

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lake Landing Historic District

and or common

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town

vicinity of Lake Landing

state North Carolina

code 37

county Hyde

code 095

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hyde County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Swan Quarter

state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Hyde County Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981

federal state county local

depository for survey records Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh

state North Carolina

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date c1800-present

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

A tradition of wise and pragmatic use of its natural features--its bodies of water, its fertile land, its forests, and its marshes--and of the talents and industry of its residents has produced the Lake Landing historic district, a significant rural landscape that represents two centuries of human occupation and agricultural production. Natural and man-made landscape elements and a superb collection of buildings of state, regional, and local significance combine to create a rural built environment that has few parallels in North Carolina. The evolution of the agrarian landscape is evident in the district which retains an unspoiled, rural setting, free from the industrial, commercial, and large-scale residential developments that have intruded upon or destroyed the traditional character of so many other rural communities in the eastern United States.

The primary organizing principle of land use in the Lake Landing district has been the necessity to preserve and reclaim fertile land for agricultural production. The care that Lake Landing's residents from its earliest settlers on have given to the development and organization of their agricultural landscape is one of its most distinguishable features. The Lake Landing district's landscape has a distinct pattern of spatial organization that has been influenced by the area's natural resources and physical constraints. This spatial organization is evident in the siting and orientation of residential, agricultural, and other structures and in the placement of cultivated fields, drainage ditches, roads, buildings, and other elements.

The landscape that the first white settlers of the Lake Landing district found consisted primarily of hardwood forest areas on Indian Ridge and adjacent high elevations, some of which had probably been burned free of forest cover through both natural and man-made fires and cultivated in corn by the Indians; marshlands that were covered with grass and bushes such as myrtle; low-lying areas that were covered with pine trees; and near Lake Mattamuskeet, the wetlands that were, in some cases, covered with grasses, cattails, ferns, needle rush, and cyprus trees. The introduction of the white man brought about major changes in the landscape--changes establishing the spatial organization that still characterizes the district's landscape character today.

Over the course of two centuries, agriculture has remained not only the major occupation but also the major land use in the Lake Landing district. If local assertions that most of the land in cultivation today was already in agricultural production by the mid- to late-nineteenth century, planted fields and grazing livestock have been traditional uses in Lake Landing's rural environment for well over a century. Census reports of improved and unimproved acreages, amounts of crops produced, and the number of livestock for the late nineteenth century appear to bear out these assertions. Agriculture in the district can be described as having passed through the typical stages of development that have characterized American agriculture in general: an era of adaptation and subsistence, an era of general farming, and an era of specialized agriculture. What makes the Lake Landing district different from many other farming communities is that its era of specialized agriculture and

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era of general farming occurred simultaneously.

The first settlers are believed to have built their dwellings and begun to establish farms on lands with the higher elevations or at the ends of the navigable creeks that drained to the Pamlico Sound--the same areas where Indians had lived. Many of the earliest and largest concentrations of surviving historic buildings are located in these types of areas, primarily Indian Ridge and near Middle Creek. It appears that the settlers first cultivated the land with the higher elevations and used the lands with the lower elevations to cut timber and to graze their livestock. As new settlers purchased parcels of land and early landowners divided their lands among their children, they began to look at low-lying lands that were vulnerable to flooding as having potential for cultivation.

The first attempts at using the lower lands for crops consisted of clearing the land and digging ditches for drainage. The development of a system of drainage ditches to reclaim marshland and protect low lying lands from flooding was a significant agricultural innovation that allowed Lake Landing planters to take advantage of their extremely rich lands. The ditches are believed to have been dug primarily by Negro slaves. Throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, ditch digging, enlarging, and maintenance was an important activity. In some cases, the water that collected in these ditches flowed into an adjacent marsh and, in other cases, the ditches were connected to nearby bodies of water such as Middle Creek and Cedar Creek. Lowering the water level of Lake Mattamuskeet in the first half of the nineteenth century as Edmund Ruffin had recommended made more tillable land available on the lake shore adjacent to Indian Ridge. The successful diversion of some of the water from Lake Mattamuskeet demonstrated to farmers that a number of ditches extending from marshes to the sound or to dredged creeks that drained to the sound would allow more water to flow out of the low areas exposing more land for cultivation. By the time of the Civil War, the Lake Landing district had a complete system of drainage ditches that had increased the amount of land available for cultivation and provided some degree of protection against floods. Although some ditches have been consolidated or enlarged today, this drainage system is still in use and the ditches continue to be major visual elements in the spatial organization of the Lake Landing landscape.

Roads developed to link neighbors on the high ground; and paths and roads also developed along the side of the major streams that had been dug out as drainage ditches, including Middle Creek, the Great Ditch, and Strayhorn Creek. The fill that resulted from dredging the streams was used along the banks to increase the elevation and to provide something of a roadbed although overland transportation on these unpaved roads was difficult in wet weather. The dug-out streams and ditches were a more reliable transportation route in bad weather. The ditches also served as canals for barges transporting agricultural produce to the local ports where it was loaded onto larger vessels that could sail on the Pamlico Sound and on to markets such as New Bern and Washington.

Small service communities developed at the major junctions of roads and in

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association with the major ditches. The location of these communities is an important component of the district's spatial organization. The Lake Landing community at the northern terminus of the ditch or canal draining Lake Mattamuskeet had a store, a post office, and, for a period, the county court house; several stores and a post office developed at Middletown--the last navigable point on Middle Creek; the Methodist church and an academy building were constructed on the high ground at Amity near the bend in the road toward Middletown; there was a store throughout the nineteenth century at Watson's Corner near the Great Ditch; and several stores, an academy, and a Methodist chapel also developed near the Burnt Ground Canal at Wysocking, or Nebraska, as the community came to be called.

The individual farm is the primary organizing element of the Lake Landing landscape. Although the acreages of Lake Landing farms have always varied from one farm to the next, the self-sufficient nineteenth-century plantation appears to have been 150 acres or more. This factor seems to have determined the distance between farms. Since there have been relatively few subdivisions of farms, this relationship from one farm to another has remained relatively stable. The declining number of farmers and the consolidation of historic farms into even larger farms, however, has resulted in the loss of some of the houses, barns, and other buildings that were once the identifying characteristics of each individual farm. The distance between farm complexes in some instances is greater today than it was in the nineteenth century; where the farm complex of house, outbuildings, agricultural buildings, and associated vegetation and other landscape features or some fragment of this complex survive, the nineteenth century organization of the agricultural landscape is still readily apparent.

Traditionally, boundary demarcations between individual farms have played an important visual role in the built environment of the Lake Landing district. Drainage ditches bordered with hedgerows of native plant materials defined the edges of each farmer's land. Examination of one of these field ditch edges reveals a multitude of flora: sumac, sassafras, wild cherry, maple, sweet gum, water oak, sycamore, black gum, tulip poplar, loblolly pine, wax myrtle, swamp willow, prickley ash, eastern horn beam, and wild grape. These areas of vegetation along ditches--while normally only a few feet wide--appear much wider at the boundaries between farms because traditionally each farm had its own drainage ditch and each had this vegetation on either side. These areas of vegetation served not only as visual dividers of the landscape but as windbreaks that could protect small cultivated fields from high winds. If a farm consisted of many fields, the various fields were subdivided by drainage ditches with similar vegetation just as hedgerows along fences have traditionally marked the subdivision of fields in much of the eastern United States. The best remaining example of a vegetated ditch in the district is along the eastern property line of the Jennette Family Farm (# 9).

In the last twenty years as farmers have expanded their fields and begun to plant to the edges of the ditches, Lake Landing and other areas of Hyde County have lost many of these vegetative zones. The increased need for and cost of the equipment associated with large-scale cash grain farming in the late

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twentieth century have resulted in farmers attempting to produce a maximum yield by farming land that was once allowed to remain in a natural state. Consequently, the landscape has taken on a noticeably different appearance--the views into and out of the district are now much wider and longer. As a result of this change, the landscape has a much more open and less compartmentalized character. This open feeling is particularly noticeable in spring and winter. In the summer and fall with corn at full height, the view from the farmyard or highway often stops at a field's edge. Unfortunately the number of drainage ditches is also decreasing as farms consolidate and adjacent ditches are joined. While the loss of the ditches and hedgerows is a slow process tied to the consolidation of farms and to the use of increasingly larger farm vehicles. Farmers planting to the edges of their fields threaten the richly patterned and traditional appearance of this rural district.

Before the creation of a cemetery at Amity Church in the 1840s, Lake Landing families established cemeteries on their own land. The cemetery was an integral part of a self-sufficient early Lake Landing plantation. Since wooden markers were used frequently in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and they were vulnerable to the forces of wind and water, many graves are unmarked, and it is impossible to identify all of the cemeteries and plots which exist in the district. Because more affluent families used marble markers or a family's descendants later replaced deteriorated wooden markers with marble, because there are still strong family links with many of the founding families of the district, because some family cemeteries are still maintained and used today, and because of the intense interest in history and genealogy by Hyde County citizens, a number of family cemeteries have been identified. Although some are overgrown and others are nearly inaccessible, these cemeteries represent the tradition of home burial--an important aspect of rural life--are an important feature of the rural landscape, and provide important genealogical information that relates to the history of the Lake Landing built environment.

Although some of the elements of the larger overall landscape have changed over time, the patterns of spatial organization have remained unusually consistent. In some instances, new buildings and structures have replaced older ones on or near the same site. The replacements have occurred for a variety of reasons but primarily because of fire or wind damage, or technological obsolescence in the case of agricultural structures. While the loss of a historic building is regrettable, the preservation of a house environs with its pecan grove, outbuildings, and other distinguishing features, or of an agricultural complex in its original location contribute to the special feeling of the district as a place where change has been managed sensitively and has been responsive to an actual need or new set of circumstances. The residence on each farm, however, is the most likely structure to survive in the Lake Landing landscape.

The white settlers who arrived in the Lake Landing area in the eighteenth century to establish residences found acres of woodland to clear for farms and to provide timber for building and fuel. Since the Hyde County soil was not

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suitable for making brick, brick was a precious commodity reserved for foundation piers and chimneys. Until the 1960s, Hyde County builders constructed only frame houses. Post-1960 brick veneer houses are the major visual intrusions in the district where the primary building material of wood during three centuries has remained unusually uniform. The frame farmhouse, painted white, set in a grove of pecan or other trees, surrounded by dependencies, and adjacent to an agricultural complex on the edge of a planted field of corn is the characteristic visual image of a Lake Landing farm. The geographic isolation of the area and severe winds and floods necessitated an individual self-sufficiency and a pragmatic recognition of the forces of nature on all of Lake Landing's farms. This recognition resulted in shared building traditions and farm layouts for both rich and poor.

The Lake Landing district is noted for its traditional building practices. Local builders employed mortise and tenon construction exclusively throughout the nineteenth century and were either disdainful or ignorant of the popular, contemporary use of the balloon frame building method for much of the nineteenth century. Split cedar shingles were used for roofing well into the twentieth century in the Lake Landing district where wood was plentiful and other roofing material could be obtained only by paying to have it shipped to Lake Landing. The persistence of early construction practices demonstrates the isolation of Lake Landing builders as well as their knowledge that sturdy construction is vital in an environment where the forces of nature--wind and water--must be recognized. The extremely high water table and the constant threat of flooding, for example, resulted in the placement of buildings on high, brick piers.

As well as persisting in traditional building methods, Lake Landing builders demonstrated little deviation from traditional site arrangement patterns and building forms and details until the second half of the twentieth century. A limited number of basic building types have endured from the eighteenth century well into the twentieth century. It is rare to find a pre-1950 residence that does not have a single pile, central hall, or hall and parlor plan; a gable-roof; a story-and-a-jump or two stories; a rear shed or wing; and a one-story porch. Building a one-room deep house and using porches were both effective ways to achieve maximum ventilation and to provide cool, shaded spaces for hot weather use. Until the 1930s and 1940s when some residents began to abandon wood-burning ranges in their kitchens, all Lake Landing residences had a separate kitchen and dining room located to the side of or behind the house. The separate kitchens not only protected the house from the danger of fire spreading from the kitchen but also kept the main house cooler in the warm months of the year--an important consideration in coastal North Carolina where summer heat can be intense and of several months duration. Smokehouses and milk houses were also standard outbuildings associated with a residence. Lake Landing farm families were more or less self-sufficient and independent--producing their own meat and dairy products--and storing them in locations convenient to the kitchen. Only the availability of refrigeration and dependable land transportation by automobile allowed Lake Landing families to begin to depend on store-bought milk and meat. New smokehouses and dairies were being built in the district through most of the twentieth century as farm

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families continued the self-sufficient practices they had used traditionally.

The rural, agricultural economy and isolation also led to simplicity and restraint in architectural details and ornament. Just as district builders have used only a few basic house types with slight variations in proportion and plan, in most instances, they have also adopted period styles later and retained them longer than other less isolated communities. In Lake Landing, identifiable expressions of architectural style usually have been restrained and distinguished primarily by porch details, door and window surrounds, cornices, mantelpieces, and, occasionally, by chair rails and wainscoting. The vast majority of building in the district can be described as vernacular; even the houses that can be associated with a fashionable architectural style, period, or movement are set in the midst of an agricultural complex where they must be viewed in the vernacular context of their kitchen wings, smokehouses, wash houses, barns, and other dependencies.

It is possible that late eighteenth-century houses survive in the district, but since architectural styles tended to make their first appearance in the Lake Landing district several years after they had been introduced in less isolated areas, it is more likely that the earliest surviving houses date from the first years of the nineteenth century. The district's earliest surviving buildings exhibit a combination of Georgian and Federal styles. The Fulford-Watson (#164) House at Watson's Corner near the community of Nebraska exhibits such Georgian characteristics on the exterior as a dentilled cornice and a six-paneled front door. On the interior, narrow, raised panels in the Georgian style and a molded shelf chair rail are juxtaposed with a Federal style mantelpiece. The Gibbs Family House (#97) near Middletown, believed to have been built in the early 1800s, indicates the reliance of affluent district planters, such as Henry Gibbs, on patternbook architecture that was most likely executed by local or New Bern carpenters. The three-run, open well staircase, notable for its curved and molded handrail and wavelike applied bargeboard, was most likely taken from either plate XXII of Asher Benjamin's 1797 The Country Builder's Assistant or from plate XXX of Owen Biddle's 1805 The Young Carpenter's Assistant. The Georgian molded windowsills, tripartite architraves, mantelpieces with fluted pilasters and multiple bed mouldings beneath the shelf demonstrate the attention to detail that the unknown builder executed as well as the taste of Henry Gibbs, a prominent early landowner in the district. The survival of the original contrasting cream and green paint, grained doors, marbelized baseboards, and flowered stenciling on the risers of the stairs also indicate the importance to Lake Landing planters of a carefully appointed interior. A transitional house with both Georgian and Federal characteristics, the Gibbs House expresses more of the Federal style on the exterior with its gable-roofed entrance porch and the fluted pilasters of the entrance surround. The 1808 Bell-Jennette House (#46) is another of the oldest surviving houses that combines both Georgian and Federal stylistic features.

The Young-Roper-Jarvis House (#111) and the Joseph Young House (#112), located on adjoining farms within the district, are other transitional Georgian/Federal style houses. The two houses are almost identical although the

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1830's Young House exhibits a greater level of detail, including an ornamental entry surround of colonnettes, than its earlier counterpart built about 1820. Local tradition attributes the building of these houses to Caleb Brooks.

Caleb Brooks (1768-1857) is the earliest known carpenter in the Lake landing district. The 1850 federal census lists him as a mechanic. According to local tradition, Brooks was a self-educated man who was noted as a "slow but sure" carpenter who treasured his tools, kept them in "top condition," and never allowed other people to use them. This description seems appropriate for the careful carpenter who is believed to have built some of the finest detailed houses in the district.

A small number of the large plantation houses in the Lake Landing district, including the Henry Gibbs House, reflect the significance of New Bern as the major port of trade for Lake Landing and the importance of New Bern influence on their owners and builders. The Riley Murray (#22), Swindell-Mann-Clarke (#31), Gibbs-Mann (#54), and Jones-Mann-Ballance (#26) houses built in the years between 1810 and 1825 most clearly exhibit New Bern characteristics. Although the interior plans of the houses differ, all share handsomely appointed interiors with chair rails, transitional Georgian/Federal mantelpieces, interior gable-end chimneys with exposed faces, and two- or three-run open well staircases similar to the one portrayed in plate XXX in the Young Carpenter's Assistant --all characteristics of late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century New Bern architecture. The Swindell-Mann-Clarke House with its side-hall plan that was popular in New Bern and dining room that is almost identical to one in the New Bern Stallings House is the most sophisticated although it is a modest house by New Bern standards. Lake Landing residents had both strong family ties and business dealings with New Bern that account for the architectural influence of New Bern. Dr. Hugh Jones, the owner of the Jones-Mann-Ballance House, for example, owned a house in New Bern; and the Gibbs family was related to the Brinson family of New Bern by marriage.

In Hyde County, as in New Bern, the transition from the Federal to the Greek Revival style occurred slowly. As was characteristic throughout North Carolina, the local builders did not adopt the hallmark of the style for residential buildings: the temple form front employing details from the Greek orders. Instead, they retained the basic side gabled house form and applied Greek Revival details--usually in combination with Federal style details. Few Greek Revival details occur on the exterior of Lake Landing houses although the James Robinson Fisher House (#11) does have molded box cornices and returns. The Gibbs-Ensley-Midyette House (#34), and the Gibbs-Gaskins-McKinney House (#38) are the primary domestic examples of the use of the Greek Revival elements in the district. The houses, which are in close proximity, have similar forms, plans, and details. Both have a two-door entrance with Greek Revival two-paneled doors, a cross hall, and a two-run open well staircase. These houses are believed to predate Wynne's Folly, the Hyde County Greek Revival style house built by Richard Wynne about 1845. Listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places and not included in the Lake Landing district because of the number of modern intrusions that occur between it and

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the boundaries of the district, Wynne's Folly is the most thoroughly detailed Greek Revival house in the county.

Amity Methodist Church (#59), a temple form, frame church located on the north side of Highway US 264 is the Lake Landing district's primary example of the Greek Revival style. Believed built in 1852 on land the congregation's trustees acquired from local planter Thomas Ballance in 1841, the church is the oldest surviving church in the district as well as the largest church in Hyde County. Amity Church is of statewide significance as one of the oldest Methodist churches in North Carolina. Although much of its present neo-classical character is derived from twentieth-century alterations that include the tetrastyle portico and the open belfry, the church retains such authentic and original Greek Revival elements as its interior symmetrical, three-part door and window surrounds with corner blocks, the Tuscan columns supporting the balcony, and a two-paneled door. The full Greek frieze of the rear elevation may be original. Although a fully detailed triglyph-metope frieze is rare in nineteenth-century North Carolina, there is one other example dating from the same period and similarly located in a remote area of the state. The graveyard, spilling over as it does into the churchyard and extending within only a few feet of the highway, invites passersby to stop and inspect the monuments bearing the familiar Hyde County and Lake Landing names and then to glimpse--through the slats of the one-piece wooden shutters--the carefully appointed church interior with its two-aisle plan, second floor gallery, and stained and grained woodwork.

The church is surrounded on three sides by its cemetery where many of the district's prominent citizens have been buried. The church is set in the graveyard; no gates or other appurtenances mark an entry. This informal relationship between church and graveyard contrasts with the formality and symmetry of the temple form church and lends a pleasant character to the impressive church. The earliest markers were carved wooden markers which have been lost to deterioration or have been replaced with more weather-resistant materials. Some grave lots which were originally marked with wooden markers cannot be identified and remain unmarked. The existing grave markers include simple but elegant carved nineteenth-century marble slabs and pedestals bearing the names and dates of the deceased, and sometimes a religious, inspirational, or sentimental inscription; other nineteenth-century markers are elaborately ornamented with garlands, monograms, and other details; the granite slabs and markers most characteristic of the twentieth century are also represented in the cemetery. Like the Lake Landing district's built environment, the Amity Church cemetery provides even the casual observer with a strong sense of the continuity from past to present that characterizes the Lake Landing community. Family names such as Gibbs, Spencer, Jennette, Mann and Swindell--names associated with the establishment and development of Lake Landing--are repeated over and over again in the Amity cemetery. James Robinson Fisher (1810-1878), Riley Murray (1799-1894), Nathaniel Beckwith (1819-1886), Joseph Young (1810-1857), and George Israel Watson (1851-1917) were among those residents buried in this cemetery and whose names have been applied to houses and farms that contribute to the historic and architectural character of the Lake Landing district. The

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cemetery is also significant because it represents a major departure in Lake Landing from the traditional practice of burying the dead in family cemeteries.

Chapel Hill Academy (#60) which is adjacent to the church has a low hipped roof and door and window surrounds, characteristics of the Greek Revival style. According to local tradition, it was built in the 1820s; however, given the Lake Landing tendency to adopt architectural styles late in their period of popularity, the academy building may have been remodeled or rebuilt on the same site in the 1850s or 1860s. Like their neighbors throughout North Carolina, the conservative Lake Landing farmers appear to have been hesitant to embrace the Greek Revival style for their residences. It is interesting, however, that North Carolinians tended to build academy and church buildings during this period in the currently fashionable Greek Revival style.

Although the Gothic Revival style became popular in Fairfield, the community on the north side of Lake Mattamuskeet, the Gothic Revival style was used even more infrequently than the Greek Revival in the Lake Landing district. The 1860 Weston Family House (#1) near New Holland at the western edge of the district, the 1874-75 St. George's Episcopal Church near Amity (#61), and the 1880's John Edward Spencer Store (#25) at Lake Landing are the only examples of the style. Both the Weston House and the Spencer Store are basic forms with applied ornamentation. The Laura Weston House is simply a coastal plain cottage with a hard-edged bargeboard applied to its extremely steep-pitched roofline. The store features a molded cornice with returns and intricate turned and sawn ornamental bracing in the front gable. The church is also a basic frame structure with a notable variety of Gothic Revival details, forms, and ornaments: including lancet windows, a paneled interior, a bargeboard in the vestryroom, choir ell ornamental bracing supporting the gabled ceiling, stained glass windows, and extensive sawn and molded ornament.

Like Amity Methodist Church and many other rural churches, St. George's is set in a churchyard which extends to its cemetery with several graves only a few feet from the church. The mix of marble and granite markers of varying sizes, shapes, and design create a varied yet harmonious churchyard. As at Amity Methodist Church, the monuments bear many of the same names that have been applied to the houses and farms of the district. Since the Episcopal congregation did not form until after the Civil War, the Lake Landing residents buried in this cemetery are those whose contributions to the character of the district occurred primarily in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Elisha Sewell, Thomas Bartee Spencer, and John Silverthorne are among the names of those buried at St. George's and whose names have been assigned to properties in the district. Members of several families of Gibbs are buried in this cemetery as are members of the Watson, Mann, Selby, Barber, Roper, and other families that have been significant in the history of Lake Landing.

Although the buildings described above are fine examples of carefully detailed architectural styles, they are exceptions rather than the rule in domestic architecture of Lake Landing in the antebellum and post-war periods.

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Other district residents lived in more modest story-and-a-jump houses or coastal plain cottages whose builders relied on practical experience and a vernacular building tradition instead of a pattern book. Although many of these houses have been demolished, extensively altered, converted to outbuildings or kitchens, and moved to different sites, a number of these modest houses dating from the early nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries remain and are characteristic building types in the district.

The Dr. Andrew Shanklin House (#66), although it has been altered, may be the earliest known of these simple houses. Believed to date from the 1820s, the house retains the characteristic, double-pitched form of the coastal plain cottage with its rear shed and engaged porch although the double-shouldered exterior chimney has been replaced. The fact that Shanklin, a man of considerable wealth and property, lived in such a modest house attests to the popularity of the coastal plain cottage in this region of North Carolina; similarly, the fact that Captain Robert Burrus (#81) built the characteristic coastal plain cottage form as his residence as late as 1900 attests to the longevity of the form. The Will Midyette Tenant-Benston House (#113) and the Xenia McKinney House (#129), both believed built in the late nineteenth century, are other representative examples of the coastal plain cottage: the Midyette Tenant-Benston House retains a wood shingled roof, turned porch posts, and horizontal flush board siding while the McKinney House retains its wide single shouldered, gable end chimney. The Weston House (#1), described above as an example of the Gothic Revival style in the district, illustrates the versatility of the basic form which could be simply utilitarian or embellished with ornamentation. Although numerous examples of the coastal plain cottage type occur in other areas of Hyde County, particularly in present-day Swan Quarter Township, the above-mentioned houses are the only surviving examples in the Lake Landing district.

The story-and-a-jump house, in which the gabled roof without dormers is raised one-half story above the first story, occurs more frequently in the district than any other type. This form provided adequate room for comfortable use of the upper level as sleeping quarters without requiring the amount of building materials necessary for a full, two-story house. This efficient house form was used extensively in Hyde County and in the Lake Landing district. The (former) Amity Parsonage (#58), believed to date from before the Civil War, retains an original story-and-a-jump portion as does the 1853 Jennette Family House (#9). Believed to date from the late nineteenth century, the Dr. Claud Mann House (#96) is a well-preserved example of the story-and-a-jump form. The house retains its single-shouldered exterior chimney, and attached rear kitchen. Although remodeled on the exterior, the Jennette-Neal-Midyette House (#109), believed built in 1855, retains some of its plastered interior with chair rails and open, three-run staircase that demonstrate the careful interior appointments that marked some story-and-a-jump houses.

In marked contrast to the predominantly vernacular adaptations of architectural styles that characterize much of the district's domestic architecture is the literal translation of a popular pattern book example in one

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building--an octagon house built for Dr. William Sparrow in the 1850s. One of the few surviving houses based on phrenologist Orson S. Fowler's 1848 book, The Octagon House: A Home for All, the stucco-covered house (#42) is known locally as the Inkbottle House because of its unusual form. Although Sparrow, like most of his neighbors in the district, was a farmer, it is significant that he was also a physician who probably would have been familiar with phrenology. It is hard to imagine a typical Lake Landing farmer building such a currently fashionable house in the mid-nineteenth century. Although local people relate that Sparrow believed that the form of the building would provide protection from the frequently severe storms in the Lake Landing area, it is also likely that the doctor was familiar with Fowler's assertions that the octagon would be the choice of people with taste and that it was a uniquely healthful, convenient, and useful form for a residence. The house employed not only the octagonal form but also the stucco or gravel wall construction methods Fowler promoted in his book. The house which fell into disrepair in the twentieth century is being restored through community efforts. The octagon house with its sawn brackets and broad dentilled frieze is a unique landmark in the Hyde County landscape.

Despite the presence of numbers of slaves in antebellum Lake Landing, there are no known extant slave quarters in the district. The majority of the slave quarters are believed to have been located in fields at some distance from the main house. The only known contemporary references to slave dwellings occur in the 1860 census and in a deed describing property once owned by Marcus Swindell. In Swindell's deed the slave dwellings were described as grouped along a drainage ditch. The 1860 census lists the number of slaves and the number of slave dwellings for each property owner. While it is impossible to know how slaves were grouped in dwellings--whether by kinship, work roles, or some other factors--and thus how many slaves lived in each dwelling, it is possible to determine the ratio of slaves to dwellings on each Lake Landing plantation and farm. An analysis of these records reveals that for most of the large Lake Landing plantations a ratio in the range of 4:1 to 6:1 for slaves to dwellings existed. Riley Murray had the lowest ratio with twenty slaves and six dwellings; Henry Sylvester Gibbs had sixteen slaves and three dwellings to house them; James Robinson Fisher had eight slaves and two dwellings; and Benners A. Ensley had twenty-eight slaves and six dwellings. If the census figures are correct, the slaves living on Andrew Shanklin's property had the most crowded living conditions since thirty-seven slaves and only two dwellings were recorded. Even if the census figures are correct, this housing situation was probably only temporary since Shanklin moved to Alabama in 1860 or 1861.

It is likely that many slave dwellings have been demolished because they occupied land that could be farmed and that others were moved into an agricultural complex to be used for storage or to the house environs to be used as wash houses. Local tradition states that slave dwellings were similar in size and form to the one-room, gable-roofed wash houses and that several wash houses had been slave dwellings.

As might be expected, there was little building in the Lake Landing

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district during the Civil War and it appears that no major building occurred until the 1870s and 1880s. St George's Episcopal Church (#61) and the John Edward Spencer Store (#25), two Gothic Revival buildings that have already been described, were among the major buildings constructed in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. As was the case in the pre-war era, most late nineteenth-century houses were not built according to the dictates of architectural styles but in the traditional rural vernacular of the story-and-a-jump house and the coastal plain cottage.

Just as there were few thoroughly Greek Revival or Gothic Revival style buildings in the Lake Landing district, there were only a small number of Queen Anne style buildings. The George Israel Watson House (#166) built in 1896 is the most obvious example of the style. The irregularity of the form and roofline, combining hipped and gabled portions of various heights; a three-story tower with a tall, conical roof; and the turned and delicate sawn ornament make the house a notable example. The original 1853 story-and-a-jump Jennette Family House (#9) was enlarged in the Queen Anne style in 1902. While the original section remains, the addition displays a two story projecting wing with three ornamental gables, a Queen Anne feature.

Little is known about builders and carpenters in the Lake Landing district in the last half of the nineteenth century. According to Watson family tradition, a Mr. Kirk from New Bern built the Queen Anne style house for George Israel Watson. The only known local builder in the late nineteenth century is Joseph Henry Cuthrell, Sr. who in 1894 built the Nebraska Watson's Chapel that was later destroyed during a severe storm. The only other building Cuthrell is known to have built is his own residence (#146). More early twentieth-century houses can be attributed to local builder George Columbus Cuthrell (1884-1964), son of carpenter Joseph Henry Cuthrell, than any other builder. He is known to have built at least six houses in the district and to have built outbuildings and renovated existing houses for Lake Landing residents between 1906 and 1933. Whether Columbus Cuthrell learned carpentry from his father or ever worked with his father is not known.

During the first quarter of the twentieth century, builders continued with the basic gabled house form--either one-and-a-half or two stories--as they had in the nineteenth century. In general, builders appear to have confined the use of ornamentation to porches with turned posts, sawn or turned spandrels, and beaded ceiling board--placed either vertically or diagonally--as wall sheathing under the porch roof. This type of porch actually served as an outdoor room. Many of these porches, although they have been screened or enclosed in glass, are still in use today--a testament to their adaptability and usefulness during the hot Lake Landing summers. The rooflines of substantial, early twentieth-century houses are usually finished with molded box cornices with returns in the gables. There are a number of these single-pile, two-story houses, including the Mann Family House (#47), the Charles Silverthorne House (#68), the John Silverthorne House (#67), and the Windley-Bridgeman House (#29). Chimneys with stuccoed, recessed arched panels and corbelled caps such as those found on the Elisha Sewell House (#104) were popular in the district in the

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first years of the twentieth century. Although many interiors were plastered, beaded board became increasingly popular and was even frequently used to cover deteriorated plaster in older buildings.

Although the district does not possess many examples of the Colonial Revival Style, a Colonial Revival tetrastyle portico was added to the antebellum Greek Revival style Methodist church (#59) at Amity in the early twentieth century. Several Lake Landing district houses also employ Colonial Revival stylistic details such as classical porch columns and molded box cornices. The Doric porch columns and double shouldered, gable-end chimney of the 1914 Captain Robert Burrus House #2 (#95) give this traditional story-and-a-jump house a decidedly Colonial Revival air although it lacks most of the traditional features, forms, massing, and scale of the style. More thoroughly Colonial Revival Houses such as the Simmons-Mann House (#72) and the Dr. Francis Clarke House (#99) do appear in the district. The porch has been removed from the Dr. Francis Clarke House built in 1914 by Columbus Cuthrell. The earliest of the district's Colonial Revival houses, it survives in good condition with the entry side lights and transom and wide corner boards remaining as distinctive features of the hipped roof house. Although vacant and deteriorated today, the Simmons-Mann House with its slate hipped roof is a notable example of the Colonial Revival style in Lake Landing. The use of slate shingles was a major departure from the traditional use of wooden shingles which were still in use in the district in the early twentieth century when this house was built. The roof of the wrap-around porch has a slight gable over the entrance emphasizing the symmetrical composition of the house as does the placement of the central gabled dormer. It is the wrap-around porch which embellishes this otherwise basic, four-square house--a relatively rare house type in Lake Landing.

The bungalow type of house appears in the district in dwellings built from the 1930s to the 1950s. The fact that this architectural form made its first appearance so late is evidence of the time lag and isolation that has characterized building in Lake Landing. There are no full-blown examples of bungalows in the district; the bungalows that were built are simply variations of the modest story-and-a-jump and coastal plain cottages that are traditional in the region. Bungalows were built as hunting cabins, as farmhouses to replace an older house, or as new housing on a farm. The bungalow that was built by local builder Sam Boomer and Son for James E. Berry (#3) in 1934 to replace a house that had been destroyed by wind is a typical Lake Landing bungalow. The one-and-a-half-story frame house has as much in common with the traditional local vernacular as it does with the patternbook bungalow. Although the gable end is the front of the house in characteristic bungalow fashion, the gabled roof does not employ the overhanging eaves associated with earlier bungalows. As a result, the house has the vertical feeling of a story-and-a-jump house rather than the horizontal expression the true bungalow usually imparts. The use of brick piers to support paired columns on the front porch is a characteristic of bungalows in other eastern North Carolina communities such as Washington in adjacent Beaufort County.

In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Lake Landing farmhouse

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was the largest building of a complex that also included a number of outbuildings that usually were grouped together in a cluster to the rear or side of the house. As utilitarian structures, the outbuildings only occasionally received any ornamentation or distinctive detailing. A picket fence frequently delineated the domestic compound of the house, its dependencies, and large yard and separated them from the farmland and agricultural buildings.

A small, gable roofed building used as kitchen and dining room was the largest of the outbuildings in the complex. In many instances, the kitchen was the first building on the site and a family lived in the kitchen house until the larger main house could be built. The surviving kitchens on the George Israel Watson (#166) and the Charles Silverthorne (#68) properties were built before the existing house and were the residence while the house was under construction. Some kitchens have been demolished, several have been moved to other sites and converted into residences, yet many kitchen-dining rooms remain in the district and survive little changed. The surviving kitchens are generally one-story or a story-and-a-jump, and sometimes exhibit the coastal plain cottage form with an engaged porch where kitchen work could be done during the summer months. The earliest kitchens were built with large exterior gable-end chimneys; late nineteenth and early twentieth century kitchens were built with smaller interior chimneys that could be used with wood-burning cook stoves. The kitchen building can also be distinguished from other buildings in the complex by its two entrances, one each to the kitchen and to the dining room.

Frequently, a wooden plank walkway and a breezeway connected the kitchen building to the main house. A cistern to provide water for kitchen use was usually located between the kitchen and the main house. The cistern is sometimes incorporated into the breezeway; at other times, it is located adjacent to the walkway. A number of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century brick cisterns that are usually faced with concrete survive today since a county water system was only installed in recent years. F. A. Crary who apparently built cisterns in all areas of the county signed his name to many of the district's cisterns.

A smokehouse and a milkhouse or dairy--also frame, small, gable-roofed and located close to the main house--and a privy at the rear of the yard were the other domestic support buildings that made up the complex. Several examples of both types of outbuildings exist in the district; the dairy on the George E. Davis Farm (#19) and the smokehouse on the John Silverthorne Farm are typical examples that date from the early twentieth century. More affluent residents such as the Jennette family (#9) also had wash houses or laundries within the house environs. These small, one-room buildings were built with chimneys so that fires could be made to heat the wash water.

One-story, ranch-style houses, many of them covered with brick veneer and built with Farmers' Home Administration assistance, and trailers have been the major types of residential construction in the Lake Landing district since the 1960s. These newer residences without adjacent outbuildings--the traditional

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kitchen, smokehouse, milkhouse, wash house, and privy--mark the emergence of an era in which the functions that made the outbuildings necessary have been eliminated or modern appliances and conveniences make it possible for the associated tasks to be performed within the house. In some instances, ranch-style houses or trailers have replaced historic farmhouses or have been incorporated into an existing farmstead unit as supplementary housing for family members or tenants. Where new housing units have been sited in rows along highways in typical strip fashion, they have had the most damaging visual impact on the historic rural landscape. Fortunately, the value of Lake Landing farmland and the lack of development pressures has made intrusive strip development infrequent.

Although agricultural buildings are dominant visual elements in the Lake Landing landscape, few date from the nineteenth century. The major visual contribution of agricultural buildings in Lake Landing--whether they were built in the nineteenth or twentieth century--is as symbols of the importance of agriculture as the basis for life in the district; as manifestations of the evolving nature of agriculture; and as evidence of the lack of change in the basic types of outbuildings constructed and their uses. With the exception of machine sheds and shed additions to barns, all pre-World War II Lake Landing outbuildings have been built with the gable roofs that also characterize residential construction. The mid-nineteenth-century, gabled-roof barn on the Former Amity Church Parsonage property (#58) is a typical example, while the 1890's large, T-shaped, stock barn with feed room and hay loft built on the George Israel Watson property (#166) is a rare example of a massive barn in this district. The lack of good transportation and distance from commercial dairies prevented extensive dairy cattle operations; consequently, Lake Landing farmers never built the imposing gambrel-roofed barns that often characterize dairy farming areas.

Sheds, stockhouses, and grain and feed barns comprise most of the farm buildings constructed prior to World War II. The tradition of building with the mortise and tenon construction technique continued through most of this period--even longer than it persisted for most residential construction. Small gable-roofed grain and feed barns were the major agricultural buildings for most of the nineteenth century. The relatively mild climate of the district allowed farmers to let livestock graze at free range in certain fields--usually marsh areas. Since most Lake Landing families in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries kept only a few milk cows, horses, oxen, and mules that needed to be sheltered, they had little need for large barns. A few Lake Landing farmers, notably George Israel Watson, were engaged in large-scale stock production in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The surviving two-and-a-half-story Watson barn and the seriously deteriorated, vertical-sided stock barn on the Walter Gibbs Farm (#131) represent this pre-Depression era in Lake Landing agriculture.

The fact that most Lake Landing barns are similar in form, scale, and material to residential structures is emphasized by the ease with which other buildings have been converted into barns and barns into houses. An early

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nineteenth-century house on the Jennette Family Farm (#9), for example, has been converted into a barn while the (former) Riley Murray barn (#21) has been adapted into a residence. Lake Landing also has a long tradition of moving buildings from site to site. The attached inventory list has frequent references to outbuildings that have been moved or adapted. Regardless of their age or original use, gable, or shed roofed wooden structures that are sited within traditional house and farm complexes make a substantial contribution to the historic Lake Landing landscape since, traditionally, dwellings were never built without dependencies.

Many of the historic farm buildings have already been lost to deterioration and neglect, fire, storms, or even demolition if they occupied valuable land that could be farmed. Most of the surviving farm buildings are threatened by the same forces today. It is fortunate that most of the agricultural buildings in Lake Landing are small ones since they are more easily reused, especially for storage, and consequently, have a higher rate of survival than larger buildings that occupy more land and are more expensive to repair and maintain. As agricultural machinery and operations have become larger since World War II, many Lake Landing farmers have built larger, more economical and more efficient utility buildings, metal drying bins for corn, and livestock shelters and have sometimes built large prefabricated metal buildings to house machinery or have built large hog confinements. Although the principal crop--corn--and the principal livestock--hogs--are the same today as they have been historically, the farming methods have changed and these changes have resulted in landscape changes and new building forms in Lake Landing. In most cases, new forms have been incorporated within the traditional farm complexes--presenting an opportunity to observe the evolution of agriculture on a single farm. There are several contemporary farming operations, such as the Cuthrell Family Farm (#16)--with its hog parlor, pig weaning barn, two storage barns, machine shed, pump house, and hog barn--which, while not historic, are significant as representations of the evolving nature of agricultural production.

The major landscape changes include the raising of hogs in confined areas rather than at free range, thus reducing animation in the landscape; the large-scale cultivation of soy beans as a major crop; the widening and consolidation of drainage ditches; and the removal of vegetation along the ditches. These changes are widespread throughout the district and represent the shift to modern agricultural practices such as the scientific feeding of livestock, the contemporary international market for soybeans, the use of large mechanized equipment which is easier and safer to operate in large cleared areas, and the dominance of specialized farming over general farming that has come about in the post-World War II era.

The built environment of the Lake Landing district is not composed entirely of residential and agricultural buildings. The district also contains two small communities with commercial centers that were vital to the Lake Landing farmers in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Although the communities of Middletown and Nebraska appear almost as ghost towns today, they were once full

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of commercial vitality. The surviving commercial buildings that reflect the prosperity of that era date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These communities began their economic decline in the 1920s and 1930s when Lake Landing farmers began to drive automobiles on the newly constructed and paved Highway US 264 to Engelhard and Swan Quarter instead of relying upon the historic water links to Middletown and Nebraska. The majority of the commercial structures in the district, such as the the J. Montier Hall Warehouse (#90), the Burrus Freight Office (#91), and the George Lafayette Cox Store (#92) are one-story, wooden buildings--some with rough vertical wood siding and others with flush, horizontal siding. They all feature a gable front orientation--a traditional characteristic of commercial buildings. At least three of the surviving stores were built with stepped parapet false facades to hide their gables in an attempt to appear more imposing and to make a more obvious commercial statement. These three--the J. Montier Hall Store (#90), the store that was operated in Middletown by C. W. Burrus (#94), and the J. R. McKinney and Son Store (#155) in Nebraska-- with their double recessed doors and large display windows, were all built near 1912 at the end of the boom cycle of these "boom-bust" communities.

Although contemporary agricultural practices have given the district a twentieth-century landscape as the setting for a number of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century buildings, there are a number of places remaining in the district that retain a historic feeling in both their architecture and in their landscapes. The historic visual image perhaps is strongest in three places within the district: Amity (#59 and #60) where the Greek Revival style church, its cemetery, and adjacent academy building present a wonderful example of a nineteenth-century institutional built environment; Watson's Corner (#164, #165, and #166) which represents both the history of the Watson family and of a rural crossroads community on the Great Ditch as well as serving as a microcosm of the architecture of the district with buildings dating from the early, mid- and late nineteenth centuries and a range of residential, agricultural, and commercial buildings in an agrarian landscape; and the Jennette Family Farm (#9) which retains not only a historic house but also a characteristic nineteenth-century landscape setting that includes a white picket fence, a pecan grove, and hedgerows along the drainage ditch.

The Lake Landing district is significant because it possesses an amazingly intact and uniform built environment that reflects life in an isolated, agrarian coastal community from the early nineteenth century to the present as well as an outstanding collection of pre-Civil War plantations. Although the district is composed of distinct farms, these farms are linked to each other and to commercial service communities by ditches, canals, and creeks that provided transportation routes that remained vital until well into the twentieth century. The Lake Landing district is a totally interrelated environment that was created by a farming community that shared a common religious heritage, many family ties of kinship and marriage, an awareness of the need to site and build structures with the forces of wind and water in mind, and a limited number of stylistic sources for architectural forms, plans, and details. Isolation made the Lake Landing district a distinct place with a timeless rural architectural character;

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today, its distance from more populated areas and the absence of development pressures protects its historic landscape from numerous intrusions.

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LAKE LANDING HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

1. WESTON FAMILY HOUSE. The extreme pitch of this coastal plain cottage roof is unique in Hyde County. A corbelled and paneled cap ornaments the narrow double-shouldered chimney and an angular bargeboard embellishes the gable-end rooflines. The house was built for John West H. Weston (1835-1893) around 1860; upon his death he left it to his relative, Laura Weston. No outbuildings survive. Contributing.
2. DAVIS BARN AND SHED. Little is known about these early twentieth-century frame structures--a barn and a shed--that survive in an existing cornfield. They appear to be fragments of a farmstead. Contributing.
3. BERRY FAMILY FARM. Mr. and Mrs. James E. Berry had local builder Sam Boomer and Son build this one-and-a-half-story frame bungalow about 1934 after a severe wind destroyed an earlier house across the road. There have been few alterations to the house, smoke house and chicken house. Other farm buildings--a barn (1955), animal shelters (1979) and a gas house (1979)--have been added to the complex. The present owner Charles E. Berry inherited the house from his mother in 1973. Contributing.
4. ADELAIDE STOTESBURY HOUSE. Adelaide Stotesbury had local builder Sam Boomer and Son build this modest story-and-a-jump cottage in 1946. This house is one of the most recent versions of this form that is characteristic of Lake Landing's vernacular architecture. Contributing.
5. HOUSE. This one-and-a-half-story, frame bungalow is believed to have been built in the 1930s or 1940s. A dilapidated shed remains on the property. Fill.
6. HOUSE. This one-and-a-half-story, frame bungalow is believed to have been built in the 1930s and is currently used as a hunting lodge. Fill.
7. BARN. This early twentieth-century frame barn with later shed additions to the non-gable ends appears to be the last fragment of a former homestead. Contributing.
8. McCLOUD HOUSE. This story-and-a-half, frame house with attached rear kitchen shed is believed to have been built for the McCloud family in 1916. The date 1916 appears on a cistern near the house. An early twentieth-century smokehouse also survives on the property. Minnie McCloud Selby and Mary McCloud Benson sold the property in the 1930s to Emmitt and Annie Swindell Sadler; it is currently owned by the Annie S. Sadler heirs; Ben and Ila Sadler O'Neal occupy the house. Contributing.
- 14422 9. JENNETTE FAMILY FARM. This farm probably best represents the visual character of a nineteenth-century Lake Landing farm. The house, which is still owned by members of the Jennette family, is a notable example of Victorian

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embellishment and expansion of a simple, early nineteenth-century dwelling while the property as a whole is significant as an intact historic landscape. The house is located in a grove of pecan trees--a picturesque setting. John Jennette purchased the property on which this house is located in 1772 from John Sirman. Jennette left the property to his sons, Robert, Sr. and John, Jr., in his 1774 will. Robert Jennette, Sr., who served in the North Carolina House of Commons from 1781 to 1782, deeded the property to his son Thomas G. Jennette. After his death in 1821, the property went to his widow Ann. She and her second husband Selby Watson deeded it back to Robert, Sr. who deeded the property to his son Henry Jennette (Thomas Henry Jennette, Sr.). Robert, Sr. confirmed the deed to Henry in his 1857 will, indicating that Henry was living on the property. The kitchen-dining room building with the recessed porch and the smokehouse had probably been built by this time as well. Thomas Henry Jennette, Sr. (1816-1864), is believed to have had the original one-and-one-half-story portion of the house built shortly after his marriage in 1852. After his death, the property then passed to his heirs who sold it to Thomas H. Jennette, Jr. His son Thomas A. Jennette, who next inherited the property, left it to his daughter, the present owner Tra Jennette Perry. Thomas Henry Jennette, Jr. (1860-1934) added the two-story wing with the three-sided, two-story bay accented in an unusual fashion with three small gables in 1902. The front gabled-dormer on the original portion of the house is believed to have been added at the same time. The porch was reworked with turned balusters and sawn spandrels, and all of the front gables were ornamented with molded ridge boards and sawn ornamental bracings during this remodeling. Thomas A. Jennette added bathrooms and enclosed the back porch to make a kitchen in 1948.

Another notable feature of the property is the extensive, intact complex of farm buildings, all of which are painted red. One barn, which has interior sheathing of beaded "ceiling" board, may have been used originally as a house and appears to predate the original portion of the main house. The complex also includes two barns and a wash house that were built around 1900, a 1915 outhouse, a buggy house, a harness shed, a 1920's chicken house, and a 1960 implement shed as well as a 1915 tenant house that is located across the road. The best example of an existing hedge row along a drainage ditch remains on this property and runs along the east property line from U. S. 264 to the rear of the property. Pivotal.

44423 10. HUGH CREDLE HOUSE. According to family tradition, Hugh Credle (1867-1935) built this richly ornamented, frame house for \$2600 after the birth of his daughter Lucille in 1902. The Queen Anne details, popular in the late nineteenth century, include lacy ornamental bracing in all of the gables, sawn porch spandrels, molded corner posts and box cornices with returns, and split and sawtooth shingles in the front gable. The east gable end contains a projecting two-story three-sided bay. The kitchen-dining room, originally located behind the house, was moved across the road and converted to a store building around 1940. The land on which the house is located was part of the James Robinson Fisher tract and described in Fisher's will of 1878 as 125 acres of Fulford land. The Fulfords were early landholders in Lake Landing. Sam Fisher, grandfather of the present owner, acquired the property about 1935. Contributing.

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44424 11. JAMES ROBINSON FISHER HOUSE. There is no known documentation to establish the construction date or original owner of this transitional Federal/Greek Revival house. Its similarities to the John Swindell House on the north side of Lake Mattamuskeet suggest that it may have been built in the 1830s. The earliest known owner of the property is James Watson who, in his will of 1826, left the property to his grandsons Jabez K. and Samuel G. Watson. Thomas Ballance acquired the property in a division with Jabez K. Watson in 1840. Ballance sold the property to Richard I. Wynne in 1846; Wynne sold the property just sixteen months later to James Robinson Fisher (1810-1878) who traditionally has been considered the first occupant of the house. Since none of the deeds of conveyance for this property mention a residence and the house could very well have been built at any time during the period between the 1820s to the 1840s, it is not clear if James Watson, Jabez Watson, Thomas Ballance, Richard Wynne, or James Robinson Fisher was the original occupant of the house.

The five-bay wide, single-pile house with large exterior gable-end, single-shoulder chimneys is identical to the John Swindell House; no other connection between the houses, however, has been discovered. In both houses Greek Revival details were applied to the form of a Federal style house: the tall windows (nine-over-nine double-hung sashes in the first story and nine-over-six in the second) have arched surrounds; the multi-paned transom above the main entrance is surrounded by a shouldered architrave; pointed and shouldered architraves appear at the center hall doors; and octagonal insets decorate corner blocks of the remaining interior door and window surrounds. The fact that the porch ceiling originally was plastered reflects the attention paid to the construction of the house and the affluence of the original owners. Originally the yard contained many outbuildings, a white plank fence, and elm, walnut and apple trees. The house passed from James Robinson Fisher to his son, Morgan (1853-1940), and hence from Morgan to his daughter, Maggie Weston (1887-1960), who sold the house to Victorene Barber in 1939. After Mrs. Barber's death in 1943, her daughter Minnie B. Sanderson, wife of Tom Sanderson (1876-1954), acquired the property containing the house and lot and about fourteen acres. There have been several successive owners since the Sandersons. Pivotal.

12. TRAILER. Intrusion.

13. HOUSE. This extremely dilapidated one-story structure is used as a hunting camp. Fill.

14. R. L. GIBBS HOUSE. This story-and-a-half house built for R. L. Gibbs in 1950 is a recent version of the traditional vernacular building type of the Lake Landing district. A trailer and c1970 implement shed dominate the complex. Fill.

15. HENRY CUTHRELL HOUSE. This one-and-a-half-story frame bungalow is believed to have been built for Henry Cuthrell in the 1940s. There is another c1940 bungalow on the property as well as a 1933 one-story cottage that was moved from "Lake View Cottages," a hunting camp on the north side of US Highway 264 near

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Lake Mattamuskeet. Fill.

16. CUTHRELL FAMILY FARM. Contractor J. M. Long, who built many houses in this vicinity, built this contemporary hog farm complex for Henry Dameron Cuthrell in 1959. Although the complex is not historic, it is built in the traditional Lake Landing manner with the farmhouse sited in a grove of trees and the outbuildings located to the rear of the house. The current owner Sam L. Cuthrell, son of the original owner, noted that this was the last house to be built by Long. The complex includes a hog parlor, pig weaning barn, two storage barns, machine shed, farrowing house, pump house, and hog barn (only structure not built by Long; built by Harry Swindell). Fill.

17. MIDYETTE FAMILY HOUSE. This four-square, frame house with its center front dormer, hip roof, and rear kitchen wing was built c1917 for Sam and Lucy Spencer Midyette by Columbus Cuthrell and Tooley Cuthrell. Carpenter S. C. Swindell enclosed the front porch for Mrs. Midyette in 1981. A smokehouse contemporary with the house and a 1979 greenhouse complete the complex. Contributing.

18. LELAND DUDLEY HOUSE. Leland and Dorothy Dudley built this concrete block house in the 1940s soon after they were married. It has been vacant since Dudley died in 1959. The house is in a bad state of repair. Intrusion.

Hy425 19. GEORGE E. DAVIS FARM. George Erasmus Davis (1870-1940) had this hip-roof house with splayed eaves built in 1921. The house, which was built by Columbus Cuthrell and a Mr. Kirk, is the nucleus of an extensive farm that was once part of the Morgan Fisher property Davis purchased from Lewis Swindell in 1913. There are several small frame outbuildings to the rear of the house and many frame farm buildings to the east, including a former tenant house that probably predates the present residence, a dairy, a dining room, a kitchen, a smoke house, a potato house, a hen house, and a 1919 stock house as well as a 1978 metal shop. Davis was a farmer, Hyde County Sheriff (1914-1918), and State Legislator (1923-1937). Contributing.

20. TRAILERS AND HOG COMPLEX. Intrusion.

21. (FORMER) RILEY MURRAY BARN. Local people believe that this structure which is joined with pegs was originally a barn on the Riley Murray property and was moved to this site and converted into a residence about 1942. The pump house, storage barn/chicken house, and privy were probably built in the same year. Contributing.

Hy426 22. RILEY MURRAY HOUSE. The Riley Murray House is the largest of several finely detailed plantation houses on the south side of Lake Mattamuskeet in the Lake Landing vicinity. The exterior of the cubical two-and-a-half-story form is distinguished by an interior chimney with exposed face in each gable end. The entrance with single-bay gabled porch and door surround of fluted pilasters and molded cornice above a multi-paned transom contribute to the exterior detail. A molded raking cornice with returns outlines the flush gable ends. The windows are twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash in the first story and twelve-over-eight

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in the second, all with architraves and molded sills. The same surrounds appear at the interior windows and doors. Doors are the flat, five-panel type with a single panel above two tiers of paired panels; all are defined on both sides by narrow applied molding. There is no wainscoting, but molded shelf chair rails appear throughout the plastered interior. Original mantelpieces with fluted pilasters and cornice shelf survive in the second story and at the west fireplace in the first story; all three mantelpieces have two flat panels, applied molding, and delicate reeding. On the first floor, the east chimney serves a single fireplace with Georgian mantelpiece in the parlor, a room which runs the full depth of the house. The west chimney originally accommodated two corner fireplaces, one in the dining room and another in the smaller room behind. An open-well staircase of three runs with plain balusters, handrail and newel post and ornamental brackets rises from the wide center hall. The exterior surround of the original rear entrance, a pared down version of the front surround, survives in one of the shed rooms added during the restoration of the house in 1969. All locks, windows, and shutters are original to this house. None of the original outbuildings survives. Riley Murray (1799-1894) is believed to have had the house built between 1821 and 1826 on land he inherited from his father Timothy Murray. The elder Murray had purchased the seventy-five acre tract from John Carowan, Jr. and Abel and Susanna Hutson in 1803. A prominent Hyde County farmer, Riley Murray also was Hyde County Clerk of Court (1834-1835), a North Carolina State Senator in 1852 and a long-time Trustee of Amity church. He joined the congregation in 1837 when it was called Mattamuskeet Chapel. According to local traditon, the builder was Caleb Brooks (1797-1885) of Hyde County. The house remained in the Murray family until 1909 when it was purchased by William H. Jones. Jones died in 1910 leaving the property to his daughter Lilian Marie and reserving a life estate for his wife Martha (Lilian Marie's stepmother). In 1927 Martha Jones married M. D. Boomer. In 1930 Boomer purchased the property from Lilian Marie (Jones) Carter. George T. Davis, the trustee for Boomer's heirs, sold the property to the Mattamuskeet Country Club in 1947. Mattamuskeet Country Club never developed the property and sold it to C. C. Davis in 1961. When the current owners, Dr. H. J. and June Liverman purchased the house from the country club in 1969, it had been vacant since the 1950s. Pivotal.

5922
23. WESTON-FISHER HOUSE. This single-pile house with rear shed and tall single stepped-shoulder chimneys and returned gables appears to date from the middle of the nineteenth century and is believed to have been built for Dr. Benjamin Weston (1839-1901). Samuel Fisher (1885-1959) moved to this house early in the twentieth century. The front door with round-arched panels, mantelpieces with raised, round-ended panels, and wainscoting of narrow, beaded "ceiling" board are distinctive features of the house. Most of the plaster and lathes were removed from the interior during the preparation for a rehabilitation that was begun in the 1970s but not completed. There is a 1955 hunting camp located on the property on the north side of US Highway 264. Contributing.

447429
24. L. L. GIBBS HOUSE. Gable ends richly adorned with ornamental bracing and drop pendant brackets in eaves distinguish this coastal plain cottage built

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around 1900. The earliest known owner was L. L. Gibbs who for many years was the Lake Landing postmaster in the store next door. The barn and other outbuildings have been demolished. Contributing.

44430 25. JOHN EDWARD SPENCER STORE. Deed research indicates that this store was built on land that was part of the property that Hugh Jones left to his daughter Eliza Gaston and that she sold to neighbor Riley Murray in 1835. In 1835 Murray sold his right, title, and interest in the Lake Landing Canal Company to Tilman Farrow, R. M. G. Moore, and David Carter. It appears that the store is located on land described in the sale. In 1885, the Lake Landing Canal Company sold the property to David Carter's son Isaiah who lived in Fairfield. John Edward Spencer (1857-1936) operated a store in this building in the 1880s but appears not to have been an owner of the property. The store is believed to have been built in the 1880s. It is one of only three extant decorated store buildings in Hyde County. Architectural details include molded cornices with returns and intricate turned and sawn ornamental bracing in the front gable. The Lake Landing Post Office was located here for many years. Contributing.

423 26. JONES-MANN-BALLANCE HOUSE. This house is one of the most handsome of the early nineteenth-century Lake Landing area plantation houses; the plantation is bordered on the east by the Great Ditch. The two-story-with-attic, single-pile form with five-bay facade is the simplest of the area's plantation houses and may have been built by Caleb Brooks who built the Riley Murray House. Although the house is the simplest of the area plantation houses with its interior end exposed-face chimneys and unmolded window sills, more sophisticated features appear in the beaded weatherboarding and the Flemish bond brickwork. The extended eaves in the gable ends and the latticework on the front porch are nineteenth-century alterations, the latter in the late 1890s. On the interior, seven-eighths-inch thick plaster walls bear molded chair rails throughout, but no wainscoting. The first-floor fireplaces have warming closets, those in the parlor retaining the original hand-painted graining on the interior. All of the mantelpieces are original, with molded architrave, plain friezes, and bed moldings; the parlor mantelpiece also has end blocks and a molded shelf. The doors have four or six panels, raised or flat; the doors to the parlor and present dining room have six panels, flat with applied molding to one side and flush with beading on the other. Several original iron locks survive. An open-well, two-run staircase with plain balusters, handrail and newel post rises from the center hall to the attic. During a renovation in the 1970s by Leon and Jean Ballance, the current owners, a nineteenth-century rear shed was replaced with a new and larger one-story ell, and closets and bathrooms were added on the second floor. Modern embellishments to the original portion of the house include the application of cavetto crown molding and the placement of ceiling medallions in the dining room and parlor.

The appearance here of the typical New Bern features of interior end exposed-face chimneys and flush beaded door panels, as well as the other sophisticated details including beaded weatherboards and graining on the warming closets are explained by the fact that the house was built for Dr. Hugh Jones, a wealthy planter with strong New Bern connections. Jones, the son of Judge John Jones, associate justice of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, owned and worked

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five Hyde County plantations and owned a house and lot in New Bern. At one time, Judge Jones also resided in New Bern and he began acquiring land in Hyde County as early as 1775. Dr. Jones married Ann Marie Guion of New Bern in 1804. Although he was a medical doctor, there is no record that Dr. Jones ever practiced. The house was constructed prior to 1817 when Samuel Huntington Perkins (1797-1874) arrived here from New England to tutor Jones' five daughters. During his approximately ten-month residence with the Jones family, Perkins kept a detailed diary full of descriptions of the local life and landscape, including the observation that he could see Lake Mattamuskeet from his bedroom window (today the view is obscured by acres of woods and marsh). ("A Yankee Tutor in the Old South," edited by Robert C. McLean, North Carolina Historical Review, 1970, pp. 51-85.) Upon Dr. Jones' death in 1826, his daughter, Eliza Jones, acquired Lake Landing Plantation. Shortly after final settlement of her father's estate, she married Alexander Francis Gaston and in 1835, they sold the plantation to Thomas R. Gibbs (d. 1855). In 1849, Gibbs sold it to Samuel Midyett Mann and his brother, Joseph Spencer Mann. The property stayed in the family of Samuel Midyett Mann for more than one hundred years, passing to his daughter and son-in-law, Virginia (1855-1934) and Morgan Fisher (1853-1940) and hence to their daughter, Maggie Fisher Weston. Leon, Wesley, and Orville Ballance purchased the property from Mrs. Weston's children in 1970. Leon and Jean Ballance acquired the house site as a result of a quitclaim by the other Ballance brothers. Pivotal.

27. LOUIS SPENCER HOUSE (FORMER GEORGE E. DAVIS KITCHEN). This one-story frame building was originally a kitchen wing that was moved to this site by Louis Spencer in 1973 and converted into a residence. Contributing.

28. BRIDGMAN FAMILY FARM. George Stephenson Bridgman (1853-1928) and his wife Hannah Watson lived in this nineteenth-century, story-and-a-half house from about 1886 until 1918. After this time it was used as a tenant house until 1954 when the Bridgman's daughter Maggie had the house moved to this site from a field to the southeast. Several alterations occurred following the move: asbestos shingles were applied to the exterior and a large exterior end chimney, rear shed, and a shed porch across the front facade have been replaced. An original mantelpiece with molded architrave and cornice shelf survives in a slightly altered condition. There are a number of twentieth-century outbuildings used in the hog operations of this farm. Contributing.

44431 29. WINDLEY-BRIDGMAN HOUSE. Sam Windley (1876-1952) had this typical single-pile house with three-bay front facade built around 1900. One of the original interior end chimneys with paneled stack survives. Additions have been made to the rear and the turned porch posts have been replaced with wooden pylons on brick plinths. Owners after the Windleys moved from the house include Walton O'Neal and George Stephenson Bridgman (1853-1928). Although Bridgman's daughter Annie B. Credle (b.1890) sold the house to her son Walter G. Credle and his wife Donna for ten dollars, she still resides here. The kitchen which was connected to the house by a walkway remains on the property as does a chicken house that was moved from the Alton Baum property in the 1970s and a store building (that John L. Mann, Sr. operated on a site east of the Lake Landing

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Bridge) that is used as a barn. Contributing.

30. WALTER CREDLE HOUSE. Walter and Donna Credle began construction of this brick veneer house in 1981 but the house has not been finished. Intrusion.

31. WALLACE-MANN-CLARKE HOUSE. This Federal style two-and-one-half-story double-pile house with side hall plan and two interior end exposed-face chimneys in the east gable end is the most intact and finely detailed of the notable plantation houses in the Lake Landing area. The form and salient features of the house are similar, although somewhat simplified, to those of late eighteenth/early nineteenth-century New Bern houses with side hall plans. During a complete restoration in 1969 to 1970, after the house had been empty for 25 years, the current owners, Roy and Anna Clarke, replaced only the plaster when they discovered that all of the interior and exterior trim, including the shutters and most of the hardware, was original. Raking boards complement box cornices with returns, the chimney brickwork was laid in Flemish bond, and the entrance porch is pedimented, with molded cornices all around and wide flush boards in the pediment. The modern addition of two rear sheds necessitated the removal of the rear porch which was a pared down version of the front one. The fenestration on the main facade is asymmetrical, with the first-story twelve-over-eight double-hung sashes being wider than the nine-over-six sashes in the second.

The interior contains the only known use in Hyde County of chair rails and wainscoting throughout all three floors, a characteristic of the most finely built houses. The wainscoting is sheathed, except for that in the parlor where it is flat paneled. The two first-floor mantelpieces are identical, with molded architraves, end panels, bed moldings, and molded shelves. The present dining room, in which the wood is re-painted its original deep red, contains the unusual feature of a full-size closet on each side of the fireplace. Doors are four or six-panel raised, flat with applied molding, or flat with no molding. The front door has six panels, all panels flush with beading on one side, but only the bottom two panels of the exterior side are flush with beading. Tripartite architraves, a retardataire Georgian feature, mark doors and windows. The wide side hall accommodates a long two-run staircase with wide, open well.

The family room wing on the west gable end was an outbuilding that was attached to the house during the restoration; the chimney is a modern reproduction of a chimney at Williamsburg, Virginia. The original exposed beaded beams in this building indicate that it probably was built as a kitchen or weaving house although it had been used most recently as a barn. The kitchen and milkhouse, contemporary with the main house, stand on their original sites.

Physical evidence indicates that the house was built in the early 1800s. David Wallace bought the property on which the house stands in two tracts from Samuel Weston and Lovett Bell in 1813. Wallace sold it to William W. Hill in 1826; Hill sold the property to Benners L. Ensley in 1829. Ensley's son Benners A. Ensley who was a minor when his father died in 1830 inherited the property and sold it to Joseph Spencer Mann in 1853. Although his will mentions that his son William was residing on the land, when Mann died in 1890, he left the property to his children Jane S. and John L. Mann who divided the property. John L. Mann sold his property to Sarah E. Mann in 1900. After her death, the

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property was sold to Dr. J. E. Swindell who sold the house to E. Royden and Anna Jean M. Clarke in 1968. Pivotal.

32. JIM LUCAS TENANT HOUSE. Jim Lucas built this one-story, frame tenant house between 1945 and 1950. Fill.

527 33. JANIE SPENCER MANN TENANT HOUSE. This property is believed to have been Janie Mann's inheritance from the Joseph Spencer Mann estate. The two-story frame tenant house was built c1910. A kitchen wing was added to the rear in 1948. Contributing.

14434 34. GIBBS-ENSLEY-MIDYETTE HOUSE. The unusual two-door entrance to this transitional Federal/Greek Revival style house reflects the unusual first-floor plan of two rooms side by side with a rear cross hall. Each Greek Revival two-panel door (panels flush on the interior, with applied molding on the exterior) leads to a parlor divided by a molded, arched ceiling beam which originally accommodated doors that folded open to provide sufficient space for large gatherings. Narrow windows have nine-over-nine sashes on the first floor and nine-over-six on the second. Simple, molded chair rails run throughout the house; there is no wainscoting. The staircase in the rear hall is the two-run, open-well type with plain handrail, balusters, and newel posts that appear in most of the finer early nineteenth-century Hyde County houses. The large side wing, rear shed, and aluminum siding are modern additions that occurred during a 1975 remodeling for Sherrille E. and Sally Midyette Fisher, the current owners. According to local tradition, the house was built for Benners Ensley (1799-1830), who was buried next door, but deed research indicates that it is more likely that the house was built on a 150 acre tract of land during the ownership of Samuel Gibbs. Samuel Gibbs married twice--first to Destamony Spencer, and after her death to Sarah Henry. It appears that Gibbs lived in this house with both wives. After his death in 1824, his widow married Benners L. Ensley. In 1827, Ensley bought the house from Gibbs' minor children. After Ensley's death in 1830, there were a series of interesting transfers of this house and various parcels of the three hundred acres through purchase, gift, and inheritance. Owners during this period included Sarah (Henry) Gibbs Ensley who married yet another time to Dixon Swindell, her daughter, Zada (Gibbs) Fulford, her son Benners A. Ensley, Erasmus H. Saunderson, and Tolbert Selby. Selby who purchased the original 150 acres in 1854, sold the entire tract in 1868. Since that time, the property has remained intact and has been in the hands of a member of the Midyette family since 1871. Contributing.

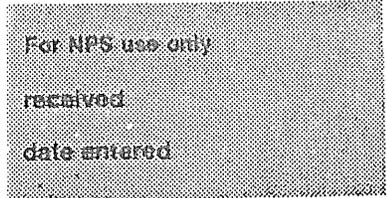
35. ANN B. GIBBS HOUSE. This one-story, frame and brick veneer, ranch house was built in 1972. Intrusion.

36. RUSSELL BLANCHARD HOUSE. This one-story, brick veneer house was built in 1972. Intrusion.

37. COX HOUSE. Dave Cox is believed to have built this two-story, frame house in the last half of the nineteenth century. The original attached kitchen wing to the rear has been removed and replaced with a kitchen wing on the east side

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of the house during the ownership of Rena Cox in the 1960s. Two one-and-a-half-story tenant houses dating from the 1950s or 1960s stand to the west of the house. Contributing.

Hy 435 38. GIBBS-GASKINS-McKINNEY FARM. The remains of this early nineteenth-century house, stripped of its plaster and lathes and now used as a barn, exhibit the form and detail almost identical to those of the Gibbs-Ensley-Midyette House. Here, however, the dimensions are more substantial, the windows are larger, and the tall, single-shoulder, exterior gable-end chimneys survive. This house has the same plan as the Gibbs-Ensley-Midyette House, with two front doors, each leading to one of two front rooms, and a cross stair hall behind. Instead of the wide folding doors originally featured in the Gibbs-Ensley-Midyette House, the Gibbs-Gaskins House has the more typical single, two-panel door separating the two front rooms. A gable-roofed entrance porch has been removed. Chair rails run throughout the house. According to local historians, the house was built for David S. Gibbs--the second husband of Zada Gibbs Fulford, who grew up in the Gibbs-Ensley-Midyette House. David Gibbs sold the house to his son James in 1866 although the son was not to take possession until after his father's death. In 1893, James Gibbs and his wife Martha sold the property to Samuel Treadwell Gaskins (1833-1928), a magistrate known for the dances and social events he held in this house. Ironically, the house has been adapted into a barn and two metal sheds were attached to it in 1968 and 1973. Reginald Lucas McKinney, the current owner had a one-story, brick veneer, ranch style house built on the property in 1969. Fill.

39. MCKINNEY-CREDLE HOUSE. Reginald and Grace McKinney had this one-story, brick veneer, ranch-style house built in 1961; they moved from this house in 1969 to a newer house (#38) Mr. and Mrs. Ormond Credle are the current owners. Intrusion.

40. GEORGE M. MEEKINS HOUSE. George and Cynthia Meekins had this two-story house which is clad with plywood siding built in 1979. Intrusion.

41. LINWOOD CUTHRELL HOUSE. Linwood Cuthrell had this one-story frame house built in 1946. A barn contemporary with the house and a 1980 garage are also on the property. Fill.

Hy 2 42. THE INKBOTTLE HOUSE. This octagon house, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and known as the Inkbottle House, was built for Dr. William T. Sparrow in the 1850s. The stucco-covered, two-story building is one of the few known examples in North Carolina of the octagonal house form made popular by phrenologist Orson S. Fowler in his book, The Octagonal Mode: A House for All (1848). Although Sparrow, like most of his neighbors in the district, was a farmer, it is significant that he was also a physician who probably would have been familiar with phrenology. Although local people relate that Sparrow believed that the form of the building would provide protection from the frequently severe storms in the Lake Landing area, it is also likely that the doctor was familiar with Fowler's assertions that the octagon would be the choice of people with taste and that it was a uniquely healthful, convenient,

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and useful form for a residence. The house employed not only the octagonal form but also the stucco or gravel wall construction methods Fowler promoted in his book. The house which fell into disrepair in the twentieth century is being restored through community efforts. The octagon house with its sawn brackets and broad dentilled frieze is a unique landmark in the Hyde County landscape. Pivotal.

43. TRAILER. Intrusion.

44. JONATHAN TOMLINSON HOUSE. Jonathan and Judith Cahoon Tomlinson had this two-story, brick veneer and frame house built in 1975-76. Intrusion.

45. WALTER TAYLOR HOUSE. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Taylor had this one-and-a-half-story, frame house built in 1978-79; the current owner is Don Spencer. Fill.

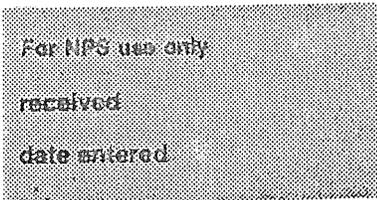
Hy436 46. BELL-JENNETTE FARM. Set back from the road in a grove of pecan trees, this single pile house with a five-bay main facade has an entrance to a side hall and the large interior chimney is placed off-center. On two sides of the chimney stack, as well as on a beam uncovered during alterations to the staircase, the date "1808" is inscribed. On the exterior, the door and chimney placement indicate the interior room arrangement, the only plan of its kind in Hyde County: off the side hall, which contains a two-run staircase that runs back to front, two rooms are located side by side, separated by the bulk of the chimney. Exposed beams run across the ceilings on both rooms. Other interior details support the 1808 construction date: Georgian chair rails and tripartite door and window surrounds appear throughout the house; one door retains its original HL hinges; and the first-floor mantelpieces have the Georgian characteristics of tripartite architrave around the fireplace opening and three raised panels in the frieze. Flat-paneled wainscoting appears on the first story. The placement of the stairs and the original detailing of the rear window surrounds indicate that the house initially may have been oriented in the opposite direction, with the south wall as the main facade. The exterior walls have been clad with synthetic siding.

There is an early nineteenth-century, frame smokehouse surviving on the property as well as a 1945 barn, a c1954 one-story frame house, and a trailer located in close proximity to the main house. There is a small frame store built in 1939 located near the entry drive to the house on US 264. The store closed in 1968 and the building was used as a game room until recently. Opposite the store on the north side of US Highway 264, there are two rental cabins, one built in 1964 and the other in 1973.

Lovett Bell acquired the land through North Carolina Land Grant #397 in 1797. The grant describes the property as the place where Lovett Bell and Thomas Gibbs, Sr. were residing. Bell was married to Mary Gibbs, daughter of Thomas Gibbs, Sr. The grant also describes a portion of the property as land that Thomas Gibbs had purchased from Henry Gibbs, Robert Gibbs, and others. In 1834, Lovett Bell and Durant H. Bell sold the property to Robert Jennette (1786-1857) who passed it to his sons Robert, Jr. (1786-1857) and Jones Jennette (1823-1894). Robert, Jr. died in 1857 and Jones Jennette left the property to

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his nephew, William Shaw Jennette (1853-1921) in 1894. His wife lived on the property under the conditions of a life estate. After her death, William Shaw Jennette's children inherited the property. The property still remains in the Jennette family today: the land on which the house is located is owned by Mrs. Millicent Jennette Waits; her brother also owns a portion of the original grant. Pivotal.

47. MANN FAMILY FARM. This 1920 single-pile house has a large ell with projecting short bays. A sunporch has been built over the cistern. A smokehouse and outside pantry, contemporary with the house, remain on the property. Although in separate ownership today, there are two barns--one built by John L. Mann, Sr. in the 1920s for casket sales and the other in 1955 by Norfleet L. Mann as a dairy barn. The property remains in the Mann family today. Contributing.

48. ROCKWELL-O'NEAL HOUSE. Paul Rockwell, with the assistance of Charlie Knickerbacher, built this modest, one-story frame cottage as his residence in the late 1920s or early 1930s. Ed O'Neal moved this house from the community known as Last Chance to this site in the late 1930s. There is a twentieth-century barn to the rear of the house. Fill.

49. TRAILER. Intrusion.

426
9
50. MURRAY-MANN HOUSE. Thomas Riley Murray had a section of this two-story house built in 1908 when he bought the property from Thomas Jefferson Mann. Murray lived in this house until he sold it to Harvy B. Mann, Sr. in 1953. Murray ran a small grocery and blacksmith shop in a building that was located between the house and the road. The smokehouse has been moved from the property to the property now owned by Christine Ramon. A wing was added to the house in 1954; Harvy B. Mann, Jr. is the current owner. Contributing.

51. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PARSONAGE. The congregation of the United Methodist Church had this parsonage built in 1907 after deciding to move from their previous parsonage (#58). The trustees of the church who were in charge of construction were B. B. Saunderson, W. P. Burrus, and H. B. Credle. The first minister to occupy the house was the Reverend R. R. Grant. The two-story, single-pile house with a T-shape plan, interior end brick chimneys, and gabled roof is a fine example of the substantial, early twentieth-century houses that were built in coastal areas. The house is still used as a parsonage. Contributing.

52. FERGERSON HOUSE. This one-story, single-pile structure with box cornices and returns and turned porch posts originally served as the kitchen to the early nineteenth-century Gibbs-Mann House across US 264. The building was moved in this century to its current site where it was adapted as a house with numerous modern additions. It is currently owned by Mrs. Wayde Ferguson. Contributing.

44
440
53. BECKWITH HOUSE. Nathaniel Beckwith (1819-1886), Pasquotank County attorney, who came to Hyde County to settle Dr. Andrew Shanklin's estate, had

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this house built in 1849. The one-and-one-half-story house with exterior gable-end double-shouldered chimneys exhibits Greek Revival detailing in the gable front dormers and entrance porch. The turned posts with spool spandrels appear to be replacements. The house's interior plan with the staircase located along the rear wall is a plan popular in early Maryland cottages of the same form but unusual in Hyde County. Beckwith practiced law in a small building (no longer standing) in the front yard. Beckwith's daughter-in-law, Mrs. Stuart Beckwith (1858-1944) operated the Beckwith Private School in the law office in the early twentieth century. The current owners are Thomas J. and Sallie E. Mann. There is a nineteenth-century smokehouse remaining on the property. Contributing.

Hy. 428

54. GIBBS-MANN HOUSE. This two-and-one-half-story house, with its immediate environs defined by a white picket fence and overlooking a man-made pond to the west, is located in one of the most picturesque settings in the district. The exterior has been extensively altered with rear additions and the construction of a one-story wrap-around porch which rises to two levels at the central entrance bay. The basic form of the house, plus the windows (twelve-over-twelve sashes in the first story and twelve-over-eight in the second), and the interior gable-end chimneys with exposed faces are reminiscent of the New Bern characteristics of the Riley Murray House. The staggering of the chimney so that the stack emerges at the crest of the gable roof is similar to the treatment of the Georgian style Cool Springs Plantation in Craven County. The off-center placement of the exposed face portion of the chimneys, however, indicates an interior plan unusual in Hyde County. Originally, the house had a T-hall plan with the stair hall across the front of the house. Except for the removal of two partitions, the interior is relatively intact. The two-run, open-well staircase decorated with sawn spandrels, almost identical to plate XXX of Owen Biddle's The Young Carpenter's Assistant of 1805, rises across a front window just east of the entrance. Doors are five-panel (two tiers of paired panels below a short wide panel). Chair rails appear throughout the house but there is no wainscoting. Mantlepieces are typical of those in the finer early nineteenth-century Hyde County houses. Mantlepiece details include Georgian tripartite architraves surmounted by end posts, plain friezes, and cornice shelves. A nineteenth-century smokehouse remains on the property. The house is believed to have been built for Henry W. Gibbs (1798-1843) whose grave lies next to the house. According to family tradition, Thomas Jefferson Mann (1868-1953), son of Joseph Spencer Mann, and his bride Ella May Gibbs (1870-1916) moved to this house in 1891 at the time of their marriage; the property is believed to have come to the young couple through Ella Gibbs' family. Ella Gibbs' relationship to Henry Gibbs is not known. The house has remained in the Mann family since that time. After his first wife's death, Mann married Blanche Elizabeth Bonner of Bonnerton. Mann's son Harvy B. Mann was responsible for a number of alterations that occurred in the 1950s after the death of T. J. Mann. These alterations include enclosure of the back porch, adding a garage to the east and a new kitchen and dining room on the west. Pivotal.

55. WILLIAM FARROW HOUSE. William Farrow had this one-story, frame and brick veneer ranch style house built in 1960. There is a trailer adjacent to the

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house. Intrusion.

56. (FORMER) GIBBS-MANN BARN. This barn, located at the rear of the William Farrow House (#55), appears to and is believed to date from the nineteenth century and to have been part of the Gibbs-Mann farm (#54). Local tradition holds that the original interior of this barn burned in a fire that was finally brought under control by bringing water from a nearby canal. It was not possible to gain access to the structure, which is still in use, to corroborate the story of the fire. Contributing.

Hy439 57. MANN-SPENCER HOUSE. The kitchen and living room of this modest, one-story frame house are believed to have been moved to this site from the Gibbs-Mann property (#54). They became the nucleus of a residence that Mr. and Mrs. Norfleet Mann had built when their home burned. Inez C. Spencer is the current owner. Fill.

Hy445 58. (FORMER) AMITY CHURCH PARSONAGE. Numerous additions of wings and dormers have greatly altered this house. The original story-and-a-jump portion of this house with a gable-end double-shouldered chimney was most likely built in the early nineteenth century. The house was enlarged and renovated in the second half of the nineteenth century as the parsonage for Amity Church. A piece of weatherboarding that was discovered in the ell bears the date 1862--possibly, the date of the parsonage conversion. Originally SR 1107 was a tree-lined driveway that connected the house with the Church. The rent from the 20-acre farm surrounding the house paid part of the minister's salary, and the proceeds of the sale of the house in 1907 or 1908 to Ernest Jennette were used to build another parsonage (#51) just south of the Church. The milkhouse is believed to have been a gift to Mr. Jennette from Dr. Claud Davis of Middletown in 1912. Dormers and aluminum siding were added to the house for Warren Harris. The late nineteenth-century, pegged barn with hand split beams remains on the property although it has been moved and a shelter added to it. The current owner is Annie S. Harris. Contributing.

Hy441 59. AMITY CHURCH AND CEMETERY. The Methodist Episcopal congregation of the Mattamuskeet Chapel, which formerly stood nearby, built this church between 1850 and 1852. Little is known about the formation of the congregation although it is believed to have existed by the early nineteenth century and to have been known by the name of Mattamuskeet. There is a record of a deed conveying land to the trustees of Mattamuskeet Chapel by Lovett Bell in 1811. Much of the early history was not recorded and some records are believed to have been lost or destroyed. Church trustees acquired the property for the present church from Thomas Ballance in 1841. Its rectangular gable-front configuration of three by four bays is popular in rural areas. The two tiers of twelve-over-twelve sash windows reflect the two-story interior consisting of the sanctuary with a slave balcony. Stairs, similar to those in Plate XXII of Asher Benjamin's The Country Builder's Assistant, ascend to the balcony from the narthex extending across the gable front of the building. Although the exterior was dramatically enhanced in the early 1900s with the application of a tetra-style portico with metal fluted columns, and an open belfry, the handsome Greek Revival interior survives in its

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original state. Characteristic of the Greek Revival style are the overall plan, symmetrical three-part door and window surrounds with corner blocks, the Tuscan columns supporting the balcony, and a two-panel door. The neoclassical altar is topped with a pediment containing a sunburst motif and broken by a finial. Many of the individuals who have been associated with the history of the Lake Landing district are buried in the adjacent cemetery. Pivotal.

Hy 442

60. CHAPEL HILL ACADEMY. Although it is not known exactly when this building ceased to be used as a school, it is known that at least until 1894 it served as the private college preparatory school, Chapel Hill Academy, also known variously as Amity, Mattamuskeet, and Indian Ridge Academy. Chapter XCI of the 1816 Laws of North Carolina authorized establishment of a school at Mattamuskeet, as this area was then known, to be called Union Academy but the attempt to establish an academy in 1816 was futile. The Greek Revival styling of this building indicates that it was built before the middle of the nineteenth century. A low hip roof and nine-over-nine and nine-over-six sashes with simple post and lintel surrounds mark the exterior. The basic plan consists of a stair hall and one large room on each floor. Although much of the original wall material has been covered over, chair rails survive and in an anteroom there is horizontal flush board sheathing on the walls. Doors have two vertical, raised panels and unfluted Doric columns survive on the interior of both floors.

During the Civil War, Dr. Sanford Long operated a hospital in this building. After the war, the first floor reverted to use as a school and in 1873 Masonic Lodge #328 organized and began to meet on the second floor. By 1914, the building no longer was used as a school and had fallen into a dilapidated state. It was completely renovated during the 1930s by local womens groups and the Masons with the assistance of Edward Charles Hessenbruch, a Philadelphia Mason who hunted in Hyde County. At this time, fluted pilasters were applied to the walls of the Masonic hall. The Masons continue to use the upstairs, while the downstairs serves as a community hall. Pivotal.

Hy 443

61. ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND CEMETERY. This outstanding example of Gothic Revival ecclesiastical frame architecture remains completely intact. St. George's Episcopal congregation held its first meeting in March of 1866 in the Chapel Hill Academy under the direction of Rev. Samuel Swann Barber (1828-1910). In October 1874, the congregation commissioned Mr. Walling of Washington in Beaufort County to construct the church building on ten acres of land that the trustees acquired for \$75 from Nathaniel and Mary Beckwith. The modest gable-front building has an east ell to accommodate the choir. The exterior is distinguished by corner boards of arch-paneled pilasters with dentilled caps, pointed arched windows on all walls except for the front which is decorated with a rondel, and a bargeboard all around the roofline--in the form of scrolls in the gables and drop pendants on the sides. An unusual shed roof porch supported by joined chamfered pilasters shelters the entrance; above the double doors an applied dentilled arch surrounds a cross in front of rays in relief. The dentil work is similar to that on St. John's Episcopal Church at Sladesville and Fairfield Methodist Episcopal Church and may indicate that the same architect-builder executed all three churches. The richly detailed interior features exposed trusswork in the ceiling and brilliantly colored leaded stained

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glass windows. Stained beaded boards applied in a zig-zag pattern sheathe the walls, marked by a dentilled cornice. Behind the altar a group of three lancet windows are framed by a dentilled applied arch. Anterooms on either side of the altar are partitioned by paneled walls topped with a modified dentilled cornice, finials, and open sawwork reminiscent of fleur-de-lis. The church cemetery surrounds the building on three sides and contains handsome grave markers that date from the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the twentieth century. A one-story, concrete block parish house built in 1957 is located slightly west of the church. Pivotal.

62. TRAILER. Intrusion.

63. CECIL GIBBS FARM. Cecil Gibbs had this frame house built in 1961. There are a machine shed, a farrowing house, and a pig parlor on the property. Intrusion.

64. EDMOND MASON HOUSE. Carpenters J. M. Long and Mayhew Selby built this brick veneer house for owner Edmond Mason in 1947. Leyton O. Matthews designed the house. Intrusion.

Hy447 65. S. R. GIBBS STORE. This nineteenth-century building was used most recently by Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Gibbs as a store but is no longer in operation. It may originally have been a barn or other outbuilding on the Andrew Shanklin property. Contributing.

Hy448 66. SHANKLIN-GIBBS HOUSE. Dr. Andrew Shanklin (1792-1847), who came to Hyde County from Ireland in 1817, had this coastal plain cottage with exterior gable-end chimney built. Dr. Shanklin practiced medicine, invested in property, and was co-owner of a "steam mill" on Wyesocking Creek Road. Shanklin's nephew, also Dr. Andrew Shanklin, emigrated from Ireland between 1847 when his uncle died and 1850 when the census was made, inherited his uncle's property, and married Orpha Selby. The second Dr. Shanklin moved from Lake Landing to Alabama in 1860 or 1861. After his wife's death, the property passed to his wife's heirs in the Selby family. Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Gibbs made several major changes to the house in 1934: the long rear ell was attached, the porch enclosed, the chimney rebuilt, and other alterations were made. The Gibbs, who operated a general store next door, acquired the property in 1928; it is owned by their heirs today. Contributing.

Hy444 67. JOHN SILVERTHORN FARM. Farmer, boat captain, and merchant John Silverthorn (1875-1958) had this two-story, single-pile house with a one-story rear ell built by carpenter Walter Cuthrell in 1906. The house has box cornices with returns and two interior end chimneys with corbelled caps. A 1908 chicken house, a 1908 smokehouse, a 1930's chicken house, and a late 1930's brooder house are on the property. Silverthorne's daughter Margarett lives in the house today. Contributing.

Hy446 68. CHARLES SILVERTHORN HOUSE. About 1908, John Silverthorn helped his brother Charles (1880-1968) build this house which is similar to his own house (#67)

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next-door which had been built in 1906. The porch wall is sheathed with narrow flush boards laid on the diagonal. The kitchen-dining room, now attached as an ell, is believed to be an earlier house. The house remains in the ownership of the family. No outbuildings remain. Contributing.

69. SHERMAN WILLIAMS FARM. In 1965 Sherman Williams had this brick ranch-style house built as part of a contemporary farm complex that includes grain drying bins, a shop, and a hog parlor. Intrusion.

70. JAMES ADAMS HOUSE: James Adams (1801-1870) was one of the few Lake Landing residents to be born outside North Carolina. The Massachusetts native and farmer owned two houses on this property before the Civil War; only one survives today--a dilapidated story-and-a-jump, frame dwelling. Adams is believed to have lost his property because of debts. The current owner is Lemuel Swindell. Contributing.

Hy500?

71. DAVID CARTER-MARCUS SWINDELL HOUSE. This well-proportioned Federal style two-story house with attached porch and original shed on the east end of the rear facade has a large single-shoulder chimney in each gable end and horizontal wide flush beaded sheathing on the porch wall. Replacement of the porch posts, addition of a shed room, and remodeling of the north parlor with "ceiling" board sheathing and replacement baseboards and window surrounds constitute the only alterations. The other three, unaltered original rooms have molded chair rails, two-part surrounds, and no wainscoting. The doors have four or six raised panels, except for the front and rear doors which have six panels, the top four flat and the bottom two flush and beaded in the New Bern fashion. The four original mantles survive, all with pilasters below the cornice shelf. The first-floor mantles are more richly detailed with paneled pilasters. The mantelpiece in the south parlor also has dentils below the mantle shelf. The house, which appears to date from the first quarter of the nineteenth century, was probably built by David Carter, Sr. (1771-1829), an early Hyde County landowner who purchased property in this vicinity from William Thornton and from Thornton's heirs in a series of purchases between 1808 and 1809. Carter purchased this property from Elinor Thornton, William Thornton's widow. Thornton had received the land as a grant from Governor Samuel Ashe in 1797. David Carter, Jr. (1801-1862), who received the property from his father in 1825 and who, subsequently, acquired several adjacent parcels, sold his holdings in this Middle Creek vicinity to Marcus Swindell (1803-64) in 1842. Swindell had been acquiring land in this area since the 1830s. Swindell who also owned land on the north side of Lake Mattamuskeet had sold land on that side of the lake to David Carter. It appears that David Carter, Jr., who is generally believed to be the founder of Fairfield, focused his attention from this point on his holdings north of the lake and on the creation of the Fairfield Canal. It is believed that one of Swindell's wives named Polly was Polly Carter, sister of David Carter, Jr. Swindell was one of the wealthiest men in the district, owning over six-hundred acres, twenty-eight slaves, and a number of notes owed to him at the time of his death. Although Swindell married five times, it appears that he had no children to survive to maturity. Upon Marcus Swindell's death, the house and land called Middle Creek Plantation in Swindell's will

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passed to his fifth and last wife, Isabella Eliza (Luten) Swindell. Swindell's widow died in 1893 leaving the property to her subsequent husband, Jess Davis (1827-1908). The house returned to the possession of Marcus Swindell's family when it passed to Davis' granddaughter Florence Tankard, who married Lewis Dixon Swindell (1873-1952), a grandnephew of Marcus Swindell. The house remains in the possession of Florence Tankard Swindell's heirs. Pivotal.

Hy 501 72. SIMMONS-MANN HOUSE. The surviving fabric of this deteriorated and vandalized double-pile Colonial Revival house indicates a construction date in the first quarter of this century. Four well-proportioned rooms open onto a large central hall with a handsome winding staircase. The original slate roof is intact. Dennis Simmons had the house built while he was teaching at the Lake Landing High School and lived in it for a few years. The house has been vacant since the death of Dr. Jim Mann (1879-1962) who lived in the house for many years. Contributing.

Hy 504 73. SANDERSON-SPENCER HOUSE. A hip-roofed porch and rear shed expand the basic form of this late nineteenth-century single-pile house. Chamfered posts with cut-out sawwork spandrels, an uncommon combination in Hyde County, appear on the front porch. The kitchen-dining room, located to the side of the house and linked to it by a latticed breezeway, as well as the smokehouse, milk house, home shop, and farm buildings have been destroyed. Romulus Sanderson (1850-1880), a well-known local landowner, built the house as his residence. Lightkeeper Capt. Thomas B. Spencer (1849-1936), son of Peledge P. Spencer, purchased the house in the late nineteenth century. Contributing.

74. HOUSE. There is no known information about this deteriorated, vacant, one-story twentieth-century house. Fill.

MIDDLETOWN #75-#97

Hy 505 75. OSMOND COX HOUSE. A pair of gable-roofed dormers mark the front and rear elevations of this one-and-one-half-story house with rear shed. Slightly arched lintels appear at each of the windows. The earliest known owner of the house was W. Osmond Cox, Sr. (1878-1963), for whom it probably was built. Contributing.

76. HOUSE. This story-and-a-half house has been extensively and unsympathetically remodeled with an enclosed porch, replacement windows, and synthetic siding. It may be a house mentioned in an 1876 deed in which Benjamin and Levina O'Neal sold their store and lot to G. M. O'Neal. There is a storage building on the site that is believed to be a nineteenth-century wash house. Contributing.

77. AL GIBBS HOUSE. The rear portion of this one-story frame cottage is believed to have been the kitchen and dining room wing of the Huron Gibbs House; this portion was moved to this site in 1950 when the front portion of the house was built for Al Gibbs. Fill.

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78. SPENCER-GIBBS STORE. This country store which is still run by Mildred and Huron Gibbs is a Middletown institution. Gibbs believes that the store is one that was once located about one-fourth mile away and operated by the children of Thomas P. Ballance. At least five of Ballance's children were described as blind in the 1850 census and were referred to locally as the "blind Ballances." For that reason, local people called the store they ran the "Blind Ballance Store." The earliest reference to a store on this site is one for the sale of the store to G. M. O'Neal by Benjamin O'Neal and his wife Levina. The estate papers of G. M. O'Neal who died in 1885, mention a lot known as the P. P. Spencer lot on which there is a dwelling house, store house, and warehouse. Another deed from the 1880s refers to the Spencer Store. Pelege P. Spencer who married Mary Ann Balance lived with the Ballance family in 1850 and was listed in the census as a clerk. It is probable that Spencer worked for the Ballances and eventually acquired the store building from them and moved it to this site. G. M. O'Neal's widow Nancy sold the store to John S. Northan, a wealthy Hyde County landowner and businessman, in 1890; Northan's heirs sold the property to J. Montier Hall (1855-1937) who may have run the store for Northan. Hall sold the store to Mary A. Thompson in 1912 when he built a new store building nearby. Mrs. Thompson and her husband Robert J. sold the property to C. A. Mann in 1913. Mann ran a store on the property until 1927 when he traded stores with Blanch Bonner Mann, wife of T. J. Mann. The Manns sold the building to John Fletcher Burrus (1884-1935) who ran "Middletown's Drug Store." Today, Burrus' daughter and son-in-law, Mildred and Huron Gibbs, operate a general store here, one of the only two mercantile enterprises surviving in Middletown. A trailer is located behind the store. Pivotal.

79. HALL-McEACHERN HOUSE. Storekeeper J. Montier Hall is believed to have lived in this one-and-a-half-story cottage. This nineteenth-century house has been altered by the current owner Michael McEachern who had the porch enclosed and a large dormer added to the front facade. Contributing.

80. THE 'GATOR HOLE. This assemblage of trailers and simple cottages is used by visiting hunters and fishermen. Intrusion.

44510 81. CAPTAIN ROBERT BURRUS HOUSE #1. Captain Bob Burrus and his wife Florence lived in this modest but characteristic coastal plain cottage about 1900. Unlike many Lake Landing residences the kitchen, which still exists, was not attached to the rear but built separately and to the side of the house. An elevated platform connects the porches of the two buildings. The current owner is Robert Lee Carter who resides in the house part of the year. Contributing.

82. HOUSE. Little is known about this early twentieth-century, one-and-a-half-story dwelling that has been altered by enclosing the front porch and covering the exterior with asbestos shingles. The current owner is Burnell L. Gibbs. Contributing.

83. LEE WARD HOUSE. Lee and Bonnie Ward had this one-story brick veneer house built in 1979. Intrusion.

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84. JACK OSBORNE HOUSE. This house incorporates a c1890 kitchen that was moved from the Lillie May Cox (Lucille Osborne's mother) House in 1960 when the rest of the house was built. Jack and Lucille Osborne are the current owners. Fill.

85. COX FAMILY HOUSE. Carpenters Addison Swindell and Columbus Cutrell built this two story, frame house for J. Monroe Cox in 1916. A blacksmith shop has been removed from the property and several buildings, including a garage (1973), an ice house (1981), a boat house (1978), and a fish cleaning shed with boat pier (1978), have been built in conjunction with current owners Joseph W. and Naomi Cox's fishing business. Contributing.

Hy 512 86. CAPTAIN THOMAS B. SPENCER HOUSE. The combination of Tuscan porch supports and ornamental bracing with a carved sunburst motif in the front gable is unusually rich and eclectic ornamentation for the modest story-and-a-jump form with a triple-A roofline. Captain Thomas B. Spencer (1849-1936), keeper for many years of the Gull Shoal Light about 16 miles from Middletown in the Pamlico Sound, had this house built in the late 1800s. There is a cistern with the date of 1896. Later owners include Jerome Midgette and his family. Contributing.

87. BALLANCE-DAVIS HOUSE. The high ceilings and two-run, open-well staircase that ascends to the attic of this two-story single-pile house with five-bay facade indicate a construction date in the second quarter of the nineteenth-century. The house was the homeplace of Dianah Elizabeth (1833-1910) and David Davis, who probably acquired it from Dianah's parents, Thomas P. Ballance and Dianah Elizabeth Spencer. The Davis' son, Thomas (1878-1933), inherited the house and he sold it to his cousin, Capt. Thomas B. Spencer (1849-1936) around 1930. The neoclassical porch columns, window lintels, and decorative panels in the corbelled chimney stacks are typical of the late nineteenth century and apparently are the result of remodelling. A hen house, barn, and smokehouse that are contemporary with the remodeling of the house remain on the property. Contributing.

88. JOSEPH COX HOUSE. Joseph and Maybell Cox had this one-story, brick veneer ranch-style house built by Johnny A. Johnson in 1975. Intrusion.

89. FAITHFUL HANNAH BAPTIST CHURCH. The original Negro Baptist church built on this site in the 1890s was destroyed by severe winds; a second church that was built to replace it was destroyed by a hurricane in 1933. The existing white frame church was built about 1939. Contributing.

90. J. MONTIER HALL STORE AND WAREHOUSE. Local people relate that J. Montier Hall (1855-1937) who had purchased the lot in 1904 had this gable-roofed store with its large display windows and stepped-parapet facade built after 1913 with lumber he salvaged from a barge that sank in Pamlico Sound during a storm. Later, Lida Rollins Miller, who had been brought up by the Halls, continued to operate a general merchandise store in this building. It is no longer in use. Pivotal.

Hy 507 91. BURRUS FREIGHT OFFICE. This small one-story building with a pyramidal roof

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is sheathed in board and batten siding. From this office, Captain Robert Benjamin Burrus (1887-1956) bought and sold cotton that was stored in the warehouse to the southeast. It is no longer in use. Contributing.

92. GEORGE LAFAYETTE COX STORE AND WAREHOUSE. Believed to have been built by carpenter Ed Gibbs, this tall, gable-front store was built for George Lafayette Cox on a lot he bought from his mother in 1904. There is a long, shed roof porch that extends across the front of the store. Cox first worked for his mother Mary Susan Cox in a store she operated across Middle Creek and for his brother Bob in a store he ran. Cox's daughter Julia, who had helped her father in the store, took over the store after his death in 1950 and still operates it today. The store served as the site of the Middletown rural station of the Engelhard Post Office from 1955 to 1973. The mailboxes still remain in the store. The asphalt-shingle-clad building adjacent to the store is a warehouse which has been vacant for many years. George Cox bought the warehouse from Captain Bobbie Burrus in the 1930s and operated it for about ten years. At one time, C. A. Mann operated the post office in this building. Contributing.

93. (FORMER) MIDDLETOWN POST OFFICE. This one-story building with vertical wooden siding originally stood across the street from its present location and was once used as the Middletown post office. It was moved to this site after 1919 to replace a building that burned. The building has not been used for over thirty years. Contributing.

94. STORE. The exact date of construction for this two-story building with stepped parapet facade is unknown although it is similar to the J. M. Hall Store believed to have been built in 1913. The store lot was included in a deed of 1917 when J. M. Hall sold it to C. W. Burrus for \$50. James L. Twiford purchased the property three months later from C. W. Burrus. C. W. Burrus bought the property back in 1920. Burrus ran a drugstore in this building. Burrus sold the property to J. F. Burrus in 1924. J. F. Burrus traded this property with Blanch Mann for the store known as the Spencer-Gibbs Store (#73) in 1929. Thomas Spencer acquired the property from Blanch Mann in 1933. Gratitude Lodge #137 A. F. & A. M. which purchased the property as a meeting place in 1972 is the current owner. Contributing.

H4510 95. CAPTAIN ROBERT BURRUS HOUSE #2. The plain columns supporting the hip-roofed porch distinguish this story-and-a-jump house. Although the double-shoulder chimney suggests an earlier date, the cistern is signed and dated "...F. A. Crary, Aug. 28, 1914" and probably was built with the house. Captain Burrus (1887-1956), Middletown's early twentieth-century postmaster, had the house built. Contributing.

96. DR. CLAUD MANN HOUSE. Dr. Claud Mann (1862-1942) and his wife Betty Gibbs (daughter of Henry Sylvester Gibbs) lived in this house for many years. Although Dr. Mann was trained as a dentist, he never really practiced dentistry and was postmaster of Middletown for a time. The story-and-a-jump house with one large exterior chimney and an attached rear kitchen wing is a well-preserved example of this characteristic eastern North Carolina building type. The

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current owner is Dorothy Davis. Pivotal.

Hy 499 97. GIBBS FAMILY HOUSE. One of the oldest and least altered Hyde County houses, this Federal style structure exhibits notable detailing throughout. The two-story with attic house rests on ballast stone piers and follows a deep single-pile plan with original attached rear shed rooms flanking a recessed porch (later enclosed). Deep box cornices with returns top the broad five-bay facade. The replacement gable-roofed entrance porch probably imitates the original porch. The windows have nine-over-six sashes, molded sills, and three-part surrounds. Remnants of the original paint of cream and green highlight the Federal entrance with fluted pilasters; the top lights are similar to those of the Riley Murray House. The plastered interior has molded chair rails on the first and second floors and single-board sheathed wainscoting in the south parlor and center hall. This wainscoting, which retains some of its original painted graining, continues up the three-run, open-well staircase, remarkable for its molded, curved handrails and the colorful stenciled flowers on the risers. The original grandeur of the house is reflected in the south parlor with its ceiling medallion and two-part baseboards that are marbelized on the lower part. Doors have six-panels (several retain original painted graining on the panels) and surrounds at windows and doors are three-part. The bottom panels of the front door are flush and beaded in the manner found in the elaborate houses throughout this area of the County and Federal style New Bern houses. The house has four Federal mantelpieces; on the first floor they feature fluted lower pilasters.

The earliest known owners of this house, which appears to date from around 1810, are Henry Gibbs (1792-1836) and his wife, Frances Burrus. The house passed to their son, Henry Sylvester Gibbs (1831-1918), a farmer and civic leader who attended Trinity College. Henry Sylvester Gibbs was a state representative in 1864 and sheriff of Hyde County from 1872 to 1878. Upon his death, the house passed to his son, Smith Benjamin Gibbs (1877-1928); his widow, Mrs. Isabelle Cox Gibbs was left a life estate on the property and lived there until the late 1970s. Upon her death, the house passed to her two daughters who are the current owners. Pivotal.

98. MOONEY-PUGH FARM. This farm complex reflects the evolution of the Lake Landing farmstead to the present day. This contemporary farming operation with its seven grain drying bins also incorporates a number of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century frame buildings--many of which were moved to the site by Preston Mooney (1891-1970) who operated the farm for much of this century: these buildings include two modest one-and-a-half-story dwellings that have been converted for seed storage, other similar dwellings that are used as tenant houses, and a wash house and a law office (possibly from the Thomas J. Mann property) that are used for storage. Local builder Columbus Cuthrell built the two-story, white frame farmhouse for Preston Mooney in 1933. The 1979, one-story, brick veneer, ranch-style house was built for Mooney's grandson Earl Pugh, Jr. who has continued the farming operation. Contributing.

Hy 497 99. CLARKE-MANN HOUSE. Dr. Francis Moore Clarke (1870-1918) had this Colonial Revival house built in 1914 by carpenters Addison Swindell and Columbus

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Cuthrell. Salient features of the center-hall, double-pile house are the low hip roof and the trabeated entrance. According to family tradition, the upstairs was never completely finished because the house cost more to build than Mann had anticipated and he did not believe in borrowing money. Clarke's wife Eumeda lived in the house for a time after his death. Thomas Jefferson Mann (1868-1953) bought the house from Mrs. Clark. Edna and Edith Mann subsequently inherited the house. The present owner, Carrie Mae Mann, bought the house from Edna and Edith Mann in 1947. Carrie Mann is responsible for the major alterations which include removal of the porch and the finishing of the second floor. Dr. Clarke's hip-roofed office is located in a corner of the front yard. The house is currently used as a vacation home by the Mann family. Contributing.

Hy496 100. MARTHA GIBBS HOUSE. This two-story, single-pile house built in the second half of the nineteenth century for Martha Gibbs exhibits the eclecticism typical of this period. Colonial Revival styling appears in the molded window heads, deep box cornices with returns, and corner boards, while the more fanciful Carpenter Gothic ornamentation occurs on the two-run, open-well staircase. A wide single-shoulder chimney with free-standing stack is located in the gable end of the attached kitchen ell. A smokehouse contemporary with the house remains on the property. A trailer is also on the site. Contributing.

101. MALCOLM GIBBS HOUSE. Malcolm and Earlyne Gibbs had this one-story, brick veneer ranch-style house built for them by Troy Mayo in 1966. Intrusion.

102. ALBERT MCKINNEY HOUSE. This one-and-a-half-story, frame bungalow was built for Albert McKinney (1896-1965) by carpenters Dave Swindell and Mayhew Selby in 1934. Ella May Mooney is the current owner. Fill.

103. HOUSE. There is no known historical information about this vacant house that appears to date from the early twentieth century. The two-story frame dwelling with return gables and an attached kitchen ell to the rear is a characteristic building of its period. A brick cistern survives. Contributing.

Hy494 104. ELISHA SEWELL HOUSE. The unique and eccentric double-gable front, or "butterfly" roofline, distinguishes this two-story, double-pile house with center hall plan. The finely finished exterior featuring split shake shingles in the gables and deeply molded cornices and frieze boards accented by the application of two colors of paint, contrasts sharply to the unfinished interior; the second floor was never plastered and the trim was installed in only one of the downstairs rooms. Although area merchant Elisha Sewell (1868-1953) had the house and barn built in 1905, he never had the interior of the house finished. Sewell, whose second wife died in 1918, lived in this house with his children until the 1930s. Although the house was occupied in the 1950s, it has been vacant for many years. The corbel-capped chimneys with stuccoed arches and brick dentils are distinctive architectural features. Pivotal.

105. HURON A. GIBBS HOUSE. Huron A. Gibbs had this one-and-a-half-story frame house with an interior chimney built in 1908. The porch has been enclosed and a

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trailer is presently located immediately adjacent to the house on the west. The current owners are Alfred and Irene Laux. Fill.

106. HOUSE. This two-story house and its attached kitchen wing to the east are believed to date from the late 1890s. The porch of the main house has been enclosed. A smokehouse, chicken house, and car garage remain on the property. The Samuel G. Sewell (1863-1942) and Harry S. Harris families lived in this house prior to its sale to Earl Jr. and Dianne Pugh. It is currently rented. Contributing.

107. BARN. This barn appears to date from the first half of the nineteenth century. There have been substantial alterations: a shed, an animal shelter, and three stables have been added to the barn. Some people attribute the barn to nineteenth-century builder Caleb F. Brooks because a book bearing his name was found in the barn. Contributing.

108. MALCOLM GIBBS HOG COMPLEX. Malcolm Gibbs had this hog complex built by contractor Arie de Hoog, Jr., in 1979. Fill.

109. JENNETTE-NEAL-MIDYETTE FARM. The flush gable ends, plastered interior with chair rails, plastered porch ceiling, nine-over-six sashes, and three-run, open-well staircase support the c1855 construction date traditionally ascribed to this low and wide story-and-a-jump house. The original chimneys and kitchen and dining ell were removed between 1938 and 1957 during the ownership of the Harold James Neal family. Benjamin Franklin Jennette (1838-1909) built the house as his residence; the Jennette family is believed to have lived in the house until the 1930s. James Emory and Dorothy B. Midyette have lived on the property since 1961 and located a hog complex that includes grain storage bins, two topping parlors, a farrowing house, and a hog breeding house to the rear of the residence. Contributing.

110. BRUCE M. GIBBS HOUSE. House under construction.

111. YOUNG-ROPER-JARVIS HOUSE. This two-story single-pile, five-bay facade house, which is in a state of ruin, is similar to the Joseph Young House (#112) next door and is believed to have been constructed for Richard H. Young (1768-1857) in the second quarter of the nineteenth century by the same builder, Caleb Brooks (1797-1885). The Young-Roper-Jarvis House, however, differs from the Joseph Young House in some of its original details. Unlike the other house, it has survived to the present in an unaltered state. The Young-Roper-Jarvis House retains its original roof shingles and cornices with molded raking boards in the flush gable ends. Windows are nine-over-six sashes with two-part surrounds and plain sills. The original entrance consists of a raised six-panel door with a transom and a simple, two-part surround instead of the neoclassical surround of the house next door. The very wide entrance hall was created by the construction of a partition that bisects a front window in each story. In spite of its somewhat awkward nature, this device preserves the symmetry of the fenestration. Young is buried in a family cemetery in the yard. The Roper and then the Jarvis families subsequently acquired and occupied the house. Pivotal.

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Hy488 112. JOSEPH YOUNG HOUSE. This single-pile house with original rear shed, five-bay facade, and exterior gable-end single-shoulder chimneys was built for Joseph Young (1810-1857), probably in the 1830s. Caleb Brooks (1797-1885) is believed to have been the builder of this house as well as the almost identical Young-Roper-Jarvis House (#111) next door. The two houses share several features that are similar to those of the Riley Murray House, also attributed to Brooks. Greek Revival five-panel doors and molded shelf chair rails appear throughout both houses. The neoclassical entrance surrounds also are similar, especially around the transom, but in the Joseph Young House the door is flanked by colonnettes (the only surviving instance of the use of this element in Hyde County) instead of pilasters. Windows are nine-over-six sashes in both the first and second stories. The box cornices may be a later alteration. The T-shaped kitchen wing was built early this century to replace an earlier board and batten kitchen wing now standing in the rear yard. An even earlier, original kitchen no longer exists although a smokehouse and wash house do remain. Joseph Young was married twice: first to Britanna Sadler and later to her daughter by a previous marriage--Nancy Elizabeth Gaskill (1836-1925). Young died in 1857 and it is assumed that his widow lived in the house until she remarried. It is not clear who lived in the house after Nancy Elizabeth (Gaskill) Young remarried. It is known that Joseph and Nancy-Elizabeth Young's grandson Thomas Goulet Young (1889-1949) did live in the house as did his wife Mary Payne Young. Juanita Young Miller, daughter of Thomas and Mary Young, later acquired the house, keeping it in the Young family. Pivotal.

Hy487 113. HERTFORD BENSTON HOUSE (FORMER WILL MIDGETTE TENANT HOUSE). This coastal plain cottage dating from the second half of the nineteenth century retains its original wood shingled roof, turned porch posts, and horizontal flush board sheathing on the porch wall. In 1958 the current owner Hertford Benston moved the major portion of the house to this location from the Will Midgette property (#116) where it had been used as a tenant house; the wing on the east end was moved from the Tom Young property about 1975 and was attached to it. Contributing.

Hy486 114. GIBBS-SELBY FARM. Ed Gibbs had this two-story, single-pile house built during the 1920s. There are a number of auxiliary buildings contemporary with the house, including a chicken house, smokehouse, and wash house. A late nineteenth-century dwelling on the property may have been the principal residence before the construction of the newer house. Several buildings have been moved to the site to be used as barns, and a 1950 hog parlor and a 1949 shop have been added as well. Hilda C. Selby is the current owner. Contributing.

115. JABIN MURRAY FARM. This complex includes a one-story frame kitchen that was moved from the W. C. Payne property, a barn that was dismantled and rebuilt on this site, and two one-and-a-half-story houses that are believed to have been moved from Fairfield as well as a trailer, farrowing pens, and a hog parlor. Jabin Murray, the present owner, is responsible for moving or constructing the existing buildings. Fill.

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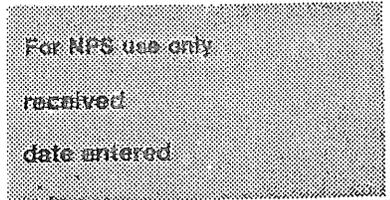
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116. WILL MIDGETTE HOUSE. Will Midyette had this two-story, frame, T-shaped house with interior gable-end chimneys built in 1915 by Stephen Cox. The front wrap-around porch with Tuscan columns contrasts with the rear porch which has turned posts and foliate spandrels. The kitchen wing was built after the main house although the smokehouse and wash house appear to date from the same period as the house. The William M. Boyd family currently own and live on the property. Contributing.
117. KENNY GIBBS HOUSE. This one-story frame house was built in 1930 for Kenny Gibbs. Intrusion.
118. PRESTON MOONEY FARM. Preston Mooney (1891-1970) had local builder Columbus Cuthrell build this house and a smokehouse/pantry building in 1923. The two-story frame house has a L-shape plan. Like the Will Midyette House, it has a wrap-around porch. Outbuildings include a 1930 building--used as a grain barn, machine shelter, and horse stable, and a 1938 chicken house. Sam Douglas and Sons built a wash house on the property in 1945. Mooney's widow Rosa Mae Selby Mooney is the current owner. Contributing.
119. MIDYETTE FAMILY FARM. Benjamin Midyette (1878-1952) had a crew consisting of Mayhew Selby, Dave Swindell, and Stephen Cox build this two-story frame house with return gables in 1930. The smokehouse is probably contemporary with the house. A barn east of the house appears to date from around 1900; a tractor shed was attached to it in 1970. A 1960 chicken house, a 1965 egg house, and a potato house built about the same time complete the complex. James Emory and Dorothy B. Midyette, the current owners, acquired the property in two separate transactions after the death of Benjamin Midyette. Contributing.
120. BARN. This gable roofed barn with vertical wood sheathing and a rear shed to the north is believed to date from the early 1900s. Contributing.
121. JULIAN S. MANN HOUSE (FORMER MIDDLETOWN SCHOOL). Little is known about the history of this structure which is believed to have been built originally as a school at Middletown and to have been moved to this site around 1912 by Julian S. Mann. A barn--with a large central bay and two smaller bays under shed roofs attached to each side--dates from the 1940s and stands to the rear of the vacant schoolhouse which had been adapted as a dwelling. Contributing.
122. CARL MANN HOUSE. Carl and Lettie Mann had this one-story, brick veneer ranch-style house built by Earl Tetterton in 1975. Intrusion.
123. WILSON MANN HOUSE. Wilson and Lezzinia Mann had Ashley Williams build this one-story, brick, ranch-style house in 1971. Intrusion.
124. HELEN SPENCER HOUSE. The current owner Helen Spencer built this one-and-half-story frame house in 1944 on property that had belonged to Julian Mann (1863-1946). The house may contain a portion of Mann's nineteenth-century cotton office. Contributing.

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125. LAMAR SPENCER HOUSE. Lamar Spence had this one-story, brick veneer and frame house built by Michael Cahoon in 1977. Intrusion.

126. DELL MEEKINS HOUSE. Dell Meekins had this one-story brick veneer house built by Calvin Gibbs, Jr., in 1980. Intrusion.

127. LAMAR SPENCER HOG COMPLEX. A barn and two hog houses built in the 1970s for Lamar Spencer are on this property. Fill.

Hy 498

128. MANN-CUTHRELL HOUSE. The two-part window surrounds, Palladian-style entrance with leaded fanlight, and mortise and tenon construction indicate that this two-and-a-half-story, single-pile house was built prior to the Civil War. Although the house popularly is known as the Dr. Charlie Mann House, Mann (1849-1894) did not live here. Mann practiced medicine in Carteret County and after his death his widow, Ella Dill (1853-1935), and their several children moved to a story-and-a-half house located on the property. That house may have been the kitchen wing of the present house. Mrs. Mann acquired the two-and-a-half-story house from Mann's cousin, Katie Burrus Gibbs (1855-1900) prior to 1900, and had it moved in 1906 to this site from its original location in the White Plains area. Local builder Columbus Cuthrell bought the property in 1924; he and his father George Cuthrell had moved the house and done work on it for Mrs. Mann in 1906. A smoke house and washhouse date from the period of the move. Michael A. Cahoon is the present owner. Contributing.

Hy 483

129. XENIA MCKINNEY HOUSE. This late nineteenth-century coastal plain cottage which is in ruinous condition has a wide exterior, gable-end, single-shoulder chimney. Xenia Selby McKinney, who lived in the house in the early twentieth century, reared her large family of eight single children and three sets of twins in this house. Her husband Junius T. McKinney (1893-1946) built a barn on the property in the early 1900s. Contributing.

130. BALLANCE BULL SHED. The Ballance brothers--Leon, Orville, and Wesley--built this bull shed in 1964. Fill.

Hy 482

131. WALTER GIBBS FARM. Walter Gibbs (1860-1946) had this two-story single-pile house with rear two-story tee built around 1900. A ridgeboard and box cornices with returns embellish the roof. Turned posts and intricate scroll spandrels embellish the porch. Originally both chimneys were the interior end, exposed-face type; the east chimney has been replaced with an exterior end chimney. A laundry and the wood house pre-date this two-story house. The wood house was originally a dwelling; Gibbs lived in the earlier dwelling as a child. An extensive early twentieth-century farm complex--one of the most complete in the district--includes a rare example (for Hyde County) of a large stock barn with feed room and hayloft. The complex also contains a milk house, smoke house, two grain barns, and a machine shed. The house is currently vacant and both the house and outbuildings are in the early stages of deterioration. Pivotal.

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Hy480 132. MANN-PAYNE HOUSE. This late nineteenth-century, modest two-story frame single-pile house, was expanded by a rear shed and a large modern ell. Joe (1885-1969) and Geneva (1891-1972) Payne, who lived in the house for much of this century, acquired the house through Mrs. Payne's family, the William Dixon Manns. Contributing.

Hy481 133. OCTAVIUS BALLANCE HOUSE. This story-and-a-jump house with interior gable-end chimney was built around 1917 by Octavius Ballance to serve as a kitchen to an older house, since demolished. Ballance decided to move the older house to the rear of the yard, use this newer kitchen building as a dwelling, and move a building from the Ellis Watson property in the now defunct community of Piney Woods to use as a new kitchen. The long rear ell was built when the second kitchen building from Piney Woods was moved to the Swindell-Barber House upon Ballance's purchase of that property. Contributing.

134. HOUSE AND TRAILER. A small frame outbuilding from the Jones-Mann-Jennette property was moved to this site to be used as a house in 1980 shortly after a trailer was located on the site. Fill.

135. HAROLD NEAL HOUSE. This modest, one-and-a-half-story, frame house where Harold and Mamie Neal lived for many years was moved to this site from White Plains in 1958. Fill.

136. RESPESS-BENSTON HOUSE. In 1967 Murrice Benston moved this one-and-a-half-story frame house that had been built for Blanche Respass about 1935 from Goshen to this site. Fill.

137. WALTER RALEIGH GIBBS HOUSE. Walter Raleigh Gibbs had this one-and-a-half-story, frame house built in Piney Woods by Luther Swindell around 1933. It was later moved to this site. Fill.

138. JIM MIDYETTE HOUSE. The Jimmie Golden Midyette, Sr. family had carpenters Sam Douglas and Lewis Emory build this one-and-a-half-story, frame bungalow around 1948. Fill.

139. JOE GIBBS HOUSE. Joe and Louise Gibbs had this one-story, frame, ranch-style, FHA-assisted house built by builder Troy Mayo in 1963. Intrusion.

Hy479 140. ELISTON BALLANCE FARM. Carpenter and farmer Eliston Ballance (1872-1938) built this story-and-a-jump, frame house with rear shed as his residence in 1899. The kitchen-dining room remains detached from the house; the connector between the two contains the cistern. The smokehouse, chicken house, grain storage barn, and stable for horses and cows appear to date from the same period. The milkhouse dates from about 1909. Contributing.

Hy477 141. JOHN WILLIAM CARAWAN HOUSE. The main portion of this house originally served as a school on this site, at least as early as the late 1800s. After the school was converted to a house, John William Carawan (1857-1927) lived here and operated his store, originally located to the south and connected to the house

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by a plank walk. After the store was closed, it was attached to the rear of the house to serve as a kitchen-dining room wing. A late outdoor toilet dates from 1968. The house is currently vacant. Contributing.

Hy478

142. WILLIAM S. DUDLEY HOUSE. This two-and-one-half-story, double-pile house was built in 1915 for William S. Dudley, Sr. (1868-1939) by a Captain Kirk and a Mr. Williams. This Kirk may be the same man who built the George Israel Watson House (#166) and the George E. Davis House II (#19). Colonial Revival styling is evident in the widow's walk at the crest of the truncated hip roof and in the Tuscan columns of the wrap-around porch. The house was built on tall brick piers so that a storage room could be constructed underneath. The kitchen-dining room, connected to the house by a breezeway, was built as a residence for the Dudleys during construction of the main house. The only outbuilding is a pumphouse. Contributing.

NEBRASKA #143-#159

Hy476

143. WATSON HOUSE. This diminutive, transitional Georgian/Federal style two-story house with rear shed addition may date from the late eighteenth century and, thus, may be one of the oldest surviving houses in Hyde County. Fine exterior details include a dentilled cornice and the unusual arrangement of six raised panels on the front door similar to interior doors in the McGowan House in Swan Quarter Township. The interior possesses the notable feature of Georgian narrow raised paneling above and below the Federal molded shelf chair rail on the partition between the west parlor and the center hall. The house has chair rails and plastered walls, but no wainscoting. The house originally was in the hall and parlor plan; later, the east parlor was partitioned to create a center hall plan. The narrow, two-run staircase, later enclosed, is in an unusual location in the southeast corner of the east parlor. A drop-handle latch manufactured prior to 1790 was removed from this house for use in the Hugh Jones House. The latch may be an indication of a late eighteenth-century construction date or may simply have been used years after its manufacture. The house was moved to this site from SR 1112. Nothing is known of the history of the house prior to its occupancy by William B. Watson and his son John C. Watson who lived in the house in the twentieth century. It is currently vacant. Pivotal.

Hy475

144. MT. ZINIA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH. In the late 1940s, the Mt. Zinia congregation, established in the late nineteenth century under Rev. George Barrow, acquired the core of this building, formerly the Nebraska Negro School that was built about 1919, after the original church building was destroyed in a hurricane. The congregation adapted the gable-front form by adding a narthex with a short tower. The church once served the black residents of the nearby and once thriving, but now defunct, community of Piney Woods. Contributing.

145. MAURICE TOMLINSON HOUSE. Maurice and Annie B. Tomlinson had this one-story, brick veneer, ranch-style house built in 1979 by Calvin Gibbs Jr. Intrusion.

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Hy474 146. CUTHRELL FAMILY HOUSE. Carpenter Joseph Henry Cuthrell (1874-1953), who built the original Watson's Chapel at Nebraska in 1894, built this tall L-shaped story-and-a-half house as his residence around 1895. Keith Cuthrell, who has owned the house since 1953, has greatly altered its appearance with replacement siding, new chimneys, and several additions. Contributing.

147. SAMUEL DUDLEY HOUSE. The Samuel Dudley family had Dave Swindell and Fred Berry build this one-story, frame house in 1949. Fill.

Hy472 148. SWINDELL-BARBER-BALLANCE FARM. This complex with its main house and auxiliary buildings (wash house, smoke house, toilet, milk house, and cistern) along with the adjoining agricultural buildings is characteristic of an evolving Lake Landing farm. The large, two-and-a-half-story, side-hall plan house has a pair of single-shoulder exterior chimneys in the west gable end and a front shed porch with large chamfered posts which are still visible on the interior despite enclosure. Windows are nine-over-nine sashes on the first floor and six-over-six on much of the second. All original trim--including plain chair rails and baseboards and simple post and lintel window and door surrounds--survives on the interior. A three-run open-well staircase ascends from the wide side hall to the third story. Doors have five or six raised panels. These details indicate a construction date during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Alterations to the interior include replacement of original plaster (in evidence through the attic) with "ceiling" board and flush boards (laid vertically above the chair rails and horizontally below) in early years and sheetrock and modern paneling more recently. In 1863 James Dixon Swindell (1839-1911) moved his family to this house, said to have been built by his father, Joseph Swindell (1813-1868) between 1835 and 1840. Subsequent owner Benjamin F. Roper traded the house with Francis Collin Barber (1857-1939) for the Roper-Payne House (#150) in 1908. Octavius Ballance purchased the property from Barber's estate in 1940. Although some of the buildings are not original to the site, they make it a complete complex that is representative of the self-sufficient farm. Octavius Ballance moved a wash house from the Ellis Watson property in Piney Woods to use as a kitchen at the Octavius Ballance House; it is one of the few surviving buildings from Piney Woods. Ballance's sons, Leon, Orville, and Wesley, established Shorewind Farms here. The agricultural complex used by Shorewind Farms for modern farming operations contains a number of buildings that Barber and Ballance built or moved to the site. The Ballance brothers have added a hog parlor, fertilizer house, and other modern agricultural structures. Pivotal.

149. WATSON'S CHAPEL. This one-story, brick church with steeple was built in 1954 to replace the 1894 frame church that was destroyed by the hurricane of 1944. Intrusion.

Hy473 150. BARBER-ROPER-PAYNE HOUSE. The existence of small narrow windows in the east gable end and the large, single-shoulder chimneys suggest that this two-and-a-half-story house was built prior to the late nineteenth-century date indicated by the arched window heads on the main facade and the ornamental sawnwork in the west gable. Francis Collin Barber (1857-1939) traded the house

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with Benjamin F. Roper in 1908 in exchange for the Swindell-Barber-Ballance House (#148). Subsequent owner David Selby (1865-1954) left this house to his daughter, Lillian Selby Payne, mother of the current owner. Outbuildings include two chicken houses from the 1930s. Contributing.

151. STORE. Now used for storage and painted green, this gable-roofed building with door and windows in a gable end is known to have been used as a store in the early twentieth century. Sometime between 1910 and 1918, Bill Jones moved the building to this site from across the Nebraska Canal for Marcus Ballance to use as a store. Contributing.

Hy 471 152. DAVID BALLANCE HOUSE. The original rear portion of this story-and-a-jump, frame house a T-shaped plan and with an exterior gable-end chimney was built by David Ballance (1840-1904) in the 1890s. Ballance had a shop on the bank of the Nebraska Canal where he worked as a blacksmith, wheelwright, and builder of windmills. Seven families have lived here since Ballance and all except one have been his relatives including the present occupant. A milkhouse, smokehouse, and storage building survive. A covered walkway connects the kitchen to the main house. A smoke house and wash house contemporary with the house are part of the complex. Contributing.

Hy 469 153. MARCUS BALLANCE HOUSE. Marcus Ballance (1881-1934) had this two-story, frame house with an L-shaped plan built about 1918 when he had his store built. The delicate turned porch posts with "spool" spandrels are indicative of an early twentieth-century house. A smokehouse and wash house appear to be contemporary with the house. Bernice and Ethlynde Ballance are the current owners of the house which is used as a vacation house. Contributing.

Hy 468 154. MARCUS BALLANCE STORE. This story-and-a-jump store building with typical gable-front configuration is marked by a porch with chamfered posts and plain railing and balusters. After operating stores in other buildings, Marcus Ballance (1881-1934) had this building erected in 1918. The store continued in operation by his heirs until 1938, four years after Ballance's death. Watson's Chapel Methodist Church has used the building as a fellowship hall since 1938. Contributing.

Hy 466 155. ROLLINS-BALLANCE-McKINNEY STORE. This small, late nineteenth-century, one-story, commercial building has the typical gable-front configuration with recessed double doors flanked by large display windows. Originally known as the Rollins Store and later operated by Marcus Ballance (1881-1934) prior to J. R. McKinney & Son's acquisition in the late 1890s, this building was constructed next to another building (since destroyed) and connected to it by an extension of the porch. An original stepped-parapet facade that covered the front gable has been removed. Contributing.

Hy 465 156. CHARLIE B. McKINNEY HOUSE. Local merchant Charlie B. McKinney (1887-1963) had this single-pile house with rear ell built by Wal Midyette in 1917. Molded ridge board and corbelled chimney stacks mark the crest of the gabled roof. Tuscan columns support the hip-roofed front porch. A 1920's smoke house and

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1945 chicken house are on the property. Contributing.

157. TRAILER. Intrusion.

Hy464

158. JAMES RILEY MCKINNEY HOUSE. This modest one-story house with rear shed wing, detached kitchen-dining room, and narrow single-shoulder chimney appears to date from the turn of this century. It is an excellent example of a simple vernacular house from this time period that has remained in an unaltered condition. James Riley McKinney (1857-1937) and his family are the earliest known owners. The cistern is located between the house and kitchen. It is currently owned by Mrs. Lloyd Van Noy. Pivotal.

159. JOHN HAVEN PAYNE HOUSE. John Haven Payne (1892-1957) designed and built this one-and-a-half story, frame bungalow as his residence in 1938. Earl and Virginia Pugh purchased the property from him in 1947 and have lived in the house since that time. Contributing.

Hy467

160. PAYNE-PUGH STORE. John Haven Payne had this commercial building built in 1919. The core of this story-and-a-half building with shed additions on three sides originally stood on a leased lot on the east side of the Nebraska Canal where it was a drug store operated by John Haven Payne (1892-1957) in the 1920s. After 1937 when the lease on the property expired, the store was moved across the canal to its current site where it has been operated in recent years by Virginia and Earl Pugh. Contributing.

161. DR. J. E. MANN TENANT HOUSE. Dr. J. E. Mann had this one-and-a-half-story tenant house with vertical wooden siding built in 1917. Contributing.

162. JOE SADLER HOUSE. Joe and Maggie Sadler had a crew consisting of Dave Swindell, Mayhew Selby, and Johnny Gibbs build this one-and-a-half-story, white frame house for them in 1939. The vertical sided barn is contemporary with the house. Contributing.

Hy463

163. BENJAMIN BALLANCE HOUSE. Benjamin Ballance (d. 1905) built this frame house as his residence during the late nineteenth century. The story-and-a-half, double-pile form with triple-A roofline is not common in Hyde County. Finishing consists of box cornices with returns, frieze boards, and corner boards. Subsequent owners include the L. L. Gibbs and Edward Warren Farrow families. The house is vacant; the current owners live in a trailer adjacent to the house. Contributing.

Hy462

164. FULFORD-WATSON HOUSE. The tradition that this story-and-a-half house is one of the oldest in the Nebraska area is supported by its asymmetrical facade and wide, double stepped-shoulder, exterior gable-end chimneys. A smokehouse and a large kitchen-dining room building with steep gable roof and interior corbelled chimney stand behind the house. An 1804 deed conveying the property from Benjamin Fulford to Benjamin Cheney mentions a dwelling house which may be this house. William Cheney who inherited the property from his father sold it to William Watson, Jr. (1772-1834) in 1831. After his death in 1834, his widow

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held a life estate on the property; it passed to Preacher James M. Watson (1817-1894) for whom Watson's Chapel in Nebraska is named. The house and property remain in the Watson family today. The buildings are currently vacant but stabilized. Pivotal.

H4460

165. WATSON STORE. Closed for more than fifty years, this large gable-front store building retains the interior elements of large chamfered supports, horizontal flush sheathing, and sawn decorative trim along the top of the office partitions. The store may have been built by 1856 when Samuel G. Watson put the store and lot in the hands of trustees for sale. If the store was built this early, it is one of the oldest surviving commercial buildings in North Carolina. James M. Boomer purchased the property in 1857 and sold it to John Bateman in 1859. The property returned to the Watson family in 1881 when George I. Watson purchased the property from Bateman's heirs. Pivotal.

H4459

166. GEORGE ISRAEL WATSON FARM. In 1896, George Israel Watson (1851-1917) and his bride, Susan Murray (1844-1935), commissioned a New Bern contractor to construct this house. It is a duplicate of a house that the contractor had built in New Bern for the Lucas family, relatives of the Watsons. During the two years of construction, the builder, remembered only as Mr. Kirk (possibly the same Mr. Kirk who worked on #142), lived with the Watsons. The cypress for the frame was imported by water from Georgia via Elizabeth City and Fairfield. Typical of the late Queen Anne style featured in popular pattern books, the house has multiple rooflines, a polygonal corner tower, polygonal side bays, tall decorative interior chimneys, corner brackets, and exposed curved rafter ends in the eaves. Originally the house was painted three colors, including a reddish brown on blinds at all of the windows. The millwork, executed in Washington, N.C., appears on the exterior on the turned porch posts and consoles supporting door and window heads and on the interior in the newel post and balusters of the closed string staircase, fluted and architrave door surrounds, and the bold forms of the mantelpieces. The unaltered interior also features hand-painted graining on the upstairs doors. Included in the intact farm complex to the rear is a two-story, T-shaped, stock barn. The original, detached kitchen pre-dates the house. Initially built as a dwelling, this building with mortise and tenon frame and plastered interior was moved from a location near the Fulford-Watson House (#164) to its current site and expanded upon completion of the George Israel Watson House. Other outbuildings, contemporary with the house include a smokehouse, woodhouse, shop, and buggy house. George I. Watson, son of Preacher Watson, operated the Watson Store after 1881. The property passed to his son, William Warren Watson (1886-1972), whose son George I. Watson is the present owner. Pivotal.

167. HOUSE. This two-story, frame house with a triple-A roofline is believed to have been built as a barn in the late nineteenth century and to have been moved on a barge from Gull Rock and rebuilt on this site. Local tradition states that neighbors in the vicinity were enticed into helping rebuild the structure by promises of sharing a jug of liquor. The house is now vacant and deteriorating. Contributing.

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Hy457 168. FARROW-CUTHRELL HOUSE. The story-and-a-jump wing is the original portion of this L-shaped late nineteenth-century house with detached board and batten kitchen. Warren Farrow (1873-1958), the earliest known owner, expanded the house with the two-story wing early in this century. Edward Tooley Cuthrell (1880-1960), a local farmer, carpenter, and fisherman purchased the property in 1920. His son John Everett Cuthrell, who purchased the house in 1953, is the current owner. The house may have been built by the Midyette family. Contributing.

169. ORMOND TOOLEY CREDLE STORE. The only remaining store in the community of Last Chance, this building is believed to have been first operated by Ormond Tooley Credle. The store is a typical, early twentieth-century, one-story, frame, commercial building with a gabled roof and an attached front porch. It is now vacant. Contributing.

Hy461 170. (FORMER) ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH RECTORY. This double-pile dwelling with a single interior chimney and large six-over-six double-hung sash windows was built in 1880 on land purchased from William W. Sermons in that year by the Trustees of St. George's Episcopal Church. The two-story, two-bay by two-bay configuration is unusual in Hyde County. Ethel Tunnell (1868-1971) purchased the house from the Church in 1923 when a new rectory was constructed next to St. George's. It is currently vacant. Contributing.

171. GIBBS-PUGH FARM. The modest, one-story dwelling with attached kitchen wing (built for Willie Kay Gibbs, Sr. in 1909) was remodeled by Earl Pugh, Jr. in 1970. At that time the house was clad with synthetic siding, the back porch was enclosed to connect the main house and kitchen, and an enclosed front porch was added. Despite these alterations, the complex still retains much of its original character. The gable roofed granary with open side bay is contemporary with the house. Contributing.

172. BOOMER-FARROW FARM. Benjamin Boomer had this early twentieth-century, story-and-a-jump house built; in 1961 Raffael B. Farrow, the current owner, had the upper story removed. The complex retains its original smoke house, wash house, and milk house; there are also a building that is used as a feedhouse, brooder house, and shop, and a new smoke house. Fill.

173. SAM BOOMER HOUSE. Carpenter Sam Boomer built his two-story, single pile, frame residence with attached rear kitchen wing in 1899 or 1900. The gable roofed barn located to the rear of the house was moved to this site from Slocum after the house was built. Contributing.

174. TRAILER. Intrusion.

Hy458 175. "ADAMS INN" (WATSON-ADAMS HOUSE). Alterations to this mid-nineteenth-century single-pile, frame dwelling with three-bay facade and single stepped-shouldered exterior chimney in each gable end consist of the addition of a rear shed and attachment of the kitchen-dining room. Unusual sawn ornament embellishes the paired porch posts and lacey bargeboard mark all of the

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rooflines of the main house. Except for the survival of two Greek Revival mantelpieces, the interior is greatly altered. Daniel Morgan Watson built this house about 1860. For many years, and until his death in 1914, Edward Adams (1849-1914), a later owner and son of James Adams (#70), operated the dwelling as an inn; his daughter, Matilda Adams Swindell (1878-1965), continued the operation until 1945. Guy Sadler is the current owner. Contributing.

176. JIMMIE SADLER HOUSE. Jimmie and Elizabeth Sadler had Earl Tetterton build this one-story, brick veneer FHA house in 1972-73. Intrusion.

177. GIBBS-MARSHALL HOUSE. This early twentieth-century coastal plain cottage is believed to have been built for Columbus Gibbs (1861-1935). The cottage was extensively remodeled in 1965 and 1972 for Kathy K. Marshall, the current owner. There is a chicken house that was moved from the Will Gibbs House as well as twentieth-century storage buildings and a barn. Fill.

178. WILL GIBBS FARM. The house was first a schoolhouse believed to have been built about 1890 on pasture land near the Great Ditch on George Stevenson Bridgman's land and moved to this site by Flavius F. Spencer about 1908 after the opening of the Lake Landing School in 1907. Will Gibbs who had attended school in the building lived in the converted schoolhouse for many years. Gibbs removed the early twentieth-century kitchen when he added a new kitchen/dining area, sided the house and enclosed front and back porches with glass in 1965. Gibbs is believed to have built the barn in the 1940s. George Bridgman and George I. Watson had had the school built originally. Contributing.

179. SELBY-LAVENDER HOUSE. Dr. Milton Selby (1816-1886) had this Greek Revival style house with pyramidal roof built around 1845. A small building to the east connected to the house by a breezeway served as Dr. Selby's office. Latticework supports the front shed porch. The interior features a handsome staircase with turned mahogany balusters. The Selbys left the house to their adopted daughter, Janie Elizabeth Clark (1866-1949), who married William B. Lavender (1862-1900). The house has been abandoned for many years. Contributing.

180. HOUSE. This one-and-a-half-story house appears to have been built as a tenant house and was moved to this site from the Mary Boomer property in the 1930s. The gable-roofed barn with vertical wooden siding is believed to have been built about the time that the house was moved. Fill.

181. HOUSE. This one-and-a-half-story house may have been built as either a tenant house or a kitchen wing and was moved to this site from the Golet Jennette property in White Plains in 1963. A one-story, frame Jim Walters Corporation house built in 1961 is adjacent to the house. Fill.

182. JACK PUGH HOUSE. Jack and Edith Pugh had contractor Ashley Williams build this one-story, brick veneer, ranch-style house in 1966. Intrusion.

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DEFINITION OF INVENTORY PROPERTY CATEGORIES

PIVOTAL used for properties of outstanding architectural and historical significance. These properties establish the dominant character of the district and are associated with people and events that were important in the growth and development of this rural district. Age and intactness were considered more than condition.

CONTRIBUTING used for properties that as part of the whole tell the story of human occupation, and agricultural and commercial activities in the district in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These properties form a harmonious grouping of buildings and landscapes that embody distinctive local traditions and exhibit a uniformity of scale, materials, use, vegetation, and siting.

FILL used for structures that neither add to nor detract from the physical character of the district and that do not meet the fifty-year age requirement for National Register listing.

INTRUSIVE used for structures that not only do not meet the age criteria for National Register listing but that because of siting, scale, use, materials, or other factors actively detract from and interrupt the historic character of the district.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates various **Builder/Architect** various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lake Landing district of Hyde County is set in eastern North Carolina. Because of the numerous creeks, swamps, and marshes that occurred naturally within the district and the lack of the development of a good road system in the area until the 1930s, residents were almost entirely dependent upon water transportation for interaction and commerce both within the county and without for over a hundred and fifty years. The district, which is composed of forests, marshes, and some of the richest farmland in the state, is of significance to both North Carolina and Hyde County as a historic rural landscape that is unusually intact and free of modern intrusions but that has also remained in continuous agricultural production since the late eighteenth century. Lake Mattamuskeet, the largest natural lake in the state, forms part of the northern boundary of this 13,400 acre district. The flatness of the terrain--its highest point is only seven feet above sea level--and the large areas of cultivated farmland provide long, expansive vistas across planted fields to drainage ditches and farm complexes that were established in the nineteenth century. The drainage ditches, some as wide as thirty feet, are constant reminders of Hyde County's low coastal elevation and the resourcefulness of its early settlers who dug them to make best use of their fertile farmland. The district is totally rural; agriculture is the major occupation and there are no incorporated towns. Vestiges of small water-based communities remain today--their incorporations abandoned and their stores and post offices closed--reminders of their former vitality as the district's commercial centers in the era of water transportation. Although the district is composed of distinct farms, these farms are linked to each other and to the district's communities by the ditches, canals, and creeks that were vital transportation links. The Lake Landing district is a rural landscape with a range of buildings--including both outstanding examples of antebellum plantation houses and characteristic vernacular examples of domestic, agricultural, and commercial architecture--that reflect the tastes, values, occupations, and economies of its residents from the late eighteenth century to the present. From the earliest surviving Georgian farmhouse to the most recently constructed hog parlor, the Lake Landing built environment has continued to represent the community's agrarian way of life.

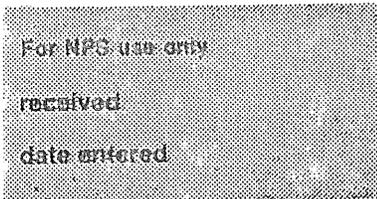
CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

The Lake Landing district is of both state and local significance and possesses integrity because of the following factors:

- * its undisturbed agrarian setting in eastern North Carolina and the spatial organization--the relationship of the buildings, structures, vegetation, circulation systems, boundary demarcations, field patterns, and other components--of the agricultural landscape; and

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* the consistent use over two centuries of wood as the primary and indigenous building material; and

* the quality of design and skill of execution of cultivation of fields and construction of buildings, structures, ditches, and other elements in the landscape; and

* the feeling of continuity that the evolving Lake Landing landscape conveys because of the unusually sensitive juxtaposition of historic and contemporary elements within an agrarian setting and the absence of major modern intrusions.

The Lake Landing district also has significant historical associations because it

A. is associated with a series of everyday events and practices in agriculture, water transportation and rural life that, in total, have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Hyde County and North Carolina history, and through its built environment reflects the evolution of the agrarian landscape over two centuries of human occupation and cultivation in a relatively isolated, yet extremely productive, rural region; and

B. is associated with the lives of persons who, individually and as a distinct cultural group of farmers, farm workers, and others in allied and support occupations, have made significant contributions to the history of Hyde County and North Carolina, and, in some cases, the associations extend to several generations of the same families that have played active and ongoing roles in the evolution of the district's built environment; and

C. is significant because it embodies, in its totality, the distinctive settlement and land use characteristics of the ante-bellum plantation system that provided the framework for the development of the district and that through modifications caused by social change, increased accessibility to the outside world, and technological innovation has gradually evolved into a contemporary agricultural community that retains elements--notably its finely detailed plantation houses--that are significant individually as well as a significant grouping of vernacular structures, drainage ditches, hedgerows, woodlots, planted fields, and other elements that make the Lake Landing district an outstanding example of continuity and change in a rural region; and

D. has yielded and is likely to continue to yield information about the institutions, design, construction, settlement, migration, cultural and intellectual life, traditions, and other factors that have affected the development of the built environment of the Lake Landing district and are important in the history of Hyde County and North Carolina.

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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Local people believe that the name Lake Landing was first applied to a boat landing site on the south shore of Lake Mattamuskeet and later to a post office near the landing. The name can be applied to the entire Hyde County, North Carolina township known as Lake Landing but is most often used locally to refer to the rectangle of land that encompasses the area along U. S. Highway 264 south of Lake Mattamuskeet that is bounded on the northwest by the New Holland community, on the northeast by Farrow's Fork, on the southeast by Middletown on Middlecreek, and on the southwest by the community known as Last Chance. The name Lake Landing has been applied to the historic district that includes the plantations located on Indian Ridge opposite Lake Mattamuskeet near the old Lake Landing Post Office as well as the farms and settlements in the Amity, Middletown, and Nebraska vicinities. These communities are not only located within the Lake Landing Township and contiguous to the Lake Landing community but also share its strong historical and cultural links.

Late sixteenth-century English explorers under Sir Richard Grenville's Lieutenant Ralph Lane reached into the vicinity of present-day Lake Landing where the explorers saw Lake Mattamuskeet. The lake, which appears on John White's 1585 map, is named Paquippa, an Indian word for shallow or dry--an appropriate name for the approximately 30,000 acre natural lake--since the depth of the lake was never more than eight feet and averages about three to four feet in depth today. The Indians living around the lake were Algonkian and belonged to the Machapunga tribe. They were apparently hunters and fishermen who also raised small amounts of corn and other crops. White's map depicts an enclosed Indian village located between Lake Mattamuskeet and Wyesocking Bay.

The gradual movement, first of hunters and trappers, and then of a few settlers into the area occurred in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In 1711 the Tuscarora Indians, joined by other neighboring tribes, including the tribes from the territory around Lake Mattamuskeet, attacked white settlements all the way from the Neuse River to the Pamlico River. Many of the smaller tribes were completely destroyed during the war and the surviving groups were reduced to fragments. Following the war, surviving Indians in the Hyde County vicinity were given permission to settle on the eastern side of Lake Mattamuskeet. Much of the land that was included in the reservation is part of the present day historic district. The Indians on this reservation adopted the name Arrowmyskeet, the name of the marshes located between the lake and Pamlico Sound. There are no visible remains of the Indian settlements in this area.

It is not known how many white settlers had begun to establish farms in present-day Hyde County or in the Lake Landing vicinity before the end of the Indian conflicts. Following the Tuscarora War, however, an increasing number of white settlers began to establish farms and residences in the county. The Indians began to sell parcels of their land to white settlers as early as 1731. A number of planters bought land near the lake from the Indians;

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early Hyde County settler Henry Gibbs (?-1759) was among the major purchasers.

As increased numbers of white settlers moved into Hyde County's most fertile and productive area in the eighteenth century, agriculture became the dominant occupation for Lake Landing residents. The development of agriculture was a logical development made possible by abundant fertile land suitable for cultivation. During its era of agricultural adaptation, the earliest settlers, like most successful colonial era farmers, adapted Indian crops. These early settlers grew similar crops to the Arromuskeet Indians: primarily, corn, Indian peas (black-eyed peas), and kidney and green beans. Corn became the major crop for export since rice proved vulnerable to insect infestation; the fertile soil of Lake Landing was not suitable for growing export tobacco--the tobacco plants grew too tall and stalky.

Lake Landing's proximity to navigable waters stimulated the development of agricultural exports. Since North Carolina had few good outlets for ocean commerce, inland waterways such as the Pamlico Sound and Middle Creek were extremely important. Although Lake Landing farmers were located in a remote region of the colony and transportation by water was time-consuming, expensive, and often dangerous, they were not as isolated from markets and current events as those without access to creeks and rivers.

Although it is not known when the first Negro slaves were introduced to the district, it can be assumed that some of the earliest property owners brought slaves with them to use in clearing and cultivating fields. By the late eighteenth century, however, slave labor was making an important contribution to the agricultural development and economy of Lake Landing although most Lake Landing families did not own large numbers of slaves. Henry Gibbs, an early Lake Landing settler who, at one time, owned over 1500 acres extending from Lake Mattamuskeet to Pamlico Sound was one of the most prominent men in the county. Gibbs mentioned eighteen slaves in his will that was probated in 1763. Gibbs probably owned more slaves at the time of his death than any other resident of the Lake Landing district. An analysis of the North Carolina census of 1786 indicates that Gibbs' descendants owned 52 percent of all slaves residing in the district. The 1786 census counted 288 slaves in the Lake Landing area out of a total population of 1,246--twenty-three percent of the total population. Thirty-six of the sixty-eight households in the Lake Landing district in 1786 owned any slaves at all. Of these households, sixteen held only one to three slaves; eight families owned from four to eight slaves, and twelve households owned nine or more slaves. Henry Gibbs' son Robert, Gibbs, Sr., who according to the census owned nineteen slaves in 1786, was the only Lake Landing resident to own more slaves than his father had mentioned in his will. Robert Jennette, Sr. (#9) who owned fifteen slaves was the second largest slave holder in 1786. In Lake Landing as in the rest of North Carolina, the largest slave owners were also among the largest landowners and the citizens with the greatest political power.

Organized churches and schools did not occur in the Lake Landing district

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in the eighteenth century. Although the Anglican Church was established by law, it was weak and without great support in eighteenth-century Lake Landing, as it was in most North Carolina communities. It is likely that Lake Landing residents in the late eighteenth century were becoming familiar with and attracted to Methodism since Methodist preachers are known to have visited eastern North Carolina in the second half of the eighteenth century and Methodism was flourishing in the district by the early nineteenth century. No academies or other schools are known to have existed in the district during this period. It is possible that a few residents hired teachers for their children who were taught at home. The local practice seems to have been a typical one for rural areas in this period; planters who valued education and could afford to do so hired their own teachers and religious groups met in private homes.

Although accessibility to navigable waters made transportation and commerce possible, Hyde County, even in the nineteenth century, was considered extremely isolated. One visitor from this period described the area as "more isolated and difficult of access, than any other place known...there was no road or land route practicable for a rider on horseback to any other settlement, and for many miles of distance across miry swamps intersected by deep rivers."¹⁰ Like other rural communities without dependable or regular transportation to other areas, the Lake Landing planters and their children most often chose spouses from among their closest neighbors and cousins. It was not unusual for a farmer to marry his neighbor's widow as in the case of Dixon Swindell (1839-1911) and Sarah Ensley, widow of Benners L. Ensley (1799-1830, #34) or for the daughter of one family to marry the son of a neighboring family as did Sarah Ensley's daughter Zada in marrying her mother's neighbor David Gibbs (#38). Many of the Lake Landing families had some tie by marriage or kinship with the family of early settler Henry Gibbs. Robert Jennette, Sr. was the son of John Jennette and Sarah Gibbs, a daughter of Henry Gibbs. Lovett Bell, another early settler, married Mary Gibbs, daughter of Thomas Gibbs, Sr. (son of Henry Gibbs) who owned adjoining land.

The nineteenth-century planters of the Lake Landing district formed a stable, close-knit social group of families who were linked not only by their agricultural pursuits but also by ties of kinship, marriage, and religion. Although most of their plantations during this period appear to have ranged in size from seventy-five to three hundred acres and their slave holdings were never as extensive as some areas of North Carolina, these families were able to use their rich farmland to produce incomes that allowed them to build comfortable plantation houses--many with notable architectural features--to educate their children, and to support the rise of small general stores and warehouses on the canals and ditches they developed for drainage and transportation.

Lake Landing was the center of Hyde County politics as well as agriculture from 1820--when it became the county seat--until 1836 when the county moved its seat to Swan Quarter where it remains today. Local people believe that the Lake Landing courthouse was located near present day U. S. Highway 264 on the western corner of the Jones-Mann-Ballance property (#26).

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By the early nineteenth century, Lake Landing farmers enjoyed the relative prosperity that many North Carolina farmers experienced and that historians Lefler and Newsome attribute to the high prices for farm products and low prices for manufactures that occurred in the period following the War of 1812.¹¹ Edmund Ruffin, nationally recognized agriculturalist who visited the area in the 1830s, wrote:

Corn thrives far better than any other grain, or any other crop of large culture. I have never seen such magnificent growths of corn, upon such large spaces. No part of the land is left without a crop, and corn alone covers nine-tenths of the whole surface. The few and much smaller crops of wheat seemed heavy to the first view-(it was during harvest)- but the grain is far inferior compared to the growth of straw, and the products fall short of their promise to the eye, when growing or standing. Oats looked well. But this crop is not deemed profitable,¹² and is raised but by few farmers and for farm consumption only.

Although their rich farm land produced large yields and steady crops and they did have access to water routes to sell their crops, Lake Landing farmers never developed large and profitable tobacco or rice plantations or acquired the large numbers of slaves that the Roanoke Valley section of the state developed. In a state that was almost totally rural and poorly linked with roads, Lake Landing was not as isolated from events outside Hyde County in the nineteenth century as it may seem today; yet Lake Landing, like much of eastern North Carolina was handicapped by swampy soil, and the dangers and expense of water transportation. Although transportation was difficult and Hyde County farmers traveled infrequently, the numerous bays and creeks did lead to the Pamlico Sound and linked the farmers' goods with ports in Washington and New Bern. Although Lake Landing was remote and mostly inwardly oriented, some district residents established important ties outside Hyde County.

The New Bern connection was significant because it allowed Lake Landing planters to have both business and social connections with prominent New Bern families. Joseph Gibbs, Sr. married into the New Bern Brinson family. Dr. Hugh Jones (#26) and his father Judge John Jones owned property in both Lake Landing and New Bern. The New Bern influence is most evident in several Lake Landing plantation houses that feature architectural plans and details that are usually associated with New Bern architecture. This awareness of New Bern's architecture is indicative of the high standards of the Lake Landing planters, who despite a degree of physical isolation, maintained gracious and tasteful plantation houses that reflect the prosperity that characterized antebellum Lake Landing.

Lake Landing farmers, however, continued to be plagued by swampy soil and poor drainage. An early effort by Hyde County to cut a canal from nearby Lake Mattamuskeet to the Pamlico Sound had been vetoed by Governor Josiah Martin in 1773. Although county citizens established a drainage board in 1789 to explore

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possibilities for draining farmland, the board disbanded without taking any action.¹³ In 1838, the State of North Carolina authorized the digging of a canal from Lake Mattamuskeet at Lake Landing to Wyesocking Bay. This action, although it received no state funding, was in accordance with the program for state development that had been initiated by Archibald Murphey, an early nineteenth-century, North Carolina progressive reformer. Murphey, as part of his program of internal improvements,¹⁴ had advocated the draining of marshland to protect and reclaim good farmland. The motivation to develop the canal was probably influenced by the severe flooding in 1836 that¹⁵ destroyed crops and cut off the lake settlement area from roads and dry lands. The canal, known locally as the Gray or Great Ditch, lowered the lake level by approximately three-and-one-half-feet and laid bare a rim of land between one-half to three miles wide around the lake. Edmund Ruffin recognized the value of ditches to farmers to surface drain the rich lands near the lake. In his report entitled "Sketches of Lower North Carolina and Similar Adjacent Lands," Ruffin described the natural passage between the lake and Wyesocking Bay. Unfortunately, the creation of the seven-mile long canal not only increased the amount of arable land around the lake but it also resulted in the silting in of Wyesocking Bay and the loss of desirable harbor locations.¹⁶

Since the silt accumulations made navigation impossible for the large boats that entered the canal at Wyesocking Bay, large boats began unloading their goods onto small skiffs that took the merchandise up the Nebraska Ditch, a small drainage canal dating from the 1840s that served the farming community at the head of Wyesocking Bay. A narrow strip of land between the Gray Ditch and the Nebraska Ditch, known as a "haul-over," enabled men to drag the goods from the small skiffs to the larger boats waiting on the Gray Ditch to make the journey up the canal to Lake Landing. The Gray Ditch provided substantial new farmland claimed from the former marshes around Lake Mattamuskeet; and the Nebraska Ditch insured an efficient route for transporting goods between Lake Landing and Wyesocking Bay and the Pamlico Sound.

The establishment in 1849 of the Fairfield Canal Company was the most dramatic change in water transportation in nineteenth-century Hyde County. The General Assembly which was encouraging internal improvements authorized the company to construct a canal from Lake Mattamuskeet north to the Alligator River for drainage and the transportation of produce at designated tolls. The General Assembly amended the act in 1859 and rechartered the company as the Fairfield Canal and Turnpike Company. The turnpike on the west bank connected Hyde County by land with neighboring Tyrrell County. David Carter, Jr. (1801-1862, #71), who inherited property in the Middle Creek area of¹⁷ the Lake Landing district, was among the original organizers of the company. The development of the canal and turnpike was instrumental in the growth of the Fairfield community and provided Lake Landing planters with another water outlet for their produce. David Carter, Jr., who moved from Lake Landing to invest in Fairfield businesses and properties, is generally credited as the founder of Fairfield; the two communities of Fairfield and Lake Landing with numerous kinship and marriage ties enjoyed a close relationship.¹⁸

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The creation of water routes was essential in this agricultural community of early and mid-nineteenth century plantation families who lived in the finely detailed early nineteenth-century houses along Indian Ridge from Lake Landing to Amity as well as less affluent families who lived in simple story-and-a-jump houses on small, scattered acreages in the district. Water transportation was essential for all residents: Lake Landing district families not only depended on boats to carry farm products and fish to markets and to supply local stores with goods they needed to purchase, but they also relied on these boats to make trips to other communities within the district as well as to Hatteras, Ocracoke, Washington, New Bern, and Elizabeth City. Residents of Lake Landing used the ditches as well as the sound and the local creeks as a source of fresh fish and oysters to supplement the fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy products, and meats that they produced on their farms.

When the federal census was taken in 1850, the residents of the area that is included within the Lake Landing historic district were listed in the Mattamuskeet Magisterial District. The occupations listed by the 429 residents who considered themselves employed gives an indication of the range of occupations available to and practiced by the residents of the Lake Landing district. Forty-three percent of those counted gave their occupations as farmers; forty-two percent as laborers; eight percent made their livings from water-related occupations such as fishing, sailing, and piloting; three percent were merchants or clerks; two percent were engaged in trades such as blacksmithing, tailoring, and milling; and two percent were engaged in the professions of medicine, law, and teaching. The overwhelming majority of those counted in the census were born in Hyde County; it is interesting that most of those engaged in the professions--a mark of some education--had been born outside the state of North Carolina. Many of those who were classified as laborers were the sons of farmers and still living in their fathers' households or sons-in-law of farmers who were living with their spouses' parents. Only two women were listed as having occupations: both were spinners although a number of women were apparently the heads of households and listed as the owners of slaves.¹⁹

The population of Hyde County in 1850 was 7636 people: 4,798 whites; 2,627 slaves; and 211 free people of color.²⁰ Although large landholders in the Lake Landing vicinity had increased their slave holdings as the nineteenth century progressed, the majority of households in the Mattamuskeet Magisterial District in which Lake Landing was counted did not have slaves. Of the 174 slaveholding households in Mattamuskeet in 1850, sixty-nine households had only one to three slaves; fifty-three had four to eight slaves; thirty-nine households had between nine and twenty slaves and thirteen households had between twenty-one and forty-five slaves. The largest slaveholder in the Mattamuskeet district was Richard Wynne (with forty-five slaves). Since Wynne is known to have lived outside the historic district, Robert Jenette Jr. (1786-1857) who owned thirty-seven slaves and 680 acres (180 improved) was the owner of the largest number of slaves in the Lake Landing district in 1850. It is significant that his father Robert Jenette Sr. had been the second-largest slave owner in 1786. David Carter, Jr., a major landowner in the district with

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400 acres, also owned more than thirty slaves. Descendants of Henry Gibbs also ranked among relatively large slaveholders. As they had in the eighteenth century, large landholding and slave holding were still the mark of a successful Lake Landing planter. Lake Landing planters, however, did not own the very large numbers of slaves that planters living in some areas of North Carolina did. Some of the cotton and tobacco growing counties in the Piedmont and some eastern counties such as Hertford and Perquimans counties had populations that were more than fifty percent slave.²¹ Slaves accounted for thirty-four percent of the total population of Hyde County in 1850.²²

The planters who lived in the finest houses in the district owned varying amounts of acreages; an analysis of the 1850 census records reveals that in that year none owned fewer than 60 improved acres. Corn was the major crop produced and grown on all the Lake Landing area farms and plantations. Some farmers such as Dixon Swindell who had only 70 improved acres produced 3,500 bushels of corn that year while David Carter produced 12,000 bushels and Robert Jennette, 6,750 bushels. Some of the Lake Landing planters grew wheat while others produced none. Marcus Swindell (1803-1864, #71) who produced 160 bushels of wheat and 100 bushels of peas and beans was the leader in both wheat and pea and bean production; he appears to have been a fairly diversified farmer; he was also the leading rice producer although most of his neighbors were not planting rice. His nephew Dixon Swindell who produced 200 bushels of sweet potatoes was the major producer of that crop. Some Lake Landing planters apparently did not plant rice, peas, beans, or sweet potatoes or only negligible amounts that were not worth recording.²³

Marcus Swindell also reported the largest value of slaughtered livestock in 1850--\$300. All Lake Landing planters had cattle and swine in 1850; some had as few as three cattle at range; none had more than Robert Jennette who had thirty cattle at range; no planter had fewer than forty hogs although some had over 100. Sheep were kept on some plantations although none reported more than twelve sheep, and wool production was so negligible that it could have only been for home use. Most plantations did not include sheep among their livestock. There were apparently few milk cows in Lake Landing since no one reported owning more than three. Every planter had horses--some as few as two; Marcus Swindell had seven horses, Robert Jennette had five as did Riley Murray (1798-1894, #22). Evidently oxen remained the major beasts for plowing and hauling since all planters reported owning oxen. Most plantations must have had two teams of oxen since most planters reported that they had four oxen although a few planters owned only one team of oxen. The vast majority of planters owned no mules at all; none owned more than two in 1850.²⁴

A comparison of the figures of the 1850 and 1860 census records indicates that subtle changes were occurring in agriculture in the Lake Landing district. Corn remained the major crop; yields were increased for most producers, probably because fewer planters were producing other grains. Rice, for example, was not reported by a single farmer. Only Riley Murray and Benners A. Ensley were major producers of peas and beans. Although the number of swine on each plantation remained in the thirty-to-100 range, the numbers of milk cows, other cattle,

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oxen, mules, and horses increased although not considerably. It appears that most plantations were using both oxen and mules but that while all had oxen--sometimes as many as ten--some planters were still not using mules in their fields. The slave population appears to have remained stable although some individuals had increased or decreased holdings from the decade before. Dr. Milton Selby (1816-1886, #179), for example, had increased his slave holdings from twenty-six in 1850 to forty-six in 1860. The apparent lack of change parallels the conditions in the county as a whole in which the slave population increased only slightly.²⁵

Local tradition holds that from the eighteenth century on, residents with Indian ancestry were classified as people of color and that most children with Indian ancestry were apprenticed to white households until the age of twenty-one. An examination of the 1850 federal census seems to indicate that this tradition is true. All of the free, non-white population was classified as mulatto while all slaves were identified as black. Of the mulattoes, many had known Indian surnames such as Mackey and Russell; and all but two of the twenty mulattoes living in white households were children under the age of twenty-one. Most adult mulattoes who were employed in occupations were laborers; six were farmers; one was a blacksmith.²⁶

The Civil War interrupted the comfortable prosperity that Lake Landing had enjoyed for most of the nineteenth century. Local residents today still relate stories of ancestors who hid with their livestock in nearby swamps when Union forces were near. Fortunately for Lake Landing, however, there was little burning and physical destruction in the vicinity. The land continued to be farmed during the war and local food supplies were not seriously interrupted. Spared the major physical atrocities of many occupied communities, Lake Landing was able to continue a hardship version of its agrarian way of life during the war. Its barns and granaries, however, were full of produce which could not be sent to the Washington and New Bern markets that were controlled by Union forces.²⁷ As in most North Carolina communities, many families suffered enormous financial losses as well as casualties during the war.

The defeat of the Confederate forces brought to Lake Landing as to all of the South, the sudden, total, uncompensated emancipation of slaves and the destruction of the antebellum plantation system. Although economic ruin befell some plantations which had depended upon slave labor and whose owners had invested heavily in the Confederacy, most Lake Landing farmers were able to rebound after the war, continue to farm their land, hire laborers (many of whom were also tenants on their land) to help in the fields, and resume commerce--taking full advantage of the waterways that had been completed before the war to transport their crops to market. Unlike many North Carolina communities, Lake Landing had access by water to markets for its crops. Consequently, the area could return to profitable farming after recovering from the shock of the loss of slavery without having to turn to manufacturing or wait for the development of a railroad to transport its products to distant markets.

Most of the planters of the Lake Landing district were able to retain large

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acreages after the Civil War. The federal census of 1870 shows that James Robinson Fisher (1810-1878, #11) held over 300 acres, Riley Murray owned over two hundred acres and Dr. Milton Selby²⁸ had increased the size of his holdings from 387 acres in 1860 to 490 in 1870. The fact that much of the Lake Landing farmland remained in large parcels after the Civil War has been a significant factor in determining the appearance of the historic district today. The visual impact of the plantations is still readily apparent today since relatively few smaller and more recent farmsteads are interspersed among them. The number of farms and the acreages of these farms has remained relatively stable since the mid-nineteenth century. Not only did many of the plantations stay intact, but they have also remained in the ownership of long-term Lake Landing families who have acquired the properties through inheritance or purchase from relatives or neighbors.

Many former slaves also stayed in the district to become tenant farmers on Lake Landing farms. The 1870 census records²⁹ only one black property owner--a forty-two year old farmer named E. Stanly. The major change recorded by the 1870 census for the Lake Landing area was the appearance for the first time of large numbers of free blacks who were engaged in occupations. The overwhelming majority were employed as laborers and domestic servants. As historians Lefler and Newsome point out in North Carolina: The History of a Southern State, many former slaves had no choice but to remain in their old communities and work the land for wages or on crop shares.³⁰ Of course, some blacks left their former masters and communities as evidenced by the decrease by 670 blacks in the Hyde County census between 1860 and 1870.

Although Fairfield--Lake Landing's neighboring community on the opposite shore of Lake Mattamuskeet--saw its period of greatest growth and change after the war, Lake Landing had few major physical changes. Census records for this period show that corn, then as now, was the principal crop for export from Lake Landing. Dixon Swindell, who had been a farmer before the war and who, by 1870, had inherited property from his uncle, Marcus Swindell, was a leading corn producer as were Benjamin Franklin Jennette (1838-1909, #109), Dr. Milton Selby, and Robinson Fisher. Wheat, oats, peas, beans, Irish potatoes, and sweet potatoes continued to be supplementary crops to corn. There were few changes in livestock production after the war; most farmers continued to use oxen as they had traditionally; a few used mules; dairy cattle were limited to fewer than six on any farm; cattle at range had decreased to the point where no farmer reported more than ten; only two farmers were keeping sheep; swine continued to be the major livestock. Dixon Swindell appears to have³¹ been the major hog farmer with forty seven swine recorded in the 1870 census. Farming remained the major occupation; eighty-nine percent of the men recorded as working in 1870 gave their occupation as farming; and Lake Landing continued to contribute to Hyde County's agricultural economy. The same families who were among the most productive farmers before the war continued to be highly productive after the war.

Farmers such as William S. Jennette (1853-1921) who lived in the Lake Landing district were able to transport their grains by barge across Lake

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Mattamuskeet to Fairfield for Fairfield merchants for payment or trade. Receipts in the estate papers of Edward L. Blackwell, the leading merchant of Fairfield, show that schooner captains departing from Fairfield sold Jennette's corn and traded rice for hay in Wilmington in the 1880s.³² The John Edward Spencer Store (#25) near the site of the old Lake Landing post office is believed to have been built in the 1880s and is associated with the post-war commercial trade stimulated by the Fairfield Canal on the opposite side of the lake.

New signs of growth appeared in Middletown following the war as farmers began once again to ship their crops to market. By 1866-67, Branson's Business Directory listed Henry Sylvester Gibbs (1831-1918, #97), James Gibbs, and John L. Northan as Middletown merchants.³³ By 1884, several additional merchants operated stores in the community, three doctors practiced medicine, and A. J. Cox operated the Middletown Academy.³⁴ The community did not really prosper, however, until the 1890s when several locally owned two-masted sailboats carried corn and other local products from Middletown to New Bern, Washington, Elizabeth City, and Baltimore. Lucrecia, owned by Captain Gray Silverthorn and Son, Sarah Midyette, Bessie Lewis, Florence and L. J. Oliver, owned and operated by Bobby Burrus and Venus,³⁵ under Captain Billy Payne, were part of Middletown's impressive local fleet.

By 1896, the village had ten general stores, two wind-powered gristmills for flour and meal, and a population of 175 people.³⁶ Middletown continued to be prosperous through the early 1900s when a hotel, telephone service, a drugstore, grocery, and new department stores added to the town's reputation as a commercial center. A number of individuals operated stores in Middletown: J. Montier Hall (1855-1937, #78 & #90), Mrs. Lida Miller (#90), George Cox (#92), and John Fletcher Burrus (1884-1935, #78) were among the names associated with retail stores in Middletown in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Middletown's prosperity in the 1890s came at a time when sailing vessels were largely outdated for transporting produce and merchandise in areas that, unlike Middletown, had access to railroads and paved roads. The small community of Nebraska was also an important nineteenth-century commercial center although it did not rival Middletown in terms of its prosperity. Several merchants operated stores in the community. Farmers could also find in these small communities the services of such tradesmen as David Ballance (1840-1904, #152), a late nineteenth-century mechanic who operated a shop on the bank of the Nebraska Canal where he worked as a blacksmith, wheelwright, and builder of windmills.

As it had before the war, much of the social and religious life of late nineteenth-century Lake Landing revolved around family and the Methodist Church at Amity. By the end of the late nineteenth century, there was another Methodist church in the district; the Methodists of the Nebraska vicinity built Watson's Chapel in 1894 during the heyday of that community's prosperity.³⁹ The post-war era also witnessed the formation of Lake Landing's small Episcopal congregation that met in the academy building from 1866 until it was able to build St. George's Episcopal Church (#61) in 1874-75.⁴⁰ Although the

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academy building (#60) had been used as a hospital during the war, it had returned to use as a school by 1869 when it was listed as Chapel Hill Academy in Branson's Business Directory for that year.⁴¹ The Masons have met on the second floor of the building, now called simply the Academy, since 1873.⁴² The academy was known by several different names, including Amity, Mattamuskeet, and Indian Ridge academies. Regardless of its name, the academy was the principal school for nineteenth-century Lake Landing children whose families could afford to educate them. Before the operation of the academy, affluent residents such as Dr. Hugh Jones (?-1826, #26) had hired tutors for their children.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Lake Landing farmers continued to grow a variety of crops but corn and hay were the most profitable; livestock production also remained a profitable agricultural pursuit. Soybeans were also grown in the county and either threshed for fodder or sent to Elizabeth City to be pressed into oil.⁴³ Although Fairfield was Hyde County's major commercial center, Middletown thrived as an important shipping point for the county in the early 1900s. Middletown could boast of several warehouses and freight offices that were used by dealers in agricultural products, such as Captain Bobby Burrus (1887-1956, #81, #91, and #95), and other county businessmen and farmers. Thomas D. Davis, Mattie U. Davis, and Thomas B. Spencer (1849-1936, #86) formed the Middletown Grain and Seed Company in 1927 to buy, sell, and deal in corn, cotton, oats, soybeans, and other farm produce, including poultry, eggs, and livestock.⁴⁴ Soon after, the Middletown Canal Company was formed to own and operate dredges and dredging machinery, to purchase canals and ditches and to construct or purchase and operate boats.⁴⁵ The company was successful in carrying freight on a toll basis from Middle Creek to boats waiting in the Pamlico Sound. Local people relate that the United States government wanted to buy the successful company to provide the public with free access to the sound. When the owners refused to sell, the government dug out Far Creek channel at the Engelhard community, also in Hyde County, for free public use. This improvement at Engelhard and the construction of U. S. Highway 264 that bypassed Middletown in favor of Engelhard spelled the end of Middletown's prosperity.

Nebraska also grew during the early twentieth century. Marcus Ballance (1881-1934, #153) operated a store at several locations in the community before building his own commercial building (#154) in 1918. The J. R. McKinney (1857-1937, #158) and Son Store (#155) moved into the building Ballance vacated in 1918 and that the Rollins Store had occupied before Ballance.⁴⁶ As ground transportation gradually took over from water transportation in the twentieth century, however, Nebraska like Middletown declined in commercial activity.

The decades of the 1920s and 1930s saw an enormous increase in net fishing in the Middletown and Nebraska areas. The nets were set for trout, croaker, spot, butterfish, mullet, and shad. Although their importance in shipping declined, Middletown and Nebraska continued a degree of prosperity as fishing towns for a time with fish houses where buyers purchased the catches of

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independent⁴⁷ fishermen and then freighted the fish to markets in Washington. In 1927 a road connecting Engelhard and Stumpy Point in Dare County opened; the new road added to Engelhard's preeminence as a transportation center⁴⁸ for the fishing industry and virtually insured the demise of the other towns.

Although improved land transportation in the early twentieth century began the decline of the Lake Landing district commercial centers of Middletown and Nebraska, it gave Lake Landing farmers a degree of independence they had never had before. No longer did they need to depend on boat captains and shipping schedules; they were able to travel by automobile or truck to stores in Engelhard that was thriving as Middletown declined, the county seat at Swan Quarter, or to Washington in Beaufort County. The shift from shopping in Fairfield, Middletown, and Nebraska, of course, did not occur overnight; for some farmers and merchants the transition lasted until the 1950s.

Just as the Civil War had interrupted life in nineteenth-century Lake Landing, the 1930's Depression and World War II had a major impact on agricultural life and production. Economic conditions were at their worst in the county in the 1930s; crop prices were low; farmers could not pay their bills or their⁴⁹ taxes. A few farms were lost and bills at local stores went unpaid. Wages fell and jobs were scarce throughout North Carolina and the nation. The hard times affected Hyde County as much as they did the rest of the nation since area farmers could not afford to plant without markets for their crops. Commercial fishermen had the same problem of loss of markets for their catch. Storekeepers extended credit knowing that bills could never be repaid. Area farmers were poor during the Depression years, but those who were able to keep their property during these hard times continued to plant kitchen gardens, raise livestock for their own consumption, hunt in local forests and marshes, and fish the local waters for food. This period marked the first time since its era of agricultural adaptation in the eighteenth century that the Lake Landing farmers had been without markets for their corn and other produce. For the first time since the settlement period, Lake Landing farmers were again engaged in subsistence agriculture.

In 1933 the federal Agricultural Adjustment Administration opened an office in Swan Quarter, the county seat. The agency, created by a law passed in May, 1933, made "benefit payments" to farmers for limiting certain crops for soil conservation.⁵⁰ Although the act was ultimately declared unconstitutional by a United States Supreme Court decision in 1936, the program was one of the first means of assisting Hyde County's farmers after economic conditions had become so desperate. The program was later replaced by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. The Farmers' Home Administration, which also began in the 1930s, offered loans and grants to stricken households. The programs of the 1930s were a vast departure from the traditional self-reliance of the county but inaugurated an era of participation in various government agricultural programs that continues to the present time.

As late as the 1950s, residents of other sections of the county shopped in

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some of Middletown's remaining stores that enjoyed a reputation for quality merchandise. Middletown today is nearly a ghost town with vacant stores: a quiet village with a few watermen's workboats anchored in its once busy harbor. As the century progressed, Nebraska evolved into the simple rural community it remains today. Watson's Chapel Methodist Church (#149) uses the Marcus Ballance Store (#154) as its fellowship hall and Shorewinds Farms (#148), an agricultural business owned by members of the Ballance family, uses the community as its base of operations. As their commercial activity and local economies declined, both Middletown and Nebraska abandoned attempts at local government and were removed from the rolls of incorporated towns by the General Assembly.

More change has occurred in the Lake Landing district since World War II than in any other period since its initial settlement and the establishment of the large plantations and the associated system of ditches and canals. Lake Landing farmers had been specialized since the early nineteenth century and corn remained a major crop for export. Corn, however, was joined by the new "miracle crop" soy beans which--while they are believed to have been raised in Hyde County since the 1870s--have become a staple crop in the last half of the twentieth century.⁵¹ The other major change has come from the decline of general farming. Although most Lake Landing farmers could return, if necessary, to Depression era self-sufficiency, it would mark a real departure from the standard of living and outside dependency that accessibility to good roads and automobiles has allowed in the second half of the twentieth century. Lake Landing farms today, while they may have small kitchen gardens or still have a few chickens, are not the self-sufficient farms that characterized the area until after the end of World War II. Oxen and mules are no longer used for plowing, hauling, and other heavy farm work; Lake Landing farmers of today use the latest mechanized equipment and agricultural methods. The impact of this change is primarily visible in the large metal-clad buildings constructed to house the equipment, the loss and neglect of smaller, obsolete structures that were built as shelters for smaller equipment or draft animals, the increased size of both farms and cultivated fields, and the loss of animation in the landscape since hogs no longer root in the marshes at free range but are kept confined and scientifically fed in "hog parlors."

The number of farms and the number of farmers have decreased with consolidation but farming remains the major occupation in Lake Landing. Although agriculture in the second half of the twentieth century with its dependence on mechanization, specialization, and federal programs and controls is vastly different from the nostalgic image of the nineteenth-century family farm, Lake Landing remains a unique agricultural historic district where descendants of its original settlers plant corn where their ancestors first planted crops in the eighteenth century. The eighteenth- and nineteenth-century planter families of the Lake Landing district: the Gibbs, the Jennettes, the Swindells, and others established the agrarian way of life that still characterizes the area today. Agriculture is still the dominant occupation; Methodism remains the dominant religion; and the bonds of faith, family, and farming endure as the characteristics of life in the Lake Landing district in the latter half of the twentieth century just as they did in the nineteenth century.

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FOOTNOTES

This nomination is based in large part on an inventory conducted by Robert M. Leary and Associates in 1981 with historical research by Diane E. Lea and architectural investigations by Claudia P. Roberts.

1. Patrick H. Garrow, The Mattamuskeet Documents: A Study in Social History (Raleigh: Department of Cultural Resources, 1975), p. 16-18.
2. Lefler and Newsome, p. 13.
3. History, p. 18.
4. History, p. 7-8.
5. Ellen Williams, "Early Property Owners of Lake Landing," unpublished manuscript, 1983.
6. Lefler and Newsome, p. 91.
7. State of North Carolina, Department of Archives and History, deed dated December 8, 1759 and admitted to probate September, 1763.
8. Analysis of the North Carolina State Census of 1786.
9. State Census of 1786.
10. Edmund Ruffin, Agricultural, Geological, and Descriptive Sketches of Lower North Carolina and Similar Adjacent Lands, (Raleigh: Institute for Deaf, Dumb, and Blind, 1861), hereinafter cited as Sketches, page numbers missing from microfilm.
11. Lefler and Newsome, p. 329.
12. Sketches.
13. Mary P. Ward, "Lake Mattamuskeet and the Failure to Drain It," 1948, North Carolina Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
14. Lefler and Newsome, p. 331.
15. Sketches.
16. Ibid.
17. Ann Spencer, "The Fairfield Canal Company," Hyde County History: Hyde County Bicentennial Project, (Charlotte: Herb Eaton Co., Hyde County Historical Society, 1976), pp. 18-19.

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18. David Carter, Jr. who had moved to Fairfield from Lake Landing was related to the Gibbs and other Lake Landing families by marriage. Other Fairfield residents such as the Mann family also had important Lake Landing connections.
19. Seventh Census of the United States, 1850.
20. Ibid.
21. Lefler and Newsome, p. 421.
22. Analysis of Seventh Census of the United States, 1850.
23. Seventh Census of the United States, 1850.
24. Ibid.
25. Eighth Census of the United States, 1860.
26. Seventh Census of the United States, 1850.
27. History, p. 74.
28. Ninth Census of the United States, 1870.
29. Ibid.
30. Lefler and Newsome, p. 479.
31. Ninth Census of the United States, 1870.
32. State of North Carolina, Department of Archives and History, "Estate Papers of Edward L. Blackwell."
33. Typed copy of Branson's Directory of 1866, Hyde County Historical Society, no page numbers.
34. Chataigne's North Carolina State Directory and Gazeteer (Raleigh: J. H. Chataigne), pp. 664-666.
35. Washington Daily News, November 18, 1976, p. 10.
36. Branson's North Carolina Business Directory (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1896), p.343-346.
37. Typed copy of The North Carolina Year Book and Business Directory for 1906, Hyde County Historical Society.
38. History, p. 27.

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39. Ibid., p. 43.
40. Ibid., p. 44.
41. Branson's Business Directory for 1869, (Raleigh: J. A. Jones, 1869), p. 81.
42. History, p. 57.
43. Ibid., p. 11.
44. Copy of Certificate of Incorporation filed with Secretary of State of North Carolina, November 6, 1927, papers collected by Ellen Williams, Hyde County Historical Society.
45. Copy of Certificate of Incorporation filed with Secretary of State of North Carolina, March 14, 1928, papers collected by Ellen Williams, Hyde County Historical Society.
46. Interview with Leon Ballance, August, 1983.
47. R. S. Spencer, unpublished manuscript, Engelhard, North Carolina, 1983.
48. History, pp. 122-13.
49. Lefler and Newsome, p. 611.
50. History, p. 23.
51. Ibid., p. 11.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Roberts, Claudia, P., "Historical Architecture of Hyde County," unpublished manuscript, Raleigh.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 13,400

Quadrangle name 1) Middletown (B,C,D,E)

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References 2) New Holland (A--not 1000 meter universal mercator grid)

A

Zone	Easting			Northing							

B

1	1	8	4	0	1	6	0	1	0	1	0	3	1	9	2	1	8	0	1	0	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing																		

C

1	1	8	4	0	9	0	0	0	3	9	2	6	0	0	0	0
Zone	Easting			Northing												

D

1	1	8	4	0	1	8	0	1	0	1	0	3	1	9	2	1	2	0	1	0	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing																		

E

1	1	8	3	9	9	0	0	0	3	9	2	2	0	0	0	0
Zone	Easting			Northing												

F

Zone	Easting			Northing																		

G

Zone	Easting			Northing												

H

Zone	Easting			Northing												

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the intersection of the boundary line of the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge with the Bennet Rose Canal (1200 feet northwest of (continued)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A		N/A	

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Timothy Keller

organization Land and Community Associates

date September 14, 1983

street & number 1410 Holly Road

telephone 804 295-3880

city or town Charlottesville

state Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____

date _____

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____

date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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the intersection of the Bennett Rose Canal with U. S. 264), proceeding east along the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge boundary line (approximately 2 miles) to the intersection with the Grey Ditch, crossing the Grey Ditch and proceeding south along the east side of the Grey Ditch to the intersection with the back property line of the Mallissa McCuller Heirs property, proceeding east along the back property lines of this and all other properties fronting on U. S. 264 to the Pauline Mason property, proceeding south along the east property line of this property to its intersection with U. S. 264, crossing U. S. 264 and proceeding east along the south side of U. S. 264 to the intersection with the Preston Mackey Heirs property, proceeding south and east along this property line to its intersection with SR 1114 (thus omitting it), crossing SR 1114 and proceeding south to the intersection with the north corner of the Christopher T. Clark property, proceeding east and south along this property to the James Emory Mann Heirs property, proceeding south and west along this property to its intersection with SR 1114, proceeding south along the east side of SR 1114 to a point east of the intersection of SR 1114, proceeding south along the back property lines of this and other properties to the intersection with SR 1114, proceeding south along the west side of SR 1114 to its intersection with SR 1105, proceeding north along the east side of SR 1105 to the intersection of it with the northwest corner of the William Lewis IV & Sabra Jean Wolf Tharp property, proceeding southeast along this and other Middletown back property lines (properties facing SR 1114) to the northwest corner of the Joseph Redden and Maybell H. Cox property, proceeding east along this property line to the intersection with SR 1114, proceeding north along the west side of SR 1114 to a point west of the northwest corner of Claude Webster Burrus Heirs property, crossing SR 1114 and proceeding east and south along this property and other properties to the intersection with Middletown Creek, proceeding southeast along the north side of Middletown Creek (approximately 2000 feet) to a point north of SR 1109, crossing Middletown Creek and Middletown Canal to the intersection with SR 1109 and proceeding southwest along SR 1109 and then the tree line to the ditch that drains into Back Creek, proceeding west along the ditch to SR 1108, proceeding southwest along the east side of SR 1108 to a drainage ditch approximately 1400 feet west of Thads Corner, proceeding south along this ditch to the Piney Woods Road, proceeding west along the Piney Woods Road to the Burnt Ground Canal, proceeding south along the east side of the Burnt Ground Canal to the Haul Over, crossing the Haul Over and the Grey Ditch to the southeast corner of the John Edward Cuthrell property, proceeding south along this property line to the intersection with SR 1110, proceeding west along the south side of SR 1110 to a point south of the southwest corner of the Faffael Farrow property, crossing SR 1110 and proceeding north along the west property line of the Faffael Farrow property to the old road bed (road to Slocum), proceeding west along this road bed to the drainage ditch that parallels SR 1110 at Last Chance to a ditch that runs north/south and intersects with Long Canal, proceeding south along this canal to Long Canal, proceeding southwest along Long Canal to the Bennett Rose Canal, and proceeding northwest along Bennet Rose Canal to the boundary of th Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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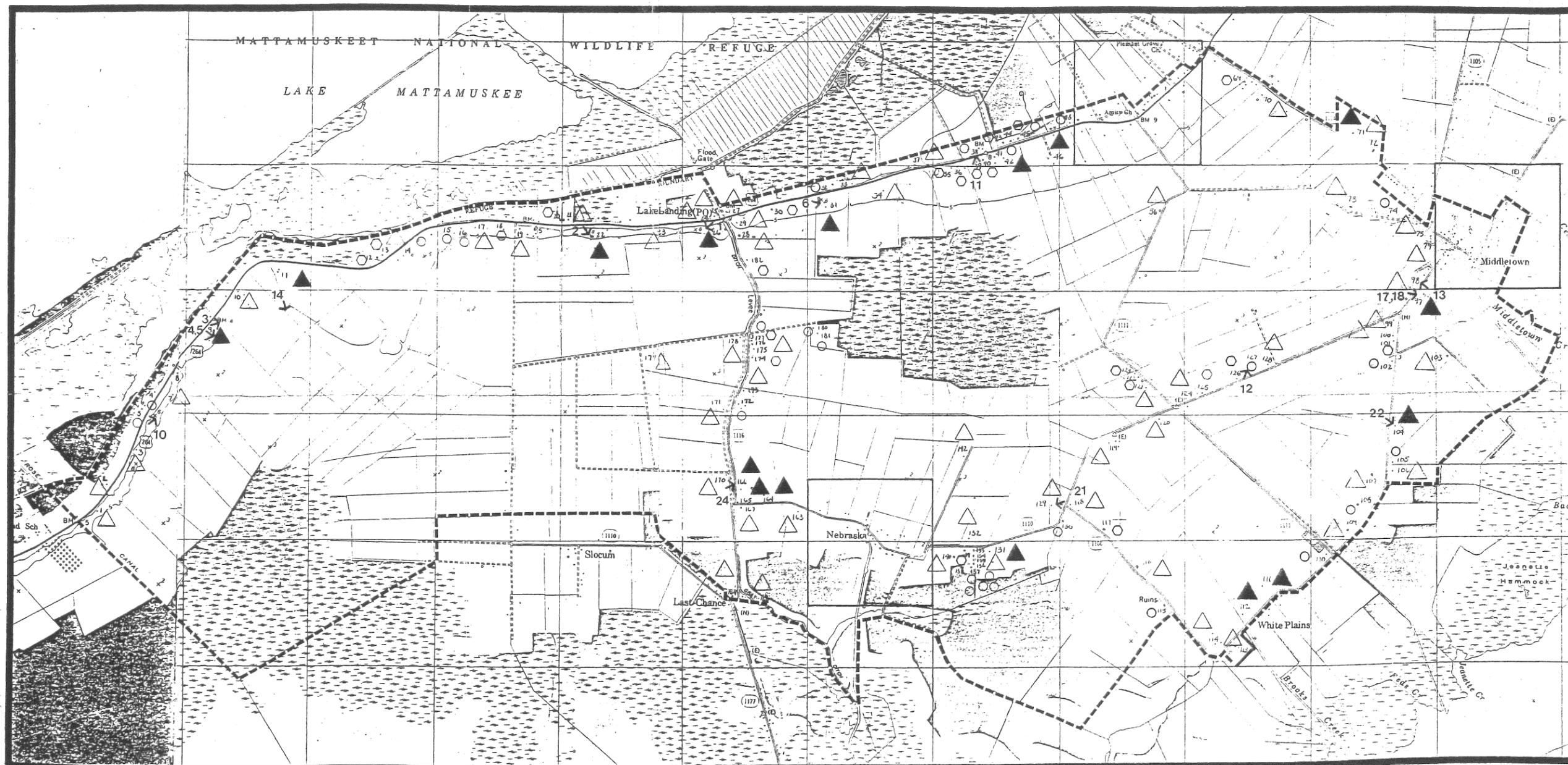
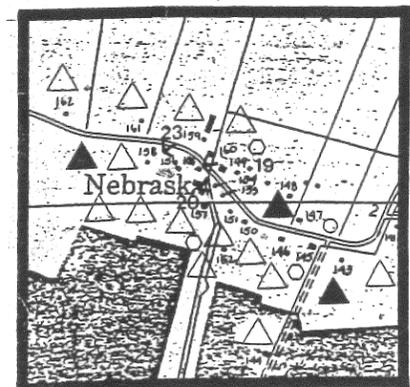
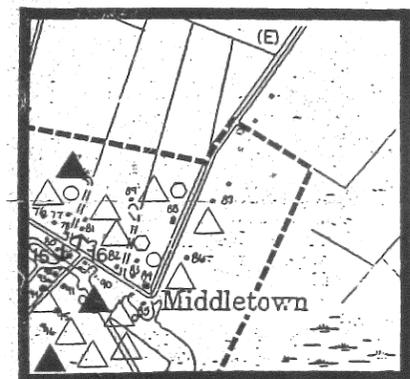
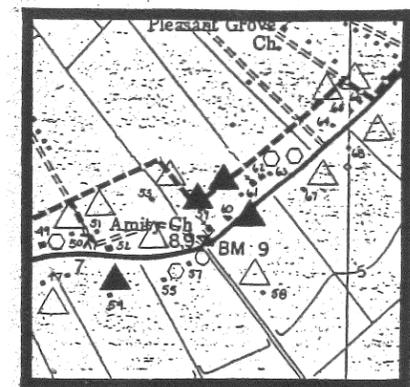
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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nucleus of the district is an agricultural area local people call Lake Landing. Wherever possible, the boundary has been drawn to take advantage of such natural and man-made features as ditches and other bodies of water and the edges of woods to define boundary edges. In other instances, property lines and road rights of way have been used to form parts of the boundary. Traditionally, the northern boundary of the Lake Landing community has been Lake Mattamuskeet; the southern boundary of the Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge that includes the lake is the basis for the northern boundary of the historic district. To include the communities of Amity, Watson's Corner, Nebraska, and Middletown that have strong cultural, historic, architectural, and visual links to each other and to Lake Landing, the road along the Great Ditch from Farrow's Fork to Middletown forms the basis for the eastern boundary. A number of intrusions to the east prevent the boundary from being extended in that direction although there are properties of individual significance such as Wynne's Folly which relate to the Lake Landing district. The southern boundary of the district was drawn to include the communities of Middletown and Nebraska as well as much of the agricultural land that was, in many instances, included within the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century borders of many of the plantations that were established along Indian Ridge. The Bennet-Rose Canal forms the western boundary since there are a number of intrusions west of the canal.



Lake Landing, N.C. National Register Historic District



ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

- ▲ PIVOTAL
- △ CONTRIBUTING
- FILL
- INTRUSIVE
- ◀ PHOTOGRAPH

