

Historic and Architectural Resources
of
Pender County

Ed Turberg
1997

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF PENDER COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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Introduction

Pender County was originally a part of New Hanover County and contained many large plantations, situated along the various rivers and creeks, which produced naval stores, lumber, rice, and other important commodities. This condition prevailed until the post-Civil War era when small farms began to supplant plantations. Small crossroad, river, and church communities grew after 1840 when the railroad pushed through the region, which had a direct influence on economy and population growth. In 1875, divisions in political and racial matters brought about the separation of New Hanover County north and south of the Cape Fear rivers. Improved highways, agricultural advances, industrial development, suburban expansion, tourism, and retirement destinations have had an impact on Pender and have marked it in the late-twentieth century as the fastest growing county in the state.

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HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF PENDER COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Preface

Pender County is characterized by a changing landscape that is made up of a variety of open farm lands, deep pine woods, dense swamps, and a sandy coastline. Small towns, rural communities, and farmsteads are located close to the many waterways, at rural crossroads, and adjacent to the railroad. From the earliest period of European occupation in the 1720s to the Civil War, the region was populated by three distinct types of farming operations: affluent plantation owners and their slaves who worked large tracts of land, and subsistence farmers who tilled small acreage. Although many of the large planters divided their time between the operation of their plantations upriver and mercantile activities in the port of Wilmington, the smaller farmers remained detached to pursue their labor-intensive livelihood on the farm. The strength of the plantation lay in its slave workers; the strength of the farm lay in its large families of varying ages who worked together at their assigned chores. The semi-isolation that was characteristic of the county caused the citizenry to draw together and form cohesive groups that were strengthened by family ties, the community, and the church.

The economics of the county, like those in many other parts of the state, depended on the ability to transport goods at a reasonable rate from the farms to the markets. In 1840, great strides in this field were made with the completion of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad through the center of the region to the North Carolina-Virginia state line, and later with the opening of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Railroad to points in the western quadrant of the county. Trains effectively tied rural farms, market towns, and coastal ports together. By the end of the nineteenth century, they had become the principal means for getting a variety of local produce to intrastate and interstate consumers.

During its history, Pender County experienced a wide range of successful production years as well as devastating seasons caused by natural calamities like droughts, rains, fires, and storms. In addition, the Civil War and the subsequent demise of the old plantation system had a serious impact on the agronomy. Nevertheless, the determination of farm families, both white and black, during the last quarter of the nineteenth century brought the region out of depression and into the new century with renewed spirits. The 1900s introduced automobiles, tractors, and trucks to the scene together with a need to improve the myriad roads. Continuing through the remainder of the century, the road-building era culminated in the building of an interstate highway closely paralleling the Northeast Cape Fear River, the historic Duplin Road, and the railroad. Increased traffic along this artery has generated the construction of new service-oriented businesses, larger farm and industrial sites, and residential districts to accommodate the increasing population. This progress is making a deep impression on the rural landscape and the people because a slow but steady process is underway to desert the timeless home places for new, contemporary ranch houses and manufactured homes, and to displace the old, traditional farm buildings with modern, functional structures.

A. TOPOGRAPHY AND OVERVIEW OF THE COUNTY

Pender County, located in the southeastern portion of coastal North Carolina, is the fifth largest county in the state after Bladen, Columbus, Robeson, and Sampson. It contains a total area of 880.3 square miles consisting of 870.8 square miles of arable land and forests, and 9.5 square miles of water. The counties bordering Pender are New Hanover on the south; Brunswick, Columbus, and Sampson on the west; Duplin on the north; and Onslow on the east. Originally forming the northern two-thirds of New Hanover County, which was established in 1729 and named for King George II of the House of Hanover, Pender became a separate entity in 1875 with the political

division of the region into the Republican north and the Democratic south of the Cape Fear rivers. The new county was named in honor of William Dorsey Pender (1834-1865), one of seven major generals from North Carolina, who served in the Army of the Confederacy, and who died at the battle of Gettysburg. Burgaw, the county seat, supposedly takes its name from the Burgaw Indians who lived in the area. Ten townships make up the administrative divisions of the county and include Burgaw, Canetuck, Caswell, Columbia, Grady, Holly, Long Creek, Rocky Point, Surf City, Topsail Beach, Watha, and Willard.

From a high point of sixty-three feet above sea level at Atkinson in the western section of the county, fifty-one feet at Willard in the northern section, and forty-nine feet at Burgaw near the center of the county, the terrain descends gradually southeast through clay, silt, and sandy soils to the coast. Topsail Sound and the Atlantic Ocean lie along the eastern edge of the county and extend across sixteen statute miles of shore. Three navigable rivers--the Cape Fear, the Northeast Cape Fear, and the Black--form the southern and a portion of the western boundaries of the county. Numerous creeks, among them Colvins, Harrisons, Holly, Long, Moores, Rileys, Shaken, Shelter, and Turkey, meander through the sandy ridges and swamps to drain their silty and tannic waters into the ocean-bound rivers. Unusual and important natural features in the county are the 48,470-acre Holly Shelter and 10,000-acre Angola bays in the eastern region, and the Big Savannah north of Burgaw. The bays, or pocosins, may be the result of ancient meteors which sprayed across the southeastern area of the state and formed deep depressions in the terrain. Over time the bays became dense swamps that fostered a variety of feral species of flora and fauna. Now state owned, the wetlands enclose timber and wildlife preserves that provide ideal conditions for the rare pitcher plant, trumpet flower, and Venus fly trap to flourish. The Big

Savannah, described as "the only true savannah left on the North American continent," is a broad plain containing 1,000 acres of native wildflowers. Forming the earth's crust here are a range of twenty-three soils that constitute the Coastal Plain. The two most significant soils, called Norfolk and Portsmouth from their places of origin in Virginia, contain a mixture of loam (clay and silt), and sand. A third soil, Parkwood, contains limestone and marl, and covers a smaller range around Rocky Point and the Northeast Cape Fear River east and north of that community. Quarried, pulverized, and used as a natural fertilizer, the marl greatly enriches the sandy soil and enhances farm productivity. These soils have proven to be well-adapted for raising corn, wheat, soy beans, vegetables, tobacco, and fruits. In recent years the county won the distinction of being the largest grower of blueberries and strawberries in the southeast.

Stands of timber are a conspicuous part of Pender County's landscape and have supported the regional economy since the earliest years of European settlement. The forests and swamps abound with ash, birch, cypress, dogwood, black and sweet gum, hickory nut, short and long leaf pine, loblolly pine, sycamore, and walnut trees. But the clearing of tracts for expanding agricultural, residential, and commercial needs; removing acres of timber devastated by fires and storms; and operating large tree farms have all reformed the face of the region dramatically.

Pender County boasts a number of native plants, roots, and herbs that proliferate in the region. The gaillardias brighten the beaches, the rare insectivorous Venus fly traps and pitcher plants survive in the seclusion of swamps and bogs, the narrow-leafed sunflowers bloom in roadside ditches, the chaptalias cover the savannahs, the zenobias scatter through the bays, and the prickly pears spread through the fallow, sandy fields. Among the native roots and herbs are sassafras, sarsaparilla, China root, Indian pink, golden rod,

horoun, snake root, and dog tongue, each a traditional cure for common ailments.

The ensuing examination of the history of Pender County, extending from its formation as a part of New Hanover Precinct in the early eighteenth century, to its status as one of the fastest growing areas in North Carolina in the late twentieth century, is divided into three separate periods that mark the gradual development of the region over more than two centuries. The first period covers the exploration, settlement, and growth of the area from the establishment of river plantations and small farms beginning in the 1720s to the emergence of the railroad in the 1830s. The second period continues from the completion of the railroad in 1840 to post-Civil War reconstruction in the 1870s. The third period runs from the creation of Pender County in 1875 through the end of World War II in the 1940s. In each period, communication and transportation had significant roles in directing the architectural, economic, and social changes that evolved over time and continue to mold the character of the county today.

B. HISTORIC CONTEXTS

1. Early Development, 1725-1839: Settlement and Ethnicity

The early inhabitants of the southeast coastal plain of North Carolina were the Cape Fear Indians, a body of migratory native Americans who spoke the language of the Eastern Sioux. About 500 B.C. they had settled into kindred communities near the waterways, harvested corn and other crops on common lands, and lived in harmony with man and nature. By the seventeenth century their numbers had grown to about 1,000 inhabitants.(1)

The first attempt at colonizing the Lower Cape Fear region by Europeans came in 1662 when a small group of English Puritans sailed from New England under the leadership of Captain William Hilton. After surveying the twin rivers north and west for several leagues, and acquiring land parcels from the Indians, Hilton returned to New England. He convinced several of his townsmen to sail south the following year and settle the new region which he had named Cape Fear--a possible reference to the dangerous Frying Pan shoals that guard the mouth of the river.(2) For undisclosed reasons, the colonists failed in the prospect and returned home. It took another two years before a new wave of English settlers, heading northwest from Barbados, sailed up the river, claimed an area which they called Clarendon County, and founded a town which they named Charlestown. Again, however, the venture failed because no support came from the British homeland deeply involved in a European war, the newcomers treated the natives with hostility, and New England offered no encouragement. In 1667, the settlement was abandoned and the group headed south to the Ashley-Cooper river basin to establish a second Charleston, in what became South Carolina, in 1670.(3)

For almost sixty years the Cape Fear coastal region remained unexplored. Then, in 1725, pioneers from the Albemarle region of northern Carolina and others from the Goose Creek parish in southern Carolina converged at the Cape

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Fear and staked their claims along the rivers and creeks. This time, the attempt was a success and the settlement began to grow.(4) A dispute as to whether North or South Carolina held judicial authority over the colony resulted in an act by the former to establish the district as New Hanover Precinct. The act, passed on November 27, 1729, set down the borders "bounded to the Northward by the Haulover [Albemarle Sound], and Little Inlet [Onslow Beach], and to the Southward by the Southernmost bounds of the Province." The east-west limits were undefined. The name chosen for the precinct, or after 1739 the county, honored the German-English King George II, of the royal house of Hanover.(5)

During the next thirty-five years more people arrived and spread out into the surrounding countryside. The population growth over a short period brought a strain on legal activities; citizens had to travel greater distances by river and road to reach the county seat of Wilmington; and it was soon manifest that new jurisdictional regions had to be created. In 1734, the western sector of New Hanover became Bladen County and the northeastern section was made into Onslow County. In 1750, another split created Duplin County across the northern limits of the region, and in 1764 Brunswick County was formed from a part of New Hanover.(6) From then until the post-Civil War era, the county retained its form except for minor adjustments in boundary lines. Pender County was the final division, breaking away north of the branches of the Cape Fear rivers, in 1875.(7)

While the ethnic makeup of the settlers was predominantly British, there were some different elements among the mercantile and the agricultural populations. Jewish and German merchants from Charleston and abroad carried on successful trades in Wilmington's port city, while the rural forests and farmlands were husbanded by English, Welsh, and Scottish settlers. In about 1730, just a year after the creation of New Hanover Precinct, a group of

immigrants from Wales moved from Pennsylvania to North Carolina. They were attracted by land opened for settlement by the Lords Proprietors--eight Englishmen who, for their support in restoring King Charles II to the throne, were granted territories in Virginia and Carolina to control, develop, and govern. The "Welsh Tract" was not an outright grant to these particular colonists, but was property offered on an individual basis to all qualified freemen regardless of their ethnicity.(8) Following earlier precedent, the venture did not reach fruition, although the Welsh laid out a village in 1740 which they called South Washington. The little trading post on the west side of the Northeast Cape Fear River remained until 1840 when the town was moved a mile-and-a-half south to the railroad and renamed Watha.(9) Today, the Welsh Tract is recalled only by a state highway historical marker north of Burgaw. A second early town, Exeter, also dating to 1740, lay on the east side of the Northeast Cape Fear River near Holly Shelter and prospered until 1790 when it was supplanted by South Washington.(10)

From 1736 to the period of the American Revolution, two different waves of Scottish immigration swept into the Cape Fear region. The first flow, reaching a thousand people by the year 1749, consisted of disfranchised highlanders fleeing social and religious repressions at home. Sailing directly from Scotland to southeastern North Carolina, some remained in Wilmington to establish businesses in the port, but the great majority followed the river north and west to its headwaters in what was later to become Cumberland County. Others moved north along the rivers and creeks above Wilmington where they cleared the forests, reclaimed the swampy areas, and worked their farms in a productive manner that exemplified their strong, industrious character. The second migration came as a result of forfeits of land tenancy and increases in population due to English occupation of the highlands, as well as unemployment brought about by Ireland's successful capture of the linen trade. In the twelve years between 1763 and 1775, it is

estimated that 20,000 Scots moved to the Cape Fear region. In 1768, fifty families arrived; the next year the number doubled; in 1770, six ships bearing 1,200 settlers entered the port; and in the next four years, 1,050 more colonists disembarked at Wilmington.(11)

The American Revolution was a period of moral strife among Scottish families. The early settlers had pledged never to rise against the crown if they were granted freedom to emigrate to the colonies. Their children, on the other hand, grew up into an era in which hostilities between Britain and America came to a head and they felt no loyalty to those sworn oaths. The subsequent conflict flowed into the very center of the Cape Fear region on February 27, 1776, when a Tory band marching from Cross Creek to Wilmington was intercepted by Whig forces near the Widow Moore's farm. The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge was a decisive victory for the colonial militia. Eighty years later, in 1856, the first official commemoration of the combat was held at the site and a memorial obelisk, the Grady Monument, was unveiled to honor the event. In 1899, Raleigh legislators approved the creation of a ten-acre State Park surrounding the creek, and the Moore's Creek Battleground Association was established. On June 2, 1926, the United States Congress designated thirty acres of ground a National Military Park, and in 1933 the property came under the management of the National Park Service. A replica of the bridge was built across the creek in 1931, and again in 1993. Among the memorials that have been added to the battlefield are the 1909 Loyalist monument; the 1929 Slocumb stones; and the 1958 Bridge, Stage, and Moore markers. The latter were part of park improvements that were carried out through the 1960s and included a new Visitors' Center, picnic shelter, and the expansion of the site to 86 acres in 1986.

Slavery

An ethnic group that had a deep-seated impact on the South as a whole, comprised the African and West Indian slaves. North Carolina had a much smaller percentage of slaves than other states, but in New Hanover, in 1756, eighteen per cent of the county's population was black. Among the white population in 1780, 62.7 % of the landowners owned slaves, with a majority holding one to seven bondsmen.(12) The slaves tilled in the turpentine forests, cared for the farm crops, and raised rice along the marshy river banks. Some visitors to the region saw the servile system through rose-tinted lenses, as did an anonymous writer in 1773 who called himself Scotius Americanus:

I cannot help mentioning here, the happiness in which blacks live in this and most of the provinces in America, compared to the wretchedness of their condition in the sugar islands. Good usage is what alone can make the negroes well attached to their masters interest. The inhabitants of Carolina, sensible of this, treat these valuable servants in an indulgent manner, and something like rational beings. They have small houses or huts, like peasants, thatched, to which they have little gardens, and live in families separate from each other. Their work is performed by a daily task ... which they have generally done by one or two o'clock in the afternoon, and have the rest of the day for themselves, which they spend in working in their own private fields.(13)

The reality of life in the slave-holding regions, however, was one of guarded fear of uprisings and insurrections. The sugar islands of Haiti and Santo Domingo had gone through fierce slave insurrections in the 1780s, and planters in eastern North Carolina were wary of West Indian blacks coming into the port of Wilmington. In 1791, the state General Assembly issued a proscription regarding the entry of "any black above the age of fifteen from the French, Dutch, Spanish, or English West Indies."(14) In 1798, Governor Samuel Ashe of New Hanover County outlawed bringing in "slaves or free persons of color as it might disturb the peace and safety of the state."(15) And in 1806, a state congressman warned that "one hundred West Indian negroes were more to be feared than 10,000 from Africa."(16)

A constant worry of the slave owners was that their bondsmen would escape and band together to seek revenge on their owners. Countless advertisements were printed in the Wilmington newspaper in the ante-bellum era warning neighbors of the flight of slaves, describing their appearance and dress, enumerating their skills, and suggesting the direction they might be headed. In the eastern counties, the swamps were invariably searched since they afforded almost total concealment for the runaways and a meeting place for recalcitrants.(17)

In 1830, following Nat Turner's Rebellion in Virginia, citizens in the Cape Fear region requested that the North Carolina General Assembly not only supply military support when owners or their patrols were searching for runaways, but also to grant them the right to fire on escapees. No uprising or insurrection ever darkened the Cape Fear region, but the constant anticipation of such an incident was an ever present shadow.(18)

Agriculture and Industry

Small settlements comprising towns, crossroads communities, and farms occupied by close-knit families form the character of rural Pender County. Large expanses of swamps and woodlands surround fields of corn, soybeans, potatoes, strawberries, blueberries, and tobacco which give the region a visual appeal in addition to an economic attraction. Development in the early-eighteenth century combined small farm husbandry and large plantation holdings along rivers and creeks which directed the production of naval stores: tar, pitch, and turpentine; lumber for regional and export markets; and a variety of subsistence crops.(19) The plantations, growing in number between 1725 and 1760, contained from 640 acres (one square mile) to upwards of 10,000 acres of farm and forest lands, that generated a strong prosperity for up-river settlements as well as for the port city of Wilmington and the

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entire coastal region of the state.(20)

The economic prosperity of the region generated a distinct social environment that was centered around the colonial gentry, men of position in military, political, and professional spheres. The Ashes, Burringtons, Lillingtons, Moores, Moseleys, and Swanns built their elegant homes in the prevailing styles where they entertained friends and relations in lavish surroundings. Of the multifold plantations once located in what is now Pender County--Point Pleasant, The Oak, Lillington Hall, The Vats, Stag Park, and others--hardly a trace remains except through letters, reports, and documentary sketches attesting to their presence. A single exception is the Sloop Point plantation of John Baptista Ashe, an early settler, whose home, built in 1726, the year after permanent settlement of the area, expresses in form and function the architectural influence of the Caribbean, and especially of Barbados.(21) One early-nineteenth century writer, praising the lifestyle of the southern gentry he met, reported:

The people in North Carolina live in ease and plenty, and the more wealthy class in a considerable degree of luxury and refinement. Poverty is here almost an entire stranger; and the planters are the most hospitable people that are to be met with.(22)

Janet Schaw, a Scottish gentlewoman who traveled to the Cape Fear to visit her brother in 1773, wrote to her friends at home glowing descriptions of the fine homes in the area, the prosperity of the numerous plantations, the refinement of the planters, and the industry of the settlers. Of the former home of the late Colonel James Innes, which was occupied at the time by a friend, Mrs. Corbin, she said:

The house is very handsome and quite on a British plan. The place is a peninsula that runs into the river and is justly called Point Pleasant. It stands on a fine lawn, with the noblest scattered trees in the world thro' it.(23)

Other insights into the type and character of the plantations appear in

several newspaper advertisements listing property for sale or lease:

To be sold by the Subscribers, the pleasant Plantation called Providence, situate on the N-E about ten miles from Wilmington two Houses with five rooms, a double Store, a new House clos'd in and shingled, a Dairy-House, Kitchen, Poultry-house, Chaise house, Stable, Mill-house and sundry good Negroe houses, Smoak-house &c, a good Garden, an Orchard with 200 bearing Apple-Trees, Peach Trees, &c. A very fine Mineral Spring and other good Springs ... contains nearly 1,300 acres ... William Mouat. [1765] (24)

To be Sold at Public Venue at the Plantation of the late Mr. John Swan Porter, deceased, on Rocky Point, on the 3rd day of January next ... household furniture, plantation tools, Corn, black ey'd and clay Pease, Horses, Hogs, Cattle, and Sheep. [12/6/1773] (25)

To be sold - in South Washington on the 31st of this inst. by the Executors of the Last Will and Testament of John James, dec. that valuable Dwelling House with the lots of ground, in said town. [10/2/1800] (26)

For Sale - That valuable Plantation on Rocky Point, known by the name of Strawberry, whereon the late Mrs. George Moore lived; containing about 500 acres. [12/4/1800] (27)

For Sale - Hyrneham, 13 miles above Wilmington, 3,000 acres. A large, handsome, well finished two-story Brick Dwelling House and every necessary out building, a stock of Horses, Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, &c. Thomas Hill. [6/23/1807] (28)

Not all of the settlers, however, were of the gentry class. The small farmer was also a person of account, especially before the Revolution. A 1939 study of land holdings in New Hanover County prior to 1780 indicates that, of a total of 253 farmers, 13.0 % owned less than 100 acres, 16.2 % had up to 200 acres, 19.4 % had between 201 and 400 acres, 51.4 % had more than 400 acres, and only 28.9 % of the total held in excess of 1,000 acres. The closest comparison was Bladen County along the westward course of the Cape Fear River, where holdings of 100, 200, and 400 acres were fairly uniform at between 20.0 % and 23.0 %, and owners of more than 400 acres reached 34.6 %.(29)

Throughout the Cape Fear region and extending inland to the Piedmont the principal early farm activities were naval stores and lumber. Tar, pitch, rosin, and turpentine were products of the timberlands wherein pine oleoresin

was collected, prepared in a distillery or burned in a "tark'l," loaded into barrels, and sent by boat or wagon to Wilmington for transshipment to North American and European ports. Each of the products had specific uses from the waterproofing and caulking of ships to the manufacture of paints and varnishes, and even as medicinal salves and tonics.(30) Until the depletion of the pine forests began to be manifest in the 1850s, the naval stores industry was the most economically rewarding activity in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama with the former state leading the world in the quality and amount of production. As late as 1880, there were four turpentine operators in Pender County.(31)

Second to the turpentine trade in the colony was lumbering. The sylvan tracts of pine, oak, and cedar surrounding the plantations were felled, bound together as log rafts, and floated down river to Wilmington saw mills, or processed in saw mills on the plantations. The importance of the lumber business kept the Cape Fear's Wilmington and the Black River's Point Caswell in the forefront of shipbuilding until the twentieth century, and the highly desirable building materials were exported to Caribbean settlements to supply construction needs.(32)

The clearing of forests and the lack of silviculture to replenish the woodlands led to the opening of larger areas for agriculture and animal husbandry. The warm climate afforded extended growing seasons, and the good loamy soil made the popular field crops of corn, beans, peas, and potatoes profitable with little need for fertilizers. The upland rather than river variety of rice did well in the rich, black marsh soil.(33)

The age of invention in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries led to improvements in horticulture and offered farmers time-saving devices. In 1807, Thomas J. Robeson, a Bladen County plantation owner and

inventor, offered for sale a corn shelling machine with the patent right for Bladen, Brunswick, Cumberland, Duplin, New Hanover, Robeson, and Sampson counties. "This machine," he claimed, "with two men or boys, will shell one hundred bushels of corn per day. It may be constructed to turn by water or horse machines."(34)

A variety of grasses which extended across the county provided grazing grounds for horses, cattle, and sheep. The woods were a source of food for hogs which were allowed to run freely with the result that hog production became an economical resource which engendered a steady development of processing and marketing that eventually gave the region a prominent position second only in significance to tidewater Virginia.(35)

Transportation

Transportation was a constant consideration of the rural farmers and those who lived at any distance from the waterways or principal roads found difficulty in transporting their marketables to the centers of population, particularly in wet weather. The primary route was by water and Wilmington's position along the only river in the state directly accessible to the ocean made it the hub of coastal and foreign shipping. As early as 1735, one could travel by sea from the Cape Fear to Charleston in two days; after the Revolution, the time was reduced to twelve or fourteen hours.(36)

Roads, though sometimes in poor condition, reached more farmers than the waterways and often provided a more direct link to communities and towns than the meandering rivers and creeks. In addition, it was early realized that road improvements and maintenance were of vital concern in dealing with the expanding commerce of the region. An act of 1745 empowered road commissioners in particular areas of the state to clear roadways to river landings so that farmers who were otherwise isolated from the wharves could ship their goods to the ports. The power to establish public landings was transferred to the

county courts in 1790.(37) By 1775, the improved road systems throughout New Hanover and adjacent counties made them the preferred mode of travel since horses could move more swiftly along straight land routes than the boats could navigate the twisting and sometimes entangled water courses.(38)

In the fall of 1836, the most significant move forward in the history of transportation in the state occurred with the commencement of the construction of a railway from Wilmington into upper New Hanover, Duplin, Wayne, Wilson, Edgecombe, and Halifax counties--a distance of 161.5 miles--to connect at Weldon with the railroad to Richmond. By May of 1838, the tracks had advanced considerably, slowed only briefly by a difficulty in bridging Burgaw Creek between Rocky Point and South Washington.(39) The May 4th issue of the Wilmington Advertiser reported that "Next week passengers will be brought into town to lodge instead of stopping a night at South Washington so that they will be landed here in Forty-Eight hours from Washington City [D.C.] or Seventy-Two from New York." The trip through North Carolina took thirty-four hours, and the price for a ticket was \$14.00.(40)

Religion and Education

Scotius Americanus, the pamphleteer writing in 1773, said of North Carolina:

All modes of Christian worship, not detrimental to society, are here tolerated, as in the other royal governments in North America. The Church of England is the established religion; but the Presbyterians are most numerous; and divines of that order might here find decent livings; lawyers and physicians are here respected; professors of the sciences are as yet few; teachers of youth are much caressed and wanted.(41)

Presbyterians of Scottish background had traversed the area as early as 1736, and, indeed, organized the first church of their denomination in Duplin County. By 1735, six Presbyterian churches stood in the Pender section of New Hanover County.(42) Other religious groups that reared themselves in the

rural districts were the Baptists and the Methodists. A Baptist minister traveled through the area in the early eighteenth century, but it would not be until the early years of the forthcoming century that church bodies were formed. Both Mt. Holly and Riley's Creek Baptist churches were established in 1814.(43) Rocky Point and Macedonia Methodist churches date to the late 1800s, although circuit preachers had frequented the territory since the previous century.(44)

The official or state religion in the colonies, however, was the Church of England, the very institution that had driven many settlers to the Cape Fear from their homelands. But the Anglican church was not strongly supported by congregations like those in the protestant faiths, and the priests often met with difficulties and disinterest. In 1728, the Reverend John Lapierre was installed as the rector of the Cape Fear district. After struggling for a brief time, and faced with the fact that his congregation would not keep up their subscriptions, he asserted that he was "forced to work in the field" for his livelihood.(45)

But times were changing and the new settlements attracted new religious fervor. A surge that began in the 1740s and crested in 1804 was felt from the northeast to the deep south changed the ways of many of the humble and proud through a movement known as the Great Awakening. In New England, Separate Baptist evangelists held open revivals teaching the "born again" principle of the Christian faith. As it developed in the following decades, the revival movement was spurred by "The Great Awakening in New England, the evangelization of the Separate Baptists, the Methodists, and the New Light Presbyterians, to the social conditions following the American Revolution, and to the apostasies of the French Revolution."(46) Although the movement did not reach the Cape Fear as quickly as other areas of the country, it touched the rural farmers and general populace deeply. Even some of the upper class

were receptive and, at first, attended the camp meetings. The common message was an emphasis on the welfare of mankind and the need to improve it through the "establishment of schools, missions, poor relief, and other humanitarian reforms."(47)

Religion had an especially strong influence on the lives of the working classes, but education had a weaker effect because the workers needed to devote as much time as possible to clearing forests, tilling fields, and small merchandising. In the wealthier classes, the young had better opportunities. In 1697, Alexander Lillington, whose plantation occupied the alluvial area adjacent to Holly Shelter, directed that after his death "All my Children be brought up in learning, as conveniently as can bee." John Baptista Ashe, proprietor of Sloop Point, planned for the schooling of one of his sons as an attorney, a second as a merchant, and a daughter in the social graces as well as "the management of household affairs."(48) In 1759, James Innes provided in his will that his plantation, Point Pleasant, be sold for the establishment of a free school in Wilmington. The resulting Innes Academy formerly stood on the site now occupied by Thalian Hall.(49)

In 1813, a tutor in the upper section of New Hanover County announced his intention in the Wilmington press to open a school in South Washington:

A School under the direction of Mr. Malcom Bethune will be opened in South Washington on the first day of June next. Mr. Bethune has exhibited ample testimonials of his capacity as an Instructor to the English branches of Education, as well as in the Greek and Latin classics.(50)

Several attempts were made during the eighteenth century to establish public schools in the state but failed for a variety of reasons, and it was not until 1839 that the North Carolina Legislature enacted a successful public school law, with its strongest support from the eastern counties, and the first schools were opened in 1840.(51)

Architecture

The architecture that survives in Pender County from the earliest period to 1839 is extremely rare, since virtually all of the homes, churches, schools, and outbuildings gradually disappeared as a result of fires, wars, division of lands, and general neglect. Early travelers to the Cape Fear during the eighteenth century have left indelible images in sketches and writings of a substantial number of prominent plantation houses, many of brick, with spacious rooms, halls, fireplaces, supporting outbuildings, gardens, and broad vistas. But the smaller farm houses were often looked upon with disdain.(52) For the most part, however, the subsistence farmers built plain but suitable dwellings by their own hands, cutting the trees from their farms and constructing log cabins or frame houses that they adapted to the climate as well as to their own skills. While the large plantation manors reflected the genteel architectural tastes of their owners and the craftsmanship of their builders, the humbler abodes retained basic, traditional traits, with little or no decorative enhancements, that evoked the simple, sturdy character of their occupants.(53) But in the early nineteenth century, an increase in the population and an improvement in the economy generated a widespread interest in incorporating stylistic treatments of the Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival styles.(54)

With the exception of the stately homes of the wealthy planters who drew their inspiration from Georgian manor houses, the early architecture of Pender County reflects the traditional attitude of the settlers in modeling their dwellings on familiar types in the West Indies as well as in the British colonies of New England and Virginia. The three-room and hall-and-parlor plans were combined with engaged porches and multiple exterior doors to assist in shading the house and ventilating the interior spaces in a climate that was similar to the tropics. The large exterior and interior chimneys, which were

typical of British and New England models, were modified for the milder southern winters. The kitchen and dining room were in separate buildings behind the main dwelling and connected to it by a porch or breezeway.

Of the six houses in the county that represent the period from the early eighteenth century through the early nineteenth century, the outstanding example is Sloop Point (NR), the oldest documented house in the state. It was built in 1726 as the plantation house of John Baptista Ashe, one of the first settlers in the region and father of a governor of North Carolina. From dendrochronology and nail research, the house appears to have been built in two phases. The first phase produced a three-room plan in 1726; the second stage resulted in the extension of the porch and a higher roof to accommodate upstairs rooms in the 1760s. The design has distinct characteristics reminiscent of West Indian architecture: a raised cottage with a deep, engaged porch across the east elevation facing the water, and trap doors in the porch ceiling to ventilate the attic bedrooms. The most striking feature of the house is a massive, double-shouldered chimney rising along the south gable end. The chimney is bisected in the center by a ground-floor entrance to a brick-paved cellar, and a first-story entrance--accessible by double stairs--opening into communicating rooms with corner fireplaces. A similar chimney without the built-in entrances, stands at the north side of the house. A feature of the plan, which later became a characteristic of Pender County houses built up to the early twentieth century, is that each room is accessible from the exterior. The detached kitchen and outbuildings no longer exist, and the original 1,000-acre tract has been subdivided into smaller parcels by later generations, but the ambience of the site holds fast from the first arrival onto the property by a narrow lane to the final appearance of the house overlooking the tree-lined intracoastal waterway.

At the opposite side of the county, bordering the headwaters of Moore's

Creek in northwestern Pender, is the story-and-a-half, late-eighteenth century, Bartholomew Burns house (PD-92) which exhibits architectural forms of both the West Indies and coastal Carolina, especially with the inclusion of an engaged porch, hall-and-parlor plan, and a staircase rising from the rear of the house to the attic. Each of the rooms opens directly onto the porch. A detached kitchen with an engaged corner porch and small pantry, and tongue-and-groove interior woodwork, stands to the south of the main block.

The nucleus of the c. 1780 Powell house (PD-169), near Watha (formerly South Washington), is a single-story log dwelling which was framed in and enlarged to a two-story form by 1840. The attached front porch, balanced on the rear by shed rooms, is supported by broad posts similar to those at Sloop Point. Greek Revival style moldings cap the posts and matching corner boards. Separate front entrances open into the hall and the parlor, and tall, double-shouldered chimneys rise at the gable ends. A single-story kitchen stands near the rear corner of the house.

Just north of Hampstead are the former land holdings of Nicholas Nixon (1800-1868). His home, Belvidere (NR), dating to c. 1820, has a gambrel roof, a feature that traces its form to New England and Virginia models. A shed-roofed porch extends across the front elevation and shed rooms occupy the rear side of the dwelling. The hall-and-parlor plan features tall exterior end chimneys with smooth shoulders and handsome, Federal style mantels. The house was moved in the 1980s from its former site to a lot overlooking Virginia Creek and the intracoastal waterway to make way for the development of a residential subdivision and golf course which retains the name Belvedere Plantation. Nixon raised peanuts on his lands and employed 136 slaves to cultivate them. He brought the plants up to a level of economic importance by his adoption of scientific advances. The Wilmington Peanut, which was also called the African Runner, became a flourishing crop during the nineteenth

century and was included in the wholesale market price lists in the newspapers as early as 1833.(55)

To the southeast of Watha, in the old community of Six Forks near the Northeast Cape Fear River, is the two-story Best house (PD-86), probably built before 1830. Combining both Federal and Greek Revival details, the central chimney, flush end gables, and hall-and-parlor plan are early architectural features, while the door and window surrounds reflect the later style.

2. THE RAILROAD ERA, 1840-1874

Growth of Settlements and Towns

North Carolina was labeled the "Rip Van Winkle" state during the first thirty years of the nineteenth century. There was little increase in the population between 1820 and 1830, and it gained only 2.1% from 1830 to 1840.(56) A major reason for the slowdown in population was that migration into the state was supplanted by an emigration to nearby available western farmlands. In addition, the regional industry was overshadowed by the development of New England's large, water-powered spinning and weaving factories which manufactured American-made cotton and wool fabrics. This move effectively eliminated southern states from direct participation in the industrial movement, except as suppliers of raw materials, for nearly seventy-five years. The result was that North Carolina continued on its course of rural, agrarian subsistence with little hope of demographic or economic advancement.(57)

Another reason for the lack of progress in North Carolina during the early nineteenth century was the laissez-faire attitude of the state government. In 1835, the one-party system was turned around by the formation of the progressive Whig party, an organization directed at long-awaited improvements in all sections of the state. That same year, a convention was called in Raleigh from which several important amendments to the 1776 state Constitution were made. All white taxpayers were given the right to vote in gubernatorial elections, the governor was enabled to represent the people regarding state issues, and the voters were given the opportunity to participate in formulating state policy.(58) The Cape Fear region profited especially from these reforms because the Whig candidate for governor was Edward B. Dudley, a Wilmington who was a strong voice in "internal improvements, public education, and railroad construction."(59) Two years before his 1836 election, a group of businessmen met at Dudley's home in the

port city and drew up a charter for the establishment of the Wilmington and Raleigh Railroad to connect the port with the state capital through northern New Hanover, Duplin, and adjacent counties. The hope of a resurgence of energy in the sleepy southeast was vested in the success of the railroad. And the result was more than anticipated:

The railroads cut in half the old wagon freight rates [which] encouraged the production of surplus crops for market, increased the farmer's profit on what he sold, and reduced the price of goods which he purchased. Land values and farm productivity increased. There was a marked growth of towns, trade, factories, wealth, and state revenue. There was more travel, more frequent mail service, and a higher standard of living for many people.(60)

The Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, its course altered in favor of a more direct connection with the Richmond and Petersburg trains, and its name changed in 1854, was the catalyst that brought about the revitalization of the state and especially the Cape Fear. Settlements that previously associated themselves with the old plantations that lined the Cape Fear and Black rivers and skirted the Duplin Road, now identified themselves with the railroad. Rocky Point, named by early explorers in 1662, was well-situated as a stop at the south end of the line. The town of South Washington shifted slightly southwest in 1840 to skirt the tracks and became Watha.(61) Eventually every community with a road crossing the railway became a part of the rails-to-market movement. By the end of the 1860s, post offices had been set up to serve communities at Black River Chapel, Burgaw Depot, Caintuck, Camera, Colvin's Creek, Harrell's Store, Lillington, and Rocky Point Depot.(62)

Agriculture and Industry

In the second period of the county's history, the upland areas continued on a course of producing naval stores, lumber, and agricultural produce for personal, regional, and widespread markets. Staple crops such as corn, beans, peas, potatoes, and wheat were the livelihood of the rural farmer, while rice

was raised in the wetlands of the lower districts. Between 1850 and 1860 the average size farm contained 119 acres with fewer than 10 slaves in the fields.(63) Naval stores remained the most important regional industry from the earliest settlement of the area and expanded at a steady pace. By 1860, the eastern counties of the state were producing two-thirds of the world's supply of turpentine and New Hanover County was second only to Bladen in the number of operating distilleries: 336 in the former and 492 in the latter.(64)

Notwithstanding a national depression in 1837, the strides made by the Whig party in North Carolina to improve transportation had a dynamic effect on the rural economy. Within a decade, the statewide profit from farm crops rose by sixty-eight per cent and the value of land increased twofold.(65) Several journals devoted articles that disseminated agricultural information to growers during the 1840s and 1850s, and these culminated in a successful move to establish the State Agricultural Society, in 1852, in Raleigh.(66) A valuable crop that received attention from the society was one especially well adapted to the coastal plain: the peanut. Over generations, North Carolina peanut farmers, such as the Foys at their 1850 Poplar Grove Plantation (NR), in Scotts Hill, produced first quality peanuts. Lacking in-state peanut processing facilities, they sent their harvests in bulk to Virginia factors for cleaning, bagging, and marketing. The Tidewater merchants claimed that the peanuts were Virginia grown, but a writer for Harpers Magazine noted that the difference between the two areas was obvious and stated, "The eastern North Carolina nuts are unexcelled by any others that are grown in the world."(67)

Another source of income in the region close to Scotts Hill was fishing. Frederick Law Olmsted, traveling through the coastal region of North Carolina in the 1850s, observed that "The shad and herring fisheries upon the sounds and inlets ... are an important branch of industry, and a source of

considerable wealth. The men are mostly negroes, slave and free."(68)

On the heels of slow economic movement came the devastating effect of the Civil War on the Cape Fear region. It took farmers from the fields, and made those at home labor long hours to supply food for themselves and the army. Much of the field work fell to the hands of the women who devoted their days to the crops and spent their evenings sewing uniforms, as well as aiding the wounded and needy.(69) The most crushing blow, however, was that an agricultural tax was levied on the farmers which effectively forced them to give 10% above the exempted amount of their yearly yield, depending on the crop, to the Confederacy.(70)

When the war finally ended, many returning soldiers found their farms ruined and their families destitute. The abolition of slavery collapsed the plantations and they were subsequently reduced to smaller holdings, some lands acquired by the freed slaves. But, despite the losses, a wave of optimism spread through the post-war south and urged, among other things, diversification in farm production. The next decade saw progress in the fields of agriculture, industry, and transportation.(71)

From Slavery to Freedom

Between 1840 and 1860, the number of slaves within the entire Coastal Plain region rose from 42 % to 44.2 % of the total population. In the census of 1860, upriver New Hanover County accounted for 10,407 bondsmen disbursed among 934 masters. The Topsail Sound district showed 781 slaves working on large plantations and small farms. Nicholas Nixon had 136 slaves working on his large peanut plantation, while in Scotts Hill, J.M. Foy raised the crop by the labor of 59 field hands. In the naval stores and lumber regions of the county, Holly Shelter recorded 315 slaves, Rocky Point 651, and South Washington 397.(72)

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At the same time, the number of free blacks living in North Carolina was 30,468.(73) Many of these were artisans who had trained in the building trades and peopled the larger population centers. Some were manumitted by their masters before or after the latter's death; others had been born to free mothers and thus were free. But with the coming of abolition of slavery a great uneasiness sprang up among whites that the free blacks would wield an influence on the former slaves which would be dangerous both socially and politically. In 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment officially freed the slaves. Three years later, the Fourteenth Amendment set in motion the problems of equality for blacks in southern society. For over a century the blacks had been servants to their white masters. They were clothed, fed, sheltered, and educated in manual and domestic skills as well as receiving some instruction in religion. The new legislation put the two races in a position of political equality.(74) Three years later, in 1870, the United States Constitution was amended to guarantee equal suffrage for all men. At the same time, the white majority conservatives won control of the North Carolina State Legislature and allied themselves with the national Democratic party. Despite the fact that whites in North Carolina held a two-thirds majority, in the eastern counties of the state the majority of voters were now black. This would have a dramatic effect on New Hanover County and lead to the division of urban and rural populations by the creation of Pender County in 1875.(75)

Transportation

The completion of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad in 1840 forged a future through the heartland of Pender County that brought the widely scattered settlements out of isolation and sired new towns along its tracks. The railroad changed the livelihood of the self-sufficient farmer by offering expanding markets for his produce. Until its arrival, naval stores and non-perishable commodities were sent along sometimes arduous water or land routes to the only accessible market in Wilmington where they were disseminated by

merchants. Now, new markets appeared along the rail line and changed the rural way of life from subsistence to truck farming. But the change was not immediate since the new mode of transport was a departure from established ways, trains were susceptible to delays or derailments, and the noise could be intimidating. Nevertheless, through persistence and fortitude the railroad began a steady rise in the economic prosperity of the county and in the self-esteem of the communities and farms.(76)

The Wilmington and Weldon put a definite crimp in river traffic, but it was a timely occurrence. Added to this was the determination of farmers, who were still not able to enlist the services of the trains because of distance, to generate a highway program that would be beneficial to their needs. About the year 1850, the Wilmington and Topsail Sound Plank Road Company was organized, and by 1852 it ran from its first toll gate at Seventeenth and Market streets in the port city northeast along the old post route twenty-five miles to Holly Ridge. According to one description, "the road was constructed by laying three or four sleepers, or stringers, parallel, close to the ground, and then covering them with boards three or four inches thick."(77) Dubbed the "farmers' railroad," it provided a means to carry bulk items to market at the convenience of the farmer, and was also a reliable link to the railway. The cost of building plank roads was one-tenth of the expenditure of railroad construction, but the planks deteriorated rapidly under heavy weights and in the damp environment. In addition, the uneven surface of the road sometimes caused wagons and carriages to jolt off the path and be destroyed, to say nothing of the damage done to the horses pounding along the route. When repairs were required, the roads often were abandoned. The Wilmington and Topsail Sound Plank Road, however, because of its importance as a coastal artery, remained in operation through 1867. A rail line was built through the district in 1893.(78)

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The Wilmington and Weldon Railroad proved its worth on a grand scale during the Civil War by transporting Confederate troops and vital supplies to the Virginia front. It was called by General Robert E. Lee "the lifeline of the Confederacy." The rail men tirelessly loaded provisions dockside from the ships breaking through the blockade into Wilmington and ran them up through the core of the eastern counties. Towards the end of the struggle, it was estimated that "half the food for Lee's army came through the blockade to Wilmington and over the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad to the battlefields of Virginia." (79) Unfortunately, the demand for troop transport by the line resulted in clashes between the railroad and the military because the Confederate officers demanded that men and materiel be moved according to military and not civilian schedules. The growing devastation of war thus dealt a double blow to the farmers who could no longer rely on timely deliveries to the markets, and the situation worsened when the physical damage to trains and tracks slowed the efforts to a near standstill. It was not until the end of August 1865 that the railroad returned to a timetable, but the loss of locomotives and freight cars, and the elimination of passenger services took years to replace. (80)

Religion and Education

The three most popular religious sects in the rural districts of New Hanover County during the nineteenth century were the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian denominations. Two groups in the Baptist church, the Calvinist Regulars or Primitive Baptists, and the popular Evangelical Separates or Missionary Baptists, finally divided into individual entities in 1830. By 1860, the Missionary Baptist Church had grown to be the largest church body among the small rural farmers.

A second popular sect was the Methodist church. From the post-Revolutionary period into the mid-nineteenth century it grew rapidly in public

appeal because of its emotional camp meetings, its humanitarianism towards whites and blacks, and its stress on education.

The third and oldest sect was the Presbyterian church which was brought in by the early Scottish colonists and appealed to families of wealth and lineage. Unlike the Baptists and Methodists, the sect believed strongly in an educated ministry and an austerity that precluded evangelical services.(81)

Religion was an important part of the lives of North Carolinians and during the 1800s about fifty percent of white adults maintained membership in churches, with four out of five communicants supporting the Baptist and the Methodist sects. During the 1840s, the question of slavery was a constant issue that led to a break between between the northern and southern branches, first among the Methodists in 1844, and in the following year, the Baptists.(82) Although both religions felt strongly about and spoke to the issue of humanitarian treatment of slaves, the Presbyterians were the most active in facing the problem by holding services and establishing Sunday schools for blacks. So effective were their efforts that, by 1849, the Wilmington Presbytery counted 131 black members in the church. In 1856, the Session reported that "Large numbers of Blacks are joining the Presbytery."(83)

The early meeting houses, according to historic reports, were almost exclusively of logs. Later, when members were able to afford better and larger accommodations, the old structures were replaced by more substantial frame edifices. Later still, these churches made way for spacious, twentieth century sanctuaries, often in Colonial Revival style, and sometimes in a modern interpretation of church architecture.

Three remaining nineteenth century Baptist churches are Mt. Holly Missionary, founded in 1814 and rebuilt in 1860 (PD-230); Bethlehem Missionary, founded in 1835 and rebuilt in 1880 (PD-126); and Maple Hill Free

Will (PD-191), founded in 1870 as White Oak Church and built in 1880.

The Methodists were a significant part of Pender County's religious life, but their focus was on outdoor camp meetings and smaller groups often met in private homes. The historical record indicates that circuit riders began preaching in Rocky Point in 1854, but the church (PD-215) was not built until 1879.

The Presbyterians have preserved more historic church buildings than any other sect in the county. The Hopewell congregation, which was organized in 1800, built the current church in 1870 (PD-91). From Hopewell grew Keith (1817), Mt. Williams (1833), Pike (1856), and Burgaw (1879) (PD-69). Caswell (1858), in Atkinson, was the successor of another early foundation, Moore's Creek Church, which was founded in 1788. The Wilmington Presbytery also supplied ministers to several isolated communities such as Sloop Point in 1869, and Topsail in 1873.(84)

The year 1840 was a banner year for education in North Carolina because it saw the opening of the first public schools following a state passage of a bill to improve scholarship throughout North Carolina.(85) In 1846, a school was established at Rocky Point; another was opened in Topsail in 1851; and Union School, at Harrell's Store, was in operation by 1854. In 1867, the Rocky Point school was succeeded by a new facility.(86)

The single most important impetus to education in North Carolina was the appointment of Calvin H. Wiley to the post of Superintendent of Public Schools, a position he served from 1853 until 1865. In the next century, James Y. Joiner, State Superintendent of Public Instruction from 1902 to 1919, and a strong advocate of education and agriculture, honored Wiley by unveiling a monument which reads: "Under his shaping hand, the system grew and improved, and the schools prospered until it could be truthfully said at the

beginning of the War between the States that North Carolina had the best system of common schools in the South."(87)

Architecture

From the 1840s through the 1870s, a commitment to the land and its almost limitless productive possibilities, together with a sense of accomplishment, focused the aspirations of the rural farmer to expanding his livelihood and improving his surroundings. The coming of the railroad at the beginning of the period brought agricultural markets closer together, and at the same time conveyed architectural ideas and materials to the farmer's doorstep. The most important and pervasive style in the early part of the period was the Greek Revival, a style that emerged from a renewed western interest in an ancient culture that embraced architecture and democratic ideals. The architecture was especially well-adapted to the design of large houses, churches, and schools because the measured proportions regulated a broad scale. The governing policy of the United States was an outgrowth of the political roots of the ancient city-states. Thus, the two disciplines formed a symbolic unity that tied ideas and ideals into a three-dimensional form.

Within the boundaries of current-day Pender County, the Greek Revival style survives in several forms. In residential architecture, the style was often used to rebuild the old Georgian style plantation houses that had burned or were replaced by successive generations of owners. In religious designs, the style was omnipresent. But of more importance is a regional tendency to stamp the houses with unusual details and features.

A highly important example of Greek Revival architecture appears in the 1840s Kinchen Powers house (PD-147), called Fair Oaks, located near the northern border of the county just south of Rockfish Creek. The principal structure on the site is a one-story dwelling with a pedimented end bay and

central chimney serving twin chambers. The exterior edges of the house terminate in broad corner boards that suggest pilasters. The windows contain nine-over-six sash, the interior doors feature double panels, and the mantels incorporate splayed pilasters supporting wide lintels and mantel shelves. A slightly later addition on the north side of the main block replicates the Greek Revival details, and an exterior chimney rises along the gabled bay. Doors are centered in the east and west elevations to give the house cross ventilation, an innovation that became a distinctive feature of houses throughout this part of the Cape Fear region. During the later nineteenth century, a two-story wing was added to the east end of the house and a wraparound porch was extended across the new addition and the original one-story block. The wing appears from the outside to be an I-house form, but the plan copies the original design in that there is a central fireplace between the rooms, and the staircase is located in a recess where the three units meet. The most impressive part of the site, however, is not the house but the outbuildings that are lined up in a neat row across the service drive behind the residence. The complex consists of a gable-front smokehouse, a gable-end servants quarters with two rooms, and a hip-roofed privy featuring square vents in the end bays. All the buildings are accentuated by Greek Revival style details.

In Currie, at the opposite side of the county, is the 1845 Murphy-Moore house (PD-139). Situated back from NC-210 on a knoll overlooking one of several streams that flow into Moore's Creek, the two-story, Greek Revival style residence has a center hall plan and opens on the west side to a brick patio encompassed by a hip-roofed detached kitchen, a brick smokehouse, and a grape arbor. Down the hill to the southeast on the bank of the creek is a rare, log tobacco barn with saddle-notched joints. To the northeast between the house and the highway is a stone-enclosed family cemetery.

The 1845 Herring house (PD-95), just south of Shiloh Church, is a two-story hall-and-parlor dwelling that occupies a small bluff on the west side of US-421. Although a later kitchen and dining room were built on the rear of the main block in the 1930s, the tall form and restrained details of the original Greek Revival design are still evident.

The 1850 Rooks house (PD-182), southeast of Watha, is a handsomely proportioned, two-story, Greek Revival style dwelling which features unusual, octagonal porch columns across the front elevation. The kitchen and dining room are in a rear wing, an arrangement that became common in many subsequent Pender County houses.

The 1865 Dr. Solomon Satchwell house (PD-211), west of Rocky Point on NC-210, combines Greek Revival simplicity with a flair for the picturesque. The engaged front porch has four square posts crowned by stepped caps from which branch angled brackets terminating in volutes. Twin entrance doors and flanking, floor-length front windows feature applied ornamentation in their upper sections which form bracketed arches surmounted by rectangular panels containing stylized foliation. Unusual decoration is, likewise, found on a c. 1865 dwelling (PD-175) in Watha which has verge boards forming zig-zag patterns below the roof lines.

The Paddison house (PD-125), at Point Caswell, constitutes two distinct stylistic periods. The 1866 rear section incorporates a recessed central porch supported by robust, square posts with stepped caps, flanking piazza rooms with six-over-six sash windows, and a gable-end roof. The front section, added in 1896, has a transverse-gable roof, an attached porch with turned posts and balustrades, foliated brackets, and two-over-two sash windows. The two construction dates underline Paddison's career. In 1868, he expanded his mercantile activities by establishing a steamboat service to ship naval stores from Point Caswell to Wilmington. With the decline of the naval

stores industry in the 1880s, he removed to Florida and remained there until 1896 when he returned to Point Caswell and enlarged the home place.

The most widespread use of the Greek Revival style in the county was in the design of churches, both in towns and in rural communities. The increased prosperity of the region and the religious commitments of the people found their expression in architecture. Two important examples from the period point to the popularity of the style among diverse religious groups.

Mt. Holly Missionary Baptist Church (PD-230), just north of Burgaw on the old Duplin Road (US-117), represents the earliest establishment of the sect in Pender County and is one of the best preserved religious structures in the county. Organized in 1814, in 1861 the congregation replaced an earlier log church with a sturdy frame edifice in which the Greek Revival style gives a feeling of strength and dignity. The pedimented edifice contains two widely-spaced front doors, so arranged because the pulpit originally stood at the front of the sanctuary between the portals. When the highway was relocated, in 1900, from behind the building to its present position on the east side, the pulpit and pews were rearranged. The north and south elevations contain well-proportioned, six-over-six sash windows.

Hopewell Presbyterian Church (NR), less than three-quarters of a mile south of Mt. Holly, is situated at the end of a long, straight driveway that extends from the east side of the state highway. Built for a congregation founded before 1800, the structure was erected in 1870. The restrained Greek Revival lines are evident in the simple architectural details. An engaged, gable-front porch is supported by three, square posts which frame the twin, transomed entrances. Bordering the church on the south and extending along the avenue is an extensive burying ground containing stones dating from the first quarter of the nineteenth century to the present. Among those interred

here are Hinton James (1776-1847), the first student to enroll at the University of North Carolina. He became an engineer and was put in charge of Cape Fear River improvements as well as being elected mayor of Wilmington.

At the opposite end of the architectural scale are two rare examples of log dwellings, built prior to the formation of Pender County, which stand in testimony of the deep-rooted traditions of some of the rural farmers in the northern tier of the Cape Fear region. The Bryant Wooten Log Cabin (PD-199) in Maple Hill is an extremely rare example in the county of an intact log dwelling built just after the Civil War. The house originally rested on juniper stumps and the walls of the cabin have diamond-shaped log ends covered with weathered, scalloped shingles. A portion of a beam end supporting the overshot roof survives at the northwest corner of the cabin. The masonry work in the stepped-shoulder brick chimney is noteworthy. The c. 1870 Murray Cabin (PD-183) east of Watha is sheathed with weathered shingles that add greatly to its rustic character. An engaged front porch, supported by three chamfered posts, shelters the entrance and weatherboarded front wall.

3. PENDER COUNTY, 1875 TO 1945

Establishment of Pender County and the Growth of Towns

The year 1875 was significant for the Cape Fear region because New Hanover County, torn by political factionalism between the merchants of Wilmington and its environs on the one side, and the rural farmers in the northern part of the county on the opposing side, witnessed the creation of Pender County above the forks of the Cape Fear rivers. Earlier, in 1859, citizens of the upper region had petitioned for separation and were granted approval under the stipulation that a two-thirds majority from the Rocky Point precinct voted in favor of the measure. The vote failed, however, and the county remained united for the next sixteen years.(88) Finally, upon a reinstigation of the proposal, Pender County became a reality. The county seat was located first at Watha and then at Burgaw. The name selected celebrated William Dorsey Pender of Edgecombe County, a West Point graduate, Major General in the Civil War, and casualty at the battle of Gettysburg at twenty-nine years of age.(89)

In 1870, the county had a widely dispersed population that was centered around small communities and post offices in Black River Chapel, Burgaw Depot, Caintuck, Cameron, Colvin's Creek, Harrell's Store, Lillington, and Rocky Point Depot.(90) By 1875, the total population stood at 8,000. Townships, indicating a Republican sentiment in the area, were named Caswell, Columbia, Grant, Holden, Holly, Lincoln, and Rocky Point. Post offices stood in the communities of Angola, Ashton, Burgaw, Caintuck, Moore's Creek, Point Caswell, Rocky Point, South Washington, and Scotts Hill.(91) A steady migration of small farmers onto the former plantation lands in the next decade caused an increase in the population to 12,468 by 1880, which was composed of 5,509 whites and 6,959 blacks. New post offices opened in 1883 at Bannerman's, Cedar Dale, Harrison Creek, Long Creek, Maple Hill, Sloop Point, Topsail Sound, and Viola.(92) In 1890, the total population reached 12,514 with

whites numbering 5,967 and blacks 6,547. Additional post offices were set up at Dew Drop, Keith, Page, Rhyne, and Willard; and the Cedar Dale post office was closed.(93)

During this time farmers were growing disconcerted about a slowdown of agricultural progress at the hands of an ineffectual Democratic leadership. As a result, many planters turned their allegiance to the Republican or Populist parties. In 1896, the white population had increased with a decrease in black numbers. Post offices were added in Atkinson, Birta, Currie, Daughton, Grit, and Montague, while the Rhine and Dew Drop post offices had ceased operations.(94)

In 1910, three town populations were cited in the record. Burgaw had 640 whites and 500 blacks; Atkinson counted 600 residents, black and white; and Rocky Point reported 450 people of both races. The total county population stood at 15,471.(95) The decade from 1910 to 1920 was a reversal of the slow but steady rate of increase in the county polls, showing a 4.4% decline in the population, possibly the result of war enlistments and the influenza epidemic that swept across the Cape Fear in 1918 and 1919. Subsequently, the population returned to its former pattern of conservative growth.(96)

Agriculture and Industry

The post-Civil War era saw farmers and merchants in the Cape Fear region returning to their former occupations of growing and marketing agricultural crops, naval stores, and lumber and re-establishing trade with Europe and the West Indies.(97) Saw and grist mills were back in operation in Ashe's Creek, Lillington, Point Caswell, Rocky Point, South Washington, and Topsail Sound.(98) But the era was also a time of real concern for the farmers in the Cape Fear because they realized that state support was vital for agricultural reforms and futures. When North Carolina was readmitted to the Union in 1868,

the State was won by the reform Republicans. Two years later, the situation was reversed and the old-line Conservatives held the majority of legislative seats. Wilmington and the southern precincts of New Hanover County, however, continued to be controlled by black and white Republicans. The Republican party supported a reformed agrarian system wherein the old plantation system would give way to "yeoman farmers" of both races. For nearly a decade, an undercurrent of political and racial tension obtained across the county leading to the split across party lines.(99)

From a production standpoint, the statistics were hopeful. In 1877, there were turpentine distilleries at Camera and Point Caswell, two cotton gins at Rocky Point, two flour and corn mills at Point Caswell, a saw mill at Rocky Point, and saw and grist mills at South Washington and Lillington. The staple crops, reflecting pre-war yields, were cotton, corn, ground peas, vegetables, and naval stores.(100) The 1880 census reported an additional turpentine distillery at Point Caswell and a new one at Bannerman's. There were now nine grist mills and eight saw mills in the county, as well as a bee keeper in Bonham and a nurseryman at Point Caswell. Among agricultural products, that census also listed cotton: 1,463 acres yielding 835 bales; Indian corn: 16,550 acres producing 159,064 bushels; oats: 183 acres with 2,209 bushels; rice: 392 acres totaling 248,622 pounds; rye: fourteen acres and forty-six bushels; tobacco: three acres for 690 pounds; and wheat: seven acres making twenty-eight bushels. Two-thirds of the land area was given over to woodlands.(101)

The decade ending in 1890 returned a listing of thirteen corn and flour mills distributed through the county.(102) But an 1896 report showed only a turpentine mill in Atkinson, a grist mill in Rocky Point, and a saw mill in Hampstead.(103) Nonetheless, in 1910, the census reported cotton gins in Burgaw, Watha, Currie, and Maple Hill showing the dispersal of this valued

crop; and flower, cotton, and seed mills in Atkinson and Burgaw.(104)

A man of pre-eminence in the twentieth century development of Pender County was Hugh MacRae (1865-1951). An 1885 graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MacRae became involved in numerous projects including operating a cotton mill, improving electric power, extending railroads, and farming. His genius in the field of scientific farming found its outlet in 1905 with the organization of the Carolina Trucking Development Company in Wilmington. Working on a theory that the neglected land once forming the vast plantations of the Cape Fear could be returned to productivity by new blood, he devised a program of sending agents to Europe to bring back farmers of good character and ability to settle in ethnic colonies which he planned to establish in New Hanover, Pender, Bladen, and Columbus counties.(105)

The first of the colonies, St. Helena, founded in 1908, was situated along the railroad line between Rocky Point and Burgaw. It was intended to be settled by northern Italians and was named in honor of St. Helena, mother of Constantine. Sixteen blocks were laid out with a total of 205 one-eighth acre lots arranged north-south along Front and Second streets. Dividing cross streets were called Verona, Sebastian, Garibaldi, Main, Rovigo, Villanova, and Milan. A railroad depot was constructed on a spur of track where Front and Main streets met.(106) That spring, seven families arrived in the colony and were settled into little board-and-batten cottages arranged along the main street (one of these cottages still survives). By 1909, forty immigrant families, numbering 150 people, had moved to the colony and began the propagation of not only subsistence and truck crops but also, since they were from the wine region of Italy, the improvement of the species of Muscadine grape found in the Cape Fear region. In 1914, a frame Catholic church and a concrete block school, made from materials fabricated at the site, were completed. But, due to a variety of circumstances, the Italians moved on to

be replaced by twelve Belgian families. Not being farmers, however, only one Belgian family remained. In 1918, eight Hungarian, six Serbian, and twelve Slovak families established homesteads at St. Helena, but except for one Slovak family, they were attracted away to other farms and urban areas. Finally, in 1924, eighteen Ukranian and Russian families arrived in the colony, and in 1932 built the first Russian Orthodox Church in the South (PD-91), at the corner of Front and Main streets across from the depot.(107)

MacRae's second attempt at establishing an immigrant colony was Van Eeden, now spelled Van Eden, midway between Burgaw and Watha. Again situated along the railroad so that produce could be shipped by train to the port of Wilmington, the 1909 colony derived its name from Frederick Van Eeden, a Dutch physician and poet who joined with MacRae in developing the farmlands. Scouting through Europe himself, Van Eeden was able to entice twelve Dutch families to resettle in the development. Because of poor drainage of the farms, the colonists turned to another of their skilled enterprises: dairy farming.(108)

The change in use of the Van Eeden land by the Dutch from truck crops to dairy cows lit the light of inspiration in MacRae's mind. A problem with successful animal husbandry in the past was the low quality of grass that grew in the loamy soil of the county. Sensing that this situation could be changed through the application of scientific methods, MacRae purchased additional acreage just east of Rocky Point above the banks of the Northeast Cape Fear River, and named it Invershiel after the ancestral village of the MacRaes in Scotland. It was an experimental farm that was centered on the development and production of a variety of grasses that would mature at different times during the year, thus providing a continuous source of food for grazing farm animals. Through constant testing and consultation with other experts, eighty varieties of grass were reduced to five types that were well adapted to the

climate and soil conditions of the area. Lespedeza, an Oriental variety, grow from early June to early November; giant white Dutch clover are in season from early November to mid-November; manganese bur follow from mid November to early May; crimson clover blooms from early December through early June; and Johnson grass--once the anathema of farmers--extends from mid-May to early November. Thus, following MacRae's plan, a pasture remains continuously productive for grazing throughout every season of the year, all the varieties flourish together, fields are rotated for the best development of the plants, and the region is able to produce high quality livestock.(109)

In general, the early-twentieth century was the best era for Pender County farmers, and although following generations of native and immigrant farmers saw fluctuations in both population and production due to two world wars, a national economic depression, and the attraction of other rural and urban areas, the farm reports continued to be promising. The 1930 census indicated good returns in Pender County. There was a rural population of 15,686 people on 1,984 farms containing an average of 81.01 acres. Among the annual yields were \$100,000 in cotton, \$2,000,000 in tobacco, \$237,947 in peanuts, \$750,000 in truck crops including beans, corn, cucumbers, peppers, and strawberries. The annual shipment of produce to the interstate markets totaled 400 box cars: 152 cars of strawberries, 100 cars of cucumbers, 63 cars of string beans, and 85 cars of assorted vegetables. In addition, \$640,000 worth of hogs and \$100,000 in poultry were raised on the farms.(110)

The Coastal Experiment Station at Willard, opened in 1917, played an inestimable role in raising the level of husbandry and economy in Pender County. Through its direction, the Scuppernong and Muscadine grape varieties regained their former position in fruit culture during the 1930s. During the 1950s and 1960s, the station helped tobacco became the county's major cash crop which accounted for half the income of the 1,742 rural farmers.(111)

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In 1932, another innovative developer, Harold Huntington, a New Jersey farmer, introduced blueberries to Pender County. He found that the quality and acidity of the soil replicated that of his home state and proved that blueberries would thrive in the country. By the 1960s Pender became known as "the blueberry center of the State." (112)

The New Deal of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had a particular impact on northern Pender County with the establishment, in 1934, of the Penderlea Homestead. Envisioning a model farm community in the post-depression years, the Federal Subsistence Homesteads Corporation purchased 10,000 acres for the purpose of resettling isolated farmers from North and South Carolina in an environment that would bolster the social and economic needs of the residents. The plan called for settlement of 200 families in the first year, with a total population of from 300 to 500 families at the completion of the project.(113) Hugh MacRae was chosen to be the president and manager of the community because of his long and successful experience in colonization. An elaborate town plan had already been drawn up in 1922 for Hugh MacRae by John Nolan, a city planner in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which would link Van Eden and Penderlea along a narrow corridor of ten-acre farmsteads. The arrangement of Penderlea (as yet unnamed) included a village green surrounded by community buildings, a school and playground, shops along a mall, twenty- and forty-acre farms on radiating roads leading from the core of the town, woodlands buffers between farm groups, and recreational facilities bordering a small pond. By 1935, the Federal Resettlement Administration had taken over the project and modified the plan by the reduction of each farmstead to about ten acres, removal of the shopping mall, and the excavation of drainage ditches through the community. In 1938, a school facility of innovative design was built in the center of the community. The plan included a series of detached schoolrooms linked by covered walkways,

a gymnasium, an auditorium, and a teacherage. In the following year, the Farm Security Administration assumed the project. One hundred and ninety-two farmsteads had been built, each incorporating "a one-story frame house, a barn, a pigpen, a poultry house, and a corn crib" on an average of twenty acres of land.(114) Although the program did not develop as quickly or as extensively as the federal agencies planned, the project was successful in establishing subsistence farms owned by families who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to remain in agriculture.

Transportation

The era that transpired from the creation of Pender County as a separate administrative entity in 1875 to the mid-twentieth century was one in which great progress was made in transportation by water, road, and rail. A plank road existed along the eastern coastal section of the region as early as 1852, but shipbuilding remained an important industry both in Wilmington on the Cape Fear River and at Point Caswell on the Black River. In fact, the majority of steam river boats constructed between the Civil War and 1901 were from Point Caswell and were used to ship turpentine, timber, cotton, food supplies, and passengers to and from the port city. The Black River landings, beginning at Wilmington, were called Mouth at fourteen miles, Malpass Point at twenty miles, Heading Bluff at twenty-seven miles, Still Bluff at thirty-three miles, Point Caswell at thirty-six miles, Colvin's at thirty-eight miles, Long View or Sparkleburg at thirty-nine miles, Haw Bluff at forty-one miles, Mill Creek at forty-two miles, and Sandy Landing at forty-four miles.(115)

The demise of the riverboat was due to the rise of road traffic in the 1920s. The first automobile in Wilmington swung down the city streets in 1901. By the next decade, Model-T Fords were jolting along the county roads in greater numbers. The cars were light and quick to maneuver in comparison to horses and wagons, but in mud times the vehicles were not powerful enough

to slog through the mire. The result was that the state was pressed to improve roads so that motor traffic could pass with fewer slowdowns. In 1921, at the urging of Harriet Berry (1877-1940) of the North Carolina Good Roads Association, the State Legislature passed a highway act providing for the improvement and maintenance of 5,500 miles of principal routes that would link all the counties in the state. A highly significant benefit of the act was that the improved roads made it possible to consolidate the white schools in rural areas and to provide bus service for the students.(116) In 1928, the U.S. Highway program was in effect and primary roads were numbered. Three of Pender County's old routes were improved, straightened, and given new designations: the Holly Shelter plank road became US-17 along the coast, Duplin Road became US-117, and the Clinton Road became US-421. Three important cross roads were given state highway numbers: NC-11 along the northern part of the county from Duplin to Bladen counties, NC-53 crossed the center of the region from Onslow to Bladen counties, and NC-210 followed a southern route along the Sampson-Bladen county line east to the Atlantic Ocean.

The most significant aspect of the highway system was the victory of the Cape Fear region in linking itself with the Interstate system that binds the nation together. The route, as originally planned in the 1970s, was to run from the Pacific to the Atlantic with the eastern terminus at Morehead City, but politicians and businessmen in the southeast argued for the terminus to be at the port of Wilmington. The revised plan was approved, and in 1989 the final link was opened, passing southeast through the heartland of Pender County, parallel and adjacent to its ancient water, land, and rail routes.(117)

Religion and Education.

The religious affiliations of the county continued through the period to embrace three basic sects: the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian. The Maple Hill Missionary Baptist Church, established in 1883, built their new sanctuary in 1898-99 (PD-188). Point Caswell Missionary Baptist Church, organized in 1884, erected the current edifice in 1889 (PD-124). Rocky Point Methodist Church rose in the center of the crossroads community in 1879. The 1880 Macedonia A.M.E. Church (PD-77) in Burgaw, built by a black congregation shortly after the town became the county seat, remains a vital part of the community. Hampstead Methodist Church, anchoring what may be considered the geographical center of town, was dedicated in 1907 and now serves another sect. And the 1932 Russian Orthodox Church of Ss. Peter and Paul (PD-91) in St. Helena has the distinction of being the first of its kind in the South.

Historically, North Carolina schools were founded and maintained by private groups or philanthropists and were generally church affiliated. With the establishment of Pender County in 1875, however, plans were enacted to build facilities that would reach a wider audience of students in the county. In the following years four schools were placed in service in Burgaw. Burgaw Academy, completed in 1880, offered private classes for white students. In 1896, a Negro High School was opened for training ministers. The first of a series of public school for whites was erected near the depot in 1908. And in 1917 a Negro training center was begun in Rocky Point (PD-205). This was accredited as a high school in 1928.

Meanwhile, in 1900, the National Alliance of Unitarian Women came to the Shelter Neck area in the northeastern corner of Pender County to establish a school which they named the Carolina Industrial School (PD-186). Consisting of a chapel, schoolhouse, and boys' and girls' dormitories, the complex covers

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a knoll in a pastoral setting skirted by a sharp bend of the Northeast Cape Fear River.(118)

A genuine secular impetus for building rural schools came from the Rosenwald Foundation, established as a private enterprise by Julius Rosenwald of Chicago, president of Sears Roebuck and Company. Beginning in 1919 and ending in 1929, a total of fifteen schools were built for rural black students across the county in facilities arranged for one to nine teachers.(119) Two basic designs were used consisting of one or more classrooms. The one-room type featured a high gable-front roof and tall windows in the side elevations. The interior incorporated a stage across the rear wall, and the space could be subdivided by sliding a panel across the room. The multi-room school was modeled on a general plan which could be expanded according to the number of students in attendance. The front elevation was punctuated by a gabled porch sheltering a recessed entrance. Inside, a small foyer extended into narrow passageways or opened directly into the classrooms. Banks of windows opened along the walls, and the was covered by a hipped or gable-end roof.

In the 1950s, the small rural schoolhouses were abandoned and were purchased by nearby residents for other uses. Those at Atkinson and Hampstead were adapted for commercial uses, the Sloop Point School is now a Masonic Lodge, while Union Chapel (PD-100) and the Lee or Laurel School in Maple Hill (PD-) are used for storage. The large building at Canetuck (PD-128) has been restored through local efforts to serve as a community center.

In addition to the efforts of the Rosenwald Foundation, the state began a program in the 1920s to consolidate schools and to abandon the small, frame schoolhouses by constructing new facilities primarily for white students. The Boney architectural firm of Wilmington which specialized in designing modern, one- and two-story brick facilities began with New Hanover High School in 1919, and extended their practice into almost every school district in North

Carolina. Their Pender County designs are immediately recognizable for the use of clustered, multi-pane windows and diamond-patterned stone accents in the pediments and window aprons. Four of their schools, built in 1924 and 1925, are in Atkinson (PD-118), Long Creek (PD-214), Rocky Point (PD-205), and Topsail (PD-231). In the 1960s, with integration, additional schools were built; and in the 1990s the firm continued in the field by expanding existing buildings, and sometimes replacing their earlier work.

An unusual and important part of Pender County's educational heritage is the Penderlea School (PD-156) northwest of Burgaw. Built in 1938 to serve the Penderlea Homestead community, the facility consists of a series of unique, free-standing brick structures that extend out from a central library wing and are clustered around interior courtyards. Large windows overlook the courtyards, and the entrances in the opposite walls open to covered walkways. The design is reminiscent of Austrian architect Richard Neutra's work in California during the 1920s and early 1930s.

The War Years

Pender County residents have participated in the military history of North Carolina since the Battle of Moore's Creek in 1776. With memories of their ancestors who witnessed the depredations of General Cornwallis's troops in 1781, and the marauding Union troops after the fall of Fort Fisher in 1865, the men of the region participated full-heartedly in the two world wars. New Hanover International Airport, opened in 1947, honors the memory of a Cape Fear hero, Arthur Bluethenthal, who joined the Lafayette Flying Squad in 1918 and was fatally shot down over France.

The region's activity in World War II was more direct. With an anti-aircraft training base on Topsail Island, an Army post and flight training school at Camp Davis (in Holly Ridge, Onslow County), and a shipyard in

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Wilmington, the fever of war swept all along the coast. At the conclusion of the war, the base on Topsail was transferred to the U.S. Naval Ordnance Testing Facility (NR) for use as a laboratory in the development of a ramjet missile program. An Assembly Building, a Control Tower, a launching pad, and nine reinforced tracking towers were constructed within a short span of time. But the peacetime return of coastwise shipping hampered the firing of the missiles, and the facility was eventually moved to other sites in California, New Mexico, and Florida. The property was turned over to a municipality and developed as resort property. Some of the towers were adapted as residences, the Assembly Building became a community center and museum, and the launch pad was transformed into the seaside patio of a motel. But these surviving structures symbolize the strides that brought the nation into the space age.

Architecture

The years that elapsed between the establishment of Pender County in 1875 and the post-war years of the twentieth century introduced a surge of building that was unequalled in the history of the region. Residents of the new county saw the final demise of large plantation holdings and the substitution of smaller subsistence and truck farms in their stead. The progress of the railway and improvements in the road systems had a direct impact on the increase in population, development of towns and farm communities, and accessibility of local and factory-produced building materials. Although many farmers still cut their own timber from their property and constructed their own dwellings, more and more people began to rely on trained carpenters to help them develop designs, purchase lumber, and select decorative details for their homes. By the early 1900s, the Garysburg Manufacturing Company in Burgaw was building complete residences for their workers from the company's own stock. And, in the early 1920s, the Aladdin Company, producer of ready-built homes, had opened a factory in Wilmington to transport Bungalow

Craftsman houses and other prefabricated styles to locations accessible by rail.

The railroad boosted building efforts because rail cars were able to accommodate sizable amounts of construction material and convey them from factory to field dependably and efficiently. Local distributors set up shops near the depots and stocked a variety of items from lumber and nails to the fittings for entire houses. Pre-cut materials for framing and finishing became commonplace, while a variety of decorative items such as turnings, brackets, and patterned shingles gave distinctive touches to the designs. Illustrated product catalogues were available to customers, and contractors and carpenters were at hand to assist with or execute the entire construction.

The domestic architecture of Pender County was influenced by the Greek Revival style throughout the nineteenth century. Few other styles became as popular and generally followed some years after they appeared in towns and commercial centers. The Italianate, Wilmington's favorite fashion from the 1850s through the 1870s, did not advance into Pender County until the early 1900s and then in only two examples. The Penny-Henry house (PD-213) between Rocky Point and Currie is an exceptionally fine example of regional Italianate craftsmanship accentuated by Tuscan style porch columns and uniquely carved scroll brackets supporting the main eaves. The Everett house (PD-) east of Burgaw has floor-length windows in the front elevation and a frieze containing vents and brackets.

The sole Neoclassical Revival style house in the county is the 1896 Hawes home (PD-116) in Atkinson. An imposing, two-and-a-half story residence, it presents a clear picture of the social and business prominence of its owner, a local banker and storekeeper. The central entrance portico and flanking wraparound porches are reminiscent of Wilmington's grand style mansions that once graced South Third and Market streets in the port city.

Three Atkinson homes feature the Queen Anne style at its best. The (Former) Presbyterian Church Manse (PD-113) is two stories high with a hipped roof pierced by a pediment centered on the front elevation. A one-story hip-roofed porch extends across the front and side elevations. Supported by turned and bracketed posts arranged in pairs, the porch roof has central and angled corner gables. The C.C. Eakins House (PD-119) duplicates the plan and details of the Manse. The 1902 Johnson House (PD-110) is typical of the asymmetrical form that was depicted in national magazines during the late Victorian period. The design incorporates a series of projecting bays, a wraparound porch, and a high hipped roof that is punctuated by triangular dormers. The interior of the residence features dark-stained woodwork, paneled doors, and decorative mantels.

East of Burgaw on Stag Park Road is the Sanderson place (PD-226), built in 1903. The large home has the scale and bearing of a manor house. The first story is sheathed with German siding while the second story and attic dormer are shingled. Adding to the expansiveness of the plan is a one-story, Tuscan-columned porch that encircles the house. Windows in the first and second stories are oversized, and the dormer features a tripartite window with small panes encircling single lights.

The 1917 Burton-Noel House (PD-76) in Burgaw is another example of a distinctive design. The two-story, L-shaped brick building is sheltered by a double-story porch which wraps across the front elevation and is supported by brick piers. At the second level, the porch has short, tapered posts resting on the upper terminations of the piers. The interior contains a handsome staircase with turned newel and balustrades, and Empire style mantels in both parlors.

Unlike the exuberant Queen Anne designs that reached a high point in

popularity in large towns by the late nineteenth century, the residential architecture of the rural areas settled back into a vernacular mode reflecting the simpler tastes of the farmers. Nevertheless, during the early twentieth century, the traditional rectangular plan with rear shed rooms evolved first into an L-shaped form with a symmetrical main block and rear wing, then into the asymmetrical Queen Anne type with projecting bays, gables, and porches accentuated by applied ornament purchased from local suppliers. Most of the homes were one-story in height and the rooms opened onto the front or rear porch. Several of the more prosperous farmers favored two-story versions with double-story rear porches.

The floor plans were almost universally consistent in most dwellings and incorporated a single pile main block with a center hall and exterior chimneys, and an attached rear wing containing the dining room and kitchen. Examples of this type are the Jesse Batson farmstead (PD-224) east of St. Helena, the English house (PD-223) near Rocky Point, and five Jordan family dwellings (PD-223) along Stag Park Road near Jordan's Chapel, all constructed in the early 1900s. Individual variations occur in the window sash glazing, the configuration of the porch posts and balustrades, and other decorative touches favored by the owners. Dr. Williams' house (PD-207) in Rocky Point has an encircling porch with turned posts, balustrades, and scroll brackets, and a gabled front dormer containing a tripartite vent. East of the house stands his former medical office, a diminutive copy of the main dwelling.

A development of the single-pile plan has two rooms on each side of the center hall, but only the front rooms are heated by fireplaces. The homes of James Dew (PD-) and Moore (PD-) near Canetuck are illustrative of this type.

Among two-story examples of the L-shaped form are the Pridgen (PD-),

Noble (PD-120), Simpson (PD-), and Littleton (PD-) farmsteads.

Several one-story examples of the asymmetrical Queen Anne style include two similar designs at opposite sides of the county: the Ella Henry house (PD-144), in the northwest corner of Pender County, and the Pinkham (Pink) Rowe house (PD-90), east of Burgaw. The former features five gables, a wraparound porch with turned posts and balustrades, and door and window surrounds composed of slim pilasters and sinuous moldings. Each room in the house opens directly onto a porch, a ubiquitous county characteristic. The latter place has three gabled ends containing diamond-shaped attic vents, and a wraparound porch supported by turned posts and scroll brackets. In 1909, Alexander Martin chose the Queen Anne style for his new home near the site of the family's destroyed plantation house in Rocky Point. The one-story dwelling (PD-204) is accentuated by a corner bay window surmounted by opposing gables containing ornamental shingles. The shingles in the north gable form fish-scales, while those in the east gable are of a double-diamond pattern.

In the decades following the emotional devastation of World War I, social attitudes broke free from the restraints of the past and opened the way to more progressive ideals. The field of architecture signaled the departure away from pre-war lifestyles by focusing on new designs developed in the midwest and California. The Bungalow Craftsman style combined elements of the open plan of the Prairie School and the broad eaves and deep porches favored on the west coast. Both innovations were suitable to houses in the southern states because they increased ventilation through the interior spaces and shaded the occupants from the sun and rain. The Woodcock house (PD-110) in Atkinson and the Carr house (PD-) in Rocky Point are models of the new design which incorporate clustered windows, large sun porches, and bracketed roof overhangs. Built during the period when automobiles were emerging as an important addition to rural and town life, the broad front porches extend

out over carports. Three brick examples of the style are the Corbett house (PD-115) in Atkinson with cross dormers in each slope of the hipped roof, the Kelly house (PD-) south of town with a corner porch, and the Malpass house (PD-) along US-421 which is capped by a clipped gable roof.

In addition to standardized plans and stylistic features, some owners selected highly individual designs for their homes. The W.C. Keith House (PD-111), built for an Atkinson merchant, recalls early coastal dwellings by its raised main story and deep porches. The Wells farmhouse (PD-84) south of Watha, intended to be two-stories high but never completed, is dominated by a gable-over-hip roof that is flanked by exterior chimneys. Two front gables, one surmounting the porch and the other in the lower slope of the main roof, are accentuated by Queen Anne style patterned shingles. The Cameron Highsmith (PD-105) house near Rhyne's Crossroads. is a story-and-a-half dwelling with an engaged front porch and steeply-pitched cross-gables that give it a classically geometric appearance.

Another distinction of many Pender County houses is that, instead of razing the old structures and building anew, the owners often modernized their dwellings by additions containing prevailing stylistic treatments. The one-story Walker place (PD-137) in Currie was enlarged three years later by adding a two-story side wing. The M.M. Moore home (PD-72) in Burgaw was originally an I-house with exterior end chimneys and an attached front porch. In the early twentieth century the chimneys were dismantled, rear rooms were added, and a wraparound porch replaced the former veranda.

Houses that were built between the two World Wars demonstrate the fact that national styles and mass-produced details were as popular in Pender County as elsewhere in the country, and were adapted to meet the individual taste and thrift of the clients, as well as the talent of the local builders. In 1919, James Dew built his one-story farmhouse (PD-132) southwest of Currie

using the Neoclassical Revival style with pedimented gable ends, a central entrance highlighted by a wide transom and sidelights containing patterned glass, and flanking windows with similar glass in the upper sash. In the same year, Benjamin Franklin Keith, a merchant, politician and Custom House official, erected a two-and-a-half-story county seat nearby at a bend in the Black River (PD-133). The dignified Neoclassical Revival style is accentuated by a pedimented porch featuring four Composite columns, a tripartite window above the entrance, and pedimented attic dormers. A double-gallery rear porch supported by Tuscan columns overlooks Alderman's Cove.

The prosperity and growth of the Cape Fear region after the completion of the railroad became apparent when new towns developed along the rail lines. In Duplin County this was especially evident, but in the area which became Pender, only the county seat of Burgaw developed an important commercial district which was centered around Courthouse Square. Most of the buildings were erected in the early twentieth century, but the several blocks contain an impressive array of structures that give the town a distinct architectural flavor. The 1910 Bank of Pender (PD-57) anchors the southwest corner of Wright and Fremont streets and adds a classical touch to the block by its arched bays. Harrell's Department Store (1920) to the east of the bank, is enriched by the use of orange face brick and red brick trim. Further east, Dee's Drug Store (1925) occupies adjacent structures at the corner of Courthouse Avenue, a narrow street that runs from the Courthouse to the Depot. The north side of Courthouse Avenue (PD-64) has several stores dating to the 1910s which indicate a high level of craftsmanship in their segmentally-arched second-story windows, bands of dog-tooth brick below the parapet, and intact storefronts. On West Fremont Street a triple store (PD-61) dominates the block and features tripartite upper-story windows, attic vents and a stepped parapet. Three one-story stores further west in the block retain their period

shopfronts, with chamfered posts flanking the entrances, and translucent glass transoms.

The town of Currie, settled in 1888 and named for an engineer who directed the completion of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Railroad through the community, had a block-long commercial street skirting the north side of the railway until the trains stopped running in the 1970s. The area reverted to residential use, but the semblance of the railroad town is preserved in the neat row of structures that still stand (PD-155). At the eastern end of the street is Walker's Store, gable-fronted, with an attached porch whose deep recess once accommodated chairs and benches for patrons and passers-by waiting for the Wilmington train. At the corner of the porch, a gas pump registers a charge of 27.9¢ per gallon as a reminder of the passage of time. Across the street, the unpainted weatherboards of Bell's Railroad Store have a golden shimmer of age. To the west are the old Post Office and the earliest building on the block, the 1901 Lewis house, which formerly contained a barber's shop in the front a residence in the L-shaped rear wing. Like many other rural dwellings in the county, each room in the house opens directly onto the porch.

At the western termination of the street and partly hidden in the woods is one of Currie's best remembered--if not revered--buildings. The large, rambling barn was operated for many years as "The Hen House" movie theater where countless children and adults flocked to watch the latest films brought by train from Wilmington.

Another small railroad town is Willard near the Duplin County line. First called Leesburg in 1890 and renamed Willard for a local family of lumber dealers, the town is the best preserved crossroads community in Pender County (PD-158, 159, 160). Encompassing only six squares of land bordering the former Wilmington and Weldon Railroad tracks, the extant structures include a

general store, depot, old and new post offices, five residences, and two churches. Of the commercial buildings, the 1920 D.Q. Smith, Inc. general merchandise store anchors the southwest corner of the intersection and continues its uninterrupted service to the community. Across the street on the opposite side of the Depot is Johnson's Farm Supply (1844), the oldest commercial structure in the vicinity, which formerly housed a general store and the town's first post office. On an adjacent street is the picturesque, late Gothic Revival style, Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Church (PD-159). Built about 1890, the church is a dignified and sturdy design with a tall, crenellated entrance tower standing out boldly as a landmark across the surrounding fields.

Among the nineteenth century rural churches in the county, most display the long-established preference for the Greek Revival style in a variety of ways. The 1880 Bethlehem Baptist Church (PD-126) southwest of Currie has a tall, gable-front porch sheltering the double entrances. An unusual feature of the design is the projecting side bays with false fronts. The 1889 Point Caswell Missionary Baptist Church (PD-124), standing solemnly within a grove of pine trees near the bend of the road where it skirts the Black River, is a rare example of an intact rural meeting house which retains its unpainted weatherboarding, large sash windows, twin front entrances, diamond-shaped attic vents, and steep gable-front roof. The 1879 Rocky Point United Methodist Church (PD-215), tucked into the angled intersection of US-117 and NC0-210, rises through a steep gable-front to a belfry containing arched windows. The sanctuary contains multi-light sash surmounted by unusual single-pane transoms.

The Gothic Revival style was a late fashion in the region and was applied to new foundations or supplanted earlier structures. Burgaw's 1883 Macedonia AME Church (PD-77), one of the oldest black congregations in the county and an

important part of the surrounding black neighborhood, was organized on January 27, 1883 and the church edifice was built shortly thereafter. Alterations were made in 1915, and the exterior was later brick veneered. The Greek-cross plan contains pointed-arch windows highlighted by stained glass panes. The 1890 former St. Thomas Episcopal Chapel (PD-116) on the grounds of the Hawes house in Atkinson features a steep pediment bisected by a square tower. The wood-sheathed interior, truss roof, and intact furnishings produce an aura of timeless serenity that is tintured by a lofty stained glass sanctuary window reputed to have been given by St. Thomas Church in New York City. Also in Atkinson is the c. 1900 Caswell Presbyterian Church (PD-109), forming a Latin cross in plan, with a pyramidal-roofed corner tower, a gabled entrance pavilion, and pointed-arch windows, arranged singly and in pairs. Mills Memorial Advent Christian Church (PD-146), west of Penderlea, is a highly picturesque, Carpenter Gothic board-and-batten edifice that is virtually identical to St. Christopher's Episcopal Church (c. 1890) in Elizabethtown, Bladen County. The front facade features a three-stage central tower and pointed-top windows. The c. 1900 Waters Chapel A.M.E. Church (PD-123), near Currie, stands in a grassy clearing surrounded by piney woods. Flanking the central entrance and occupying the side elevations are windows surmounted by pointed-arch transoms. Patches in the weatherboarding beside the transoms suggest that the windows originally were trabeated and later pointed. The roof line is accentuated by unique, sawtooth-pattern fascias and verge boards probably fabricated by a member of the congregation. The c. 1907 Watha Missionary Baptist Church (PD-174) has pointed-arch windows containing two-over-two sash and a diamond-shaped light in the apex of each upper sash. A two-tier square tower rises at the southwest corner of the church and is capped by a low pyramidal roof.

The Colonial Revival style was another type of design used in religious

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architecture and is represented by a few churches which replaced older sanctuaries during the twentieth century. The earliest is the 1907-1908 Watha Methodist Church (PD-181) featuring a gable-front roof crowned by a square cupola and pyramidal roof. The central front entrance contains double doors and a fanlight transom. Fanlights also occur in the upper sash of the flanking windows. In Burgaw, the style is echoed in two brick edifices: the 1928 Burgaw Methodist Church (PD-69) with a T-shaped plan highlighted by a portico and crowned by an octagonal cupola; and the 1940 Burgaw Baptist Church (PD-69) with a cruciform plan, Corinthian portico, and multi-stage steeple. In St. Helena, Sts. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church (PD-91) stands within the 1908 farming colony established by Wilmington real estate developer, Hugh MacRae, whose goal was resettling European farmers to the region. Erected in 1932, the one-story brick church combines Colonial Revival details--arched entrance and windows, and an octagonal cupola--and Byzantine features--a wheel window above the entrance and a faceted, gilded dome crowned by the Orthodox cross.

The design of Pender County schools fall into three categories: the small, frame structures built during the first quarter of the twentieth century for black children and funded by the Rosenwald Foundation; similar facilities for whites constructed during the same era; and large, single- and multi-story brick buildings dating to the 1920s, the period of school consolidation. The first type consisted of standardized structures with weatherboarding on the exterior walls; smooth, tongue-and-groove walls inside; and tall, clustered windows to brighten the compact interiors. The larger schools were of more architectural interest with entrance porches highlighted by chevron-pattern panels above the chamfered posts, molded doors and windows, beaded board walls and ceilings, and decorative cornices and wainscoting. The brick schools were designed in a vaguely Tudor or Colonial style by prominent architects such as the Boneyes of Wilmington. The buildings spread their broad wings out across

the park-like grounds and are enlivened by handsome masonry work, decorative details, and wide banks of windows. A unique design by a Washington, D.C. firm, is the 1938 educational complex built on Penderlea Homestead (PD-156). The single-story structures contain individual classrooms which enclose small courtyards. These grassy enclosures reduce the ambient noise surrounding the school while admitting light into the classrooms.

Two significant government buildings in the county are the Pender County Courthouse (PD-56), centered in the four-acre Courthouse Square in Burgaw, and the former Pender County Jail on the north side of the square. The former building, a 1936 Colonial Revival style design, is one of the most attractive and picturesque public buildings in the state. Built to replace a smaller but, nonetheless, handsome 1883 courthouse at the same location, the new building was designed by Raleigh architect William Henley Dietrick during a period of government public works projects and Williamsburg architectural influences. The H-shaped edifice is three stories high with a seven-bay central section accentuated by tall, multi-light, arched windows. The gable-end roof is surmounted by an octagonal cupola, and the end walls terminate in Flemish gables. The 1924 Pender County Jail (PD-58) is a two-story, stuccoed, Spanish Colonial style structure, five bays wide and two bays deep. The entrance porch is covered with Mission tiles. When built, the first level was occupied by offices and the jailer's living quarters. Upstairs, a maze of prisoners' cells, stout bars, steel doors, and impenetrable locks attest to the dark despair of imprisonment.

4. PENDER COUNTY SINCE 1945

The most important and continuing commercial enterprise in Pender County is in the field of agriculture, an activity that has retained a strong bond among generations of farmers in the region. The development of new technology and the expansion of trade have led to continuous growth in the production of corn, potatoes, soy beans, melons, strawberries, blueberries, tobacco, and other staples. Despite the steady increase in the exportation of fruits and vegetables from California and other western states to eastern markets, local growers still compete on a regional and interstate scale. The size of Pender County farms remains fairly small--between one hundred and four hundred acres, and related families continue to cultivate adjacent tracts. The large agribusiness operations, in which local yields are sold directly to regional packing companies, has not effected Pender County as it has nearby counties, but increased production has necessitated the hiring of seasonal field laborers here as elsewhere.

The impact of the railroad's demise as a part in the commerce of the county has diminished in recent years by the improvement and expansion of the highways and state roads that extend across the district. But of greatest import was the completion of Interstate 40 through the heart of the region, a route that unites the southeast with the rest of the nation in a way the railroad could never do. The achievement has opened new trade markets, has attracted new residents to the area for work or retirement, and has expanding both regional productivity and population.

The domestic architecture in Pender County following World War II is marked by the number of simple frame dwellings, brick ranch houses, and manufactured homes that proliferated in rural communities and farmlands. More recently, subdivisions have developed along highway corridors, many of them bordering rivers and streams, while convenience stores, small shopping

centers, and restaurants mitigate the isolation of suburban life.

Public buildings, too, have been constructed to serve the needs of all residents. In Burgaw, a county library was opened in 1966 and expanded in 1990, the Rescue Squad building was put into service in 1971, a new county administration building was finished in 1977, and the combined jail and Sheriff's department was completed in 1978. Branch banks have appeared in several towns as well as modern post office structures. But perhaps the most noticeable additions to the landscape are the new middle and high schools that have grown out of the surrounding fields in the 1980s and 1990s. The extensive buildings--many by Boney Architects--are veritable villages which encompass broad vistas and express the most contemporary architectural vogue on a national scale.

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF PENDER COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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Associated Property Types.

Property Type 1: FARM COMPLEXES

- A. Farm Complexes Prior to the Railroad Era, 1839.
- B. Farm Complexes from 1840 to 1874.
- C. Farm Complexes from 1875 to 1945.

Property Type 2: RESIDENTIAL RESOURCES

- A. Houses Built Prior to the Railroad Era, 1839.
- B. Houses Built from 1840 to 1874.
- C. Houses Built from 1875 to 1945.

Property Type 3: TRANSPORTATION, INDUSTRIAL, AND COMMERCIAL
STRUCTURES

- A. The Railroad Era from 1840 to 1945.
- B. Industrial Structures and Sites.
- C. Commercial Structures.
 - 1. Atkinson Commercial District
 - 2. Burgaw Commercial District
 - 3. Currie Commercial District
 - 4. Willard Commercial District

Property Type 4: INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS

- A. Churches
- B. Schools
- C. Government Buildings

Bibliography.

Associated Property Types

PROPERTY TYPE 1: FARM COMPLEXES.

Introduction.

Farm complexes in Pender County were once a familiar part of the landscape throughout the region, originally the core of vast plantations that supported the life and economy of the entire Cape Fear region of southeastern North Carolina. From pioneering efforts during the mid-eighteenth century through the dawn of the Civil War in the mid-nineteenth century, plantations and their associated farm complexes rose up along rivers and creeks. In areas that now appear isolated and forlorn, these estates became agricultural, industrial, political, and social centers. Along the west side of the Northeast Cape Fear River, arranged as a string of beads, were Stag Park, east of current-day Burgaw, named by the 1662 explorers; The Neck, south of Stag Park, owned by Governor Samuel Ashe; Green Hill, near Rocky Point, occupied by General John Ashe; Moseley Hall, home of a prominent early family; Clayton Hall, at Clayton Creek, which was considered in the early nineteenth century to be the best plantation in the county; The Vats, at the sharp bend of the river near Rocky Point, residence of Major Maurice Moore; and Spring Field and Strawberry, built by the Lanes. On the east side of the river across from The Vats was Lillington Hall, bordering the expansive Holly Shelter pocosin. Further west, skirting the road from Wilmington to Duplin county, was Moore Fields. On Long Creek were Mt. Gallant, Hyrneham, Pleasant Hall, Spring Garden, and Bloom Hill. Swann's Point and The Oak stood on the north side of the Northeast Cape Fear River on each side of Turkey Creek. In his book, Chronicles of the Cape Fear River, James Sprunt wrote that Frederick Jones, owner of Spring Garden was "noted in his day as being the most industrious and successful farmer in all the country round." Naval stores and lumber were the lifeblood of the plantations; subsistence crops raised on the farms included corn, rice, beans, and potatoes.

Over time, the ravages of fire, war, and neglect reduced these noble seats to near-oblivion. Homes and support buildings were swept away, and the lands were subdivided into smaller farmsteads following Reconstruction and the creation of Pender County from northern New Hanover County. Today, only the place names survive in rural communities and crossroads to attest to the former presence of these plantations.

The scattered farm complexes that developed throughout the county during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries were at the core of smaller farm operations that comprised an area generally covering from one to three hundred acres. Land division during successive generations reduced individual holdings to less than a hundred acres. Though many of the farm lands remain in the possession of families of long standing in the area, the distribution of land to later generations has increased the number of new ranch and manufactured homes on the farms with the subsequent loss of traditional houses and outbuildings. In many cases, the historic farm complex preserves only the house--often used for storage, a smokehouse, and a barn.

Description.

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 highway. Built on a slightly elevated site, the house commands views of the surrounding fields and woods. Close to the rear or side of the house are dependencies that serve domestic needs: kitchen, dairy, smokehouse, wash house, and privy. In very rare instances a slave house survives. 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 or German siding covering the house and kitchen. Some

dependencies are sheathed with vertical siding or are built of planks or logs. Of the latter, the saddle-notch with round or diamond-cut ends is the most common. More recent additions to the complex are prefabricated garages, metal silos, and frame or brick pump houses. Within a short distance of the farmstead, in a field or in the neighboring woods, is the family cemetery. Because of the distance between farm and church graveyard or town burying ground, the general trend in the region was to make the cemetery a part of the homesite, shared by several neighboring families. In a survey of Pender County cemeteries in the early 1970s, 315 family plots, thirty-three church yards, and eight community sites were recorded.

A. Farm Complexes Prior to the Railroad Era, 1839.

Farm complexes in the formative years of settlement in the section of New Hanover County, which became Pender County in the third quarter of the nineteenth century, are extremely rare, and the single surviving example preserves only its domestic outbuildings. Fair Oaks (PD-147), in the northernmost part of the county near Rockfish Creek, was built for Kinchin Powers (1785-1868) about 1830 in the Greek Revival style, an architectural fashion that was just becoming popular in the state. The one-story house is set back from the curve of the road and is surrounded by corn fields and pine woods. Behind the house is a neat row of domestic outbuildings consisting of a smokehouse, a servants' quarters, and a privy, all featuring Greek Revival massing and details. Over the years the division of lands and the development of modern farming and distribution methods, assisted by the transportation advantages of the railroad, have resulted in the disappearance of many, if not all of the agricultural outbuildings: livestock barns, silos, equipment and produce storage sheds, and tobacco barns. In the case of Fair Oaks, being remote from the railway, it was the reapportionment of acreage and the varieties of crops raised on the farms that eliminated the need for the traditional outbuildings.

B. Farm Complexes from 1840 to 1874.

In the second period of development, covering the years from the completion of the railroad between Wilmington and Weldon, North Carolina, up to the eve of the creation of Pender County, settlers continued to move into the area to establish large plantations as well as to cultivate smaller farms. Except for the coastal predilection for peanut production, farming operations followed two general directions, the raising of vegetable and fruit crops for regional consumption, and the production of naval stores and lumber for export markets. During this period the prevailing architectural style was the Greek Revival, but its use was usually restricted to residential design while the outbuildings were built of logs, timber frame, and in some instances, brick. The Murphy-Moore House (PD-139), the sole surviving complex of the time, was constructed in 1845 near Currie, a historic area of the county that was settled by the Moores about 1735, and where the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge was fought in 1776. The Greek Revival style farmstead consists of the two-story dwelling, detached and attached kitchens, a brick dairy, and a log tobacco barn. Between the house and the creek is the family cemetery enclosed by a low stone wall. The fields are still under cultivation with yields consisting of corn, soy beans, potatoes, and tobacco.

C. Farm Complexes from 1875 to 1945.

The creation of Pender County was motivated by political and agronomical reasons, triggered in the first instance by dissension between town and country factions, and in the second by the dissolution of the plantations after the war and Reconstruction. It was a progressive period which saw the expansion of the rural farming population throughout the region, due in part to immigration from other counties and from Europe, as well as to successive family generations who chose to farm their portion of their forefathers' land. The increased population brought with it demands for housing. Where families

retained close ties, the new homes were built near the old farmstead. Where new land was cleared, the domiciles tended to be drawn together in hamlets or communities.

North of Atkinson, in the lush terrain above the crooks of White Oak and Moore's creeks, are the adjacent farms of four generations of the Moores. The nucleus of the settlement is the Timothy Moore House (PD-94), built c. 1870 in a traditional style with a center hall main block and radiating wings. Across the road, rather than behind the house, are a barn with hay loft, twin tobacco barns joined by a shed, and a large storage building.

The 1880 Walker House (PD-137) in Currie is a one-story farm house with a rear kitchen wing and a two-story gable-front addition, built in 1883, on the south end of the main block. In close proximity to the dwelling are a chicken house, a story-and-a-half barn, a wash house, and a smokehouse.

West of Burgaw on Page Road is the 1880s Page House (PD-102) with a curious salt-box roof extending across the south two-thirds of the rear elevation, a kitchen ell, and a later Bungalow/Craftsman style front porch. Tall, exterior end chimneys rise along the end gables of the I-house. Lining the side driveway are a large saddle-notched log corn crib covered by an overhanging gable, two frame barns, and a modern metal silo.

The Costin House (PD-95), situated beside US-421 east of Atkinson, was built c. 1890 and reflects a traditional coastal cottage form with an engaged front porch and symmetrical end chimneys. The rear dining room and kitchen wing are typical of regional architecture. To the southeast of the house are a barn with a hay loft, a story-and-a-half storage building, a garage, and a small gable-front store at the front edge of the lot. Across the highway are a small cluster of three very rare tobacco barns arranged along a semicircular drive.

The Robert Allen Moore House (PD-127), near the Pender-Bladen County line, is an early twentieth century I-house with an extended rear wing and numerous support buildings bordering the adjacent fields. Two log barns, a log corn crib, a log smoke and woodshed, two frame garages, a tobacco barn, and two modern silos make up the most impressive collection of outbuildings in the county.

The c. 1900 Rich House (PD-162) near Willard is a one-story, board-and-batten dwelling with an unusual, cross-shaped plan consisting of two offset wings intersecting the main mass. Typical of many turn-of-the-century farm houses in the county, wraparound porches extend across the front elevations. The front porch is supported by chamfered posts and four, five-panel doors open onto the porches providing direct access from each of the wings. The rear yard contains a rare and impressively complete array of original outbuildings that are arranged in an open square. These include a dairy supported by wooden blocks and covered with an overshot roof, a garage, a shed-roofed storage structure, a privy, a tripartite smokehouse with flanking store rooms, a wagon shed, a gable-front corn crib with openings between the plank siding, a pump house, and a gable-front barn with open-bay side pens.

The c. 1900 J.W. Jones House (PD-165) in Willard, is a one-story traditional style dwelling with an extended dining room and kitchen wing, and a bed room ell forming a U-shaped plan. A gabled dairy sheathed with vertical siding, a smokehouse of similar construction with open side sheds and a bracketed gable, and a shed-roofed privy stand behind the house.

Straddling the road in Maple Hill, and encompassing a rare collection of original buildings, the c. 1900 Perry Raynor (PD-197) farm complex consists of the main house, a tenant house, a barn, two sheds and a corn crib. The house, typical in plan to rural dwellings throughout the county, is one-story high with a gable-end roof, attached front porch, and transverse-gable rear wing

with entrances in both side elevations.

The c. 1900 McLendon House (PD-222), near Rocky Point, is an important farm complex with several fine outbuildings. A gable-end detached kitchen--an extremely rare occurrence in the county--is now joined to the northwest corner of the hip-roofed main block by a screened breezeway. Further afield are a multi-bay gabled barn, a four-unit shed-roofed garage, a shingled smokehouse and dairy building connected by a small hyphen, a tobacco barn, and a hog house.

The 1900 Jesse Batson House (PD-224), east of Ashton crossroads near St. Helena, is a triple-A dwelling with the traditional dining room and kitchen wing at the rear which preserves its original open side porch. The building is highlighted by metal shingle roofs which were installed by the current owner, Arthur Batson, in 1926. An abundance of outbuildings are distributed around the grounds, some original to the site and some moved here from adjacent family farms. Opposite the kitchen porch are a pump house, smokehouse and dairy. On the opposite side of the driveway behind the house are a two-story barn with one-story wraparound sheds, two former tenant houses, and a stable containing three stalls and unusual open-slat board walls.

The 1905 James Noble House (PD-120), just south of Atkinson, is a farm complex consisting of a two-story I-house with interior chimneys, an attached porch across the front and side elevations, and a rear dining room and kitchen wing. To the east of the house is a gabled barn with a shed-roofed side bay, two storage sheds, and a log corn crib.

One of the most attractive and intact dwellings in Maple Hill, the c. 1910 Benjamin "Bodge" Lanier House (PD-198), sits at a right angle to the roadway with a straight, unpaved driveway extending from the street past the front

porch to the rear yard. The story-and-a-half residence has a T-shaped plan and a wraparound porch weaves across the north and west elevations. The main block has a central entrance facing the driveway; the side wing contains doors in the first and third bays facing the road, and recessed doors on the rear side. A one-story, gable-front shed with an open-sided storage bay stands in the yard to the east of the house. To the southeast is a shed-roofed outbuilding and nearby is a circular, brick-walled well with its original wooden boom still in place. Across a field to the south are a rambling storage building covered with wooden shingles, and a tripartite barn with shed-roofed side pens.

The c. 1910 Nelson House (PD-202) in the Rocky Point vicinity is a one-story, L-shaped dwelling, with a center hall main block and a rear wing containing the dining room and kitchen. An attached front porch, supported by square posts with scroll brackets, extends across the front elevation. Two exterior chimneys, set between the return cornices of the gable ends, have stepped shoulders above offset lower stacks with stepped faces. To the northeast of the house are a tripartite outbuilding incorporating two sheds and a smokehouse, and a gable-front barn enlivened by board-and-batten siding and doors painted red.

The 1912 Stokes House (PD-187) between Burgaw and Maple Hill is a two-story, L-shaped dwelling with intersecting roofs that contain diamond-shaped attic vents in the three gables. A one-story wraparound porch turns along three sides of the front facade, sheltering entrances in each wing. The corners of the house are embellished by flat corner boards with molded caps, short corner fascias, and flared verge boards. The fascia is continuous across the front elevation above the second floor windows. Behind the house are an assortment of original outbuildings including several vertical-sided and metal sheds, and a smokehouse with diagonal board siding and a board-and-

batten door.

The 1919 James Dew House (PD-132), southwest of Currie, is a one-story, Neoclassical Revival style house featuring pedimented gable ends, an attached front porch, and a transverse-gable rear wing. The central entrance features a wide transom and sidelights containing patterned glass, which is repeated in the upper sash of the flanking windows. A smooth-shouldered chimney with stepped cap is offset along the east side elevation. Arranged in a row along the east side of the house are a low-gabled barn of unpainted weatherboards, a second barn with vertical siding, and a shingled outbuilding with overshot front gable.

The most ambitious attempt at creating farm complexes came in the mid-1930s with the establishment of the Penderlea Homestead, built by the Federal Subsistence Homesteads Corporation to resettle farmers who had lost their land during the Depression, and to offer a younger generation opportunities in agriculture. The project, a favorite with First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, was planned to incorporate 350 farmsteads radiating from a central mall containing community buildings and a school. Each farmstead consisted of a ten-acre tract, a hay barn, a combined wash house and smokehouse, a hog house, a corn crib, and a chicken coop. Ninety-nine homes remain in the area in their original or slightly altered condition; five properties retain a complete assemblage of outbuildings. Although several homestead projects were begun in rural farm areas across the nation prior to World War II, this settlement was the most successful and retains much of its character and productivity.

PROPERTY TYPE 2: RESIDENTIAL RESOURCES

A. Houses Built Prior to the Railroad Era, 1839.

Houses dating to the period prior to the completion of the railroad through the county, like early farm complexes, are not numerous and are widely dispersed. Besides the labor intensive tasks of clearing forests, tilling fields, and marketing crops, the farmers often took on the responsibility of building their own dwellings and outbuildings. Since the majority of farms included woodlands, the process of selecting, cutting, and curing the lumber was a localized process, and the traditional "barn-raising" became a family and community socialized work activity. In addition, the form and appearance of the early buildings often indicated the origins of the builders.

With the exception of the prosperous planters' homes, most of the earliest dwellings of the small farmer were log structures built after traditional European types. In time the log cabins were replaced with more fashionable houses that incorporated current stylistic details. In other cases, the cabins were transformed by new additions, siding, fenestration, and porches to conform with the advanced tastes. This latter aspect of building, often dictated by economy and conservatism, occurred across the region where older houses of wood or brick, were enlarged and modernized rather than replaced, giving each habitation a historic context of its own.

The William Powell House (PD-169), southeast of Willard, is an important, two-story residence which contains in its core a log structure dating to c. 1780. Around 1840, the house was greatly altered by the addition of Greek Revival features including square, robust porch posts with molded caps, similar corner posts, two front entrances in alternating bays suggest that the original plan contained a hall and parlor. Windows contain nine-over-nine sash at the first level and six-over-six sash in the second story. Tall, double-shoulder chimney stacks centered on the north and south gables may be

from the original construction period. A detached, transverse-gable kitchen stands at the southeast corner of the house.

The c. 1800 Bartholomew Burns House (PD-92), close to the west side of US-421, in the northwest section of the county, is a one-story, gable-end dwelling with an engaged front porch that echoes traditions of West Indian architecture. The house contains a hall and parlor at the first level, with a back-to-front staircase along the north wall of the larger room rising to two bed rooms in the attic. A detached kitchen beside the house incorporates an engaged corner porch and piazza room. The interior, sheathed with wide boards rather than plaster, was a common feature in many regional farmhouses where timber was in abundance.

The c. 1800 Best House (PD-86), in the Six Forks community between Burgaw and the Northeast Cape Fear River, is a two-story version of a hall-and-parlor dwelling with design elements that combine Federal and Greek Revival details. Doors in the right front bay and in the two end bays on the north side have horizontal upper panels and two tiers of paired lower panels similar to Federal period work in Wilmington. Windows have nine-over-six sash at the lower level and six-over-six sash upstairs, all contained within Greek Revival type frames. A stout interior chimney stack rises through the roof ridge between the second and third front bays suggesting that the owner was influenced by building traditions in cooler climates.

B. Houses Built from 1840 to 1874.

Construction that was undertaken during the period that evolved from the completion of the railroad until the post-Civil War era, Reconstruction, and the eve of the emergence of Pender County as a separate entity is typified by both simple, vernacular types of dwellings and those which demonstrate a flair for the growing popularity of the Greek Revival style. It was the railroad that helped spread interest in architectural styles throughout the region

while making available to the rural farmers a selection of ready-made building materials, decorative elements, and furnishings. As was the case in the previous generation, houses continued to be built according to traditional patterns and, later, modified according to prevailing fashions.

The Herring House (PD-95), on the west side of US-421 just south of Shiloh crossroads, was erected in 1845 for James Herring (1803-1852) and his wife, Jane (1800-1886). One of the earliest I-house forms in the county, the building was constructed from local materials, including the chimneys whose clay came from a nearby site. The current front porch, rear, and side additions, as well as the window sash, are alterations that were made in 1937. But the house, standing tall and dignified on a knoll overlooking the the road, preserves the vernacular of its original Greek Revival lines.

The 1845 Murphy-Moore House (PD-139), just north of Currie, is the area's most picturesquely sited farmstead. Situated on rising ground above a branch of Moore's Creek, the two-story home displays Greek Revival stylistic details in the cornerboards, window and door moldings, and interior fireplaces. A one-story wraparound porch shelters the multi-panel entrance and nine-over-six window sash. The fenestration in the second story has six-over-six sash, and flanks tall exterior end chimneys rise in both side elevations. In close proximity to the modern kitchen wing is a brick patio bordered by grape vines, the original detached kitchen, and a brick smokehouse. The rear of the main block was later enlarged to accommodate additional living spaces and a side bay window has a panoramic view of the tree-dotted lawn and a stone-walled family cemetery located between the house and the road.

The 1850 Rooks House (PD-182), southeast of Watha, is a handsomely proportioned dwelling that exhibits the mature Greek Revival style in its gable-end roof, cornice returns, paneled corner boards, and exterior end

chimneys. The shed-roofed front porch features octagonal columns with molded caps, a feature that occurs often in Bladen and Cumberland counties but is unique rare in Pender County. The central entrance is enframed by paneled sidelights. Windows throughout the house contain six-over-six sash and wide moldings. A shed-roofed rear addition connects with a transverse-gable dining room and kitchen wing.

The 1865 Dr. Solomon Satchwell House (PD-211), west of Rocky Point on NC-210, is unique in form and detail suggesting the individuality of its owner. The one-story, hip-roofed residence has a square plan containing four rooms arranged around a central chimney stack which serves the elaborately carved fireplaces. A profusion of delicate architectural ornament animates the front elevation: the engaged front porch is supported by four square posts crowned by stepped caps from which branch angled brackets terminating in volutes; twin, four-panel entrance doors and flanking, floor-length front windows feature applied ornamentation in their upper sections which form bracketed arches surmounted by rectangular panels containing stylized foliation. Windows in each elevation have nine-over-nine sash. According to the current owner, this is the only remaining portion of a larger, twelve room house.

Another unusual design is the c. 1865 house (PD-175) just east and behind the Watha Baptist Church. A one-story, gable-end dwelling with a U-shaped plan, the plain-edge siding terminates in paneled corner boards with Greek Revival style caps. Doors in the first and third front bays are framed by paneled sidelights, and the oversize, six-over-six sash windows are contained within broad frames. A highlight of the exterior is the decorative vergeboards at the gable ends which form a zig-zag pattern below the roof.

The Paddison House (PD-125), at Point Caswell, built for a riverboat captain dates to two distinct stylistic periods. The rear section, dating to 1866, incorporates a recessed central porch supported by robust, Greek

Revival style square posts with stepped caps, flanking piazza rooms with six-over-six sash windows, and a gable-end roof. The front section, added in 1896, has a Queen Anne style attached porch enlivened by turned posts and balustrades, and foliated brackets.

At the opposite extreme of design are two rare examples of mid-nineteenth century log houses in the northern section of the county. The Murray Cabin (PD-183), east of Watha, is a story-and-a-half, gable-end roof dwelling is sheathed with weathered shingles that add greatly to its rustic character. An engaged front porch, supported by three chamfered posts, shelters the entrance and weatherboarded front wall. A four-over-four sash window and board-and-batten door are centered in the rear elevation. An exterior end chimney rises along the west gable. The Bryant Wooten Log Cabin (PD-199) in Maple Hill is an extremely rare example in the county of an intact log dwelling. The diminutive, story-and-a-half structure is three bays wide and one bay deep with a gable-end roof and an exterior end chimney. The house rests on concrete block piers as well as two original juniper stumps. Corners of the cabin have diamond-shaped log ends and the walls are covered with weathered, scalloped shingles. The front porch has been removed and a new shed-roofed carport occupies the rear elevation. Doors on the east, south, and west sides have flush vertical boards attached to interior cross battens clinched by square-headed nails. Windows contain small, six-over-six sash. A portion of a beam end to support the original overshot roof over the stepped-shoulder brick chimney survives at the northwest corner of the cabin. The masonry work is noteworthy.

C. Houses Built from 1875 to the End of World War II.

The last quarter of the nineteenth century marked the end of the plantation era, but it was a new beginning for residents of Pender County because it made more land available to subsistence farmers and attracted

additional settlers to the area. With the increase in small farms a demand arose for new housing which was served by the railroad, improved roads, and the establishment of saw mills and supply stores in several regional towns. The building activity renewed interest in a variety of architectural modes that were added to the Greek Revival, including Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Neoclassical Revival, and Bungalow/Craftsman styles. The widespread distribution of similar types of buildings across the county underline the common communication that prevailed among owners, suppliers, and builders; and individual variations add interest to the architectural scene. Between the two world wars, prefabricated buildings, including homes, garages, barns, and sundry outbuildings, became available through mail-order companies such as Sears-Roebuck and Aladdin. The Aladdin Company established its second plant in Wilmington in 1920 and transported their Ready-Cut houses wherever trains ran--as far afield as Florida. Owners of older properties continued to tailor their houses stylistically by replacing porches, roofs, and trim.

The 1885 M.M. Moore House (PD-72) in Burgaw is one of the town's oldest structures and it's most interesting. Originally a gable-end I-house with exterior chimneys and an attached porch across the south front, in 1903 the entire structure was transformed it a two-story, hip-roofed residence with wraparound porch and interior chimneys. Both Greek Revival and Queen Anne styles were combined on the exterior and interior to create a highly individual composition. Of particular interest is that the weatherboarding terminates at each corner in flat, narrow cornerboards with backband moldings attached to their inner edges, giving the visual effect of a folded corner panel--a treatment that is peculiar to Pender County architecture.

The 1896 Hawes House (PD-116), built for Edmund A. Hawes (1849-1926), a local banker and storekeeper, exhibits histaste and prosperity in the imposing Neoclassical Revival style that is enhanced by a high, pedimented

portico across the entrance and flanking wraparound porches. The central door is enframed by patterned-glass sidelights and a multi-pane transom while the flanking windows have similar patterned glass in their upper sashes. A bracketed balcony extends across the second level within the portico.

The c. 1900 Ella Henry House (PD-144), in the northwest corner of Pender County adjacent to the Duplin and Sampson county borders, is a rambling, one-story, Queen Anne style structure, with five gables containing return cornices and hexagonal attic vents. A wraparound porch extends across the front of the L-shaped main block, supported by turned posts and enclosed by turned balustrades. The original door and window surrounds are noteworthy for their use of slim pilasters and sinuous moldings recalling the Federal style. The interior of the house features beaded, tongue-and-groove ceilings; four-panel doors; and Greek Revival and Queen Anne style mantels. A similar rambling design is seen in the contemporary Pinkham (Pink) Rowe House (PD-90), on the south side of NC-53, northeast of Burgaw, and commanding a dramatic view over the Northeast Cape Fear River. The S-shaped plan is surrounded by a bracketed porch that wraps around all but two sides of the structure and provides exterior entrances to each of the five rooms. Windows contain two-over-two sash and the doors feature four vertical panels and a horizontal mid-panel of a design popular throughout the county. A third, similar design is the Timothy Moore House (PD-94) north of Atkinson which has an S-plan, wraparound porch, and a bay window in the front projecting bay.

The c. 1900 Cameron Highsmith House (PD-105), west of Burgaw and just north of Rhyne's Crossroads, is a unique example in the county of a story-and-a-half dwelling with a cross-gable roof. The engaged front porch is supported by Queen Anne style turned posts and the entrance and windows have Greek Revival type moldings. Copying traditional forms, the dining room and kitchen occupy an ell attached to the rear of the main block.

The c. 1900 Penny-Henry House (PD-213), between Rocky Point and Currie, is an unusually fine example of regional Italianate craftsmanship. The two-story, hip-roofed residence has a one-story front porch supported by four Tuscan style columns. The central entrance is flanked by floor-length windows, a one-story bay window is centered on the west elevation, and a large kitchen wing is attached to the rear of the house. The overhanging eaves of the hipped roof are enlivened by uniquely carved scroll brackets.

The c. 1900 (Former) Presbyterian Church Manse (PD-113) in Atkinson is one of two notable two-story, hip-roofed, Queen Anne residences in the vicinity. A one-story porch extends across the front and part of the two side elevations and is supported by turned and bracketed posts arranged in pairs. The porch roof is interrupted at the entrance and angled southeast corner by small gables. The c. 1900 C.C. Eakins House (PD-119), just north of Atkinson, is a virtual copy of the Manse with its high hipped roof, pedimented front gable, one-story wraparound porch containing turned posts, balusters and scroll brackets, and a pediment in its angled corner bay.

The c. 1900 Dr. Williams House (PD-207) in Rocky Point is a charming one-story residence with a triple-A roof, wraparound porch, and large rear wing. The encircling porch contains turned posts and balustrades, and scroll brackets. The gabled front dormer features return cornices and a stepped, tripartite vent. To the east of the residence is Dr. Williams' medical office, a diminutive, gable-front structure with a wraparound porch that replicates the one on the main house.

The 1902 Johnson House (PD-110) in Atkinson is an attractive, two-story, Queen Anne style residence with an asymmetrical plan, projecting bays, and a high hipped roof that contains three attic pediments. The one-story wraparound porch is supported by Tuscan style columns. An indication of the

availability of large glass panes is shown by the two-over-two window sash used throughout the house.

The 1903 Sanderson House (PD-226), east of Burgaw is a handsomely restored example of a large home with a scale and architectural detail that give it the bearing of a manor house on a large estate. The exterior walls are sheathed with both German siding and shingles. Adding to the expansiveness of the plan is a one-story, Tuscan-columned porch that encompasses three sides of the house and the west elevation of the rear kitchen wing. The oversize windows in the first and second stories contain two-over-two sash while the hip-roofed dormer features a tripartite window with small panes encircling single lights.

The 1909 Alexander Martin House (PD-204) in Rocky Point replaced an earlier plantation house that stood to the west of the current site. Settled comfortably on a knoll above and well back from the road, the one-story, Queen Anne style house commands an uninterrupted view of the highway and adjacent corn fields. The hip-roofed main block and south elevation of the rear kitchen wing are encircled by an attached porch supported by Tuscan columns. A highlight of the exterior is a bay window at the northeast corner of the house, surmounted by opposing gables containing ornamental shingles. The interior is a model of Queen Anne fashion with stained rather than painted woodwork and mirrored overmantels.

The c. 1910 W.C. Keith House (PD-111) in Atkinson, is of a unique design consisting of a story-and-a-half dwelling raised on high brick piers with steps rising at the east and south elevations to a wraparound porch. Each street elevation contains a bay window and entrance in the first story, and a shingled wall dormer in the high hipped roof.

The c. 1910 Wells House (PD-84), southwest of Watha, is a highly original

design dominated by a gable-over-hip roof with exterior end chimneys rising from interior, back-to-back fireplaces. The one-story, Queen Anne style dwelling was originally intended to be two stories in height, but the upper floor was never built, resulting in the unique form. The front porch features turned posts and balustrades, scroll brackets, and is crowned by a triangular gable containing patterned shingles above the central entrance. A larger gable, duplicating that on the porch, is centered in the lower slope of the main roof, creating a delightful architectural composition.

The 1917 Burton-Noel House (PD-76) in Burgaw is a two-story, L-shaped structure with a double-story porch across the front. Built by a former mayor of the town, this was the first brick building erected in the area and is accentuated by a double-story, wraparound front porch with brick piers at the lower level and short, tapered posts in the upper story.

The 1919 James Dew House (PD-132), southwest of Currie, is a one-story version of the Neoclassical Revival style featuring pedimented gable ends, an attached front porch supported by square posts, and a transverse-gable rear wing. The central entrance features a wide transom and sidelights containing patterned glass, which is repeated in the upper sash of the flanking windows. The exterior chimney is set forward in the side elevation, a treatment that is common in Cape Fear region houses where only the front rooms of the double-pile house are heated. The c. 1900 R.E. Moore House (PD-129), in the southwest corner of the county, has a similar fireplace placement and the gable-end chimneys have stepped shoulders and free-standing stacks, a recurrence of an early building tradition. A kitchen and dining room wing is attached to the northeast corner of the main block and the rooms open directly onto an engaged porch which extends along the south elevation from the rear of the main block to a small pantry.

The 1919 B. F. Keith House (PD-133), at Still Bluff just north of the Dew

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House, was built for a former collector of the Port of Wilmington, a farmer, and a popular politician. It is one of the grandest houses in the county, and occupies an incomparable site at a bend of the Black River below Point Caswell. The two-and-a-half story, Neoclassical Revival style house has a pedimented front porch supported by four Composite columns, and tripartite window above the entrance bay. A three-bay, double-gallery rear porch with Tuscan columns, overlooks Aldermans Cove. Two interior chimneys, asymmetrically arranged serve the two north parlors and the dining room. The wide eaves of the pedimented roof are accentuated by exposed rafters. Pedimented dormers are centered on the front and rear facades.

The 1920 Corbett House (PD-115) in Atkinson, the home of the founder of a large crate manufacturing and packing company, is a unique combination of the Bungalow/Craftsman and Prairie styles which shed formality for relaxed comfort, space, and light. The story-and-a-half brick residence has a deep front porch and attached carport--signifying the growing popularity of the automobile--which are supported by square brick posts. The central entrance features a patterned glass door and matching sidelights. Windows throughout the house contain single, paired and tripled sash. A low-pitched gabled sun porch is attached to the southeast corner of the main block. Four hipped dormers with paired windows occupy each slope of the high hipped roof.

The 1920 Woodcock House (PD-110), also in Atkinson, is a noteworthy example of a California bungalow, a design that became nationally popular through magazine articles and ready-built housing companies. The story-and-a-half residence has broad, bracketed, gable-end roofs extending over the main block, attached front porch, carport, and shed-roofed dormers. The single, paired and tripled windows contain multiple-pane upper sash. Nine-light tripartite casements are in the dormers.

The 1920 Bowden House (PD-225), near Ashton Crossroads, is a square, two-story, frame dwelling with a high hip roof accentuated by exposed rafter ends suggesting the Bungalow/Craftsman style. Attached porches extend across the east front and south elevations and are supported by Tuscan style columns. Single and paired windows contain two-over-two sash. A long, rear wing, rebuilt in 1974, duplicates the details found in the main block of the house.

The 1940 Kelly House (PD-122) south of Atkinson is a one-story, Bungalow/Craftsman style brick residence featuring a gable-front roof surmounting a transverse-gable porch and gabled front bay. The porch features tapered posts on brick piers and turned-picket balustrades. The roofs incorporate exposed rafter ends and triangular brackets. The house appears to be an original or copy of the Aladdin Company's "Plaza" model ready-made design and was built by King David Bowers who also built several homes in Wilmington's Sunset Park subdivision in the 1920s and 1930s, and the Atkinson Baptist Church in 1948.

A unique example of the cooperation of several family members in building homes is found along Stag Park Road northeast of Burgaw. Here, about 1900, five members of the Jordan family: Charlie, George, Isabella, Jesse, and John, built look-alike dwellings on adjacent farms in a row along the west side of the street. Some of the homes were later altered, but the basic, traditional L-plans, attached porches, and diamond-shaped attic vents are evident. Across from the Jesse Jones, now Walters, House (PD-227), is the 1895 Hodges House--the Hodges and the Jordans were related--which is one of the most unusual small houses in the county. The plan is like its neighbors, but the interior finishes are remarkable. The left front room is square and contains vertical-board wainscoting, a three-tier mantel frieze, and a beaded wood ceiling with criss-cross ribs that meet at a center circle from which the light fixture suspends. The center hall is sheathed with diagonal-board wainscoting.

Houses with standardized designs became more popular during the 1900s because of the mass-production and ready availability of building materials. The ultimate effect of this development was the prefabricated house. Catalogue-order companies such as Aladdin, a Bay City, Michigan firm which built its second manufacturing plant in Wilmington; Sears Roebuck; Victory Homes, another Wilmington firm; and others offered a variety of traditional and period models for their customers in rural and urban places. In towns like Atkinson and Burgaw, the ready-built houses were very popular because the crates carrying the "kits" could be delivered to the site by train. With the creation of the Penderlea Homestead in the 1930s, government sponsored mass-produced housing were built with five different floor plans and a range of architectural styles being available. In the post-World War II generation, the ready-built companies were supplanted by tract-housing contractors and, later, by mobile home dealers. In the late twentieth century, the number of brick ranches and manufactured homes has increased greatly, displacing many of the old farmsteads and making those that do survive much more significant historically and architecturally.

PROPERTY TYPE 3: TRANSPORTATION, INDUSTRIAL, AND COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES

A. The Railroad Era from 1840 to 1945.

The coming of the railroad to the Cape Fear region of North Carolina transformed the landscape almost immediately and introduced a new era of development for farms, rural communities, and towns. The most sweeping improvements came in agriculture and architecture. In the first case, dependable transportation increased farm and market efficiency; in the second case building materials and builders reached formerly isolated sites at a saving of cost and time. The centers of activity became the railroad sidings where freight and passengers met to deal with the business and social affairs of the day. Generally, the depot was located in the center of the community, near the commercial and residential districts, and convenient to river and road connections. Two significant examples of these transportation related resources remain in Pender County: in Willard and in Burgaw.

The c. 1860 Willard Depot ((PD-157) is a rare surviving example of an ante-bellum station, a classic architectural type that was widely copied throughout the nation during the period of railroad expansion, which combines a functional form with a flair for the picturesque. The board-and-batten depot has a gable-end roof that slopes down to broad eaves supported by curvilinear brackets. Divided into three sections, the northern unit was occupied by the waiting rooms, the projecting bay along the west side contained the dispatcher's office, and the southern area was for freight storage.

The Burgaw Depot (PD-65) is a rambling wooden structure built in two stages. The earliest portion, constructed about 1865, was the freight warehouse which appears to be identical to the Willard Depot and is, likewise, sheathed with board-and-batten siding. The south end of the building is the passenger waiting area which was added in 1917. The walls are sheathed with

weatherboards, and the broad hipped roof is supported by carved knee braces. An intermediate room contains the station master's office, control room, and dispatcher's station. The latter projects from the building to afford a clear view up and down the track. A large produce platform at the north end of the warehouse is covered by an exposed-rafter roof.

B. Industrial Structures and sites.

Of the numerous turpentine, seed, grain, and saw mills that were scattered throughout the county, nothing more remains. In areas around Rocky Point and the Northeast Cape Fear River, marl quarries and sand pits are still in operation, but the industrial processing is done elsewhere. In the early twentieth century, the Garysburg Manufacturing Company, a timber plant, was in business in Burgaw but closed during the Depression.

One group of interrelated sites, however, do remain as reminders of an important benchmark in the space industry. The U.S. Naval Ordnance Testing Facility (NR) on Topsail Island forms a series of highly significant structures, unique in the nation, that were built for testing ram jet rockets which made possible the modern space program in America. Although abandoned in 1948 and sold for civilian uses, the arsenal or assembly building, the control tower, remnants of the launch pad, and several observation towers placed at proper intervals still punctuate the shoreline.

C. Commercial Structures.

1. Atkinson Commercial District.

Atkinson, named for an engineer who assisted in the building of the railroad through the district, contains along its principal entranceway, Church Street, the last vestiges of a once-thriving business center (PD-108). The 1915 Holley Grocery Store occupies three intact shopfronts with recessed entrances and paneled-apron display windows. Across the street is the 1923

Atkinson Drug Store, its chamfered corner bay wraps around the intersection, and the upper story is crowned by a brick-paneled parapet. Further east in the block is an attractive array of one-story brick stores with basketweave patterns in the aprons beneath the windows and in the upper facades.

2. Burgaw Commercial District.

The west side of Wright Street (PD-57) across from Courthouse Square was developed between 1910 and 1950 and contains a row of distinctive commercial buildings including the c. 1910 Bank of Pender anchoring the south corner, the 1920 Harrell's Department Store in mid-block, and the 1925 Dee's Drug Store at the intersection of Wright Street and Courthouse Avenue. Each building incorporates handsome brickwork and decorative details that are characteristic of its time. The north side of Courthouse Avenue (PD-64) has several stores dating to the 1910s with an especially attractive building, No. 104, highlighted by segmentally-arched windows in the second story and bands of dog-tooth brick between the arches and the parapet. On West Fremont Street (PD-61), three store fronts surmounted by tripartite upper-story windows, attic vents and stepped parapet once contained a newspaper office and a cafe.

3. Currie Commercial District.

The town of Currie, settled in 1888, like other communities in Pender County, developed along the railway right-of-way, in this instance the Cape Fear and Yadkin Railroad, and was named for a director of the line, John H. Currie. The tracks were abandoned in the 1960s, but the short row of stores (PD-155) along the north side of Brinson Road survive as testimony of the once-thriving business district, with two general stores, a post office, a barber shop, and a movie house still standing, but used for other purposes. Walker's Store at the east end of the block is a model of an early twentieth century commercial building with its high gable, deep porch, and wide entrance doors. Bell's Store and the old post office have narrow street facades, and

the former barber shop extends back into an L-shaped residence with the ubiquitous wraparound porch and separate entrances into the rooms.

4. Willard Commercial District.

First called Leesburg in 1890 and renamed Willard for a local family of lumber dealers, the town is the best preserved and most typical crossroads community in Pender County (PD-158, 159, 160). Encompassing only six squares of land surrounding the c. 1865 Depot, the extant structures, dating from the 1840s to the 1940s, include a general store, depot, old and new post offices, five residences, two churches, a supply house, and a modern Resque Squad. The architecture is simple and straightforward, but the overall arrangement of differing building types and structural elements is artistically appealing.

PROPERTY TYPE 4: INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS

A. Churches.

Religion has always been a dominant part of the urban and rural populations throughout the region and embraced three major branches of Christianity: Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian. Their foundations date back to the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and reflect the origins of the communicants. The oldest of the group are the Presbyterians who moved into the northern part of New Hanover, now Duplin, County in the 1730s and established a congregation near present day Kenansville. The Baptists were the next religious group to form an assembly and organized a church near South Washington (Watha) in the early 1800s. Methodist preachers had visited the area during the latter part of the 1700s, but it was not until the post-Civil War era that they came together formally and built their houses of worship. A fourth, but much smaller sect was the Episcopal church which emanated from the Church of England after the American Revolution and was mostly composed of the wealthy rural and urban classes. A unique group in the county was the Unitarians who, in 1900, established their first church in North Carolina at Shelter Neck, built a chapel, schoolhouse, and dormitories, and operated a boarding school there until the 1920s.

In the twentieth century, many families have become associated with larger and more centrally located churches, and the old meeting houses have witnessed a depletion of their congregations. In many instances, however, the buildings are maintained by friends and families who gather annually at reunions to preserve the historic continuity of their faith.

The first churches were often simple log structures that were suitable for small congregations. But, in time, these were replaced by larger, more spacious and airy meeting houses which were designed in the prevailing Greek Revival style. Later, the pointed-arched Gothic Revival and the semicircular-

arched Colonial Revival became popular, but the basic form and character of the churches retained their Greek Revival antecedents of a white painted frame edifice, simple rectilinear lines, and robust detailing.

Mt. Holly Baptist Church (PD-230) represents the earliest establishment of the sect in Pender County. Organized in 1814, the first church was of log construction, but was replaced in 1861 by the current Greek Revival style structure, the oldest and most intact religious edifice in the Cape Fear region. The white frame edifice features widely spaced double doors in the gable-front facade, and robust corner posts supporting a pediment. A cemetery is located along the north side of the church.

Hopewell Presbyterian Church, (PD-91), situated at the eastern end of a long drive that extends in a straight line from the state highway, is a simple, Greek Revival style frame church with an engaged front porch supported by three square posts, and two front entrances. On the south side of the church is an extensive burying ground containing, among other communicants, the remains of Hinton James (1776-1847), who, in 1795, was the first student to enroll at the University of North Carolina.

The 1879 Rocky Point United Methodist Church (PD-215), at the intersection of the old Duplin and Rocky Point roads, has an unusual window design consisting of six-over-six sash surmounted by single-pane transoms. The central entrance is contained within a porch supported by Tuscan columns. The steep gable-front roof is crowned by a belfry with arched windows and a slender spire.

The 1880 Bethlehem Baptist Church (PD-126), southwest of Currie, is a Greek Revival style, gable-front structure, with an attached front porch supported by two square posts. Separate doors open into the sanctuary and the side walls are lighted by six rectangular, stained-glass windows.

Burgaw's 1883 Macedonia AME Church (PD-77), one of the oldest black congregations in the county, has a Greek-cross plan which contains pointed-arch, stained glass windows in the north, south and west elevations. A square tower surmounted by a front gable is attached to the southeast corner of the edifice. The brick facings were added in 1915.

The 1889 Point Caswell Missionary Baptist Church (PD-124), standing solemnly within a grove of pine trees near the bend of the road that skirts the Black River, is a rare example of an intact rural meeting house which retains its unpainted weatherboarding, large sash windows, twin front entrances, and diamond-shaped attic vents beneath a steep gable-front roof.

The c. 1890 Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Church in Willard (PD-159) exhibits Gothic Revival details including a crenellated entrance tower containing double doors, a blind window with paired, peaked tops, and diamond-shaped side vents. Windows in the nave contain nine-over-nine sash and triangular transoms.

To the northwest of the Hawes House in Atkinson (PD-116) is the 1890 Gothic Revival style frame chapel, formerly St. Thomas, a unique example in the county of an Episcopal mission, currently used as an interdenominational church. The gabled front is bisected by a square tower which incorporates a double-door entrance surmounted by a pointed-arch transom; a multi-light, pointed-arch window; and a circular vent.

Atkinson's c. 1900 Caswell Presbyterian Church (PD-109) is a late Gothic Revival style frame edifice with a Latin cross plan, a pyramidal-roofed tower, and a gabled entrance pavilion at the southeast corner of the building. The pointed-arch windows, arranged singly and in pairs, contain stained glass panels.

The c. 1900 Maple Hill Missionary Baptist Church (PD-188) anchors the northeast corner of NC-50 and SR-1526 and is bordered by woods and a stream along the northern side of the grounds. The edifice is one bay wide and three bays deep with a projecting tower at the gable-front entrance. The tower is crowned by a small gable in each flank and an octagonal steeple containing its original scalloped shingles.

The c. 1900 Waters Chapel AME Church (PD-123), near Currie, is a gable-front frame building with a central entrance and windows surmounted by pointed-arch transoms. Patches in the weatherboarding around the transoms suggest that the windows originally were trabeated and later changed to suggest Gothic Revival work. Sawtooth-pattern fascias and verge boards animate the roof which is crowned by a square cupola and a pyramidal roof topped by a spike.

The c. 1907 Watha Missionary Baptist Church (PD-174) is is a one-story edifice in the Victorian Gothic style. The main block has pointed windows containing two-over-two sash and diamond-shaped lights in the apex of the upper sash. A two-tier, pyramidal-roofed entrance tower rises at the southwest corner of the church.

Mills Memorial Advent Christian Church (PD-146), west of Penderlea, is a rare example of the Carpenter Gothic style with board-and-batten walls, multi-stage central entrance tower, and pointed-arch windows containing stained-glass panels. The church duplicates the design of the Episcopal church in Elizabethtown, which was moved from Faison in the 1980s.

The 1907-1908 Watha Methodist Church (PD-181) is a Colonial Revival style edifice, three bays wide and four bays deep, with a gable-front roof crowned by a square cupola and pyramidal roof. The central front entrance contains double doors and a fanlight transom. Flanking arched windows have six-over-

nine sash with the upper sash terminating in fanlights. Fenestration in the side elevations consist of trabeated windows containing six-over-six sash.

In Burgaw, the Colonial Revival style is echoed in two religious edifices: the 1928 Burgaw Methodist Church (PD-69), a T-shaped brick structure highlighted by a portico and crowned by an octagonal cupola; and the 1940 Burgaw Baptist Church (PD-69), with a cruciform plan, Corinthian portico, and multi-stage steeple.

In St. Helena, Ss. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church (PD-91) was built in 1932 and owes much to the Colonial Revival style with arched windows, basket-weave decoration framing the central entrance, and an octagonal belfry. Distinctive Orthodox stylistic details include a wheel window over the entrance and a faceted, gilded dome crowned by a Russian cross.

Island Creek Missionary Baptist Church (PD-235), west of Hampstead, is one of a small number of brick churches in the county. The noteworthy design is arranged around large, Italianate-influenced arched windows in the front and side elevations of the nave.

B. Schools.

No school structures predating the early twentieth century survive in Pender County, and schools built in the late 1910s and 1920s are of two types: frame and brick. The first type is best represented by a number of structures sponsored by the Rosenwald Foundation, an organization of Sears-Roebuck and Company of Chicago, which funded the construction of school houses for black children in the South. Of these, eight survive in Pender County at Currie (PD-141), Caintuck (PD-128), Maple Hill (PD-201), two in Rocky Point (PD-205 and PD-209), Sloop Point (PD-), Still Bluff (PD-), and Union Chapel (PD-100).

In the 1920s, school consolidation was put into effect and a number of

brick schools were built for white students. The first of these was the 1924 Atkinson School (PD-118), one of a vast number of educational buildings designed by Wilmington architect Leslie N. Boney, and perhaps his best work, with a suggestion of Tudor and Neoclassical influences including a formal central entrance, clustered windows, and applied ornament in the stepped parapets. The 1924 Long Creek-Grady School (PD-214), east of Currie, is another Boney design, but with an exposed-rafter hipped roof rather than the undulating parapets of his other designs. In 1925, similar schools were designed and erected at Topsail (now the Middle School) and Rocky Point (a one-story version later named Pender Academy). In addition to the main building, many of the schools had separate, frame gymnasiums, cafeterias, and manual training classrooms added to the facilities between the 1930s and 1950s.

The one-story, brick, Colonial Revival style Maple Hill School (PD-90) was a Federal Works Progress Administration project, which was built in 1939 to replace a wooden schoolhouse, and is now used as a community center.

The Penderlea School (PD-156) was also a Federal project that was completed in 1938. The modern, advanced design forms a complex of free-standing, one-story, brick buildings arranged in a symmetrical pattern around interior courtyards. Covered walkways run between the units and connect with the gymnasium and auditorium across the green.

C. Government Buildings.

The first Pender County Courthouse was located in Watha, in 1875, but the seat of government was moved to Burgaw shortly thereafter and a new building was erected there in 1883. The current courthouse (PD-56), replacing the earlier structure in 1936, was designed by Raleigh architect William Henley Dietrick. The Colonial Revival style was favored during the WPA era and the

result is one of the most attractive public buildings in North Carolina.

The 1924 Pender County Jail (PD-58) across Courthouse Square is a two-story, Spanish Colonial style structure with an entrance porch covered with Mission tiles. The building rises to a flat roof enclosed by a low parapet. The first level originally contained offices and the jailer's living quarters; the prison cells occupy the second floor.