

# Hurricane Irene Damage to Historic Structures

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North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office

Report 3 – September 13, 2011

This report is based upon information conveyed verbally by State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) contacts or observations gleaned through site visits by staff. Information is provided alphabetically by county noting known damage to historic properties. Hurricane Irene impacted the counties east of I-95 on August 27, 2011, and staff is gathering information from the field through site assessment visits and other contacts. Information provided to us by citizens is vital; please let us know of specific information about historic properties' conditions as you learn about them. We will continue to update this report as we receive damage reports.

Two days before Hurricane Irene roared across the state, HPO staff began providing assistance to owners of historic properties in the path of the storm. As Irene headed for North Carolina, staff activated the HPO disaster response plan by notifying all local historic preservation commissions of the information sheets posted on the HPO web site ( <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/disaster.htm> ) that address drying out water-damaged buildings, selecting a contractor for repairs, insurance claims, landscape restoration, and special assistance provided by the HPO. Emails were also sent out to numerous towns throughout the anticipated impact zone advising of available disaster response information. Immediately after the storm, staff began to compile damage reports, assess damage to historic properties, and provide technical assistance to property owners.

August 27 – Saturday morning Hurricane Irene made landfall near Cape Lookout.

August 29 - Governor Perdue requested a federal disaster declaration for Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Dare, Hyde, Pamlico and Tyrrell Counties.

August 31 – President Obama signs presidential disaster declaration for the eastern counties of Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Dare, Hyde, Pamlico and Tyrrell.

September 1 - Two more counties declared federal disaster areas, bringing to nine the number of counties that are eligible to receive federal assistance in the wake of Hurricane Irene.

**See the HPO Web site for information on disaster assistance for historic buildings and for updated versions of this report: <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/>. This site includes HPO staff telephone numbers and e-mail addresses to which you may submit damage reports. We also will mail the fact sheets and damage report forms upon request.**

**The most important single step is to air out wet buildings: open doors and windows, remove airtight coverings such as aluminum and vinyl siding, and run fans. DO NOT USE HEATERS, as accelerated drying out causes more damage; let the buildings dry out naturally.**

## **Summary of Reported Major Damage to Historic Properties**

Tree damage within historic districts appears to have impacted multiple properties in Tarboro, Edenton, Greenville, and Wilson. Flooding has affected multiple properties in Windsor, Washington, and the South Creek Community in Beaufort County. The historic resources receiving the most consistent damage across the regions appear to be historic cemeteries. Wind

blown mature trees have damaged cemeteries and grave markers in Halifax County, Beaufort, Edenton, Snow Hill, New Bern, and Tarboro. Thus far only one historic property has been reported as destroyed, the National Register listed Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage in Dare County.

**Important: Experience has shown that many flooded buildings that appear from the street or road to have escaped serious damage are not as stable as they appear. In several cases already, conversations with owners and interior inspections reveal moderate to severe problems of waterlogging structural damage. Thus the estimate of damage or non-damage reported may be overly optimistic until more in-depth assessment can be done.**

**NOTE:** An asterisk indicates new or revised information since the previous report. Reports have been issued beginning on August 30. Omission of a disaster county indicates that the HPO has not obtained information about significant damage to historic properties in that county.

#### **BEAUFORT COUNTY**

No real reports of damage yet from **Washington**. Some water in downtown town businesses which is a recurring event with storm surges. Numerous trees are down in the **Blounts Creek** area, but no reports on damage to historic structures. The **South Creek Community** experienced lots of flooding. In South Creek, the **Tin House** received major flood and wind damage including the loss of detached kitchen dining room, shed rooms, and porch. National Register listed **\*Belhaven Town Hall** had water and flood damage.

#### **BERTIE COUNTY**

Once again **Downtown Windsor** was flooded though not as bad as during Floyd or Isabel. An **unspecified historic home** in Windsor lost a chimney when tree fell on the house.

#### **CARTERET COUNTY**

Minimal damage reported to **Morehead City** and **Bogue Banks**. Some flooding in the **Down East** towns. Tree damage to the **\*Old Beaufort Burying Ground** in Beaufort.

#### **CHOWAN COUNTY**

Two cemeteries in the Edenton National Register Historic District and maintained by the Town Of Edenton were damaged by falling trees. **Vine Oak Cemetery** has two or three very large trees (6 to 7 feet diameter) down with potential damage to graves and headstones. **Beaver Hill Cemetery** has one very large tree of similar size down resulting in possible grave and headstone damage. **\*Albermarle Peanut Company** in Edenton, recently donated to Preservation North Carolina, sustained minor roof damage.

#### **CRAVEN COUNTY**

Historic areas of **New Bern** appear to have done pretty well. Main problem is loss of roofing from the wind. Flooding was not extensive in the downtown area. Structural damage caused by falling tree at the **Foy Barn** (cotton gin) in the New Bern vicinity. Wind damage to the bell tower and metal roof of the National Register listed **\*Mt. Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church**,

James City. Tree damage to the National Register listed **\*Cedar Grove Cemetery** in New Bern. **\*New Bern City Hall Building** received water damage from leaks.

### DARE COUNTY

The National Register listed 1903 **Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage** in Kill Devil Hills which sat overlooking the Albermarle Sound was destroyed. Report that some of the glass in the lantern of the **Bodie Island Lighthouse** was blown out. Flooding caused buckling of the floors at the **\*Bodie Island Light Station Double Keepers Quarters**. No damage reported at the **\*Little Kinnakeet Lifesaving Station** in the Avon vicinity. No structural damage reported to historic buildings at **\*Chicamacomico Lifesaving Station** near Rodanthe. General flooding and loss of shingles - see <http://www.chicamacomico.net/Hurricane-Irene.htm>.

### EDGECOMBE COUNTY

Trees were reported down in the **Tarboro Town Common**. No damage to the Norfleet House, Blount Bridgers House, Calvary Church, Coolmore, or Oak Grove. Tree damage occurred to the **Oak Grove guest cottage** and the **St. Anne's cemetery**. Roof damage to the National Register listed **The Barracks**. Damage caused by falling trees to houses in the **Tarboro National Register Historic District** included one on St. James and a bungalow on Main Street. Trees were reported to be down in the **\*Calvary Church Cemetery** in Tarboro.



Calvary Church Cemetery, Tarboro

### GREENE COUNTY

Damage to tombstones from falling trees occurred at the cemetery of the National Register listed **St. Barnabas Church** in Snow Hill. Also in the Snow Hill National Register Historic District, wind caused roof and chimney damage at **120 NW Third Street** and to the standing seam metal roof of the **Snow Hill Pump House**. Loss of standing-seam metal roofs on significant outbuilding caused by wind at the **Frank Rouse Farm**, 4696 Highway 13/258, Lizzie. Wind

damaged roofs of the **\*Carr House**, Willow Spring vicinity and the **\*Ormond Pack House**, Ormandsville.

### **HALIFAX COUNTY**

Falling tree damage occurred at **\*Whitaker's Chapel Cemetery**. Several monuments were knocked over or broken and an historic iron fence was damaged.

### **JONES COUNTY**

Water damage from leaks occurred to the **\*Jones County Courthouse**, Trenton.

### **LENOIR COUNTY**

Tree damage to the **\*Mitchelltown Preservation Society House**, Mitchelltown (Kinston). Wind damage to the **\*William Fields House** in Kinston.

### **MARTIN COUNTY**

The 1810 **Ballard-Salsbury House** and outbuildings in Hassell suffered from roof damage and subsequent plaster damage caused by rainwater.

### **PAMLICO COUNTY**

Severe water damage to the **\*Town of Oriental**; however, no specific historic buildings have been reported as damaged. Water and winds damage to **\*Camp Seagull and Camp Seafarer**.

### **PITT COUNTY**

Numerous trees are down throughout **Greenville**. Roof, soffit, cornice, and siding damage from a falling tree occurred at the Pitt Co. Historical Society owned **Red Banks Primitive Baptist Church** in Greenville. A storefront window was blown out in downtown **Fountain**.



Red Banks Primitive Baptist Church, Pitt Co.

## **WILSON COUNTY**

Severe roof damage caused by falling tree to the **Allie W. Fleming House**, 112 North Rountree Street in Wilson, a contributing property in the Old Wilson National Register Historic District. Loss of a large portion of standing-seam metal roof caused by wind occurred at **8728 Highway 58** (west side), Stantonsburg vicinity (between Lindell & Apple Tree Roads). Two story porch destroyed and eave damage caused by falling tree to the **\*Alexander Green House**, 804 W. Nash Street in the Old Wilson National Register Historic District.



Alexander Green House, Wilson