

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name SHEPPARD, THOMAS, FARM

other names/site number SHEPPARD MILL FARM

#### 2. Location

street & number S. SIDE SR 1550 OPPOSITE JCT. WITH SR 1552 not for publication N/A

city or town STOKES vicinity X

state NORTH CAROLINA code NC county PITT code 147 zip code 27884

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jasper Crow SHPO 4/7/00  
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
___ entered in the National Register	_____	_____
___ See continuation sheet	_____	_____
___ determined eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
___ determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
___ removed from the National Register	_____	_____
___ other (explain):	_____	_____

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>        </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> objects
		<u>8</u>	<u>6</u> Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:          Sub:         

DOMESTIC/ SINGLE DWELLING

DOMESTIC/ SECONDARY STRUCTURE

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Field

Cat:          Sub:         

DOMESTIC/ SINGLE DWELLING

DOMESTIC/ SECONDARY STRUCTURE

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Field

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GREEK REVIVAL

foundation BRICK

walls WEATHERBOARD

roof METAL

ASPHALT SHINGLE

other         

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

CA. 1850

1930 - 1950

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Dates

CA. 1850

1930

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE ATTACHED

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

THOMAS SHEPPARD FARM

PITT COUNTY, NC

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 36.858

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet) X See continuation sheet.

1	_____	_____	_____	3	_____	_____	_____
Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title BETSY GOHDES-BATEN

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date APRIL 30, 1999

street & number 2737 CIRCLE DRIVE telephone 919-489-6368

city or town DURHAM state NC zip code 27705

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items  
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name SEE OWNERS LIST ON CONTINUATION SHEET

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Thomas Sheppard Farm  
Pitt County, NC

Section number 7 Page 1

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Encompassing 36.858 acres of fields and woodlands on a level plain in Carolina Township of Pitt County and sited approximately four and one-half miles east of the crossroads village of Stokes, the Thomas Sheppard Farm contains a largely intact grouping of domestic and agricultural buildings constructed at various times from the latter part of the eighteenth century through the 1930s. The farm takes the shape of an irregular, almost arrow-shaped polygon with its apex due east where the northeast boundary adjacent to State Route 1550 (Sheppard Mill Road) meets woodlands on the southeast border. A jagged western boundary lies along agricultural fields and within a narrow grove of trees, and an irregular southern boundary follows the shore of Sheppard Millpond, a 250-acre body of water contained in part by a mid-eighteenth-century road that crosses Briery Creek.

On the southwest sector of the property near the juncture of two farm lanes, stands a handsome two-story frame dwelling built for Thomas and Clementina Sheppard ca. 1850. Extended by a rear shed in traditional fashion, the house is notable for stylish Greek Revival interior detailing, and is the only dwelling in Pitt County with a one-story pedimented projecting entry portico rendered in classical fashion. A one-story kitchen wing constructed ca. 1930 by James Kelly Barnhill, a subsequent owner, was enlarged and joined to the main block of the house ca. 1950.

Five outbuildings and one additional dwelling reflect agricultural and domestic uses and contribute to the historic character of the farm. East of the house, a one-story frame dwelling was constructed for tenants by the Barnhill family during the 1930s. West and south of the house, a large frame stock barn, a frame tobacco barn, a frame hog pen, a frame chicken house, and a brick well house also built by the Barnhills date from the 1930s.<sup>1</sup> Six additional buildings are non-contributing: a late-eighteenth-century frame dwelling known as the Mannor House<sup>2</sup> and a frame tobacco packhouse west of the house have been renovated and altered; a frame well house west of the house is new; a frame smokehouse south of the house has been re-sited; and two frame barns east of the house are in ruinous condition.

After the Barnhills, a number of relatively short-term owners and tenants farmed the land and occupied the house, and from 1950 to 1960 installed modern sheet paneling on the interior and updated the kitchen with new cabinets and appliances. By 1980, the house had fallen into disrepair and largely stood vacant until Wade Yarborough and Darrell Poovey restored it in 1992 and 1993. All repairs and renovations are of superior quality and sensitive to the original fabric and plan, and the house is presently operated as a bed and breakfast inn by its owners, Patrick and Sonia Fiscus.

### DESCRIPTIONS OF FEATURES OF THE THOMAS SHEPPARD FARM:

*(a sketch map is attached as Exhibit A with buildings numbered and keyed to descriptions)*

#### 1. LANDSCAPE, contributing

Although the acreage of the farm has varied throughout its history, the Thomas Sheppard Farm is today a 36.858 acre tract dominated by agricultural fields that extend from a northwest boundary along State Route 1550 (Sheppard Mill Road) in a southeast direction to the Sheppard Millpond, a blackwater swamp of approximately 250 acres. The land is a level plain of heavy loam soil bordered on the south and southwest by narrow strips of woodland that contain mature cypress, gums, oaks, elms, and pines.

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A gravel and dirt lane bisects the farm from north to south separating a field of approximately nineteen acres on the east from the remainder of the land. The lane accesses a mill site thought to have been put into use by Solomon Sheppard in 1775. A concrete and brick foundation at the southernmost edge of the farm marks the place where Sheppard and subsequent millers, including Thomas Sheppard, his tenants, and the Barnhill family, ground corn and wheat and processed lumber for customers. Further to the west along the banks of the millpond, a grove of tall pines is reported to shelter a burying ground for slaves that belonged to Thomas Sheppard.

Near the center of the property and originating at right angles to the mill lane, a shorter dirt lane crosses the western portion of the farm and divides a field of about 7.5 acres on the north from the house tract of some 9.5 acres on the south. Along a circular drive that extends west from the juncture of the lanes, the house faces east, surrounded on the south, east, and west by domestic and agricultural outbuildings that clearly convey an association with Pitt County's diversified agricultural economy of the 1930s and 1940s.

### 2. THE THOMAS SHEPPARD HOUSE, ca. 1850, ca. 1930, ca. 1950, ca. 1960, 1992-1993: (*Floor plans of the house are attached as Exhibit B*) Contributing

Approached by a walkway of twentieth-century concrete pavers and facing east from within a picket-fenced enclosure on the southwest sector of the farm, the Thomas Sheppard House comprises a rectangular two-story main block constructed ca. 1850, an engaged one-story rear shed of the same date, and a one-story kitchen wing constructed ca. 1930 that was enlarged and joined to the main block ca. 1950. Most architectural elements are original for only minor modifications were made ca. 1930, ca. 1950, and ca. 1960. During the 1970s, the house was allowed to decline, and after a prolonged period of vacancy in the 1980s, was carefully restored in 1992-1993.

#### Main Block and Shed, ca. 1850:

Resting on a brick foundation and set atop large cypress sills wrapped in canvas and coated with tar, the main block of the Sheppard Farmhouse, constructed ca. 1850 by Thomas and Clementina Sheppard, has a heavy timber frame covered with weatherboard siding and a gable roof of standing seam metal. Stylish cornerboards define the edges of the main block, and a bold boxed cornice that terminates in shallow end returns lines the eaves. Tall chimneys with paved shoulders bracket gable ends, made of brick laid in 7/1 common bond. Fenestration around the main block is symmetrical with nine-over-nine double-hung windows on the first floor, six-over-six double-hung windows on the second, and small two-over-two double-hung windows centered on gable ends in the attic.

The east or front facade of the main block, organized into four bays below and five above, has well-executed Greek Revival details. Extending from the center bays on the first floor, a one-story pedimented portico, unique in Pitt County, is ornamented with academic features that include a fully-developed entablature and fluted Doric columns. Beneath the portico, two entry doors of seven raised panels surmounted by two-light transoms are integrated into a paneled wall. Fluted surrounds with bulls-eye cornerblocks enhance doors and transoms, and molded surrounds embellish windows.

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Typical of vernacular farmhouses in the mid-South, secondary facades of the main block are less decorative. On the north facade, windows on the first and second floors and in the attic are organized into two bays flanking a central chimney. Where other facades are visible on the exterior, the south facade is identical to the north, and the west facade mirrors the front with windows in five bays on the second floor.

The interior spatial arrangement of the main block is the only plan of its type noted during the Pitt County architectural survey conducted during 1987 and 1988. Two parlors of approximately identical size on the first floor are divided by a narrow central stair that rises from the rear to the front of the house. The stairway is entered from either parlor through a small rear passage. The second floor has a center stair hall and a three-room plan with one large bedroom on the north and two smaller rooms of roughly equal size on the south.<sup>4</sup> At the rear of the stair hall, a narrow enclosed stair serves a large open attic where mortise and tenon framing is visible.

The unusual floor plan is complemented by a highly ornamented and stylized interior. Numerous pattern book-derived features are original and include two finely crafted Greek Revival mantels; in the north parlor with a fully-developed entablature having triglyphs and metopes and engaged Doric columns, and in the south parlor with a bold molded cornice and reeded panels on the frieze. Large doors of seven raised panels are found throughout the main block. Door and window surrounds are fluted and each is ornamented with cornerblocks displaying individual variants of the bulls-eye design. Other notable features include high molded baseboards in every room, flat-paneled wainscoting in the south parlor and stair hall, a concealed cabinet in the south parlor, and a closet beneath the stair hall with a built-in chest of drawers.

The west facade of the main block engages a one-story rear shed, also constructed ca. 1850, with contiguous framing and weatherboard siding. Like the main block, the shed has a standing seam metal roof but its windows are nine-over-six or six-over-six and spaced irregularly to reflect the needs of rooms within.

The shed originally contained a small pantry that extended south of the main block and adjoined two bedrooms separated by an entry porch. During the 1930s, the porch was enclosed to provide space for a bathroom, and the pantry incorporated into a large one-story wing. Except that the northwest bedroom door has three vertical panels and both bedrooms have molded chair rail, all other decorative details are similar to those in the main block.

With many structural components of cypress, the main block and shed required minimal repair during the 1992-1993 restoration. Great care was taken to protect or duplicate original features as slight termite damage to sills was repaired, weatherboard siding was repaired or replaced as necessary, windows were repaired, the floor of the portico was replaced, and intricate balusters that line the portico railing were recreated from a single example that survived. Interior renovations also preserved and restored original woodwork; the modern sheet paneling was removed, and portions of the floor in the southwest upstairs room were elevated to permit installation of plumbing fixtures with the least damage to original flooring. A small room in the rear hall was created to provide space for heating and cooling equipment.<sup>5</sup>

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Wing, ca. 1930 and ca. 1950:

A frame one-story kitchen house, set back on the southwest and separated from the main block by a narrow breezeway, was constructed ca. 1930 by James Kelly Barnhill. Around 1950, this structure became an apartment and was divided into two rooms and a bath with a narrow integral porch on the north. At that time, a modern kitchen, also frame, was added to the east facade and joined to the ca. 1850 pantry and the south facade of the main block. A vertical upright on the south facade marks the juncture of the two structures and together they make up a long rectangular wing, four bays wide and five deep, with brick foundations, weatherboard siding, and a gable-on-hip roof that has wide overhanging eaves. A brick stove chimney rises near the center of the roof ridge and an end chimney of brick laid in running bond is off-center on the west facade. Windows are six-over-six sash, installed ca. 1930 in single units to serve what is now the apartment and ca. 1950 in pairs to serve the kitchen. Glass-panel doors, installed in 1992-1993, have replaced original wood-panel doors around the wing, and a large bay window, installed in 1998, has replaced original windows near the entry on the east facade.

Comprehensive repairs to the wing were necessary during the 1992-1993 rehabilitation for a pantry wall had rotted causing the floors to sag, the back porch had collapsed, and the sheet metal roof had deteriorated beyond salvaging. Important interior features such as original shelves and cabinets in the pantry and kitchen were salvaged as sills and floors were restored or replaced, the pantry wall reconstructed, the roof replaced with asphalt shingles, the apartment refurbished, and the porch rebuilt and screened.

### OTHER DWELLINGS AND OUTBUILDINGS:

#### 3. THE MANNOR HOUSE, late-eighteenth century, renovated 1995, non-contributing:

Located directly behind the Thomas Sheppard House, a frame, gable-roofed, weatherboarded dwelling of one-story, locally known as the Mannor House,<sup>6</sup> has been renovated and much altered. Thought to have been constructed in the late-eighteenth century, the structure was likely moved to its present site sometime during the mid-nineteenth century by Thomas and Clementina Sheppard. Heavily smoked interiors visible at the time the Pitt County architectural survey was made suggest that it was used for a number of years as a kitchen and perhaps also as a slave house.<sup>7</sup> Serving later owners for storage or as a tobacco packhouse during most of the twentieth century, the dwelling deteriorated badly, and in 1995 was stabilized and renovated as a kitchen and dining room for private parties. Metal roofing, a boxed stair leading to the attic, beaded ceiling beams, and a hewn and pegged timber frame with large rafters marked with Roman numerals were retained while original flooring was removed, sanded, and reinstalled, exterior siding was replaced, and the structure set on a new concrete foundation. Modifications to suit the dwelling for its present use included partitioning a kitchen and dining room, adding a bathroom, covering interior walls with sheetrock, installing several windows, creating an entry surmounted by a small bell tower on the north facade, and adding small entry porches on the north and south facades.

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4. THE TENANT HOUSE, ca. 1930, contributing:

Facing east along the lane leading to the mill, a frame, rectangular, front-gable tenant house of one story set over brick piers and capped by a metal roof was built by James Kelly Barnhill ca. 1930. Fenestration is regular and beneath a shallow front porch with plain post supports, the entry facade is divided into three bays with six-over-six windows flanking a five-paneled front door. Windows on long facades are also six-over-six, and like the front facade, divided into three bays. The dwelling is vacant at present.

5. STOCK BARN, ca. 1930, contributing:

Behind the farmhouse, and near the western boundary of the farm, a large frame gambrel-roofed stock barn faces south. The structure and its flanking shed extensions are covered with agricultural metal. King-post trusses on the interior separate stalls on either side from a central floored area and support a loft above. The structure was reportedly built during the 1930s to shelter J. K. Barnhill's mules.<sup>8</sup>

6. TOBACCO PACKHOUSE, ca. 1930, non-contributing:

Also near the western boundary of the farm, a rectangular frame tobacco packhouse with an ordering pit beneath has recently been renovated as an antiques shop. Alterations have compromised its integrity as a farm building; although the frame, a metal roof, and a portion of the exterior siding were retained. New windows were installed, and the interior was stuccoed and half-timbered.

7. TOBACCO BARN, ca. 1930, contributing:

A gable-front frame tobacco barn, typical of many in eastern North Carolina, has flush vertical weatherboard siding and a sheet metal roof with a ridge top ventilator. A central entry door faces north and an open shed is attached to the west facade. The barn straddles the western boundary of the Thomas Sheppard Farm such that the majority of the building lies on the Fiscus property and the northwest corner and attached shed extend onto adjoining land belonging to Noel and Cassandra Lee.

8. HOG PEN, ca. 1930, contributing:

Two small frame sheds with metal roofs face east and are contained within a wire-fenced enclosure located in a grove of trees near the western boundary of the farm.

9. CHICKEN HOUSE, ca. 1930, contributing:

Located south of the farmhouse, a frame chicken house is a simple rectangular, weatherboarded shed with a metal roof. Three windows and a door on the east facade provide access for exotic poultry belonging to the owners.

10. SMOKEHOUSE, ca. 1930, non-contributing:

A small gable-front frame smokehouse has a metal roof with exposed rafter ends and a batten entry door offset from center. The structure has been re-sited south of the farmhouse and is non-contributing.

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11. FRAME WELL HOUSE, ca. 1990s, non-contributing:

A new frame shed covering a newly drilled well is non-contributing because of its recent age.

12. BRICK WELL HOUSE, ca. 1930, contributing:

A shed made of brick laid in 4/1 common bond has a wood entry door on the south facade and covers an early-twentieth century well.

13. RUINOUS BARN, ca. 1930, non-contributing:

A frame barn located across from the tenant house and along the lane leading to the mill site is deteriorated and is non-contributing because of its condition.

14. RUINOUS BARN, ca. 1930, non-contributing:

A small frame barn adjacent to #13 is also deteriorated and non-contributing because of its condition.

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Thomas Sheppard Farm qualifies for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A with local significance as a largely intact complex representing the development of diversified agriculture in Pitt County, North Carolina, during the 1930s and 1940s. Although agriculture on the farm has been more or less continuous since the middle of the nineteenth century and fields remain in their historic locations, nineteenth-century outbuildings are no longer standing, and all contributing outbuildings were constructed during the 1930s. The period of agricultural significance thus begins in 1930 and extends through 1950, a period during which the farm was significant for agriculture on the local level.

The Thomas Sheppard House, a handsome two-story dwelling with Greek Revival detailing also has local significance and qualifies for inclusion on the National Register under Criterion C for its distinctive combination of high style and vernacular architecture. The main block, constructed ca. 1850 with an engaged rear shed, is traditional in form but remarkable for a stylish pedimented entry portico with fluted Doric columns that support a fully developed entablature and interior woodwork that expresses academic influences with decorative elements derived from pattern books. The house was expanded ca. 1930 when a one-story kitchen house was constructed and a shed porch was enclosed as a bath. The kitchen house was subsequently renovated, enlarged, and joined to the main block ca. 1950 and modern sheet paneling was installed inside the main block ca. 1950-1960. After a period of vacancy and neglect, the dwelling was carefully and sensitively restored during 1992 and 1993, and reflects the time of its architectural significance, ca. 1850.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND AGRICULTURAL CONTEXT:

Pitt County records provide a relatively comprehensive account of the origins of the Thomas Sheppard Farm. A deed dated April 1, 1775 conveys title from John Griffin to Solomon Shepard [sic] for "one certain parcel of land by estimation one acre laying and being on the north side of the briary [sic] swamp the said acre to be chozen [sic] by the said Shepard [sic] where he shall think proper to erect his mill or mills the said acre being a part of the Mannor Plantation where the said John Griffin now lives."<sup>9</sup> After selecting the mill site, Sheppard purchased an additional 25 acres "along the main road to the middle of the Briery Branch swamp." This strategic purchase, made from Hardy Keel in an area adjoining the plantations of John Griffin and Abram [sic] Congleton, gave him access to a road that may also have been a ready-made dam containing a body of water of sufficient size to serve as a millpond. Five years later Sheppard purchased an additional 100 acres in the Briery Swamp from David Perkins "together with houses, orchards, fencing, and other appurtenances" that formerly belonged to Elizabeth Sheppard who had inherited the land from Alexander Stewart, a prominent Episcopal minister and civil engineer.<sup>10</sup>

Public grist and sawmills such as Solomon Sheppard's, were essential components of the eighteenth-century agricultural economy, processing flour and corn meal, and sawing lumber for all in need of these services. Charges were regulated by law though a miller was allowed respectable profits; he could expect to receive one-eighth of the wheat and one-sixth of the corn he ground for customers. Mills were also social centers, and while work was in progress, farm families exchanged news and gossip with neighbors, fished or swam in the mill pond, heard the orations of local politicians, and listed their taxables.<sup>11</sup>

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The records show that Solomon Sheppard's was not the only mill operating in northeast Pitt County. By 1758 an increase in the production of tobacco required that additional warehouses for its storage and inspection be constructed around the county. One such warehouse was built at "Congletons near the mill on Tranter's Creek." Family records relate that William Congleton, perhaps the miller, had settled in the area by 1755. Forty-three years later, his son of the same name, bound for Virginia, sold to a brother, Abraham, 300 acres of land in the Briery Swamp.<sup>12</sup>

After 1784, the record is silent about the fate of Solomon Sheppard and his mill. A deed of 1791 from James and Jordan Sheppard, likely his heirs, conveyed a 25-acre parcel that almost certainly contained the mill to Simon Keel. The tract is described as having been "purchased by Solomon Sheppard . . . on the west side of the chain road running along the (illegible) Road to the middle of the Briary [sic] Branch."<sup>13</sup> In another transaction the Sheppards sold the 100 acre tract "which David Perkins sold to Solomon Sheppard" to Darlin [sic] Swain Ray.<sup>14</sup>

Pitt County deeds of the early-nineteenth century reveal that the mill and land surrounding it passed through the hands of several additional owners before coming into the possession of Abraham Congleton by 1816. That year Congleton bequeathed these properties to a son, Simon, who left them to his children in 1836, allotting a 200-acre tract that included one half of the mill pond to Thomas Sheppard in right of his wife, Clementina.<sup>15</sup> The following year when Thomas Sheppard purchased 130 adjoining acres from the heirs of John Griffin, he perhaps acquired the late-eighteenth-century Mannor House.<sup>16</sup>

The census of 1840, first to list Thomas Sheppard as a Pitt County resident, shows his household to have included himself, his wife, an adult male between twenty and thirty years of age, and two children, one male and one female, between the ages of five and ten years. He owned nineteen slaves, eight of whom worked in agriculture.<sup>17</sup> Sheppard shortly enlarged his land holdings with strategic purchases of 514 acres in 1844 and 1849 that gave him ownership of the remainder of the mill pond and a tract that included an additional "piece of the manor [sic] plantation."<sup>18</sup>

Thomas Sheppard is thought to have built the handsome two-story farmhouse that bears his name around 1850. But the census of that year reveals the Sheppard household reduced in size to Thomas, age 40, his wife, Clementina, age 33, and a relative's or neighbor's child, Isabella Hassel, age 9. Deed records indicate that Sheppard's lands exceeded the 515 acres valued at \$1,750 reported in the 1850 census. Notwithstanding, on 100 acres of improved land with farm machinery valued at \$150, he is reported to have harvested 500 bushels of Indian corn, 30 bushels of peas and beans, 50 bushels of Irish potatoes, and 500 bushels of sweet potatoes. His livestock included 2 horses, 1 mule, 7 working oxen, 25 cattle and 80 swine, valued together at \$425. The value of homemade manufactures including 50 pounds of butter was \$50 and the value of animals slaughtered, \$550.<sup>19</sup> As Sheppard's lands increased, so too did his slaves; by 1850, he owned 23; 13 males and 10 females ranged in age from 6 months to 70 years.<sup>20</sup>

During the 1850s, Pitt County and other parts of North Carolina experienced a period of unprecedented agricultural growth and prosperity. Newspapers and agricultural publications in wide circulation brought farmers information about new and vigorous varieties of seeds, improved farm machinery, deep plowing, rotation of crops, and the use of lime and fertilizers. As a result, crop yields per acre increased

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and local markets were developed that offered farmers more and better opportunities to sell their produce.<sup>21</sup>

As the agricultural economy prospered, Thomas Sheppard acquired additional property in the area around his farm, and in 1855 purchased 1260 acres of land in a joint venture with William Eborn.<sup>22</sup> The two men established a steam mill on Grendall [sic] Creek, and briefly operated it in partnership before Eborn sold out to Sheppard in 1858. At that time, Eborn conveyed all interests in the steam mill along with "waggons [sic], mules and stock of every description, lumber or notes and many tools of every description and species that the said Eborn holds in common with the said Sheppard."<sup>23</sup> It is not recorded whether the mill on Grindle Creek continued operations afterward with Sheppard as the sole proprietor.

When the 1860 census was taken, Thomas Sheppard was 50 years old. Living with him were Clementina, age 43, Isabella, age 18, Elizabeth Moore, also age 18, and G. W. Squires, a day laborer. Now comfortably within the planter class, Sheppard owned 3,200 acres valued at \$10,000 and 36 slaves.<sup>24</sup> Of 19 males and 17 females, ranging in age from 1 to 47 years, the majority undoubtedly worked on the farm but a number of the men were likely assigned to the mill or mills as well.<sup>25</sup> Most of the Sheppard land was in forest for only 150 acres were recorded as improved and these farmed with machinery worth \$206. Typical of the times, harvests had increased; Indian corn (1,250 bushels) was still the primary crop but the output of peas/beans (1,050 bushels) and sweet potatoes (600 bushels) had expanded substantially as well. Production of Irish potatoes (20 bushels) alone had decreased. Newly-listed commodities included wheat and hay, (47 and 121 tons respectively), beeswax (30 pounds), honey (36 pounds) and orchard produce (valued at \$50). In 1860, Sheppard owned 5 horses, 4 mules, 15 milk cows, 3 working oxen, 30 other cattle, and 104 swine, together worth \$1,450, and to which the value of slaughtered animals added another \$455. Butter manufacture remained as before at 50 pounds.<sup>26</sup>

Between 1860 and 1864, the Civil War brought many changes to the farming community in Pitt County as planters and small farmers alike were impacted by Confederate conscription, the depletion of slave labor, interrupted commerce, food shortages, runaway inflation, and foraging by troops. Thomas Sheppard's age no doubt precluded service in the Confederate forces, and although one skirmish took place along Tranter's Creek, he likely remained on the plantation with his family.<sup>27</sup>

During the early Reconstruction period, Thomas Sheppard was listed in the 1870 census as a U. S. citizen 60 years old. He was considerably better off than many of his neighbors for he had retained ownership of 1,600 acres of land, then valued at \$1,665. Undoubtedly with the help of sharecroppers or tenants, 150 acres were still in cultivation, but farm machinery had declined in value to \$75 and production had fallen off. Only 250 bushels of Indian corn, 2 bales of cotton, 10 bushels of peas/beans, 20 bushels of Irish potatoes, 300 bushels of sweet potatoes, and \$75 worth of market garden produce were attributed to Sheppard that year. But 3 horses, 2 mules, 7 milk cows, 33 cattle, and 30 swine were valued at \$700, and other animals sold for slaughter at \$250.<sup>28</sup>

North Carolina's agrarian economy struggled to adapt to dramatic changes after the Civil War. With slavery abolished and money in short supply, farmers were forced to rely on credit supplied primarily through liens against future harvests. Creditors demanded the planting of market crops such as cotton,

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corn, and wheat. With these commodities in oversupply, farm prices collapsed in the mid 1870s, and the size of farms diminished as share cropping and tenant farming protracted poor economic conditions. Thomas Sheppard, seeking to earn a living more profitably than farming allowed, began a series of land sales in 1875 that continued through 1896.<sup>29</sup> Additionally, the Pitt County industrial censuses for 1870 and 1880 suggest that he leased the mill, and estate records reveal that he lent money to many neighbors and relatives during the Civil War and afterward, generally charging 8% interest.<sup>30</sup> At least once, Sheppard acquired a large tract of land that had been mortgaged to satisfy a sizable debt owed him.<sup>31</sup>

In 1880, the Sheppard farm produced a mere 35 bushels of Indian corn and 25 pounds of sweet potatoes on 20 acres. Produce was valued at \$100, farm machinery at \$10, and livestock, including 7 swine and 10 chickens, at \$10.<sup>32</sup> If his farming activities were atypical of the times, Thomas Sheppard's livelihood came largely from land sales, rents, and interest payments he collected. He also had another and more important reason to neglect farming for on August 4, 1882, Clementina, age 65, died of cancer after what was described as a painful struggle of more than two years duration. An obituary praised her as intelligent, cheerful, modest, and unassuming in manner. It was said that she won the love and esteem of all who knew her.<sup>33</sup>

Following Clementina's death, Thomas Sheppard lived on until 1900, increasingly known as an eccentric in the community. His infrequent visits to Greenville sometimes occasioned newspaper commentary. In January of 1891, it was reported that he had removed the last watermelon of his previous summer's crop from its storage place beneath his bed and cut into it.<sup>34</sup> In July 1890 he rebuked a young attorney who greeted him at the courthouse by informing him that he "had much to learn about the law" and that "all the lawyers who knew anything are dead."<sup>35</sup> One week before his death, he is said to have had his measurements taken for a coffin to be constructed from lumber processed at his mill for that purpose some 40 years prior.<sup>36</sup>

Thomas Sheppard's demise on May 2, 1900 caused a stir in northeast Pitt County for it was believed that he had died intestate, leaving a sizable sum of money hidden on his land. This prompted clandestine digging around the yard and stables at night before his will was discovered in a small notebook among his personal possessions along with almost ten thousand dollars contained in folded papers marked for devisees.<sup>37</sup>

Before the will was discovered, claims against the Sheppard estate were made by several persons alleging kinship or money promised for services rendered. Among them, Samuel Andrews, a nephew of Clementina Sheppard, and Belle Johnson (the former Isabella Hassel), had lived with the Sheppards both as children and adults, and after Thomas's death, submitted claims that reveal something of life on the Sheppard farm during the latter part of the nineteenth century.<sup>38</sup> Andrews allegedly picked cotton, killed chickens, caught rabbits, set out potatoes, cut wood, fished, rebuilt the mill, raised the dam, caught rats, mice, and muskrats in the mill, purchased shoes and clothes, and made numerous trips to Greenville, Pictolus, Washington, and Wilson presumably attending to Sheppard's business affairs, while Belle acted as a cook and housekeeper, mended clothes as needed, nursed Clementina Sheppard, and cared for a flock of chickens.<sup>39</sup>

James R. Congleton, appointed administrator of Thomas Sheppard's affairs, auctioned his personal property on June 8, 1900. Lots comprised of agricultural produce and livestock were far exceeded by

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items of furniture, machinery, tools, and household goods but 165 bushels of cotton seed, 881 pounds of seed cotton, 37 bushels of peanuts, 17 1/2 bushels of peas, 1 lot of pea hay, turpentine, 1 lot of bee gums, approximately 33 bushels of corn, 1 lot of walnuts, 23 hogs, 1 mule, 277 pounds of pork, and 60 pounds of lard went to the highest bidders. Among other articles sold, of particular interest was an early "wash machine."<sup>40</sup>

Thomas Sheppard's real property in Pitt and Martin Counties was offered at auction over two years later on October 13, 1902. Although land in Martin County sold well, pre-sale publicity was apparently not sufficient to attract buyers for the Pitt County property. The property "known as the 'Shepard' [sic] Mill" and "including land covered by the pond to the high water mark and mill race to the county road" was bid in by Henry N. Gray for a mere \$319. Other parcels including the "homeplace" failed to sell.<sup>41</sup>

A resale of the lands in Pitt County was ordered by the court, and documents filed in January 1903 carefully note that advertising for the sale was placed for a period of four weeks "in the *Eastern Reflector*, a paper published in Greenville, on posters placed at several public places in said county, at the Court House door in Greenville, and scattered extensively over the county." On December 1, the mill was sold again, this time to C. T. Mumford and E. A. Moye as part of a collective lot for \$5,100 that included the "homeplace" on 225 acres and a large adjoining parcel containing 1,325 acres. These men shortly assigned their bid to Charles McLawhorn and John Richard Barnhill who purchased the property in 1903.

Descendants report that neither Barnhill nor McLawhorn occupied the farmhouse.<sup>42</sup> It was, instead, rented to tenants who raised cotton and later tobacco as leaf sales at warehouses in nearby Greenville began to generate profits for farmers. Demand for the mill's services had apparently decreased for in 1906, Barnhill and McLawhorn limited its operations to two days per week.<sup>43</sup>

After twenty-one years in partnership, Barnhill and McLawhorn divided the land in 1924 with the former taking possession of the house tract and mill and the latter, the mill pond.<sup>44</sup> At the senior Barnhill's demise in 1931, a son, James Kelly Barnhill inherited the house tract, mill, and 900 acres then known as "the Sheppard and Riley Baker land" along with "all horses and mules, wagons, carts, and other personal property including farming utensils and tools." This generous bequest was deemed to be "more than J. K. Barnhill's share" and he was required to divide \$10,000, payable in annual sums of \$2,000 for a five-year period, among other family members.<sup>45</sup> As the Depression set in, however, the younger Barnhill found it necessary to convey a sizable tract of land to a sister in lieu of cash. Despite this, milling operations, profits from a store he established nearby, and farm produce of corn, beans, cotton, and tobacco soon restored his financial health.<sup>46</sup>

Tobacco in particular was a lucrative crop, and in the 1930s, J. K. Barnhill was able to install electricity in the house, enclose the shed porch as a bathroom, and add a kitchen house southwest of the main house.<sup>47</sup> He also constructed the tenant house and the contributing outbuildings during this period.<sup>48</sup>

With its stock barn, chicken house, hog pen, and tobacco buildings, J. K. Barnhill's farmstead illustrates the diversity of agriculture in Pitt County during the early-twentieth century. Around the county, tobacco buildings were common to most farmsteads of the time, but other outbuildings varied in size and supply according to particular livestock or agricultural emphases. The William Rueben James, Sr., Farm

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(SL, 1989) near Bethel has an extensive collection of early-twentieth-century outbuildings that includes a tobacco packhouse, a double-pen log stable, a frame stable with a hayloft, a corn crib, two implement sheds, and a smokehouse, and the Alfred McLawhorn Farm (SL, 1989) near Winterville retains a tobacco packhouse and seven tobacco barns from the early-twentieth century, and a smokehouse, a corn crib, and a stable from the late-nineteenth century.<sup>49</sup>

When J. K. Barnhill died in 1950, his heirs sold 225 acres that included the house tract to J. C. White and Raymond Heath in 1955 to settle his estate. After White and Heath, a rapid succession of owners included J. C. Kirkman and sons in 1958, Thomas and William Talley in 1960 (purchasing only 94.5 acres with the house and mill), James and Stella Singleton in 1966, and Noel and Cassandra Lee in 1974.<sup>50</sup> While various owners raised tobacco and cotton on the land during this period, the house was often leased to tenants and increasingly neglected. Largely vacant after 1980, it and the present 36.858 acres were purchased by Wade Yarborough in 1992.<sup>51</sup> Yarborough, together with a partner, Darrell Poovey, undertook a detailed restoration of the house, taking great care to preserve original components while making necessary repairs and installing modern mechanical systems. Today, the Thomas Sheppard House, owned by Patrick and Sonia Fiscus, is operated as a bed and breakfast inn. In tandem with the lodging operations, Sonia Fiscus operates a tea room and dining facility in the Mannor House and an antiques shop in the Tobacco Packhouse.

### ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT:

At mid-nineteenth century, domestic architecture in eastern North Carolina reflected traditional building patterns and slow adoption of stylistic trends. Two-story, rectangular, gable-roof dwellings like the Sheppard farmhouse originated in English folk culture, and continued as the preferred house form among the wealthy elite. Generally constructed with heavy timber frames and flanked by exterior end chimneys, such dwellings were often enlarged by the addition of rear shed rooms and extended by porches on the front facade. Although center passage plans had largely replaced two-room plans by mid century, a few farmers and planters, like Thomas Sheppard, still constructed dwellings with entries directly into the principal rooms.

The size, craftsmanship, and stylized woodwork of dwellings like the Thomas Sheppard House were intended to convey the owner's social status. Along with many traditional elements typical of the time, including a brick foundation, a gable roof, single-shouldered end chimneys, and symmetrical fenestration, the dwelling also has a pedimented projecting entry portico embellished with a fully developed entablature and supported by fluted Doric columns and interior woodwork that expresses academic Greek Revival influences derived from pattern books.

Two-story gable-roofed houses were constructed by prosperous Pitt County planters and farmers for many years, but those surviving from the Antebellum period are extremely scarce. An architectural survey made in Pitt County during 1988 and 1989 identified only a small number of dwellings of the same approximate age as the Thomas Sheppard House that are intact and potentially eligible for the National Register. The best comparable is the Wedigan Mathias Moore, II, House (SL 1989), constructed ca. 1845. Although it was constructed a few years earlier than the Thomas Sheppard House and with a center-hall plan, it, too, is an opulent farmhouse and uncommon for academic decorative details. Here a front facade of five bays features a full-width shed porch with squared columns and robust molded

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capitals, a sidelit and transomed entry surrounded by flush sheathing, and a cornice defined by large modillion blocks. Interior detailing highlights sophisticated Federal/Greek Revival mantels in the parlors and door surrounds with individualized cornerblock ornaments.

Other rural Pitt County builders of the period retained traditional forms but added less ornament, creating much simpler interpretations of the Greek Revival style. The William Gray Little House, ca. 1858, and the Ichabod H. Little House (SL 1989), ca. 1860, are three bay I-houses with center hall plans and fewer decorative details. The William Gray Little House features a double-leaf front entry surmounted by a three-paned transom and surrounded by a molded architrave, and interior doors with marbleizing and wood graining, while the Ichabod H. Little House has a symmetrically molded front door surround with side lights and transom and first-floor mantels with Greek fretwork and applied geometric ornament.<sup>52</sup>

With outstanding Greek Revival details that enhance its traditional character, the Thomas Sheppard House is unusual in Pitt County. The dwelling preserves an important record of the spatial arrangements, construction techniques, building materials, and stylish enhancements chosen by an antebellum planter ca. 1850.

## Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Author's interview with Roscoe Barnhill, a relative of James Kelly Barnhill, 3 March, 1997.

<sup>2</sup> Barnhill interview.

<sup>3</sup> Author's interview with Sonia Fiscus, owner of Sheppard Mill Farm, 2 March 1999. Mrs. Fiscus reports that a long-time resident of the area provided this information.

<sup>4</sup> Power, Scott, and Sarah Boat, *The Historic Architecture of Pitt County, North Carolina*, Greenville, Pitt County Historical Society, 1991, p. 61.

<sup>5</sup> Poovey interview.

<sup>6</sup> Barnhill interview.

<sup>7</sup> Power and Boat, p. 515.

<sup>8</sup> Barnhill interview.

<sup>9</sup> Pitt County Register of Deeds, Book F, pp. 287-88.

<sup>10</sup> Popular local tradition relates that the Thomas Sheppard Farm was part of a large tract around and including the Briery Creek swamp that was granted to Robert and Henry Hodges by agents of the English crown in 1744-45. These men reportedly conveyed 225 or 250 acres to James and Jordan Sheppard, brothers, in 1791, and they, together with an uncle, Colonel Alexander Stewart, a prominent Episcopal minister and civil engineer, are said to have designed a long earthen dam built by slave labor across Briery Creek and put a mill into service before 1760. The mill and surrounding lands allegedly remained in the Sheppard family, passing to Solomon, a son of James or Jordan, and then to Solomon's son, Thomas. Documentation on file in the Pitt County Register of Deeds office does not support this account. During the mid-eighteenth century, land granted to settlers in eastern North Carolina was limited to parcels of 645 acres located at least two miles distant from one another, and Alexander Stewart, among others, appears to have been a land speculator, filing claims for property widely scattered throughout what is now Pitt County. Although Stewart owned land in the Briery Swamp, early deeds that establish his ownership, or part ownership, in a mill describe a structure in the Beaver Dam Swamp, an area thought to be in northwestern Pitt County near Farmville. Other deeds reveal that James and Jordan Sheppard had claimed land in the vicinity of Tranter's Creek, but no record could be found that establishes their interests in a mill.

<sup>11</sup> Anderson, Jean Bradley, *Durham County*, Durham, Duke University Press, 1990, pp. 49-51.

<sup>12</sup> Pitt County Register of Deeds, Book P, p. 44.

<sup>13</sup> Pitt County Register of Deeds, Book N, p. 49.

<sup>14</sup> Pitt County Register of Deeds, Book N, p. 39.

<sup>15</sup> Pitt County Register of Deeds, Book HH, p. 97.

<sup>16</sup> Pitt County Register of Deeds, Book HH, p. 403.

<sup>17</sup> US Census, 1840, Pitt County, Perkins District, Population Schedule, p. 34.

<sup>18</sup> Pitt County Register of Deeds, Book SS, p. 319, Levi Yates to Thomas Sheppard, Book KK, p. 392, Margaret (widow of Simon A. Congleton) and Samuel Holliday to Thomas Sheppard, Book SS, p. 179, Elizabeth Brown and James Rollins to Thomas Sheppard.

<sup>19</sup> US Census, 1850, Pitt County, Perkins District, Agricultural Schedule, p. 157.

<sup>20</sup> US Census, 1850, Pitt County, Slave Schedule.

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- <sup>21</sup> Lefler, Hugh T., and Albert R. Newsome, *The History of a Southern State, North Carolina*, Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina, 1954, p. 369-71.
- <sup>22</sup> Pitt County Register of Deeds, Book NN, pp. 344-345, John Moore and wife to Thomas Sheppard, Book SS, pp. 321, David Langley to Thomas Sheppard, Book SS, pp. 184-185, J. L. Smith to Thomas Sheppard and William Eborn.
- <sup>23</sup> Pitt County Register of Deeds, Book SS, pp. 320-321.
- <sup>24</sup> A planter is defined as owning at least 1000 acres of land and 20 slaves prior to the Civil War.
- <sup>25</sup> US Census, 1860, Pitt County, Slave Schedule, p. 28.
- <sup>26</sup> US Census, 1860, Pitt County, Pactolus District, Agricultural Schedule, p. 13.
- <sup>27</sup> King, H. T., *Roster of Pitt County Confederate Soldiers*, typescript document in North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, 1922. King does not list Thomas J. Sheppard as having served in the Confederate forces during the Civil War. See also Pitt County Potpourri, typescript document in North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, 1966, p. 57.
- <sup>28</sup> US Census, 1870, Pitt County, Pactolus District, Population and Agricultural Schedules.
- <sup>29</sup> Pitt County Register of Deeds, Grantors Index, p. 68. Land sales made by Thomas Sheppard: E. P. Holiday, 1875, Levi Yates, 1878, Joseph Pollard, 1883, Silas Langley, 1885, Henry Mobley, 1885, Bryant Whitehurst, 1889, W. H. Rollins, 1892, and H. N. Gray, 1894, and the Greenleaf Lumber Co., two sales, 1896.
- <sup>30</sup> US Census, 1870 and 1880, Pitt County, Pactolus Township, Industrial Schedules, 1870 and 1880. Only J. V. Perkins, Lyddia Gray, and W. G. Meyell (?) are listed as millers.
- <sup>31</sup> Pitt County Register of Deeds, Book NN, p. 302.
- <sup>32</sup> US Census, 1880, Pitt County, Pactolus Township, Agricultural Schedule, p. 28.
- <sup>33</sup> Eastern Reflector, August 16, 1882.
- <sup>34</sup> Eastern Reflector, January 7, 1891.
- <sup>35</sup> Daily Reflector July 23, 1898.
- <sup>36</sup> Daily Reflector, "Pitt's Past" by Roger Kammerer.
- <sup>37</sup> Pitt County Estate Records, Estate of Thomas Sheppard, 1900, 1901, 1902, Raleigh, NC State Library.
- <sup>38</sup> King's Weekly, Vol. 8, October 18, 1901, p. 2. See also Sheppard Estate Records.
- <sup>39</sup> Sheppard Estate Records. Samuel Andrews and Belle Johnson claim portions of Thomas Sheppard's estate in return for services they allegedly performed.
- <sup>40</sup> Sheppard Estate Records.
- <sup>41</sup> Sheppard Estate Records.
- <sup>42</sup> Barnhill interview.
- <sup>43</sup> Eastern Reflector, April 6, 1906, advertises mill days at the Sheppard Mill operated by Barnhill and McLohon [sic] on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- <sup>44</sup> Pitt County Register of Deeds, Book N-15, p. 248.
- <sup>45</sup> Pitt County Estate Records, Estate of John Richard Barnhill, 1928, Raleigh, NC State Library.
- <sup>46</sup> Barnhill interview.
- <sup>47</sup> Barnhill interview.
- <sup>48</sup> Barnhill interview.
- <sup>49</sup> Power and Boat, pp. 161-165.
- <sup>50</sup> Pitt County Register of Deeds, Books Q-31, p. 410, Y-35, p. 98, L-12, p. 175.
- <sup>51</sup> Pitt County Register of Deeds, Book 343, p. 433.
- <sup>52</sup> Power and Boat, p. 520.

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Grantors Index

#### U. S. Census Records for Pitt County:

Population Schedules: 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880

Agricultural Schedules: 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880

Slave Schedules: 1850, 1860

Industrial Schedules: 1870, 1880

#### Newspapers:

Eastern Reflector, August 16, 1882, January 7, 1891

Daily Reflector, July 23, 1898, April 6, 1906

King's Weekly, Vol. 8, October 18, 1901

#### Pitt County Estate Records:

Estate of Thomas Sheppard, 1900, 1901, 1902

Estate of John Richard Barnhill, 1928

#### Author's Interviews:

Roscoe Barnhill, relative of James Kelly Barnhill, 3 March 1997

Sonia Fiscus, owner of Sheppard Mill Farm, 2 March 1999

Darrell Poovey, restored Sheppard Farmhouse in 1992-93, 13 November 1998

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### 10. UTM REFERENCES FOR THE THOMAS SHEPPARD FARM, PITT COUNTY, NC:

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A.	18	300050	3952260
B.	18	300300	3951900
C.	18	300000	3951845
D.	18	299850	3951940
E.	18	299920	3952200

### BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the property included in the Thomas Sheppard Farm nomination is shown on the survey map entitled *Survey for Patrick James Fiscus and Sonia M. Fiscus*. It includes one parcel of 36.858 acres belonging to Patrick and Sonia Fiscus, and is extended to include the northwest corner and shed of a tobacco barn shown on the survey but located on adjoining property belonging to Noel and Cassandra Lee. The Fiscus property is described and recorded in Volume 343, page 433 in the Pitt County Register of Deeds Office, Greenville, North Carolina. The Lee property is described and recorded in Volume L-42, page 175 in the Pitt County Register of Deeds Office, Greenville, North Carolina.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundary encompasses 36.858 acres around the Thomas Sheppard House, and includes the land on which the outbuildings, fields, and woodlands that have historically comprised the core of the farm are located. Though the actual acreage of the farm has varied throughout its history, the present boundary is sufficient to convey the historic context of the property and to protect its architectural and agricultural character.

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### Owner's List

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The Thomas Sheppard Farm is owned by Patrick and Sonia Fiscus. However Building #7, the tobacco barn, straddles the western boundary of Thomas Sheppard Farm such that the majority of the building lies on the Fiscus property and the northwest corner and attached shed extend onto adjoining land that belongs to Noel and Cassandra Lee.

1. Patrick and Sonia Fiscus  
3173 Sheppard Mill Rd.  
Stokes, NC 27884.
2. Noel and Cassandra Lee  
Rt. 3, Box 62  
Washington, NC 27889

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All photographs are of:  
**The Thomas Sheppard Farm**  
Pitt County, North Carolina  
Betsy Gohdes-Baten, photographer

Photographs and negatives are on file with the Survey and Planning Branch of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC. (Letters in parenthesis correspond to locations on Exhibit A: the Thomas Sheppard Farm Site Map).

1 (A). DATE: March 2, 1999

VIEW OF: South and east elevations of Thomas Sheppard House, view facing northwest.

2 (B) DATE: March 27, 1997

VIEW OF: South elevation and wing of Thomas Sheppard House, view facing north.

3 (C). DATE: March 27, 1997

VIEW OF: Entry on east elevation of Thomas Sheppard House, view facing west.

4 (D). DATE: March 27, 1997

VIEW OF: West facade of Thomas Sheppard House with wing, view facing east.

5 (E). DATE: March 27, 1997

VIEW OF: Mantel in north parlor of Thomas Sheppard House, view facing north.

6 (F). DATE: March 27, 1997

VIEW OF: Stair hall in Thomas Sheppard House, view facing east.

7 (G). DATE: March 27, 1997

VIEW OF: Interior of entry door in south parlor of Thomas Sheppard House, view facing east.

8 (H). DATE: March 27, 1997

VIEW OF: Door to north bedroom in rear shed of Thomas Sheppard House, view facing north.

9 (I). DATE: March 27, 1997

VIEW OF: Cornerblock detail in Thomas Sheppard House, view facing west.

10 (J). DATE: March 27, 1997

VIEW OF: North and east facades of Mannor House, view facing southwest.

11 (K). DATE: March 27, 1997

VIEW OF: Interior of Mannor House showing boxed stair, view facing north.

12 (L). DATE: March 2, 1999

VIEW OF: South facades of Well Houses west of Thomas Sheppard House, view facing north.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Thomas Sheppard Farm  
Pitt County, NC

Section number      Photo      Page   18  

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13 (M). DATE: March 27, 1997

VIEW OF: North facade of Tenant House, view facing south.

14 (N). DATE: March 2, 1999

VIEW OF: South facade of Stock Barn, view facing north.

15 (O). DATE: March 27, 1997

VIEW OF: East facade of Chicken House, view facing west.

16 (P). DATE: March 27, 1997

VIEW OF: North facade of Smokehouse, view facing south.

17 (Q). DATE: March 27, 1997

VIEW OF: East facade of Hog Pen, view facing southwest.

18 (R). DATE: March 27, 1997

VIEW OF: North and west facades of Tobacco Packhouse, view facing southeast.

19 (S). DATE: March 27, 1997

VIEW OF: South and east facades of Tobacco Barn, view facing northwest.

20 (T). DATE: March 2, 1999

VIEW OF: Grove of trees thought to contain Thomas Sheppard Slave Cemetery, view facing south.

Exhibit B: Thomas Sheppard House Floor Plans

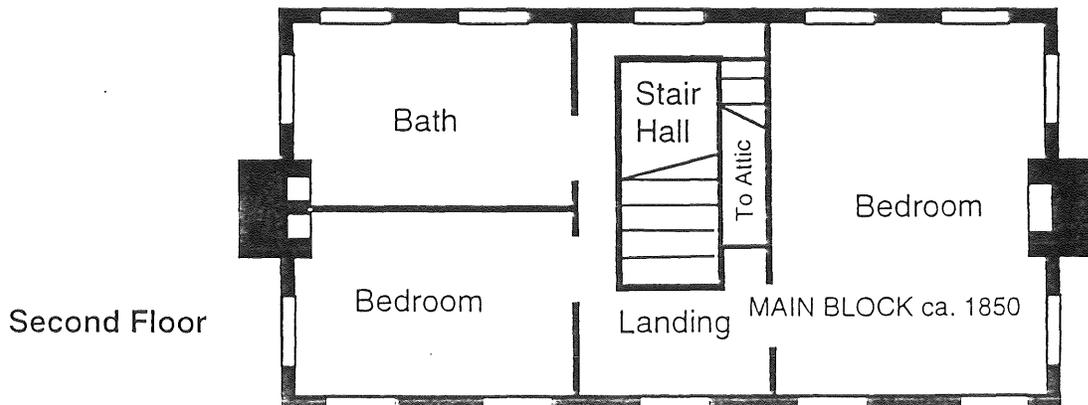
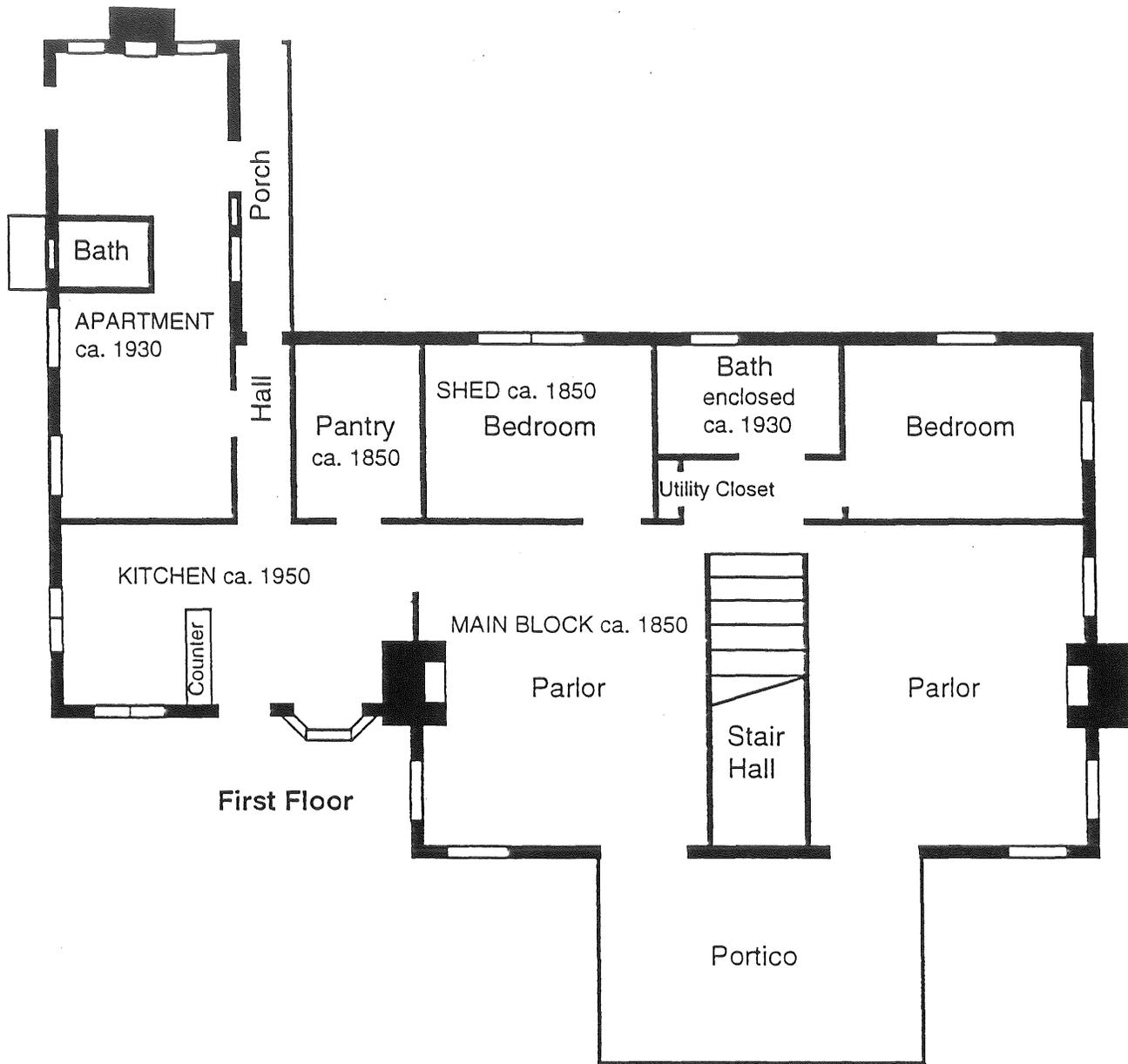
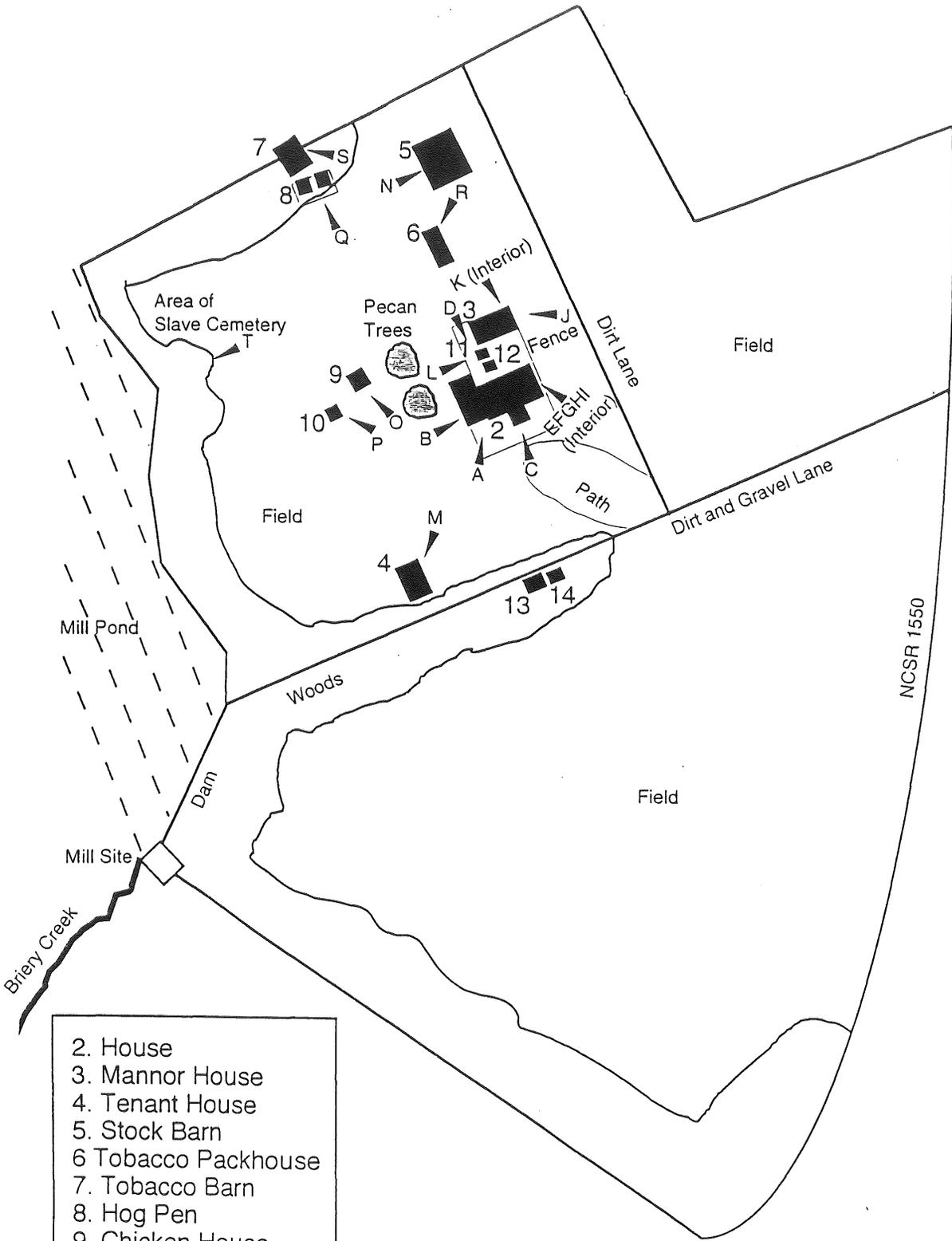


Exhibit A: Thomas Sheppard Farm Site Map



- 2. House
- 3. Manor House
- 4. Tenant House
- 5. Stock Barn
- 6 Tobacco Packhouse
- 7. Tobacco Barn
- 8. Hog Pen
- 9. Chicken House
- 10. Smokehouse
- 11. Frame Well House
- 12. Brick Well House
- 13. Ruinous Barn
- 14. Ruinous Barn

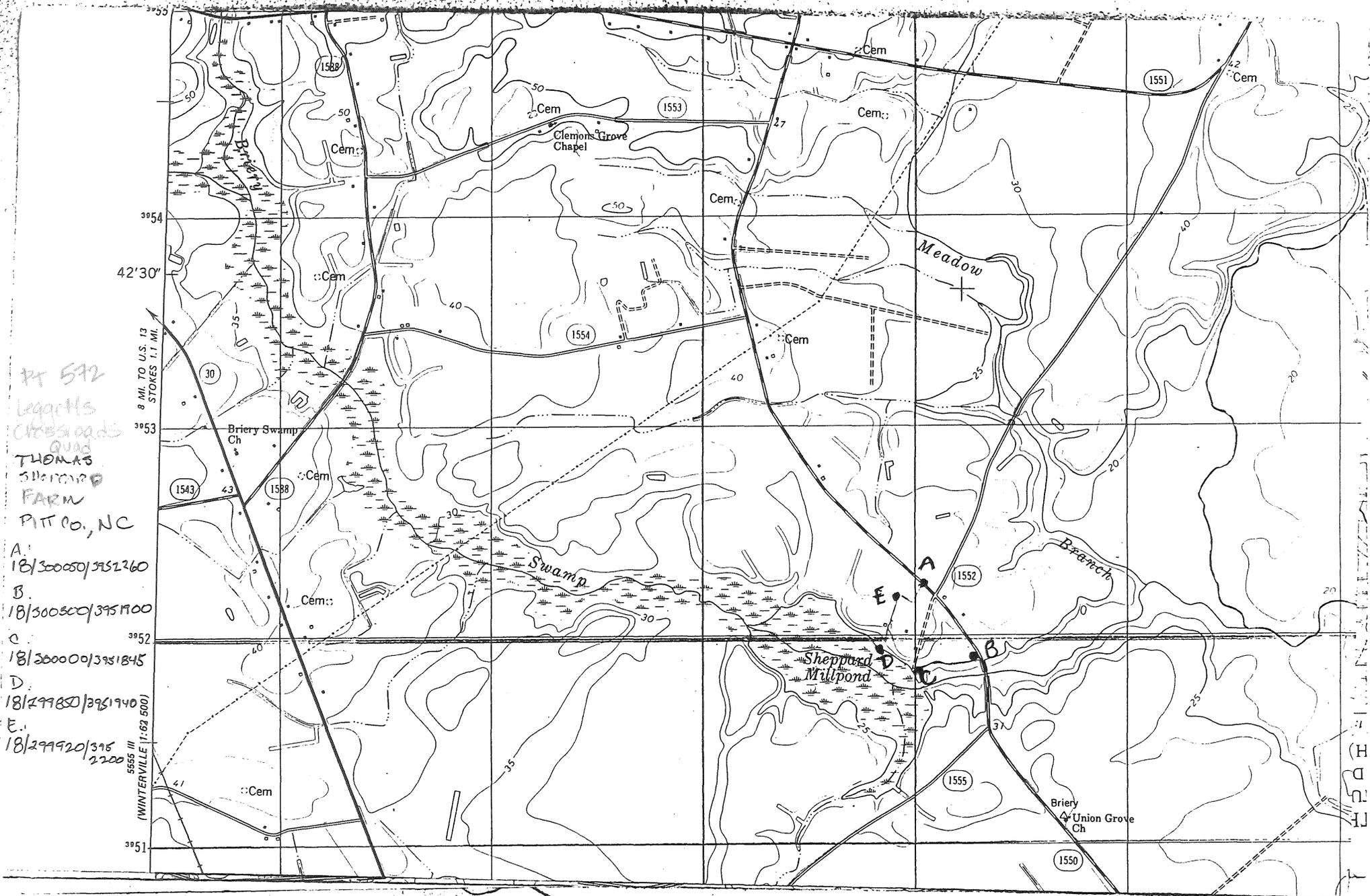
NCSR 1550

Pt 572  
 Leggett's  
 Crossroads  
 Quad  
 THOMAS  
 SHEPARD  
 FARM  
 PITT CO., NC

- A: 18/300050/3952360
- B: 18/300050/3951100
- C: 18/300000/3951845
- D: 18/299850/3951940
- E: 18/299920/3952200

9 MI. TO U.S. 13  
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