon. Also, all that which the party may acquire and locate in the building..."
Deed	474	234	June 25, 1962	J. O. Baird & wife, Lottie E. of Northampton County, NC	Joseph B. & Nancy S. Hobbs of Northampton County, NC	Lot 1, Block A	For \$5 and other considerations... Lot 1 in Block A as shown on plat of property formerly owned by E.T. Zollicoffer known as the "George Daniel" tract... same land sold by G.W. Crew & wife Mary to W. L. Jordan on Aug 24, 1926 and rec in Bk 223 p. 126... "It is understood that this property shall not be sold to or occupied by a person of African Descent..." Also mentioned giving all the fixtures, etc. of the building thereon
Deed	415	593	January 10, 1956	Mary R. & James H Lyerly of Halifax Co; Kathleen & Wm Ligon; Alice & George Ligon of Greensville, VA	Katie M. Rook of Northampton Co	Lot 2 & 3, Block A	For \$10 and other considerations... all those lots in Gaston at the NW corner of the intersection at S side of Garysburg-Lawrenceville Hwy and W side of First St... Lots 2 & 3 in Block A of plat for Roanoke Rapids Real Estate Co... being same property conveyed unto B. W. Rook by Sarah Floyd et vir., Apr 1, 1937 in Book 280 p 31 & by deed from J. O. Baird, et al. June 15, 1937, Book 280 p. 309. These lands are part of those which B. W. Rook died seized and possessed, the female parties of the first part are his only surviving heirs and the party of the second part is his widow, they all being heirs at law.
Deed	280	31	April 1, 1937	Mrs. Sarah Floyd & G. I. (husband) of NH Co.	B. W. Rook of NH Co	Lots 2 & 3, Block A	For \$400 Lots # 2 and 3 in Block A... on plat formerly owned by E.T. Zollicoffer and now known as the George Daniel tract, as surveyed & plotted in Map Bk 1 p. 118...

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Deed	280	309	June 15, 1937	J. O. Baird & wf Lottie Matthews Baird	B.W. Rook	Part of Lot 4, Block A	For \$100 cash paid...A part of one lot in Gaston fronting 50' on W side of First St and running back parallel to W line of Lot 2 and being part of Lot #4 as seen in Map 1 p. 118... being same prop conveyed to the Bairds by Roanoke Bank & Trust Co on Aug 31, 1936 rec in Bk 273 p. 454
Deed	268	355	December 1, 1934	W. L. Jordan & wf Florence	J. O. Baird & wf Lottie E.	Lot 1, Block A	For \$5 and other considerations... Lot 1 in Block A as shown on plat of property formerly owned by E. T. Zollicoffer known as the "George Daniel" tract... same land sold by G.W. Crew & wife Mary to W. L. Jordan on Aug 24, 1926 and rec in Bk 223 p. 126... "It is understood that this property shall not be sold to or occupied by a person of African Descent..." Also mentioned giving all the fixtures, etc. of the building thereon
Deed	223	126	August 24, 1926	G.W. & Mary Crew	W. L. Jordan	Lot 1, Block A	For \$125 cash paid... Lot 1 in Block A near the town of Roanoke Rapids... Same land sold to Crew from the Roanoke Rapids Real Estate Company in Bk 207 p. 560.
Deed	207	229	December 21, 1923	Roanoke Rapids Real Estate Company	Sarah Floyd	Lot 2, Block A	For \$115... lot 2 in block A. Situated near the town of Roanoke Rapids in township of Gaston, on that plat of property owned by E. T. Zollicoffer and now known as the Geo Daniel Tract, as surveyed & platted by K.H. Barrow rec in Plat Bk 1, p. 118. "It is understood and agreed that this property cannot be sold to or occupied by any person of African descent except as the servant of a white person."
Deed	207	227	December 22, 1923	Roanoke Rapids Real Estate Company	Sarah Floyd	Lot 3, Block A	For \$215... lot 3 in block A. Situated near the town of Roanoke Rapids in township of Gaston, on that plat of property owned by E. T. Zollicoffer and now known as the Geo Daniel Tract, as surveyed & platted by K.H. Barrow rec in Plat Bk 1, p. 118. "It is understood and agreed that this property cannot be sold to or occupied by any person of African descent except as the servant of a white person."
Deed			1918	E. T. Zollicoffer	Roanoke Rapids Real Estate Company		<i>No deed found directly connecting these two entities. It is likely that this property was sold through another individual or trustee.</i>

NP1129, Cool Spring Baptist Church, 120 Cherry Street

Note: These were the only deeds that associated with the church that could be found during the current archival study of this property, it is known that more transactions exist to result in the current total amount of land owned by the Cool Spring Baptist Church.

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Deed	42	72	May 18, 1872	Newit Grant and his wife, Elizabeth A. Grant	Elijah Porch, Nelson Squire, and Harry Floyd, Trustees of the Cool Spring Baptist Church	1	Original land for the first church
Deed	148	10	July 20, 1909	E. T. Zollicoffer and wife, Della Willis Zollicoffer	Trustees of the Cool Spring Church	2	-\$100.00 -2 Acre lot immediately north of land already owned by the church
Deed	185	325	November 17, 1917	John H. Garner and B.M. Garner, his wife	John Ingram, William Garner, John L. Squire, James Moore, and Leo Garner, Trustees of the "Cool Spring Colored Baptist Church"	0.5	-\$35
Deed	435	110	December 9, 1957	Board of Education of Northampton County	Walter Clark, J.H. Moore, James Owen, George Brantley, and Leroy Moore, Trustees of the "Cool Springs Baptist Church, Colored"	1	-\$1,225.00 -Bounded, in part, by land already owned by the church
Deed	276	373	February 11, 1937	Buck Turner and his wife, Blanch Turner	W.M. Miles, Jim Squire, Rufus Ingram, Garland Garner, and James Owen, Trustees for the Cool Spring Baptist Church	2	-\$100.00 -Is to be used as the cemetery for Cool Spring Baptist Church

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NP1134, Squire Elementary School, 4671 N.C. Highway 46

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Deed	416	502	March 7, 1956	Willie Buck Turner and his wife, Blanche Turner	Northampton Board of Education	15.6	-\$4,500.00 -North of the Gaston to Lawrenceville Highway

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NP1135, Jasper and Betty Jones House, 4590 N.C. Highway 46

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Deed	552	78	March 5, 1971	Clementine Moody and John L. Moody, husband	Jasper W. Jones and Betty B. Jones, wife	2.22	
Deed	551	81	March 5, 1971	Blanche Turner, widow	Clementine T. Moody	2.22	-Blanche a partitioned out 2.2 acres of lot 7a
Superior Court Division	551	18	March 4, 1971	Robert Lewis Shaw, Marshall W. Grant, and Wiley Coker, appointed by the Clerk of the Superior Court of Northampton County	Blanche Turner	142	- plats were drawn up in 1969 depicting the division of the Estate of Willie Buck Turner -Superior Court determined which lots each of Willie Buck Turner's Children would receive -Blanche received four separate lots (1, 4, 6, 7a)- which together total 142.9 acres
				W.B. Turner	Heirs	142	-W.B. Turner died in 1964 without a will

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NP0414, Moody House

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Deed	1021	895	January 20, 2017	Sandra M. Donlavey, etc.	Timothy W. Phelps and Michael H. Wray	Originally 90	Parcel ID 0101750, part of three tracts sold, \$10 (Tract 3)
Deed	551	625	November 3, 1971	Ruth Floyd Moody, widow, et al.	Pete Alvin Moody	90	\$10
Deed	164	97	November 24, 1913	C.L. Aderholt & wife Anne M. (from Stanley County)	P.N. Moody	90	\$1000, Will Bk 10/429
Deed	122	549	March 18, 1905	W.H. Joyner & wife Mary S.	Annie M. Aderholt	90	\$1000, Ballard Moore land, part of inherited by Lula Warrick (Jordan?) from her mother
Deed	122	478	January 3, 1905	Lula M. & Charlie Warrick	W. H. Joyner	73	\$500, Lula's mother was the granddaughter of Ballard Moore, Division of Ballard Moore tract (bk 45/260)
Deed	45	260	December 12, 1873	Ballard Moore estate	heirs (James W., Esq of Thomas & W. Squire divide), M. A. Moore, A.A. Hougues, E.P. High, A.S. Brantly except to Ellen E. & Mand A. Moore (guardian M.A. Moore & George Moore)	788	plat by James W. Fesson (sp?), sheriff
Deed	27	307	December 5, 1835	James Delbridge	Ballard Moore	658	\$3,620

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NP1137, Lassiter House

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Deed	825	536	July 16, 2003	Lassiter, Antoinette H. Estate (Charles Michael Lassiter, Joan Brown Lassiter, Lonnie Wayne Lassiter, Norma G. Lassiter, & Audrey L. Ransom)	Ricky Brantley	1	References Deed Book 797/417, \$10, re-recorded to add legal description, Parcel 01-02642
Deed	797	417	February 25, 2005	Lassiter, Antoinette H. Estate (Charles Michael Lassiter, Joan Brown Lassiter, Lonnie Wayne Lassiter, Norma G. Lassiter, & Audrey L. Ransom)	Ricky Brantley	1	N/A
Deed	407	116	June 25, 1954	Mrs. Grace S. Hodges	Lonnie L. Lassiter and wife Antoinette H.	1, unimproved	Lonnie L. Lassiter died 10/8/1986, Antoinette died 5/27/2001; Estate file 00 E0131 @ Office of the Clerk Superior Court; part of larger parcel
Deed	141	445	January 4, 1910	R.C. Hodges	Grace S. Hodges	180	\$200

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NP1136, D.R. Allen Farm

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Deed	828	749	September 5, 2003	Thomas Jefferson Allen, et ux Judy D. Allen	Judy D. Allen	6.12	Surveyed by J.W. Traylor, R.L.S. #475, 12/6/1976, Map of T.J. Allen Property (unrecorded survey per Land Records Office)
Deed	704	722	June 8, 1994	Thomas Jefferson Allen & wife Judy D. Allen	Thomas Jefferson Allen & wife Judy D. Allen, tenants in entirety	6.12	N/A
Deed	579	212	May 26, 1977	Thomas Jefferson Allen	Thomas Jefferson Allen & wife Judy D. Allen	6.12	N/A

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NP0278, Vincent House

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Deed	1007	374	October 12, 2015	Malvern F. Vincent	Seth Gehman, Ryan Ebersol, Daniel Aungst	183.21	Sold by Malvern Fitzhugh Vincent (unmarried), Tract 1 containing Vincent House. Unclear on the remaining 2.19 acres.
Will	15E	142	January 6, 2006	Florance Elizabeth Bland	Malvern F. Vincent	185.4	Will was made in 2006 devising her share in the J.A. Vincent Estate. Elizabeth later died in 2011.
Will	84E	31	September 29, 1983	Malvern C. Vincent	Malvern F. Vincent, and Florance Elizabeth Bland	185.4	Will was made in 1983, Malvern C. later died in 1984.
Deed	331	266	September 5, 1944	W. A. Vincent, Florance Vincent Grant	Malvern C. Vincent	185.4	Spouses of Vincent heirs also listed on deed: Mary Vincent, and R.L. Grant.
Northampton County Records of Administrators	Vol. 3-4	274	May 8, 1940	J.A. Vincent	Florance Ford Vincent, W. A. Vincent, Florance Vincent Grant, Malvern C. Vincent	568.8	J.A. Vincent died intestate, leaving his wife and children as his sole heirs at law.

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NP0283, Cleaton House

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Will	07E	78	July 19, 2010	Goldie Moore Shaw	Baird, Leon Thomas 1284 NC Highway 46, Gaston NC	211.68	Goldie Moore Shaw inherited the Cleaton property from her late husband, leaving it with her nephew L. Thomas Baird.
Will	86E	126	April 28, 1986	Robert Lewis Shaw	Goldie Moore Shaw	230.1	Robert L. Shaw left the Cleaton farm to his wife, Goldie Moore Shaw.
				Unknown	Robert Lewis Shaw	230.1	(Son of Nannie Cleaton Shaw). It is unclear which relative the property passed through.
Northampton County Records of Administrators	Vol. 5	264	October 12, 1945	R. E. Cleaton	Virginia Vincent Cleaton, R.E. Cleaton Jr., Nannie Cleaton Shaw, Tempie Cleaton Steele, Edward Cleaton, Daisey Cleaton	238	R.E. Cleaton died intestate, leaving his wife and children as his sole heirs at law.

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NP0284, Wesson House

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Deed	1019	151	October 12, 2016	PECM, LLC	VL Director Land Holdings, LLC	775.5	
Deed	988	928	March 3, 2014	L. Thomas and Staci L. Baird	PECM, LLC	775.5	Goldie M. Shaw (deceased) willed this property to L. Thomas Baird in 2007
Deed	371	125	June 9 1950	J.A. Shaw	Robert L. and Goldie M. Shaw		
Plat	2	68	July 1, 1940			627	Plat of John A. Shaw Property owned by Wiley N. Gregory Surveyed by JD and DC Shearin
Deed	290	195	January 31, 1939	John A. Shaw and Nannie Shaw	Wiley N Gregory	119.5; 12.5	Two tracts as well as "all of the gins, presses, engines, scales, conveyers, belts, shafting, pulleys, bearings, and any and all other personal property including tools, wrenches, hammers etc. used in connection with the operation of the gin located on a portion of said real estate above described..."
Deed	232	256	February 27, 1929	George T Ingram and Eva B. Ingram	J.A. Shaw	111	
Deed	188	546	December 2, 1919	D.E. and H.H. Kefauver	George T. Ingram	111	Plat referenced but not found

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Deed	188	159	June 14, 1919	Clarence D. and Olive P. Kefauver	D.E. Kefauver	111	
Deed	164	362	May 1, 1914	E. Baker Evans and Jennie K. Evans	Clarence D. and Olive P. Kefauver	100; 550	Two tracts- "Subject, however, to certain timber rights enumerated and fully set forth in deed from Camp Manufacturing Company...also subject to certain reservations and exceptions in deed from P.D. Camp..."
Deed	164	325	March 27, 1914	S. Blackwell Pierce and W.F. Horner	E. Baker Evans	550	
Timber Deed	164	323	March 4, 1911	Camp Manufacturing Company	W.F. Horner and S.B. Pierce	550	Correction to Previous Deed- "Solely for the purpose of outing the defects of probate attached to said deed of March 1 st 1911"
Timber Deed	164	345	March 1, 1911	P.D. Camp- Trustee	W.F. Horner and S.B. Pierce	550	"Weaver Tract", contains hundreds of other acres across Northampton County

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Deed	154	180	March 1, 1911	Camp Manufacturing Company	W.F. Horner and S.B. Pierce	550	Camp Manufacturing Company has timber rights until March 1, 1921
Deed- Brunswick County, VA	61	508	December 1, 1910	W.H. Valentine	Trustees of P.D. Camp	550	Edward R. Turnbull held the property in escrow
Deed	73	306	October 1, 1885	Horace K. Reid	W.H. Valentine	725	Summit Tract and Weaver Tract
Deed of Trust	52	375	January 1. 1879	H.R. Reid and Wife	R.E. Moseley and Mary H. White	700	Summit Tract and Weaver Tract
Deed	52	373	April, 4 1878	Heirs of Henry A. House	Horace R. Reid	700	Summit Tract and Weaver Tract
Deed	41	276	November 15, 1871	William H. Wesson and Wife	Henry A. House	700	Summit Tract and Weaver Tract
Deed	33	44	November 15, 1848	Thomas Palmer Estate	William and Margret Wesson, John W. Palmer, Thomas Palmer, and Thomas L. Palmer		Division of the Thomas Palmer Estate

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TIP Number: R-5739
Northampton County
July 2017

NP0285, St. Luke's Episcopal Church

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACRE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Deed	56	413	April 14, 1880	E.W. Wilkins and Wife	Trustees of Protestant Episcopal Church	1	"containing one acre of land on which the building known by the name of St. Luke's Church is now Standing"
Deed	35	321	July 24, 1852	William H. Wesson	Edmund Wilkins	1.5	
Deed	33	44	November 15, 1848	Thomas Palmer Estate	William and Margret Wesson, John W. Palmer, Thomas Palmer, and Thomas L. Palmer		Division of the Thomas Palmer Estate
Deed	34	321	May 3, 1851	Samuel Calvert	Right Reverend L, Sullivan, George W. Mordicai, and John W. Wright- Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church	.5	"In the town of Jackson... on Church Street"- First Church Location

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NP1138, Gaston Baptist Church

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
Deed	988	676	March 15, 2014	Gaston Baptist Church AKA Gaston Missionary Baptist Church though Gilbery T Banks and Chester L Alexander - Trustees	Gaston Missionary Baptist Church	8.07	Referenced in Plat 43/162
Deed	959	6	November 8. 2011	Lewis Belmont Properties, LLC	Gaston Missionary Baptist Church	.72	Referenced in Plat 42/106
Deed	715	863	September 15, 1995	Henry W. Lewis, Jane L. Zollicoffer, Janie P. Lewis, Jane C. Zollicoffer, Anne R. Zollicoffer, Fannie C. Zollicoffer. Ellen Zollicoffer Jackson, J. Michael Jackson, Elizabeth L. Abernethy, David S. Abernethy, Sallie L. Futrell, William R. Futrell Jr., Laura L. Rodger, and William H. Rodgers	Melvin Scott, John Scott, Robert Brooks, Elaster Powell, Gilbert Banks, Moses Vincent, Darrell Mason, and Chester Alexander- Trustees of the Gaston Baptist Church	2.35	Referenced in Plat 28/155 and “being a part or portion of that larger tract known as “Belmont Plantation” which contained approximately 976 acres. Said Belmont Plantation was inherited by E.W. Lewis...(who) died testate and his will appeared of record in Will Book 12 at Page 241...Belmont Plantation was devised to his Wife. The sais Jane W. Lewis conveyed the property to her three (3) children, Henry Wilkins Lewis, Phillip Alston Lewis and Jane Lewis Zollicoffer...”
Deed	608	50	July 3, 1981	Henry W. Lewis, Janie P Lewis, Henry W. Lewis, A.A. Zollicoffer, Jr.- Trustees for Janie P. Lewis under item two of the will of P.A. Lewis; Sallie L. Futrell, W.R. Futrell, Jr.; Elizebeth P. Lewis, Janie P. Lewis, Henry W. Lewis and A.A. Zollicoffer Jr.-	Arthur J. Vincent, Alphonso Lewis Owen, Mildred James, Carlton Belfield, Robert Lee Brooks, and Daryl Mason- Trustees of the Gaston Baptist Church	.72; ~ 4.5	Referenced in Plat 18/53. Tract 1- Parcel 4 of plat and Tract 2- Parcels 1 through 3 of plat.

INSTR. TYPE	BK	PG	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	ACREAGE	NOTES/ COMMENTS
				Trustees for Laura Jane Lewis under item four of the will of P.A. Lewis; Jane L. Zollicoffer, Allison C. Zollicoffer r- Trustees for Ellen L, Zollicoffer			
Deed	309	51	November 20, 1939	Edmonia C. Wilkins	S.L. Vincent, Charlie Powell Martain Banks and J.L. Owens- Trustees of Gaston Baptist Church Colored	~ .5	“Adjoining the lands of Gaston Church and of E.C. Wilkins, and others...”
Deed	156	530	July 1, 1912	Ashley and M.J Wilkins, B.J. and E.C. Wilkins, and Mary M. Miller and C. D. Miller	D.D. Walker, W.H. Moses Sr., J.J. Moses, Charlie Powell Jr., Ruffin Belfield- Trustees of the Gaston Baptist Church Colored	~ 2	“...adjoining the lands of the said Gaston Colored Church on the north surrounded on the east/south and west by the lands of the said parties of the first part”
Deed	56	14	April 25, 1878	Julia A Bradley	King King, Thomas Squire, and Peter Pincent- Trustees of the Baptist Religious Society of Gaston	~ 2	
Deed	38	618	May 14, 1867	Jesse Bradley	John K. Bradley, William E. Bradley, Julia A Bradley, and Rebecca J. Bradley		“...the tract of land on which the said Jesse Bradley now resides...containing 819 acres more or less, & adjoining lands of E.W. Wilkins...”