

COLUMBUS COUNTY ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY, 1998

1. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The need to document the historic architectural resources of Columbus County has been a long-awaited goal of local historians, city and county professionals, businessmen, and a wide range of interested citizens since the 1980 publication of *Recollections and Records*, produced for the Columbus County Bicentennial Commission and edited by Ann Courtney Ward Little. The necessity to document these resources became distinctly apparent after several devastating storms and hurricanes passed through the region wreaking destruction on woods, fields and buildings. In the Summer of 1997, the Survey and Planning Branch of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources initiated a reconnaissance study of Columbus County's rural areas to investigate between eighty to a hundred properties considered to be important and representative of the architectural heritage of the region. In the Fall of 1997, an agreement was entered into between Edward F. Turberg, an architectural historian and restoration consultant in Wilmington, North Carolina, and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources "to identify and record the most significant and representative historic and architectural properties and districts in the county...until a comprehensive survey is conducted." The contract was signed and delivered on November 19, 1997 and the contractor commenced the field survey on February 18, 1998, after spending several weeks studying general and specific documents and articles about the county.

The Columbus County Architectural Survey was conducted over a projected ten-month period. The survey began with a windshield investigation across the breadth of the territory

and notations were made on a field map to pinpoint important as well as interesting architectural resources. In addition, notes were made about places and districts that should be researched further in the comprehensive survey. From March through August of 1998 every public and accessible private road in the county came under scrutiny. A total of eighty-eight properties, including dwellings, farm outbuildings, churches, schools, and commercial structures were documented with photographs, written descriptions, and site plans; while others were map coded on United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographical maps. Information on these historic resources is contained in individual files located at the Division of Archives and History in Raleigh. The reconnaissance survey and documentation processes were conducted according to North Carolina Division of Archives and History standards and guidelines. As a result of the survey, individual resources were listed on the Division of Archives and History's "Study List" with recommendations for further surveys of districts and towns. Properties on this list are those resources which appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The study list is a critical component of the project and properties on the list are considered during the implementation of preservation planning projects. The reconnaissance survey of Columbus County also produced USGS topographical maps with sites identified by file number, color slides of the resources, and a Multiple Properties Documentation Form.

Whenever possible, the contractor, assisted by Janet Seapker, interviewed owners, residents and neighbors to obtain information about the age of the structure and its builder. Through the process, many people expressed great interest in the study and offered their assistance in reaching other contacts. Among those who were especially helpful in discussing and clarifying historical facts about the county were John McNeill, A.O. Burns, C.A. Farley, J.W. Hammond, Jr., Alice

Keller, Mary Mintz, P.W. Peterson, Sandy Rogers, Bobby Sorrell, Beasley Strickland, and James E. Turner.

2. PROPERTY TYPES AND NUMBER OF PROPERTIES RECORDED

The types of properties recorded in the reconnaissance survey range from three (3) farm complexes with their intact original buildings or later structures, to sixty-three (63) houses representing a succession of styles from Federal to Bungalow/Craftsman, ten (10) churches--including one which was altered for residential use, four (4) schools--including two which are now residences, and eight (8) commercial buildings--including an industrial safe, for a total of eighty-eight (88) sites.

3. FUTURE WORK REQUIRED TO PRODUCE A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY

The reconnaissance survey was conducted throughout the rural regions of the county, with the only sites standing within town limits being a selected number of churches and schools meriting attention. Structures that were not photographed, described and recorded on survey forms, but rather only map-coded, are the numerous gable-front and gable-end Craftsman style bungalows, plain two-story dwellings and veneered churches that are scattered throughout the county and represent the prevailing building types of the early and mid-twentieth centuries. In addition, isolated farm outbuildings, including tobacco barns, which have lost their associations with the original farmsteads, are map-coded as to their type of construction. Small crossroads districts containing commercial and residential structures but lacking their former unity and ambience have, likewise been map-coded rather than documented in detail.

The recommendation for future work in the county is to undertake surveys of towns including Bolton, Brunswick, Cerro Gordo, Chadbourn, Clarendon, Evergreen, Fair Bluff, Lake Waccamaw, Tabor City, and Whiteville.

4. SOURCES OF INFORMATION REFERENCED

Secondary sources for information about Columbus County and its history are Bill Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina*, v.2 (Raleigh, NC, Sharpe Publishing Co., 1958); Glenn Strobe, *Chadbourn and Her Sunny South Colony*, (Whiteville, NC, The News Reporter Co., n.d.); Frances Sessions, ed., *History of Welches Creek* (1976); James A. Rogers, ed., *Columbus County, North Carolina, 1946* (Whiteville, NC, The News Reporter, 1946); The Rev. C. Franklin Grill, ed., "Methodist Churches of Columbus County, North Carolina" (pamphlet found on the Internet); and John A. McNeill, "Formation of Columbus County", *Kin'lin'*, v.2, #4 (1979-80). Mr. McNeill also provided inestimable assistance in the field survey by driving the contractor around the Lake Waccamaw and Whiteville areas and discussing the various historical sites there.

5. NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF INFORMATIVE LOCAL CONTACT

John A. McNeill, Sr., 600 Canal Cove Road, Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450

A.O. Burns, 3483 Old Stage Hwy., Riegelwood, NC 28465

C.A. Farley, 25 Farley Road, Hallsboro, NC 28442

J.W. Hammond, Jr., 1221 Swamp Fox Hwy., Cerro Gordo, NC 28430

Alice Keller, 1791 Cedar Grove Road, Cerro Gordo, NC 28430

Mary Mintz, 1665 Red Bug Road, Hallsboro, NC 28442

P.W. Peterson, 6229 Old Stage Hwy., Riegelwood, NC 28456

Sandy Rogers, 4116 Sidney-Cherry Grove Road, Clarendon, NC 28432

Bobby Sorrell, 2854 Dolph Lewis Road, Cerro Gordo, NC 28430

Beasley Strickland, 28 Fronis Strickland Road, Tabor City, NC 28463

James E. Turner, 6686 Old US-74, Evergreen, NC 28438

6. TOPOGRAPHY AND OVERVIEW OF COLUMBUS COUNTY.

Columbus County, situated in the southeastern sector of North Carolina, is the third largest of the state's one hundred counties. It contains a total area of 953.1 square miles, including three sandy-loam areas: Big Bay and Marsh Bay that border South Carolina, and Simmons Bay along the west bank of the Waccamaw River; as well as a 140-square mile portion of Green Swamp southeast of Lake Waccamaw. The so-called Carolina Bays, large oval formations clearly visible from aloft, are believed by some to be the result of primeval meteor showers that spread across current-day Bladen, Columbus, Brunswick and New Hanover counties; by others to be the result of wave formations in the ocean bed which formerly overspread the region. Whatever their origins, these are now mostly overgrown and inaccessible. The eastern boundary of Columbus is the Waccamaw River and Brunswick County, the western limit is the Lumber River and Robeson County, the northern border is Bladen County, and the angular southern edge verges on the South Carolina line. The area that now constitutes Columbus County was first a part of New Hanover, formed in 1729 and named to honor the Hanoverian King George II. Then, in 1734, the western territory became Bladen County, and, in 1764, the southern section emerged as Brunswick County. By 1808, because of the long distance required for citizens to reach the courts, an appeal was made to the legislature to create a new district from both Bladen and Brunswick. The new county was called Columbus after the illustrious fifteenth-century Genoese explorer. Successive minor additions were made to the Bladen-Brunswick-Columbus borders in 1809, 1811, 1821, and 1877 resulting in the current boundaries. The county seat of Whiteville derives its name from State Senator James B. White who donated land for the courthouse. The fifteen townships that make up the county are Bogue, Bolton, Bug Hill, Cerro Gordo, Chadbourn, Fair Bluff, Lees, Ransom, South Williams, Tatum, Waccamaw, Welches Creek,

Western Prong, Whiteville, and Williams.

The topography is generally of an even, level aspect, rising to undulating uplands near the center of the county at Whiteville. Good drainage is afforded by the Waccamaw and Lumber rivers which flow in a southwesterly direction through South Carolina to Winyah Bay at Georgetown, and by the Cape Fear River which comes in contact with the county near Riegelwood. Additional drainage is provided by numerous small streams which crisscross the county. East of Whiteville is Lake Waccamaw, an oval-shaped, shallow body of water which forms part of the famous Carolina bays. Approximately 9,000 acres in size, the spring-fed lake is the largest of its kind between New York and Florida. Skirting it on the south and east is the vast Green Swamp which extends southeast into the depths of Brunswick County. Several elevated areas in the swamp are designated "islands" by the regional residents. The constituents of the soil include sedimentary marine and vegetable substances, sand, and calcinous and clayey earth which nourish a variety of farming products including asparagus, cabbage, corn, cotton, cucumbers, hay, Irish potatoes, oats, peanuts, pecans, soybeans, strawberries, tobacco, and yams. Since the mid-1920s, Chadbourn has held an annual Strawberry Festival, while Tabor City--formerly "the Yam Capital of the World"--has hosted a yearly Sweet Potato Festival since the mid-1930s. And, although the county is devoid of any mineral resources, the wealth of forest and swamp timber: bay, cypress, gum, oak, longleaf and loblolly pine, have historically provided the important naval stores industry with pine pitch, turpentine, rosin, and tar as well as lumber for building and pulp for paper manufacture. Boardman, Brunswick, Hallsboro, and Riegelwood were all established as lumber towns, and despite their abandonment during the Depression era, the forest-products industry remains a vital part of the life and economy of the county today.

The following discussion of the history of Columbus County, covering the period from the first arrival of Europeans into the area during the early eighteenth century, to a position of importance in the agricultural, lumber, paper, and chemical fields in the twentieth century, is divided into three sections that explore the settlement and growth of towns, the improvement of marketing and transportation, the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction, and the evolution of architectural, economic and social patterns that give the county its peculiar character.

B. HISTORIC CONTEXTS

1. Settlement and Ethnicity

The section of North Carolina that eventually became Columbus County was originally the home of the Waccamaw Indians who lived along the north and west shores of Lake Waccamaw. In 1734 white explorers entered the area, but no settlements were made due to the uncharted and ruthless swamps, the unpredictable rivers and streams, and the often impassible roads. Rather, the Europeans traced their way north and west across New Hanover and Brunswick precincts into territories later called Bladen, Robeson and Cumberland counties. The settlers were of varied stock: some were English who came from the Cape Fear, others were Scottish from Bladen, while a small fraction were French who moved into the Green Swamp in the southern end of the province and inhabited the "islands" of slightly elevated ground. Crusoe Island south of Lake Waccamaw is one of these isolated settlements that survive from those formative years.

Moseley's 1733 map of the eastern Carolinas shows a number of settlers along the north shore of Lake Waccamaw and in the Great and Little Marsh areas west of the lake. Among the former

landowners are Swann, Ashe, Rowan, and Clayton. Innis, Rowan, Larkin, Godfrey, Hall, Sole, and Norton appear in the Grand Marsh area. The names Welch, Ashe, Baldwin, and Waters are at Little Marsh. Collet's 1770 map of the region limits the notation of property owners to the Cape Fear River between Wilmington and Cross Creek (Fayetteville). The single name, Burgwin, appears in the region between the Great and Little White marshes. So, too, it appears on Mouzon's 1775 map. John Burgwin, a native of Hereford, England, owned considerable land in the Cape Fear area and his town house in Wilmington, at Third and Market streets, testifies to his prestige and good taste. He was an attorney, served as secretary to Governor Dobbs in 1754, became colonial treasurer in 1766 and was designated commissioner of roads for the region around White Marsh. He built Marsh Castle plantation on 640 acres of land near White Marsh in 1755, and later sold it to Hugh Waddell. In 1804, James B. White purchased the plantation, which had grown to 2,000 acres, and it was on a part of this tract that the town of Whiteville rose.

Many of the early settlers took advantage of the wealth of pine forests that thickened the territory. They collected valuable oleoresins from the trees to produce turpentine, tar, pitch, and rosin for an industry that continued well into the late-nineteenth century. They cut other trees to be dressed and cured for building ships and structures, rafting the logs downriver to portside mills and markets. And they built timber bridges across the marshes and through the swamps in an attempt to cope with the primitive land routes that were necessary for commerce--it took twenty-nine bridges to cross through the White Marsh alone. By 1764, the southwestern quarter of the county had developed far enough that local citizens petitioned the North Carolina General Assembly to approve a request for improving a land route from Belmont near present-day

Elizabethtown in Bladen County to Marsh Castle. Other roads followed to connect with Old dock near Schulkens Pond in the southeastern sector of the county and Fair Bluff on the Lumber River at the county's western extreme. General Hugh Waddell spearheaded the road building project that thrust through the region, especially near his plantations at Belmont and Marsh Castle. An aggressive leader, he served in the French and Indian wars and directed the Stamp Act resistance in Brunswick County.

Prior to the Revolutionary War, numbers of Tory sympathizers and neutrals dwelt in the southern swamps along the Carolinas border. Two battles during the war were fought in the area of Brown Marsh, also known as Brown Meadow, west of Lake Waccamaw, and at Pireway in the southeast corner of the territory near the Waccamaw River. Following the fall of Charleston to the British in May of 1780, South Carolina governor Francis Marion withdrew to White Marsh and set up temporary quarters at John Burgwin's plantation. Marion remained a few days at Marsh Castle and then returned south. After his removal, Stephen Drayton appeared with the purpose of collecting information for General Gates about the British movements in the region, the possibility of their contact with local allies, and conflict with noncombatants. In January 1781, General Cornwallis and his army entered and occupied Wilmington, but little further activity disturbed the Waccamaw area.

2. The Formation of Columbus County

In 1808, farmers in the region at the borders of Brunswick and Bladen counties had become frustrated by the arduous journey to the courthouse at Brunswick and petitioned the state legislature to establish a new legislative district excised from the two counties. The request was

approved and the new district was christened Columbus with its administrative center placed at Whiteville. The town received its first courthouse in 1809, situated in a central square with streets radiating in four directions, and adjoining lots were sold during the following year. The courthouse was replaced in 1852, and again in 1914 when the current National Register edifice was erected. Whiteville received its incorporation in 1832-33 and was reincorporated in 1873-74.

3. The Rise of Towns

The oldest settlements in Columbus County are Whiteville on part of the White Marsh plantation, and Fair Bluff which was originally named Drowning Creek. John Burgwin, who owned Marsh Castle, is cited on the 1733 Moseley map of the Carolinas. Fair Bluff was surveyed in 1807 and grew along the sinuous banks of the Lumber River on land owned by John Wooten. Cerro Gordo, Spanish for "large round hill", was named in 1847 in celebration of General Winfield Scott's victory at the battle of Cerro Gordo, Mexico. Chadbourn, which prior to the Civil War was called Timberville, developed around the railroad depot. Renamed for Wilmington lumber merchants James and George Chadbourn who owned a large steam sawmill in the port city, the town was incorporated in 1883.

Many other settlements owed their beginnings to the lumber industry. Evergreen, named for a nearby plantation and surrounded by dense pine forests in the northwestern corner of the county, was settled in 1870 and incorporated in 1907. East of Lake Waccamaw, the Bolton Lumber Company commenced operations in 1889 and the town of Bolton was incorporated in 1915. Hallsboro was settled in 1888 and was the headquarters of the W.M. Ritter Company which produced lumber and veneers. The town was incorporated in 1889, and since the early

years of the twentieth century the center of commercial activities has been Pierce & Son's hardware and general merchandise store. Boardman began prior to 1891 and was the home of Butters Lumber Company, the largest timber operation in the state for several decades. Originally named Hub for the company's founder, H.U. Butters, the place was renamed for the Reverend George Dana Boardman, a respected Baptist minister. The town boasted fine Colonial style homes which were equipped with the most up-to-date conveniences. Brunswick, south of Whiteville, was built by the Jackson Brothers Lumber Company in 1925. The firm, from Salisbury, Maryland, built a two-story brick office and a mill village containing neat, frame, single-story workers' homes. The company ceased operations in 1932, but the office survives as a private residence and most of the mill houses remain intact in their quiet neighborhood.

Additional towns were important because of their closeness to waterways. Lake Waccamaw, which was called Flemington from 1853 to 1885, lies along the northern shore of the fifteen-square-mile lake. The town was incorporated in 1911 and featured a lakeshore hotel, stately homes, cottages, rail services for passengers and freight (the Depot is a National Register site), and a one-cylinder steamboat, *The Bohemian Girl* which plied the waters under the helm of Captain Sam Potts. The Short & Beers Company had a major cypress shingle and lumber business nearby. Pireway, formerly known as Pireway Ferry, in the extreme southeastern section of the county, lies along the Waccamaw River and is five miles upstream from the South Carolina line. The community had a post office during the nineteenth century and the town was incorporated in 1883. Tabor grew up around Mount Tabor Presbyterian Church in 1886, and was incorporated in 1906. The name was changed to Tabor City in 1935.

4. Agriculture and Industry

The overwhelming industry in Columbus County from its earliest settlement to the present has been lumber. The decline of naval stores markets at the end of the nineteenth century had little if any effect on the timber cutting and saw mill operations across the county. In addition to this commerce, the region was also important as a farming belt. In the nineteenth century, cotton, wool and upland rice were common crops, together with a variety of vegetables, grapes, peaches, strawberries, peanuts, and tobacco. Like other southern regions, Columbus County suffered greatly during the Civil War because of the loss of farmers to military service and high state taxes levied on agricultural yields, finances, and food staples. The inflation rate rose alarmingly and the economic stress was made more difficult to bear by news that Columbia was razed, Charleston vacated, Wilmington occupied, and Sherman's army plundering through the region around Whiteville. Nevertheless, at the end of the war and through reconstruction, agriculture and industry were restored, and by the late 1890s the immigration of farmers into the state bolstered the economy. One successful attempt at attracting planters to the region was the establishment of the Sunny South Colony populated by families fleeing the freezing weather in the upper midwest. The railroad played a major role in this effort, running special express trains from Chicago to Chadbourn. The movement coincided with a huge expansion of strawberry cultivation in the region and Chadbourn earned the distinction of having the largest strawberry market in the world.

5. The Railroad

A major influence in the growth and development of Columbus County, its towns and its industry, was the construction of the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad through the northern

section of the county. Chartered in 1846, the line reached Bogue Township (Hallsboro) in 1850. Three years later, it extended from Wilmington to Wateree, South Carolina. Originally intended to transport cotton from inland Georgia and South Carolina to the port of Wilmington, the project failed because of the development of markets in Savannah and Charleston. But, since the railroad passed through the heart of the pine belt of Columbus County, it generated widespread expansion of the naval stores business and numerous communities grew up along the route from Fair Bluff to Wilmington. In the 1890s, the Wilmington, Chadbourn and Conway Railroad was completed with Chadbourn being the cross-point for the two lines. Lumber companies also built short lines through their tracts to move logs by rail from the forests to centrally located saw mills.

6. Religion and Education

The early settlers brought with them their own particular social and religious ways and many communities were closely associated with a church. The Baptists were the earliest sect to organize in the area, the two foremost foundations being at Livingston Creek and White Marsh, both established in 1765. The Methodists came to Fair Bluff in 1855 and held their meetings in the Masonic Hall. The Presbyterians, strong in Bladen, Cumberland, Duplin, and New Hanover counties because of Scottish immigration, did not reach Columbus until after the Civil War. The first church of the denomination was organized in Whiteville in 1869. In subsequent generations, religion has continued to be an important part of the life and well-being of communities, and many churches have been expanded or rebuilt during the last three decades of the twentieth century.

Education in Columbus County, as it was in many areas of the south, was a matter of private tutelage at home, in academies and churches, or basic instruction in small single-room school houses. In the twentieth century, the rise in population and advances in teaching practices brought about the consolidated schools program and new, attractive school buildings across the region. The Boney architectural firm in Wilmington cornered the market in the design of educational facilities from the 1920s to the present, and some of their finest schools still survive at Acme-Delco, Cerro Gordo, Chadbourn, Hallsboro, Tabor City, and Williams Township.

7. Architecture

The architecture of Columbus County is rich in a variety of rare and significant building types as well as in numerous popular styles. Two early nineteenth-century homes, the Henry Jackson Smith house near Lake Waccamaw and the Smith-Powell House near Hallsboro have a similar plan that may be unique to the region: the central block incorporates engaged front and rear porches flanked by piazza rooms at each of the four corners. A second unusual type is inspired by nineteenth-century South Carolina Low Country architecture in which the porch posts rest on their own foundations rather than bearing on the porch floor. This feature is found as far north as the Bladen County line and generally occurs near river routes. The influence is obviously a result of the long-established economic trade along the Waccamaw and Lumber rivers between Columbus County to Georgetown--the heart of South Carolina's Low Country architecture. A third style of building is seen around Fair Bluff where late-nineteenth century, one-story dwellings are highlighted by twin, triangular front gables and wide porches. Finally, during the first quarter of the twentieth century, the popularization of ready-made houses crossed into towns and rural farms with vigor. Perhaps the inspiration came from the Aladdin Company

of Bay City, Michigan who opened their second plant in Wilmington, north Carolina at the junction of the Atlantic Coast Line and Seaboard Air Line railroads. It is highly possible that the building materials came from Columbus County lumber mills. Whatever the cause, the effect was that the Bungalow/Craftsman style took root and remains an important part of the regional architecture today.

COLUMBUS COUNTY ARCHITECTURAL RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY, 1998

PROPERTY TYPE 1: FARM COMPLEXES.

Introduction

A farm complex is an aggregation of structures that have specific uses in the domestic and agricultural activities on the site. The centerpiece is the house, usually situated near the road, and often oriented in an east-west direction towards the river or road. Built on a slightly elevated position, the house commands views of the surrounding fields and woods. Close to the rear or side of the dwelling are dependencies that serve domestic needs: kitchen, dairy, smokehouse, wash house, and privy. Further afield are outbuildings related to agriculture: barns, storage sheds, corn cribs, pack houses, tobacco barns, stables, and hog pens. The majority of farm complexes are of frame construction with plain-edge weatherboarding, German siding, or board-and-batten covering the house and kitchen. Some dependencies are sheathed with vertical siding or are built of planks or logs. Saddle-notched logs with round ends are commonly used in corn cribs, smoke houses and tobacco barns. The latter, once hallmarks of the log and tobacco economy of the county, with their tall silhouettes encompassed by floating skirts, now stand in solitude in strange fields that yield more varied crops than tobacco, or are ensnared by scraggly, strangling vines. Some plank or clapboard structures are now hidden by later tar-based coverings. A shingled example with a brick base is on the south side of SR-1914 at Honey Hill, and a terra-cotta version stands near a more traditional log type on the north side of SR-1473 between Cerro Gordo and Broadway. Two rare instances of multiple tobacco barns stand on the south side of SR-1112 just west of NC-905 at Bug Hill, and behind the Wyche House (CB-29) near Hallsboro.

More recent additions to the farm complexes are prefabricated garages, metal silos, and frame or brick pump houses. Small cemeteries shared by neighboring families are often found in nearby fields or woods.

Farm Complexes

Farm complexes of the early years of settlement in Columbus County are rare because of changes in farm production over time and the loss of original houses and support structures to modern replacements. Three examples from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth-century do survive in the Strole House near Chadbourn (CB-61) which preserves a brick and frame Bungalow/Craftsman style residence, barn, two sheds, and a large pecan orchard. The Ray House north of Whiteville (CB-34) features a neat Bungalow/Craftsman style house facing the road and a long, two-story barn to the east bordering a farm lane. The Coleman House in the vicinity of Fair Bluff (CB-70) consists of a handsome, Greek Revival style home with an extensive collection of modern tobacco barns and a large storage facility for yams.

PROPERTY TYPE 2: HOUSES

A. Federal style

Four resources that may date to the Federal period (1780 to 1810), have forms and specific details exemplary of the style. The Peterson House (CB-10), northwest of Riegelwood, is said by its owner to have been built in the 1700s as a coaching stop along the stage route from Wilmington to Elizabethtown. Despite considerable Craftsman style alterations in the early twentieth century, the house retains its unique, Flemish bond exterior end chimneys with stepped bases and handsomely rendered caps. West of Lake Waccamaw, the Henry Jackson Smith House

(CB-21) stands as one of three rare examples of a regional floor plan incorporating engaged front and rear porches, each flanked by two piazza rooms. The other sites are the Smith-Powell House (CB-30) southwest of Hallsboro, and the Soles House (CB-79) near Tabor City. The Smith-Powell House is especially important because its interior board-and-batten walls and ceilings, and Federal type mantels have never been painted. The Singletary House (CB-39), just south of the Columbus-Bladen county lines is a two-story dwelling with shed-roofed front porch and rear wing. It retains some of its original beaded weatherboarding and ogee window trim.

B. Greek Revival style

The form and details of the Greek Revival style are represented in four houses disbursed around the county. The Elkins House (CB-36) south of Clarkton is a unique example of a large, double-galleried plantation with piazza rooms at both levels of the rear porch, and a long, one-story dining room/kitchen ell attached to the left of the main block. The Caulder House (CB-49), southeast of the Evergreen community, has a central entrance framed by a transom and sidelights, chamfered posts, and Greek Revival type moldings. The McGougan House (CB-68) west of Chadbourn is a hip-roofed example with a gabled portico and peaked lintel above the front entrance transom. The Gore House (CB-92) at Pireway stands at the far end of an unpaved road, its academic double-story porch and symmetrical fenestration forming an interesting contrast to the vernacular treatment of a saltbox rear termination of the main block and an extended, one-story rear wing.

C. Italianate style

Only two examples of this type survive in the county, a single-story house near Bolton (CB-13) featuring a high hipped roof and elegantly carved eave brackets, and the Soles House (CB-90) below Whiteville, featuring carved brackets and a unique Greek Key treatment in the return facias of the porch.

D. Queen Anne style

As with many regions of the state which were developed during the late nineteenth century, Columbus County has examples of this eclectic type of architecture in rural as well as in town locations. The Wyche House, "Wychewood"(CB-29) in the Red Bug community southwest of Hallsboro is a two-story version with an asymmetrical plan, a single-story wraparound porch and a variety of attached wings. The two-story Thompson House (CB-32) outside Whiteville has an irregular plan that is encompassed by a one-story porch animated by decorative balustrades. Three examples south of Clarkton include the Ransom House (CB-37) with a one-story L-shaped plan, an angled corner bay and wraparound front porch; the Wooten House (CB-42) with delicate tracery in the porch gable, scroll brackets, and lozenge-shaped attic vents; and the McGougan House (CB-45) with double bay windows flanking the central entrance and a wraparound porch that follows the contours of the facade. A most picturesque two-story house (CB-62) south of Chadbourn has a projecting bay-windowed pavilion to the right of the angled central entrance which contains a tripartite window above diagonally-sheathed aprons. The Richardson House (CB-78) near Clarendon is a single-story, L-shaped residence with a profusion of carved ornament, paneled porch posts, rammings, gable ornaments, and patterned shingles in the gables.

E. Neoclassical Revival style

The sole rural example of the style in the county is the Stephens House (CB-18) situated north of Lake Waccamaw. The bungalow form is accentuated by patterned-muntin upper sash, square porch posts with molded caps, paneled skirts in the rear porch, and broad eaves surmounted by a low-pitched hip roof. The Prokos House (CB-56) west of Chadbourn is a hip-roofed example with a pedimented portico highlighted by scroll balustrades and a lunette attic vent.

F. Bungalow/Craftsman style

Popularized through newspaper and magazine advertisements from World War I until the early 1950s, the style was national in its appeal especially because plans were easily understood and materials were readily obtained. In addition, Sears-Roebuck, the Aladdin Company and Victory Homes were some of the industries which produced pre-cut "kit" houses available across the United States and Canada. The two latter companies had factories in Wilmington, North Carolina. Perhaps the most popular individual style of "kit" house was the brick *Plaza* model offered by the Aladdin Company. Two examples of this type, both in the Riegelwood area, are the Beckwith House (CB-8) and the Waddell House (CB-9), very similar in appearance, but built some twenty years apart. The Bullock House (CB-55) near Chadbourn is a third example of the style. The Seymour High House (CB-38) in the Clarkton vicinity is a frame dwelling with an engaged front porch featuring shingled posts, a wide central dormer, and bracketed eaves. The Prevatte House (CB-33), built just north of Whiteville in the center of the county, is a highly original, flat-roofed brick residence with decorative masonry details highlighting the fenestration and the stepped parapets. It was the inspiration for the Fronis Strickland House (CB-75) located southeast of Tabor City near the South Carolina border. Both the Yates House (CB-59) near

Chadbourn and the Williamson House (CB-66) near Cerro Gordo are similar in design with gable-front roofs, recessed porches, and patterned muntins in the first floor and attic dormer windows. But the link between them is that the brick coursing is "rat trap" bond (bricks laid on their sides) with the ends of the headers dipped in red paint prior to construction of the walls. The Hammond House (CB-73) near Cerro Gordo and the Young House (CB-40) are low-slung dwellings with broad hipped roofs sheltering deep porches and carports.

G. Other house types.

In addition to common period styles in Columbus County, there are some individual designs such as a 1900s Dutch Colonial house (CB-22) near Lake Waccamaw and a rare 1930s log dwelling (CB-23) at Artesia (the only surviving remnant of a former Hugh MacRae experimental farming colony).

Of special significance in the county are a number of houses that copy South Carolina Low Country types in which the porch posts stand in front of and away from the porch floor. This treatment provides separate points of support for the deck and the roof framing, necessary perhaps because of the unstable soil conditions in the coastal region, while also eliminating the rotting of the flooring beneath the posts. Two particular examples are the Soles House (CB-90) south of Whiteville and the Ashley Benton House (CB-50) near Evergreen,. The appearance of these porches in Columbus County indicates that the strong economic development of interstate trade along the Lumber, Pee Dee and Waccamaw rivers to the port of Georgetown, South Carolina, engendered a cultural alliance that was associated with an architectural system peculiar to Georgetown and the Low Country.

PROPERTY TYPE 3: INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS.

Churches

Columbus County is rich in the profusion of churches dating from the nineteenth to the twentieth centuries which are situated in towns, communities and rural crossroads. Some retain their original appearance while others have been modernized or replaced with later buildings. Among the noteworthy frame structures that survive in their original condition are the T-plan (former) Wayman Methodist Church (CB-11) northwest of Riegelwood; Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church (CB-12) near Delco, with its open belfry and wheeled bell; Bolton United Methodist Church (CB-14) set within a grove of trees; Mt. Zion AME Church (CB-16) in the vicinity of Lake Waccamaw, accentuated by a hexagonal cupola, and incorporating a parsonage behind the church and an obelisk monument to its founding minister in the front yard; Hallsboro United Methodist Church (CB-27) in the fork of the road and enhanced by a Sunday School wing that resembles a New England Meeting House; Pireway Independent Church (CB-80) highlighted by arched muntins in the upper sash windows, paired pilasters at the corners of the main block surmounted by a pediment, and a picturesque corner tower at the intersection of the sanctuary and the rear wing. Two important brick examples are Mill Branch Primitive Baptist Church (CB-85) near Tabor City, originally sheathed with plain weatherboarding and later veneered, but retaining old windows and Greek Revival type cornice returns; and Western Prong Baptist Church (CB-43) north of Whiteville, a stately edifice with a prominent arched entrance containing a rose window above the front doors. A unique example of adaptive use is the (former) Lennons Crossroads Baptist Church (CB-47) east of Evergreen, which was remodeled as a residence in 1961.

Schools

One example of a one-room schoolhouse, dating to 1870, has been preserved as a museum at Tabor City, but few other wooden structures survive in the county. The former Hallsboro School (CB-28) a large, multi-story frame building, was later remodeled as a residence. The original teacherage stands across the road. The most significant schools, however, are the 1920s facilities built after consolidation and designed by Wilmington architect Leslie N. Boney. Two almost identical examples are the 1926 Acme-Delco (CB-6) and Cerro Gordo (CB-67) schools. Associated with these are federally funded (WPA) agricultural annexes dating to 1936, and 1950s gymnasiums. The 1936 Williams Township School (CB-88) in the vicinity of Tabor City is an imposing two story design, also by Leslie N. Boney, which replaced a 1920s structure that burned.

PROPERTY TYPE 4: COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Stores

The commercial architecture of rural Columbus County is represented by the Acme Store (CB-7) now occupied as offices of Wright Chemical Corporation, and the Pierce & Company Store (CB-25) at Hallsboro which still supplies hardware, housewares, and agricultural products as it did when founded in the early 1900s. Their earlier store (CB-26) south of Hallsboro is a one-story, L-shaped structure supported by lightwood blocks. Two resources connected with the important lumber industry are the former Jackson Brothers Lumber Company Office (CB-31) at Brunswick, a brick structure with quoins defining the corners; and the former Boardman Lumber Company Office Safe (CB-48), a unique survival of what was once the largest lumber mill in Columbus County, now standing mausoleum-like in a field of weeds and burned-out debris. Three rural general stores are the textured concrete-block Wooten Store (CB-44) south of

Clarkton, an L-shaped store and dwelling (CB-60) near Chadbourn, and a small filling station and grocery (CB-87) in the vicinity of Whiteville.

The architecture of Columbus County is as diverse as its soils and its scenery, incorporating a wide variety of historic designs ranging from individual Federal types to mass-produced and popular forms of the twentieth century. Despite the gradual disappearance of traditional farmsteads with their associated outbuildings and tobacco barns, a significant number of houses, churches, schools, and commercial structures remain as testimony of the development and success of rural agriculture, naval stores and timber operations that were supported by three important rivers and two rail lines. River trade with South Carolina produced elements of Low Country building methods while rail and road routes brought stylistic trends from the port of Wilmington and the north. In the late twentieth century, vegetable and fruit farming as well as logging remain at the heart of the county's economy, and although modern construction typically follows the popular path of brick ranches and checkout-counter Colonials, the historic architecture has become more appreciated and properties are being preserved and restored across the region.

Columbus County Proposed Study List Properties
(results of the Columbus County Reconnaissance Survey
conducted by Edward F. Turberg, from May through July, 1998)

INTRODUCTION

The area that now constitutes Columbus County was first a part of New Hanover, formed in 1729 and named for King George II of Hanover, Germany. In 1734, the western territory became Bladen County, and in 1764 the southern section emerged as Brunswick County. By 1808 a new district was created from Bladen and Brunswick to form Columbus County, honoring the famous fifteenth-century Genoese explorer. The region retains much of its rural character and economy based on agriculture and logging operations.

The architectural study was conducted over a period of ten months, beginning with a preliminary windshield overview throughout the county to determine areas of concentration for the reconnaissance survey. A total of eighty-eight (88) properties including farm and other rural dwellings, outbuildings, churches, schools, and commercial and industrial structures were documented with photographs, written descriptions, and site plans. Others were map coded on USGS topographical maps. Information on these historic resources is contained in individual files located in the Division of Archives and History in Raleigh. The reconnaissance survey and related documentation were conducted according to North Carolina Division of Archives and History standards and guidelines. As a result of the study, individual resources were listed on the Division of Archives and History's "Study List" with recommendations for further surveys of districts and towns. Properties on this list are resources which appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The study list is a critical component of the project and properties placed on it are considered during the implementation of preservation planning projects. The reconnaissance survey of Columbus County also produced USGS topographical maps with all the recorded sites identified by file number, color slides of the resources, and a Multiple Properties Documentation Form.

Whenever possible, the contractor, assisted by Janet Seapker, interviewed owners, residents and neighbors to obtain information about the age of the structure and its builder. Through the process, many people expressed great interest in the study and suggested additional people to contact. Among those who were especially helpful in discussing and clarifying historical facts about the county were John McNeill, A.O. Burns, C.A. Farley, J.W. Hammond, Jr., Alice Keller, Mary Mintz, P.W. Peterson, Sandy Rogers, Bobby Sorrell, Beasley Strickland, and James E. Turner.

This presentation illustrates twenty-five (25) properties that represent important architectural resources in the county. They are organized according to property types including houses grouped by styles, institutional buildings: churches and schools, and commercial and industrial structures. Each group is arranged in chronological order for the purpose of establishing the historic as well as the architectural pattern of development within the overall county survey area.

PROPERTY TYPE 1: HOUSES

A. Federal style

Four resources that may date to the Federal period (1780 to 1810), have forms and specific details exemplary of the style. The Peterson House (CB-10), northwest of Riegelwood, is said by its owner to have been built in the 1700s as a coaching stop along the stage route from Wilmington to Elizabethtown. Despite considerable Craftsman style alterations in the early twentieth century, the house retains its unique, Flemish bond exterior end chimneys with stepped bases and handsomely rendered caps. West of Lake Waccamaw, the one-story Henry Jackson Smith House (CB-21) is a rare example of a regional floor plan incorporating engaged front and rear porches, each flanked by two piazza rooms. Farther west, the two-story Smith-Powell House (CB-30) has an identical floor plan, although the porches were later enclosed to provide additional rooms. The house is especially important because its interior board-and-batten walls and ceilings, and Federal type mantels are intact and have never been painted.

B. Greek Revival style

The form and details of the Greek Revival style are represented in four houses disbursed around the county. The Elkins House (CB-36) south of Clarkton is a unique example of a large, double-galleried plantation with piazza rooms at both levels of the rear porch, and a long, one-story dining room/kitchen ell attached to the left of the main block. The Caulder House (CB-49), southeast of the Evergreen community, has a central entrance framed by a transom and sidelights, chamfered posts, and Greek Revival type moldings. The Gore House (CB-92) at the far end of an unpaved road, its academic double-story porch and symmetrical fenestration forming a interesting contrast to the vernacular treatment of a saltbox rear termination of the main block and an extended, one-story rear wing.

C. Italianate style

Only two examples of this type survive in the county, a single-story house near Bolton (CB-13) featuring a high hipped roof and elegantly carved eave brackets, and the Soles House (CB-90) below Whiteville, featuring carved brackets and a unique Greek Key treatment in the return fascias of the porch.

D. Queen Anne style

As with many regions of the state which were developed during the late nineteenth century, Columbus County has examples of this eclectic type of architecture in rural as well as in town locations. The Wyche House, "Wychewood"(CB-29) in the Red Bug community southwest of Hallsboro is a two-story version with an asymmetrical plan, a single-story wraparound porch and a variety of attached wings. The two-story Thompson House (CB-32) outside Whiteville has an irregular plan that is encompassed by a one-story porch animated by decorative balustrades. Three examples south of Clarkton include the Ransom House (CB-37) with a one-story L-shaped plan, an angled corner bay and wraparound front porch; the Wooten House (CB-42) with delicate tracery in the porch gable, scroll brackets, and lozenge-shaped attic vents; and the McGougan House (CB-45) with double bay windows flanking the central entrance and a wraparound porch that follows the contours of the facade. A most picturesque two-story house (CB-62) south of Chadbourn has a projecting bay-windowed pavilion to the right of the angled central entrance which contains a tripartite window above

diagonally-sheathed aprons. The Richardson House (CB-78) near Clarendon is a single-story, L-shaped residence with a profusion of carved ornament, paneled porch posts, rammas, gable ornaments, and patterned shingles in the gables.

E. Neoclassical Revival style

The sole rural example of the style in the county is the Stephens House (CB-18) situated north of Lake Waccamaw. The bungalow form is accentuated by patterned-muntin upper sash, square porch posts with molded caps, paneled skirts in the rear porch, and broad eaves surmounted by a low-pitched hip roof. The Prokos House (CB-56) west of Chadbourn is a hip-roofed example with a pedimented portico highlighted by scroll balustrades and a lunette attic vent.

F. Bungalow/Craftsman style

Popularized through newspaper and magazine advertisements from World War I until the early 1950s, the style was national in its appeal especially because plans were easily understood and materials were readily obtained. In addition, Sears-Roebuck, the Aladdin Company and Victory Homes were some of the industries which produced pre-cut "kit" houses available across the United States and Canada. The two latter companies had factories in Wilmington, North Carolina. Perhaps the most popular individual style of "kit" house was the brick *Plaza* model offered by the Aladdin Company. Two examples of this type, both in the Riegelwood area, are the Beckwith House (CB-8) and the Waddell House (CB-9), very similar in appearance, but built some twenty years apart. The Bullock House (CB-55) near Chadbourn is a third example of the style. The Seymour High House (CB-38) in the Clarkton vicinity is a frame dwelling with an engaged front porch featuring shingled brackets, a wide central dormer, and bracketed eaves. The Prevatte House (CB-33), built just north of Whiteville in the center of the county, is a highly original, flat-roofed brick residence with decorative masonry details highlighting the fenestration and the stepped parapets. It was the inspiration for the Fronis Strickland House (CB-75) located southeast of Tabor City near the South Carolina border. Both the Yates House (CB-59) near Chadbourn and the Williamson House (CB-66) near Cerro Gordo are similar in design with gable-front roofs, recessed porches, and patterned muntins in the first floor and attic dormer windows. But the link between them is that the brick coursing is "rat trap" bond (bricks laid on their sides) with the ends of the headers dipped in red paint prior to construction of the walls. The Hammond House (CB-73) near Cerro Gordo and the Young House (CB-40) are low-slung dwellings with broad hipped roofs sheltering deep porches and carports.

G. Other house types.

In addition to common period styles in Columbus County, there are some individual designs such as a 1900s Dutch Colonial house (CB-22) near Lake Waccamaw and a rare 1930s log dwelling (CB-23) at Artesia (the only surviving remnant of a former Hugh MacRae experimental farming colony).

Of special significance in the county are a number of houses that copy South Carolina Low Country types in which the porch posts stand in front of and away from the porch floor. This treatment provides separate points of support for the deck and the roof framing, necessary perhaps because of the unstable soil conditions in the coastal region, while also eliminating the rotting of the flooring beneath the posts. Two particular examples are the Soles House (CB-90) south of Whiteville and the Ashley Benton House (CB-50) near Ferngreen. The appearance of these porches in Columbus County indicates that the strong economic

development of interstate trade along the Lumber, Pee Dee and Waccamaw rivers to the port of Georgetown, South Carolina, engendered a cultural alliance that was associated with an architectural system peculiar to Georgetown and the Low Country.

PROPERTY TYPE 3: COMMERCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS.

Churches

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The commercial architecture of rural Columbus County is represented by the Acme Store (CB-7) now occupied as offices of Wright Chemical Corporation, and the Pierce & Company Store (CB-25) at Hallsboro which still supplies hardware, housewares, and agricultural products as it did when founded in the early 1900s. Their earlier store (CB-26) south of Hallsboro is a one-story, L-shaped structure supported by lightwood blocks. Two resources connected with the important lumber industry are the former Jackson Brothers Lumber Company Office (CB-31) at Brunswick, a brick structure with quoins defining the corners; and the former Boardman Lumber Company Office Safe (CB-48), a unique survival of what was once the largest lumber mill in Columbus County, now standing mausoleum-like in a field of weeds and burned-out debris. Three rural general stores are the textured concrete-block Wooten Store (CB-44) south of Clarkton, an L-shaped store and dwelling (CB-60) near Chadbourn, and a small filling station and grocery (CB-87) in the vicinity of Whiteville.

CONCLUSION

The architecture of Columbus County is as diverse as its soils and its scenery, incorporating a wide variety of historic designs ranging from individual Federal types to mass-produced and popular forms of the twentieth century. Despite the gradual disappearance of traditional farmsteads with their associated outbuildings and tobacco barns, a significant number of houses, churches, schools, and commercial structures remain as testimony of the development and success of rural agriculture, naval stores and timber operations that were supported by three important rivers and two rail lines. River trade with South Carolina produced elements of Low Country building methods while rail and road routes brought stylistic trends from the port of Wilmington and the north. In the late twentieth century, vegetable and fruit farming as well as logging remain at the heart of the county's economy, and although modern construction typically follows the popular path of brick ranches and checkout-counter Colonials, the historic architecture has become more appreciated and properties are being preserved and restored across the region.

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HOUSES

1. **Peterson House**, Riegelwood vic., late-18th century

One of the earliest surviving structures in Columbus County, the Peterson house is a story-and-a-half gable-end dwelling with exterior chimneys featuring buttressed bases supporting Flemish bond stacks which rise through cement-washed shoulders to broad, stepped caps. The western chimney is accentuated by three vertical rows of red-glazed headers. According to the current owner, the house dates to the late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century and was built as a stop along the stage route from Wilmington to Elizabethtown.

2. **Smith-Powell House**, Hallsboro vic., 1806

The house is cited in *Recollections and Records* as being the oldest dwelling in the county. The two-story structure, set at right angles to the road (the road originally skirted the north side of the house) has large, exterior end chimneys flanked by nine-over-nine windows. An unusual feature of the plan is that the north and south elevations incorporate recessed porches flanked by piazza rooms. The interior of the house retains its intact unpainted Federal style mantels, board-and-batten walls and ceilings, and wide tongue-and-groove floors. The dormers were added for additional light in the 1950s. The owner, a descendant of the Smiths and Powells, possesses the original property grant of 320 acres dated February 20, 1735. About 600 yards south of the house is an Indian burial ground, and to the north are the remains of an Indian settlement.

3. **Henry Jackson Smith House**, Lake Waccamaw vic., 1856

The Henry Jackson Smith House is a one-story, gable-end dwelling, with a plan identical to the Smith-Powell House about five miles due west. Four piazza rooms flank the recessed front and rear porches. Windows flanking the original and rebuilt chimneys have nine-over-nine sash, and quarter-round attic vents are in the gables. The house sits back from the road at the end of a landscaped driveway.

4. **Caulder House**, Evergreen vic., c.1865

The Caulder House is a one-story, Greek Revival style dwelling with engaged front and side porches supported by chamfered posts. The east chimney has stepped shoulders and a free-standing upper stack. Ancient live oaks and crape myrtles attest to the age of the site and add to the wayside repose of the house.

5. **Gore House**, Pireway vic., c.1880

The Gore House is a two-story frame residence with a gable-end, salt-box roof over the main block and a one-story, transverse gable rear wing. The central entrance is enframed by a transom and sidelights, while the side door is flanked by sidelights only. Windows throughout the structure contain six-over-six sash. The property is currently owned by Big Bay Tree Farms and is currently undergoing rehabilitation.

6. **Benton House**, Evergreen vic., c.1881

The Ashley Benton House is an important example of a double-story house with a central portico supported by free-standing posts similar to those found in South Carolina Low Country examples. The upper level porch balcony is enriched by decorative balustrades cut in an urn-like pattern, a decorative device that is repeated across the county. The house, called "Evergreen," is owned and occupied by descendants of the original builder.

7. **Wyche House**, Hallsboro vic., 1882

"Wychewood" is a picturesque, two-story, Queen Anne style house with a full-height projecting bay window to the left of the central entrance, a small ell attached to the west elevation, and a kitchen wing at the rear. The wraparound porch features turned posts and balustrades. East of the kitchen is a single-story structure with vertical siding that formerly served as the kitchen and dining room.

8. **Wooten House**, Clarkton vic., c.1885

The Wooten House is an unpainted dwelling that is enhanced by a gabled front porch which preserves its original scroll decorations at the eaves and peak. Unusual crosset moldings surround the front door and molded surrounds occur at most of the windows. The attic story features lozenge-shaped vents.

9. **Elkins House**, Clarkton vic., c.1889

This large, plantation type house is in two parts. The right portion is the two-level main structure incorporating front and rear double-story porches, exterior end chimneys, and decorative soffits. The rear porch contains two piazza rooms at each level. The left section is the kitchen ell with its porch a continuation of the lower main porch. The kitchen was originally separated from the main block, but the open passage was later enclosed by board-and-batten walls.

10. **Thompson House**, Whiteville vic., c.1890

The Thompson House is a large, T-shaped house with a wraparound porch containing sawn, decorative balustrades. The attic is accentuated by pointed-top vents. Behind the house are two sheds, a brick pump house, a silo, a barn, and two connected tobacco barns. A farm pond and a saw mill are to the northeast of the house.

11. **House**, Chadbourn vic., c.1890

A rare appearance of a high-style Queen Anne residence in a rural location, the two-story, L-shaped house has a projecting bay windowed pavilion to the right of the angled entrance. The tripartite window in the bay contains patterned muntins in the upper central sash, and diagonal sheathing in the aprons beneath the windows. A wraparound porch across the front and north elevations incorporates several unusual turned posts. The house is situated within a small grove of pecan trees.

12. **Prokos House**, Chadbourn vic., c.1900

The Prokos House, formerly the Dolph Lewis place, a tall, two-story dwelling enlivened by a pedimented, double-story porch with square posts, balustrades cut in circle and diamond patterns, and a lunette vent. Two tall, rectangular interior chimneys rise through the north and south slopes of the roof. West and south of the house are a board-and-batten shed, a brick pump house, a modern hip-roofed garage, and a brick garage with a lozenge-shaped vent in its south gable. Three stately oak trees line the eastern border of the property.

13. **Stephens House**, Lake Waccamaw vic., c.1920

The Stephens House is a picturesque, Bungalow/Craftsman style residence with shingled walls below continuous window sills and weatherboarding in the upper walls. The entrance is framed by sidelights and the flanking windows contain diamond-shaped panes in the upper sash. A screened porch at the rear of the house features double rows of flat-molded panels

in the lower walls. A broad hipped roof with wide overhangs and exposed roof beams gives the house a strong, horizontal appearance, accentuated by a hip-roofed front dormer containing a wide, single-pane window.

14. **Prevatte House**, Whiteville vic., c.1930

The Prevatte House is one of two highly unusual bungalows in the county featuring an irregular plan; single, double and triple sash windows; attached arcaded porches, flat roofs, and crenelated parapets. Built c.1930, it became the model for the 1940s Fronis Strickland residence near Tabor City. The pleasing, natural landscaping forms a strong contrast with the geometrical solidity of the house.

15. **Strickland House**, Tabor City vic., 1947-48

The Fronis Strickland house is the second of two rare designs that combine attractive brick and stone masonry, irregular plan enlivened by arcaded porches, a variety of window treatments, and a crenellated parapet surrounding the flat roof. Landscaping includes a quiet, enclosed garden and four palm trees bordering the roadway.

CHURCHES

16. **Wayman Methodist Church**, Riegelwood vic., 1886

Wayman Methodist Church is a gable-roofed, T-shaped frame building with a four-bay portico across the front elevation. The double-door entrance is flanked by nine-over-nine sash windows. The church originally had a rectangular plan with four side windows in each wall. Later, the classroom wings were added and the adjacent windows were blocked in. The interior of the sanctuary consists of vertical tongue-and-groove board walls and a handsome ribbed ceiling. A cemetery surrounding the church features four enclosed plots with iron fences of different designs.

17. **Mt. Zion AME Church**, Lake Waccamaw vic., 1913

Mt. Zion AME Church is a gable-front edifice enhanced by a projecting front tower capped by an unusual hexagonal cupola. Windows contain multi-pane sash surmounted by diamond-paned transoms. To the left of the front entrance stands an obelisk memorializing the congregation's first pastor, the Rev. John H. Hooper (1839-1906), and the inscription "Far from the madding crowds." Behind the church is the parsonage, a one-story, L-shaped, vernacular cottage with a triple-A roof, screened front porch, and rear kitchen ell.

SCHOOLS

18. **Acme-Delco School**, Delco, 1926

The Acme-Delco School is one of three important educational buildings erected in the county during school consolidation in the 1920s. Designed by Wilmington architect Leslie N. Boney, the original 1926 structure, with characteristic details such as clustered windows, paneled end bays, and triangular decorative highlights in the parapets is now encompassed by later wings, annexes, a gymnasium, and a 1936 agricultural building.

20. **Cerro Gordo School**, Cerro Gordo, 1926

The Cerro Gordo School is another in the series of Boney schools and dates to the same year as the Acme-Delco facility. Additions to the facility indicate the same growth needs of other communities in the expansion of classrooms, construction of a gymnasium, and an agricultural annex.

21. **Hallsboro School**, Hallsboro, 1927

The Hallsboro School is a third example of the Boney school design, and was completed in 1927. The complex grew over the years to incorporate new classroom wings, a library, cafeteria, and gymnasium. The eastern annex, also designed by Boney in 1936, houses offices and additional classrooms. The original structure features the trademark Boney decorative features of clustered windows, paneled brick bays, and triangular motifs in the stepped parapets.

22. **Williams Township School**, 1936

The Williams Township School is Boney architects' most ambitious rural school design forming a handsome composition of classical revival elements. The principal building (1936) is a T-shaped, two-story unit containing classrooms, offices and an auditorium. The facade is enriched by a denticulated central pediment containing a circular window. To the south across a small arcade is a two-story addition (1948) which compliments the form and mass of the earlier work. Beyond the school are a 1955 gymnasium and several 1970s detached classroom structures.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

23. **Acme Store**, Acme, c.1910

The two-story brick building combines a rugged simplicity with a certain flair for decorative enrichment--a hallmark of Wilmington architect, Henry Bonitz's style. An unusual, angled belt course extends across the wall above the storefront and forms the sills of the three closely-spaced windows in the upper story. A second belt course between the windows intersects the lintels. The parapet crowning the building incorporates a narrow, rectangular panel above the windows and a torch-like device rising from the top of the panel to the center of the parapet. Sash windows are surrounded by segmental arches of triple rowlock bricks. The first story was formerly used as a company store, paymaster's office and post office. The upper level was the local Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall.

24. **Pierce & Company Store** (frame), Hallsboro vic., 1899

The store is an excellent surviving example of a medium-sized general store and specialty merchandise business that was in operation from 1899 to 1963. The unpainted frame structure has a T-shaped form consisting of a store and warehouse. It rests on lightwood blocks, except at the northwest corners where the weatherboarding extends to the ground. A central entrance occupies the gable-front north section, and a single service door with vertical interior boards and outer angled boards is in the rear elevation of the warehouse.

25. **Pierce & Company Store** (brick), Hallsboro, c.1900

The Pierce & Company Store is a large, two-story brick structure with a flat roof and a stepped parapet across the rear of the building. The original storefront contained two recessed entrances with show windows and fixed transoms. The upper level is four bays wide and contains two-over-two sash windows. The west side elevation has similar fenestration. A later shed-roofed addition, almost as large as the main store, is attached to the east side of the main block. Pierce & Company still operates as a feed and general store as it has in the community for the past century.

26. **Jackson Brothers Lumber Company Office**, Brunswick, 1925

The Jackson Brothers Lumber Company Office is a well-proportioned, five by three bay brick structure accentuated at the corners by quoins. Windows contain two-over-two sash enframed by brick stretcher courses and stone sills and lintels. An attached porch across the rear elevation is supported by five brick posts. The hipped roof with concealed gutters rises above a series of triangular brackets. The building was later adapted for use as a residence after the mill closed in the 1930s. Across the road is the remnant of the former mill village of small cottages now privately owned.