

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Winnabow

Winnabow vic., Brunswick County, BW0253, Listed 12/29/2025
Nomination by J. Daniel Pezzoni, Landmark Preservation Associates
Photographs by J. Daniel Pezzoni and Sara Harris, May 2024; May 2025



Front (east) and north elevations of house. View looking southwest.



Rear (west) elevation of house. View looking east.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Winnabow

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 677 Governor Road SE

City or town: Winnabow State: NC County: Brunswick

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: X

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

 Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u> Date <u>10/07/20</u> <u>North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	<hr/>
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	<hr/>

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Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

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Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

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Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood, Brick, Metal, Concrete

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Winnabow is a ca. 1845 Greek Revival frame house with a double-pile center-passage plan located at 677 Governor Road SE in Brunswick County, North Carolina. The nominated parcel is flat with grown-up borders of mostly deciduous trees and shrubs that screen the house from adjacent residential development. The parcel is situated at about 20 to 25 feet above sea level in the drainage of Rice Creek, a tributary of Town Creek and the Cape Fear River. The house faces approximately 30 degrees north of east, but for the purpose of simplicity is described as facing

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east with other elevations facing the points of the compass accordingly. The house has weatherboard siding, a metal-sheathed side gable roof, and a parged foundation. The symmetrical five-bay front elevation is shaded by a two-tier porch dating to the nineteenth century. A one-story screen porch, probably built in the second half of the twentieth century, projects on the south side. A one-story nineteenth-century porch extends across the rear. Two gable-end brick chimneys on each gable end have been partially removed due to poor condition as part of an ongoing rehabilitation. The interior retains most of its original trim including Greek Revival mantels, a center passage stair, and five- and six-panel doors. The attic has hewn and straight-sawn rafters, Roman numeral builder marks and other construction indicators, and a metal water tank. Also on the 1.94-acre nominated parcel stands a large smokehouse of wood-shingle-sided v-notched round log construction, which is probably contemporaneous with the house but may be later, and a modern shed. From the back of the house extends a low wood deck which attaches via a wheelchair ramp to a second wood deck that is flush with the ground. Off the south end of the house is a poured concrete platform for a former hot tub. Buried in the front yard are the remains of a large circular cistern of brick and concrete (or mortar) construction. A gravel driveway connects the house to the road.

Narrative Description

Inventory

1. Winnabow (house). Ca. 1845. Contributing building.
2. Smokehouse. Ca. 1845. Contributing building.
3. Shed. Ca. 2000. Non-contributing building.

Winnabow (house). Ca. 1845

Contributing building

House Exterior

Winnabow is a two-story center-passage-plan Greek Revival house. It has weatherboard siding attached with cut and wire nails indicating a mix of material from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The two-tier front porch is engaged under an offshoot of the side-gable roof which is slightly shallower in pitch than the main roof. The porch is supported by modern rectangular-section posts and has modern railings with square-section balusters. The second tier has added uprights to support former screening. The ceiling of the first tier has open structure whereas the second-tier ceiling is ceiled.

Partial stretcher-bond brick chimneys rise on the two gable ends. The south chimney—the lower half of which is covered by a one-story wing—had sloping shoulders defined by cut bricks prior to the dismantling of its upper portion due to deterioration. The north chimney was mostly dismantled at the time of writing due to deterioration and will be reconstructed. It has a parged base with in-stepping of the brickwork above. Flanking the chimneys in the gables are small

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four-pane square windows. Most other windows of the house have six-over-six wooden sashes (the one-story south wing has a few two-over-two stack-pane wood-sashed windows). The front windows and a few on other elevations have louvered wood shutters, some with small metal shutter clasps mounted on the sills. The five-bay symmetry of the front of the house is repeated on the second story of the rear.

The first-story front entry has a surround with a transom and sidelights. The transom has a characteristically Greek Revival gridded muntin pattern. Under the sidelights are narrow recessed panels. The six-panel door has recessed panels with double-stepped borders behind a modern screen door with spindle corner decorations. The second-story front entry has a three-pane transom over a four-panel door. The back first-story door has a four-pane transom, a French door, and a decorative modern screen door. The shed-roofed back porch is similar in construction to the front porch and screened. Its north end is enclosed as a small room.

The one-story south wing has a roof which is shed-like on the front and hipped at the back with a shed extension over a mid-twentieth-century addition. The wing itself appears to date to the nineteenth century as suggested by the presence of a six-over-six window similar in character to others in the house. Other features of the wing include an attached screen porch, a handicap ramp, and a large cylindrical metal roof vent. A foundation hatch at the back of the wing provides a view under the house where nineteenth-century brick piers and later concrete block piers are visible.

House Interior

The first-story front entry opens into a center passage in which rises a stair with a long lower run and short bifurcated upper runs. The stair has a rounded handrail supported by square-section balusters and newels, all characteristic of the first and second stories. The newels have simple molded caps. The bifurcated, or split-landing, upper runs provide frontward access to the second-floor passage and backward access to back rooms. Under the stair is a closet accessed through a four-panel door. The walls of the closet are painted yellow, an early color. At the back of the center passage is a five-panel door with an unusual panel configuration consisting of four vertical panels capped by a horizontal fifth panel at the top. Other doors in the back part of the house have similar five-panel arrangements. Typical of the interior are plaster-on-lath wall and ceiling finishes, board floors, molded door and window surrounds, and beaded baseboards.

The front rooms of the house are deeper than the back rooms. As a consequence of the symmetrical five-bay front elevation they have two east-facing windows each which provide ample natural illumination. The south first-floor front room has a pilaster-and-lintel mantel with molded caps on the pilasters, a bed molding under the shelf, and a modern Georgian Revival overmantel with fluted pilasters and a dentil cornice. The wall finish inside the overmantel has been removed revealing the brick of the chimney. The room also has a modern textured ceiling finish and an ornate modern medallion for a ceiling fan. The door to the center passage has one of several Carpenter lock boxes complete with a small heraldic medallion bearing the inscription "Carpenter Patentees" and decorative brass detail on the keeper with the same inscription, crown

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stamps, and the initials GR. Other doors in the house have rim locks with pottery or porcelain doorknobs.

The north first-floor front room has a pilaster-and-lintel mantel with inward-stepping recesses on the faces of the pilasters that create an appearance similar to fluting. The center recess of each pilaster has a small rectangular cutout, perhaps the ghost of a former attachment for hardware for hanging fireplace implements. The pilasters have molded caps and there is a bed molding under the shelf. The room has a molded chair rail creating a wainscot, and the baseboards are molded rather than beaded. The six-panel door to the room has patching on the door and jamb below the upper butt hinge consisting of nailed-on leather sheets. The patching may cover damage associated with an earlier hinge placement.

The continuation of the first-floor center passage has wainscoting with two-tier paneling. The southwest first-floor room was the principal of the two rear first-floor rooms, with access both to the room in front of it and the center passage and two west-facing windows. The northwest first-floor room has access only to the center passage and only one west-facing window (a second window is precluded by the aforementioned porch room). Like the front rooms the rear rooms have five-panel doors.

The second-floor front rooms have pilaster-and-lintel mantels; the northeast room has a modern ceiling medallion. A hearth patch in the northwest room relates to the former existence of a fireplace and chimney. The rooms have four-panel and stack-panel doors, the latter dating to the first half of the twentieth century. The southwest room, which was converted to a bathroom, has a modern tiled tub enclosure between two closets with four-panel doors. A four-panel door in this room opens to a second, smaller bathroom which is also accessed from the top of the second-floor stair. Because the front and back of the house have five bays on the second story, each of the four second-floor rooms has two east- or west-facing windows.

A two-run stair similar in treatment to the stair below rises to the attic. The front rooms are covered by a common rafter side-gable roof. A mix of hewn and vertical mill-sawn rafters are lapped and pegged at the ridge. The rafter pairs have mismatched Roman numeral builder marks (for example VII and X). Two rafter pairs have additional numerals which do match from rafter to rafter. The numerals are I, II, III, and IIII spaced along the length of the rafters with I near the eaves and IIII near the ridge. In combination with the numerals are lightly scored vertical lines that appear to mark intended stud locations. The rafter pairs may have been intended for the gable ends of the roof (or alternatively for interior partitions) but were placed at random locations when the roof was assembled.

Cut-nailed wood-shingle roofing survives on the back plane of the main roof, encapsulated by a rear roof extension constructed with vertical mill-sawn rafters and uprights that are cut-nailed rather than pegged, a later form of construction. The roof extension over the front porch has similar cut-nailed vertical mill-sawn construction, which may indicate its construction is also later than the main roof. However, the plates of the gable ends of the original section of the house appear to extend continuously under the porch roof, which would indicate a porch of the

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current porch's dimensions and height was original to the house. The change in porch roof construction may therefore relate to the replacement of the uppermost structure. This may also be the case for the rear pile of rooms. Also in the attic is a large galvanized metal water tank and a metal pipe which may be associated with former carbide lighting. Other attic features include multiple cut nails nailed into rafters for hanging items and wind bracing nailed to the undersides of the rafters.

Smokehouse. Ca. 1845

Contributing building

The smokehouse stands to the south of the house and measures approximately 20 by 26 feet in dimension. The north-facing round-log building is sided with wood shingles attached with cut and wire nails and has a side-gable roof sheathed with metal. The front entry has a board surround which is pegged to the log ends and which has iron pintels for a former door. The current z-braced door is of wire-nailed construction. The building appears to have a wood block foundation which probably consists of blocks of rot- and insect-resistant longleaf pine heartwood. The east gable end has a one-story shed-roofed frame addition with a six-over-six wood-sash window and an entry with a five-panel door. On the opposite gable end is an open-fronted shed-roofed garage addition with metal siding and across the back is another shed-roofed garage addition of pole construction with metal and plywood enclosure.

The round-log construction is apparent in the open interior where the logs are chinked with mortar. Other interior features include a wire-nailed ladder attached to the back wall and log floor joists which support board flooring. The space is spanned by round-log beams to which long boards are attached at an angle for wind bracing. The boards—one of which spans the full length of the building—have furring consistent with salt damage, evidence of meat preparation. The common rafters appear to be lapped and pegged at the ridge. Board collars, either nailed or pegged, are common on the rafter pairs. The rafters and the full-length roof boards they support have extensive blackening which appears to be either smoke residue, charring, or both (there is little if any blackening on the logs below). At the center of the roof ridge is a brick-lined flue hole. Below the hole hangs a strip of sheet metal with a circular hole in it through which a stove flue formerly passed. The metal served in part to protect adjacent roof structure from the heat of the flue. Flanking the flue hole are long gaps in the roof boards which suggest the locations of former roof vents.

Shed. Ca. 2000

Non-contributing building

The shed stands about 50 feet behind the house. It is of pole construction with metal siding, a metal-sheathed shed roof, and an open front.

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Integrity Assessment

Winnabow possesses sufficient integrity for listing. The two historic resources—the house and smokehouse—are the principal buildings on the property; the only modern resource is a shed located behind the house. The house retains most exterior and interior character-defining features from its original construction and early development, such as its overall form, gable roof, front and rear porches, wooden sash windows, double-pile center-passage plan, Greek Revival front entry, and virtually complete Greek Revival interior detail. These Greek Revival elements constitute the core of the house's significance as a well-preserved example of the Greek Revival style in Brunswick County, in fact one of the few surviving examples of the style in the county. Mostly missing from the house are its brick chimneys: two rear ones removed during the historic period and two front ones mostly removed owing to severe deterioration during a recently completed rehabilitation (the south chimney survives below the roofline of the one-story south wing and the base of the north chimney survives). The loss of the chimneys adversely affects the integrity of the house but is offset by the high degree of integrity of the rest of the fabric. The smokehouse too retains most of its early fabric, the replacement of the front door and addition of modern shed storage wings representing the most obvious changes. Winnabow's contributing resources therefore possess overall integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. The setting is mixed. Most of the outbuildings that served the house are gone and the immediate setting is presumably more overgrown than would have been the case during the historic period. However, the vegetation around the perimeter of the property has the effect of screening the house from adjacent modern development. The property conveys a sense of the period of time during which it developed, contributing to integrity of feeling, and it possesses integrity of association in that it is directly linked to the historical and architectural developments that formed it.

Statement of Archaeological Potential

Built ca. 1845, this property has high potential for archaeological resources relating to the operations of the homestead, indicative of domestic and cultivation practices of the time, such as naval stores and turpentine production. An archaeological investigation within this property could produce information concerning daily life of the Russell family, enslaved people, the subterranean foundations of outbuildings originally built to serve the home and no longer present above ground, and domestic and plantation operations including the smokehouse through the American Civil War, leading to a more complete interpretation of the property and its residents. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the Winnabow residence. At this time, no investigation has been done to discover such remains, but it is likely that they exist, and this should be considered in any development or assessment of the property. The property also lies adjacent to ER 24-2673, for which an archaeological survey has been requested based on the physical characteristics of the landscape, which contains potential for prehistoric archaeological resources as well.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1845

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Winnabow, located in Brunswick County, North Carolina, is a ca. 1845 Greek Revival house historically associated with a large naval stores plantation. The house was built for Daniel L. Russell Sr. and his wife, Elizabeth Carolina Sanders Russell, and is believed to be the birthplace of their son Daniel L. Russell Jr., North Carolina's governor from 1897 to 1901 and the property's later owner. The two-story frame house of double-pile center-passage form features a two-tier front porch, a Greek Revival gridded front entry transom, Greek Revival pilaster-and-lintel mantels, wainscotting, and panel doors. The hewn and sawn roof rafters have Roman numeral builder marks including indications for stud placements. Near the house stands a wood-shingle-sided log smokehouse of unusually large size. Winnabow is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the Architecture area of significance as a well-preserved embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of the Greek Revival style in Brunswick County and for the inclusion of the smokehouse, a well-preserved example of the historic themes of log construction and wood-shingle sheathing in the county. The period of significance is ca. 1845, the approximate date of construction of the house based on historical and stylistic evidence. Winnabow is eligible at the local level of significance.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historic Background

Onslow County native Daniel Lindsay Russell Sr. (1803-1871) was said in his obituary to have moved in 1840 to Brunswick County where he "accumulated a large property." The first land purchase listed for Russell in Brunswick County deed records was the purchase of 320 acres "in the fork of Town Creek Mill Creek and Bigfords Creek" in 1841. Russell was still listed as a resident of Onslow County in the deed, but deeds a few years later indicate his move to Brunswick County. In addition to standard land purchases, Russell acquired land grants from the State of North Carolina. By 1855 Russell owned an estimated 25,000 acres in the county. His land purchases in the Town Creek area, his move to the county, and the Greek Revival style of Winnabow lend credence to the tradition that Daniel Lindsay Russell Jr., his son and the son of his wife, Elizabeth Carolina Sanders Russell, was born in the house in August 1845 (Daniel Sr. and Elizabeth may have married in 1844). Ca. 1845 is therefore proposed as the date of the house based on historical and architectural evidence.¹

¹ Brunswick County Deed Book M, p. 414; Deed Book M, p. 453; Deed Book O, p. 339; Deed Book O, p. 341; *Morning Star*, August 8, 1871; *Carolina Cultivator*, April 1855, 59; Lee, *History of Brunswick County*, 109; Findagrave; Goodman and Cooper, "Daniel Lindsay Russell," 5. Historians Jeffrey Crow and Robert Franklin Durden state that Daniel Russell Sr. moved to Brunswick County around 1820 (Crow and Durden, *Maverick Republican in the Old North State*, p. 2), however Goodman and Cooper state that

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A good deal is known about Daniel Sr.'s plantation activities in the county on account of a description published in the March 15, 1855, *Wilmington Daily Herald*. "Several years ago," wrote Philo Rural, the author of the article, "Mr. R. made a large and judicious purchase of land, the most of which was covered with a fine growth of pines" suitable for naval stores production, but beginning in the late 1840s disease destroyed an estimated 700,000 pines, making Russell "probably the largest loser in the state." Naval stores—turpentine, tar, and other products derived from pine trees—were a traditional mainstay of the North Carolina economy. Brunswick County was especially attractive for naval stores production on account of its extensive pine forests; less than ten percent of the county had been cleared by 1860. The county also enjoyed considerable transportation advantages with the port of Wilmington located across the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean a short distance downstream.²

Despite his losses, Russell continued naval stores production but added crop agriculture to his portfolio, placing approximately a thousand acres of his estimated 25,000-acre Brunswick landholdings into cultivation, half of it in corn. Livestock was another focus, with 150 swine slaughtered in the previous fall and 300 head of animals total on the farm. Philo Rural added approvingly: "I saw a Spanish jack, an Alderny bull, a Suffolk cow, and a Saxony ram, which proves that he spares no expense in procuring the best breeds of animals known." The cultivated portion of Russell's plantation was described as lying "mainly in the delta formed by Old Town and Rice creeks, and formed a part of the ancient plantations of Richard Hazle and Nathaniel Rice," the latter a colonial official of the mid-1700s period.³

Philo Rural also praised Russell's solution to improving what was "naturally a poor soil" on his lands. Five thousand loads of manure were spread on the fields in the spring. "During the winter, the hands are employed in collecting immense quantities of leaves, grass, and mud, which are carted to the stables, and, after having been used for litter, are placed in the compost heap, and soon prepared for the field." Marl was also used, as was guano fertilizer for the corn. The work was performed by an estimated 150 enslaved people, "a large part of which are mostly employed, during the summer and fall, in the turpentine department, of which the agricultural part is only for the supply of food and clothing." Despite the loss of trees, the net sales from Russell's turpentine stills were estimated at \$25,000 per annum. The number of enslaved people is also reported in the federal censuses of 1850 and 1860, 128 individuals in the former year and

Russell was in Mississippi in and around 1820 (p. 3). The property was known as Winnabow in the twentieth century; it is currently unknown whether the Russell family referred to it by that name. A number of individuals assisted with the research and writing of the report, foremost among them the owners of Winnabow, Jared and Sara Harris. Sara also conducted some of the research. Others who provided assistance included architectural historians Michael Southern and Catherine Bishir, and Julie Smith and Jeff Smith with the NC State Historic Preservation Office.

² *Daily Herald*, March 15, 1855; *Carolina Cultivator*, April 1855, 59-60; De Miranda and Martin, *Historic Architecture of Brunswick County*, 17.

³ *Daily Herald*, March 15, 1855; *Carolina Cultivator*, April 1855, 59-60. Some have speculated that the Winnabow house incorporates Nathaniel Rice's dwelling, however no architectural evidence of an eighteenth-century date for the house (such as wrought nails) has been observed.

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200 in the latter year. Historian Lawrence Lee has tabulated the 1860 census statistics for the county's leading planters and ranks Daniel Russell Sr. at the top in terms of number of enslaved people and total real and personal wealth (\$253,602). The 1850 census free population schedule places Russell at Town Creek and identifies him as a farmer and owner of \$15,000 worth of real estate. In 1860 he was listed as the owner of \$32,500 in real estate and \$221,102 in personal estate, of which the majority would have been enslaved people. Daniel Jr. was listed as a resident of the Town Creek household in both years. In 1860 he and his younger siblings were taught by a New York-born live-in "school mistress" named Mary (I.?) Fleming. The elder Daniel Russell's obituary in the Wilmington *Morning Star* notes that he represented Brunswick County in the state legislature and was chairman of the county court, and in 1850 he represented Brunswick County at a Southern Rights Convention in Wilmington. He served in the Constitutional Convention of 1865. In the summer of 1871 he sought treatment for cancer in Philadelphia but returned to his home in Wilmington where he died of the disease on July 31, 1871.⁴

More detail on the Winnabow plantation's early years is contained in a biography of Daniel Russell Jr. written by his former law partner Louis Goodman (d. 1959) and his granddaughter Alice Sawyer Cooper (1895-1974). Goodman and Cooper state that the location, referred to as a "place called Winnebah" in a 1737 deed, was chosen by Daniel Sr. because "from it he could use water freightage for his turpentine products." Russell constructed a tramway "with cars pulled on wooden rails by mules, which ran for ten miles southward through his pine forests to bring the crude turpentine to the landing [on Town Creek or a branch] where it was distilled, and then taken by boat to Wilmington."⁵

Daniel Lindsay Russell Jr. spent his early years at Winnabow where after the death of his mother he was nursed by a woman named Celia. This was Celia Sanders, one of twenty-five enslaved people Elizabeth brought to Winnabow as part of her dower. At age six Daniel Jr. went to live at the Palo Alto plantation in Onslow County, his mother's ancestral home, from which he went on to the Bingham School in Orange County and, in 1860, to the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. In 1862 he left school and returned to Brunswick County where he organized an artillery company to fight for the Confederacy. Despite this, Daniel Jr. and his father were openly critical of the Confederate government. After the Civil War father and son lived both in Brunswick County, presumably at Winnabow, and at a residence in Wilmington. Daniel Jr. entered the legal profession and in 1868 was elected judge of the superior court of Brunswick and adjacent counties. An 1867 business directory lists him as a lawyer living at Town Creek. He ran for judge as a Republican in a political culture dominated by the Democratic Party, and his biographers Jeffrey Crow and Robert Franklin Durden write that he "proceeded to establish a reputation as an outstanding legal mind as well as a fearless Republican who fully accepted the emancipation of the blacks and their incorporation into the body politic as legal equals." In later

⁴ *Daily Herald*, March 15, 1855; *Carolina Cultivator*, April 1855, 60; Lee, *History of Brunswick County*, 99; *Morning Star*, August 8, 1871; *Wilmington Journal*, March 15, 1850; US census.

⁵ Goodman and Cooper, "Daniel Lindsay Russell," 3-4.

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life Daniel Jr. was described as “ponderous in body” with a “deep, roaring, yet musical voice . . . all in all the prototype of the antebellum Southern Planter.”⁶

In 1869 Daniel Jr. married Sarah Amanda “Manda” Sanders (1844-1913) of Onslow County, a distant relative and childhood friend. Crow and Durden write that Sarah was an “independent-minded nonconformist like her husband . . . a feminist in an era when North Carolina had few such bold women.” Sarah was an ardent supporter of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union, and according to her obituary she “took a firm stand for temperance” during her years as the state’s First Lady. An inscription at her graveside reads “Inspirer of Educators, Temperance Advocate, Woman Suffrage Pioneer.” The graveside inscription echoes themes in Alice Sawyer Cooper’s 1973 account of her grandmother Sarah’s life. Cooper writes that Sarah was “a strong feminist and was happy to have as guests some of the leading women’s rights workers of that time as well as leaders of the W.C.T.U. of which she was a member.” On one occasion Sarah described herself and her husband as socialists in sympathy with the English Socialist movement. Daniel Jr. and Sarah did not have children, but they opened their home to a succession of young relatives. One of them, Alice Sanders (Cooper), recalls Sarah reading a Shakespeare play or a Dickens novel to family members assembled around the fire on winter evenings at the later Russell family home Belleville, a custom which may also have been the practice earlier at Winnabow.⁷

Daniel Jr. maintained an association with Brunswick County throughout his life. In 1871 his father “bargained” to his son “all my lands in the County of Brunswick, including my plantation on Town Creek in said county, for the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars.” The “plantation on Town Creek” was how Daniel Jr. termed the Winnabow plantation, which according to Goodman and Cooper he sold in 1881 to his brother-in-law Jackson Johnson, though 1890 and 1896 business directories continued to list him as a farmer in the Town Creek area. During this period Daniel Russell Jr. held several political offices. In 1876 he was elected to represent Brunswick County in the state House of Commons and in 1878 he was elected to the US House of Representatives. According to Goodman and Cooper he was offered the governorship of Colorado by President Grant in 1874 but declined. The 1880 census places Daniel and Sarah in Town Creek Township. After selling Winnabow Daniel’s main Brunswick County connection was to Bellville, a plantation located across the Cape Fear River from Wilmington, where he unsuccessfully tried to grow rice. He was also ultimately unsuccessful in growing cotton on Brunswick County soils, though nonetheless he was reported to be the Lower Cape Fear region’s largest cotton grower for a time. In 1896 he was elected governor of North Carolina—the only

⁶ Goodman and Cooper, “Daniel Lindsay Russell,” 5, 48; Crow and Durden, *Maverick Republican in the Old North State*, xiv-xv, 2-5, 12; *Morning Star*, August 8, 1871; *Branson’s North Carolina Business Directory, 1867-’68*, 20. The fact that the 1860 census listed Daniel Jr. as a resident of Brunswick County may have more to do with his official place of residence than his actual physical presence in the county at the time.

⁷ Crow and Durden, *Maverick Republican in the Old North State*, 12; *Morning Star*, March 19, 1913; Ham et al, “Russell, Sarah Amanda Sanders;” Findagrave; Cooper, “Sarah Amanda Sanders Russell,” 10; Goodman and Cooper, “Daniel Lindsay Russell,” 19, 31.

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Republican to claim the post between Reconstruction and the 1970s. His term was marked by racial strife, which, write Crow and Durden, “was especially ironic . . . for he had long tried to steer a middle course through the South’s racial troubles.” Russell left the governorship in 1901 and died at Bellville in 1908. Historian Lawrence Lee sums up Russell’s career thus: “Measured by the offices he held, Daniel Russell, Jr. was the most successful Brunswick County politician since the Civil War.”⁸

In 1891 Daniel Jr. sold off large tracts of Brunswick County land—7,500 acres to the Allen’s Creek Land Company and over 3,500 acres to D. D. Barber—suggesting an interest in divesting himself of lands in the county which may relate to his Winnabow lands. Jackson Johnson (1850-1927) of Fayetteville and his wife, Alice Julia Sanders Johnson (1854-1928), Sarah Russell’s sister, were associated with Winnabow around the turn of the twentieth century. Daniel Jr. and his wife sold a parcel to one J. Jackson in 1904, though the parcel does not appear to have included the Winnabow house. A J. J. Johnson was listed as a Town Creek area merchant in 1896. Alice Jackson was described in an obituary as “a prominent church woman” affiliated with New Hope Presbyterian Church at Winnabow. In 1898 she directed a “patriotic entertainment” for the Winnabow Literary and Historical Club.⁹

A 1923 deed notes that the property was involved in the court case of Jackson Johnson and Alice J. Johnson v. N. E. Ward. In the 1930s, Winnabow Plantation (as the property was known in deeds from the period) belonged to the Foulks family. The property then embraced over 1,900 acres. The property passed to the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation from which it was purchased by John Richard Covil in 1941. The property remained in the Covil family and its descendants until 1994 when the house and 1.94 acres were purchased by Cathy Crummie Childers Crawley. Crawley and associate Jeff Davis operated the house as the Winnabow Plantation Bed and Breakfast. Jared and Sara Harris purchased the house in 2024 and commenced a rehabilitation supervised by Tommy Rogers, the rehabilitation contractor for the rehabilitation of Wilmington’s Bellamy Mansion in the 1990s.¹⁰

⁸ Brunswick County Deed Book W, p. 555; Crow and Durden, *Maverick Republican in the Old North State*, xiii, 187; Evans, “Russell, Daniel Lindsay;” *Southport Herald*, May 21, 1908; Lee, *History of Brunswick County*, 172; *Branson’s North Carolina Business Directory, 1890*, 115; *Branson’s North Carolina Business Directory, 1896*, 114; Goodman and Cooper, “Daniel Lindsay Russell,” 21, 29; US census. A deed for the 1881 Russell to Jackson sale has not been located in Brunswick County records. The 1880 census also listed Daniel and Sarah Russell as residents of Second Street in Wilmington.

⁹ Brunswick County Deed Book II, p. 423, Deed Book JJ, p. 99, and Deed Book UU, p. 343; Cooper, “Sarah Amanda Sanders Russell,” 8; *News and Observer*, September 7, 1928; *Morning Star*, August 31, 1898; *Branson’s North Carolina Business Directory, 1896*, 113; Findagrave.

¹⁰ Harris, Winnabow report; Brunswick County Deed Book 37, p. 227; Deed Book 54, p. 389; Deed Book 58, p. 109; Deed Book 75, p. 47; Minchin, “A Place Called Winnebah.”

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Criterion C Architecture Area of Significance

In the architectural context of Brunswick County, Winnabow is a well-appointed Greek Revival plantation house belonging to a small cadre of such houses. The grandest historic house in the style is Orton Plantation (BW0005), an eighteenth-century house which received a Doric portico with an elliptical fanlight in the tympanum in the 1840s. Hickory Hall (BW0234) is another Greek Revival remodeling of an earlier house, in this instance apparently dating to the 1810s. Unlike Orton Plantation and Hickory Hall, Winnabow was built in the Greek Revival style *de novo* rather than remodeled. Another, more modest Greek Revival rural dwelling, located not far from Winnabow, is the house at 6130 Best Farm Road NE (BW0369), which shares with Winnabow a double-register paneled wainscot. The county likely had more Greek Revival farmhouses in years past, but storms, decay, and land use changes have diminished their ranks to the few that survive today. The only identified example of Greek Revival architecture in Southport, the county's principal historic community, is St. Phillips Episcopal Church (ca. 1860) with its pedimented gable and wide pilaster-like corner boards.¹¹

The Greek Revival style was, as its name indicates, a revival of classical Greek architecture, one of the phases of the classical revival that began with the Renaissance in the 1400s. An early American example of the style is Philadelphia's Bank of the United States (1818), followed a few years later by William Nichols' 1820-24 remodeling of the State House in Raleigh, which was given a portico effect with engaged Ionic columns. By the 1830s the style was relatively common in some areas of the country and in North Carolina became the dominant style for houses in the 1840s and 1850s. The style faded in other parts of the country by the Civil War but persisted in North Carolina into the 1870s, according to architectural historians Catherine Bishir and Michael Southern.¹²

The features of Winnabow that most distinguish it as a Greek Revival residence are its mantels and front entry surround. The mantels have a pilaster-and-lintel form, with two vertical elements (the pilasters) which visually support a horizontal element (the lintel). The form references the column and lintel construction of ancient Greek temples. The style is also specifically evoked by the pilaster faces in the north first-floor front room mantel, which have inward-stepping recesses with an appearance of fluting, the vertically grooved carving on certain classical columns. The gridded muntin effect of the first-story front entry surround transom is a treatment often seen in Greek Revival houses but not usually in houses of other styles. A stylistic feature of the house which is not Greek Revival is the asymmetrical trim of the interior window and door surrounds, which has more in keeping with the earlier Federal style. Such stylistic blending was not uncommon during the period.

¹¹ Landmark Preservation Associates, "Comprehensive Historical/Architectural Site Survey of Brunswick County," 1-11, 1-13; Bishir and Southern, *Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*, 263, 268; Lounsbury, *Architecture of Southport*, 10. BW numbers are site numbers assigned by the NC State Historic Preservation Office.

¹² McAlester and McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses*, 182; Bishir and Southern, *Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*, 446; Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*, 97-98.

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The switch in roof construction from hewn and pegged over the front rooms of the house to vertical mill-sawn and cut-nailed over the back rooms may indicate the back rooms (or at least their second story) were added, however this can also be interpreted as the result of roof structure replacement. If the house was enlarged, a possible period would be shortly after 1881 when the property is believed to have changed owners. The cut nails would be consistent with such a scenario, and Greek Revival influence remained in effect as late as ca. 1880 in rural areas. A photo which appears to date to the turn of the twentieth century period, posted on the NCPedia website and identified as from the North Carolina Museum of History, shows the house in its current double-pile form as well as an earlier generation of porch supports. Another photo in the state's survey collection, apparently taken in the 1970s or 1980s, shows the porch in more detail. At the time the porch retained a few early porch posts with delicate molded caps and neckings that were probably the same posts that appeared in the ca. 1900 photo. The porch foundation consisted of brick piers with areas of brick lattice between.¹³



Winnabow in a 1973 photo by Mac Dougal. Courtesy NC HPO.

Louis Goodman and Alice Sawyer Cooper do not provide a precise date of construction for Winnabow in their biography of Daniel Russell Jr., though they confirm that he was born on the property in 1845. They do include a detailed description of the house, outbuildings, and grounds, most of which appears to come from Cooper's childhood reminiscences:

in a fine oak grove about a third of a mile from the landing, [Daniel Sr.] built his house out of timber cut and sawed by his own slaves. (As a child I was shown the sawpit.) The house has—for it still stands—the unusual feature of a double porch across the whole

¹³ Evans, "Russell, Daniel Lindsay;" Winnabow (BW0253).

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front, with two exterior chimneys at each end of the house to give each of the four rooms on both floors its own fireplace. About thirty yards to the rear, on either side of the main house, he placed two other two-story buildings, one a storeroom and the other the kitchen, with rooms for the house slaves upstairs. The smokehouse stands further off to the south; it is made of logs, and is about 20 by 30 feet. In a corner of the yard, inside the whitewashed board fence, stood the office, a small, one-room building.

Across a road to the south was a fence made of huge logs cut in five foot lengths and stood on end to form a solid wall. Beyond in an open field were the quarters, the little houses where his slaves lived. To the east was the lot, with its barns and sheds for the horses, mules, sheep, cows, and pigs, and all the farm equipment.¹⁴

Alice Sawyer Cooper was clear in her identification of the large log outbuilding as the smokehouse. The building is considerably larger than most farm smokehouses, which is likely explained by the industrial scale of meat production on the plantation described in the 1855 account (similarly large meat production would have occurred on the farm throughout much of the nineteenth century). The door to the building faces the house, convenient for traffic to the kitchen beside the house and also a provision that would have facilitated monitoring access to the building's valuable contents. This, and the building's heavy log construction and additional layer of wood shingle siding, would have helped protect the meat from theft. The chief evidence for the date of construction of the smokehouse is the presence of cut nails, which came into general use in the early nineteenth century and continued in general use until the 1880s when they were supplanted by wire nails. The smokehouse probably dates to the same 1840s period as the house, but the construction evidence does not rule out a date potentially as late as the 1880s.

The Winnabow smokehouse also relates to two themes in Brunswick County's traditional architecture: log construction and wood-shingle siding. Log construction was in use in the county as early as 1774, and both round-log and planked-log buildings survive to the present. Shingle manufacture for the West Indies trade was a booming Brunswick County business, and it is not surprising that the material was also used domestically. At Winnabow shingles served to protect the logs of the smokehouse from deterioration, a function the shingles have accomplished admirably for well over a century. A puzzle remains with regard to the smokehouse and that is why its interior logs are not as blackened as the roof boards immediately above them. No evidence has been found of a former lining that may have protected the logs. Perhaps the logs were scrubbed clean when the building was converted to storage. The smokehouse is much

¹⁴ Goodman and Cooper, "Daniel Lindsay Russell," 4, 5. Cooper claimed the bricks for Winnabow were made on the place, and that Daniel Jr.'s later house Belleville was built in 1901 "some sixty" years after Winnabow (Cooper, "Sarah Amanda Sanders Russell," p. 13). Pit-sawn lumber has not been observed in the house, but then most of its structure is not available for inspection. An undated but historic-period photo of the house published in the October 31, 1990, edition of the *State Port Pilot* newspaper shows the house in a cleared setting with a fence and row of trees more or less where the present road is. The photo also shows (in poor detail) a tall outbuilding with an open-sided shed wing on the south end which may be the smokehouse, though the photo may show another building.

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larger than would have been necessary to serve the needs of the Russell family. Its size may therefore indicate it also supplied the plantation's large, enslaved population.¹⁵

¹⁵ Landmark Preservation Associates, "Comprehensive Historical/Architectural Site Survey of Brunswick County," 1-14-1-15.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: NC State Historic Preservation Office

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): BW0253

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.94 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 34.140583 Longitude: -78.073332

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary corresponds to the modern tax parcel (0840005501) on which the house and smokehouse stand.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary embraces the two known surviving historic resources associated with Winnabow: the Winnabow house and smokehouse.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: J. Daniel Pezzoni
organization: Landmark Preservation Associates
street & number: 6 Houston Street
city or town: Lexington state: Virginia zip code: 24450
e-mail: gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net
telephone: (540) 464-5315
date: August 12, 2025

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Winnabow

City or Vicinity: Winnabow County: Brunswick State: North Carolina

Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni unless otherwise noted.

Date Photographed: May 2024 unless otherwise noted.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 17.

Photographer: Sara Harris.

Date Photographed: May 2025.

Front (east) and south elevations of house. View looking west.

2 of 17.

Photographer: Sara Harris.

Date Photographed: May 2025.

Front (east) and north elevations of house. View looking southwest.

3 of 17.

First-story front entry, windows, and porch. View looking south.

4 of 17.

Rear (west) elevation of house. View looking east.

5 of 17.

Photographer: Sara Harris.

Date Photographed: May 2025.

Detail of south elevation of house. View looking north.

6 of 17.

First-floor front entry.

7 of 17.

First-floor center passage and stair.

8 of 17.

First-floor north front room mantel and wainscot.

9 of 17.

First-floor five-panel door.

10 of 17.

Upper runs of center-passage stair on the second floor.

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11 of 17.

Second-floor south front room.

12 of 17.

Detail of roof structure in attic showing pegged joint and Roman numeral builder marks.

13 of 17.

Nineteenth-century wood-shingled roof encapsulated in attic.

14 of 17.

Water storage tank in attic.

15 of 17.

Smokehouse. View looking west.

16 of 17.

Smokehouse interior.

17 of 17.

Shed.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Winnabow

677 Governor Road SE, Winnabow vicinity, Brunswick County, N.C.

National Register of Historic Places Location Map

Latitude: 34.140583 Longitude: -78.073332

Location of nominated property



0 2000
Scale in feet
(approx.)



Winnabow

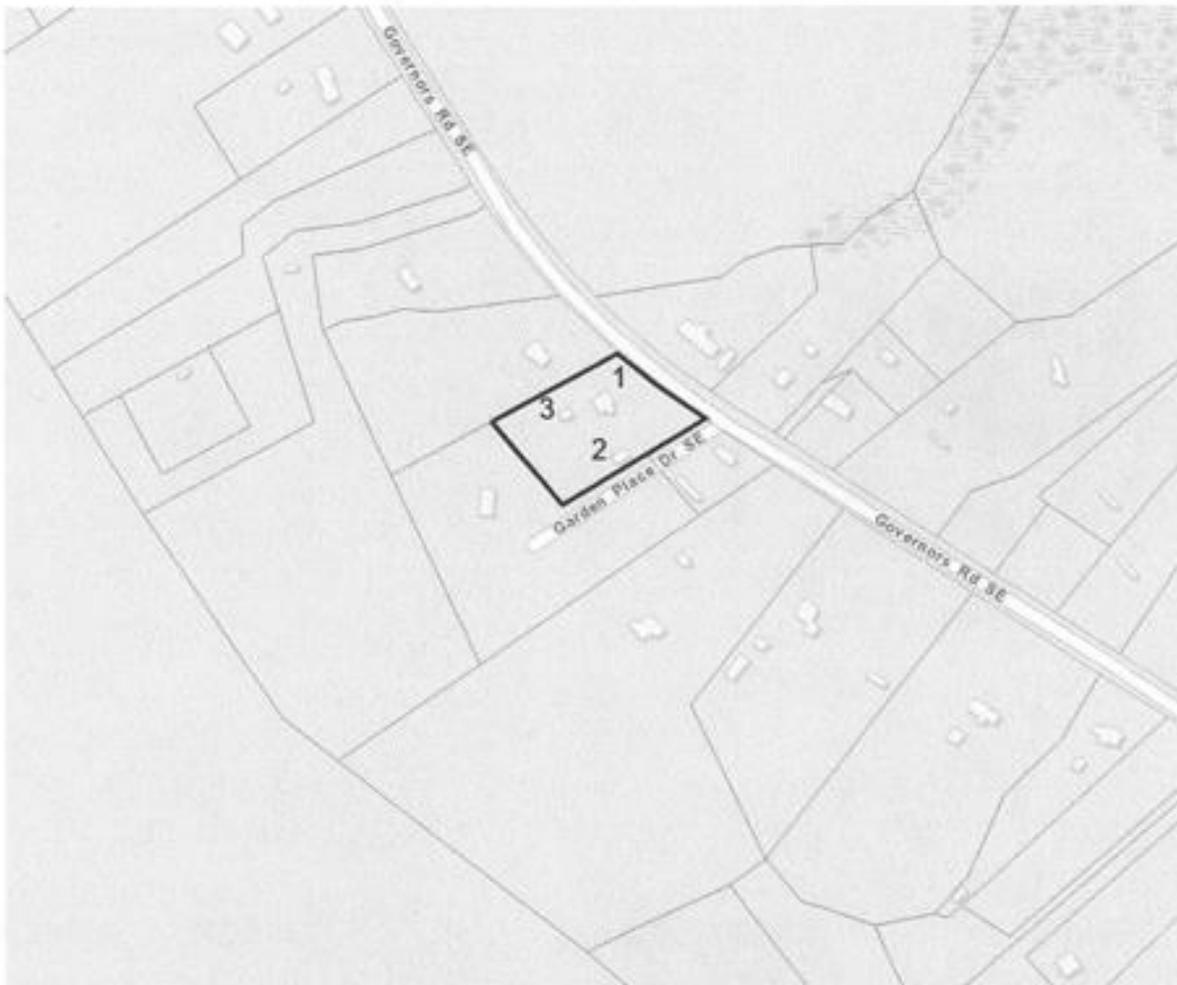
677 Governor Road SE, Winnabow vicinity, Brunswick County, N.C.

Tax Map with National Register Boundary

Map prepared 2024. Image from North Carolina HPOWEB. Heavy black line delineates National Register boundary.

Inventory

1. Winnabow (house). Contributing building.
2. Log outbuilding. Contributing building.
3. Shed. Non-contributing building.



0 600
Scale in feet (approx.)

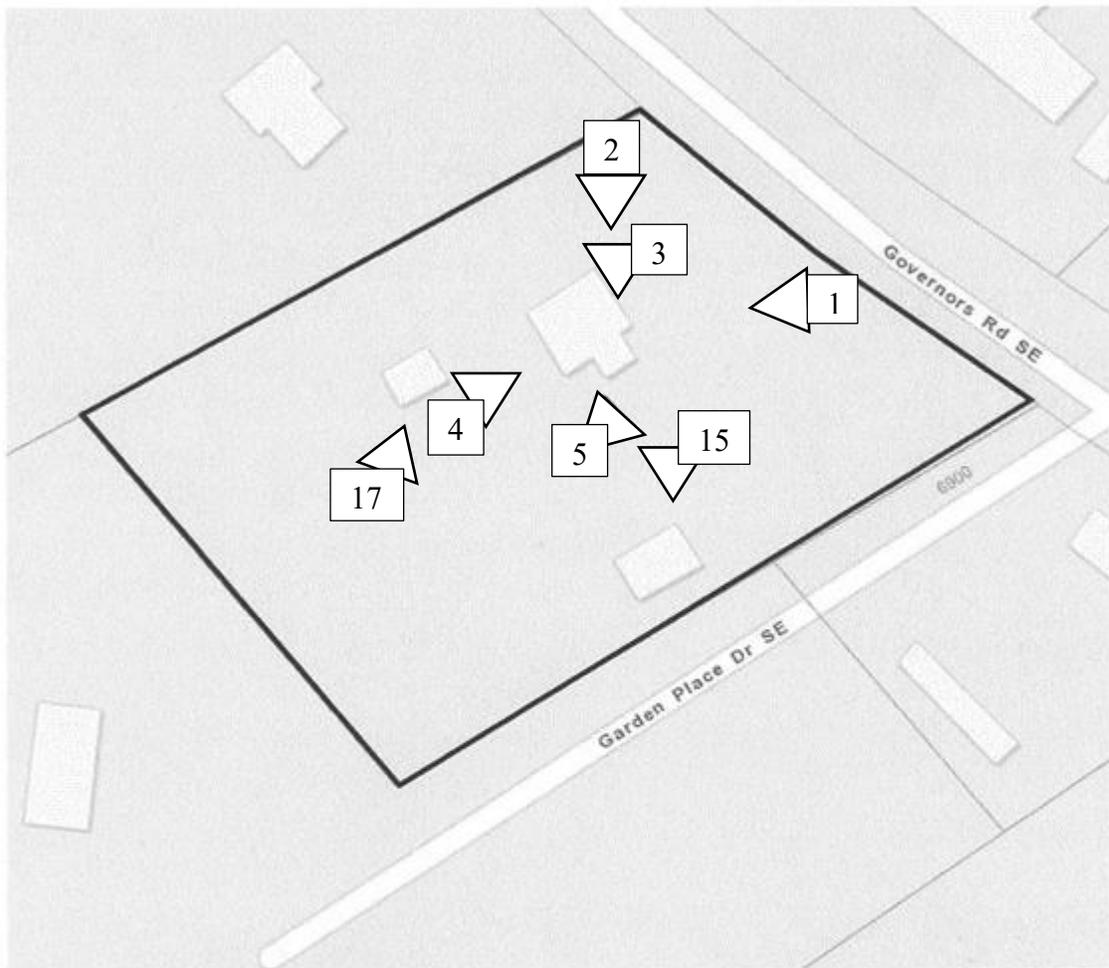


Winnabow

677 Governor Road SE, Winnabow vicinity, Brunswick County, N.C.

National Register Photo Key

Triangular markers indicate the number and direction of view of nomination photos. Key created by J. Daniel Pezzoni August 2025.



0 100
scale in feet
(approx.)

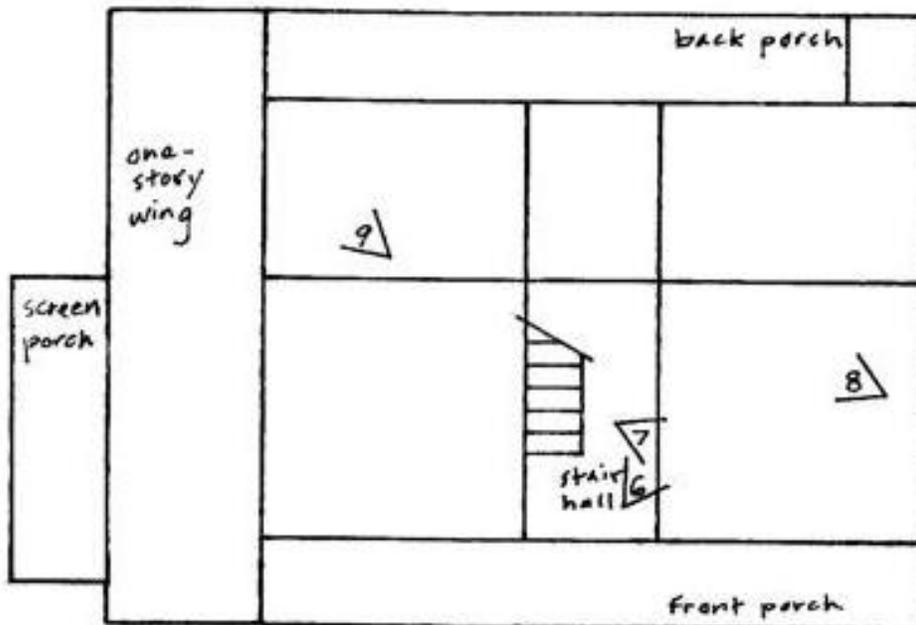


Winnabow

677 Governor Road SE, Winnabow vicinity, Brunswick County, N.C.

National Register First-floor Plan and Photo Key

Triangular markers indicate the number and direction of view of nomination photos. Plan not to scale. Plan created by J. Daniel Pezzoni August 2025.

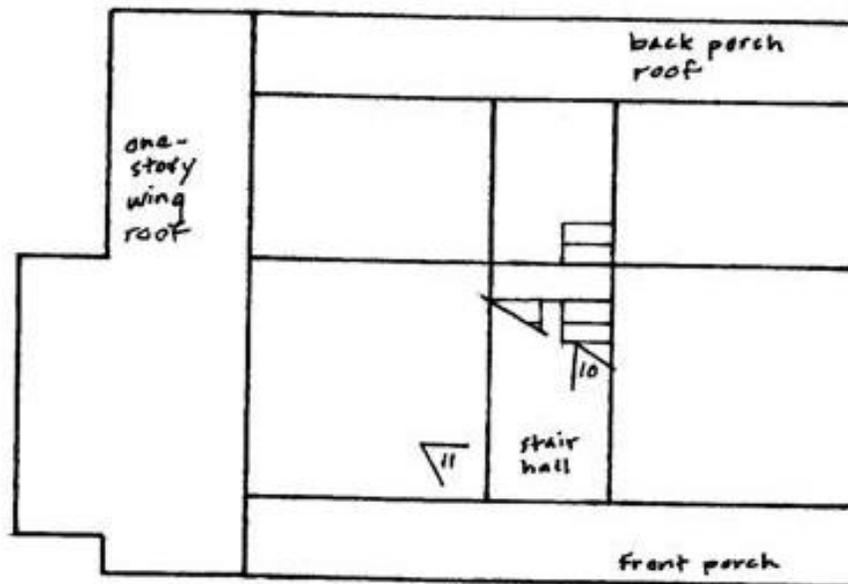


Winnabow

677 Governor Road SE, Winnabow vicinity, Brunswick County, N.C.

National Register Second-floor Plan and Photo Key

Triangular markers indicate the number and direction of view of nomination photos. Plan not to scale. Plan created by J. Daniel Pezzoni August 2025.



Winnabow

677 Governor Road SE, Winnabow vicinity, Brunswick County, N.C.

National Register Attic Plan and Photo Key

Triangular markers indicate the number and direction of view of nomination photos. Plan not to scale. Plan created by J. Daniel Pezzoni August 2025.

