

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm**

Ellerbe vicinity, Richmond County, RH0375, Listed 1/17/2008

Nomination by Daniel Pezzoni

Photographs by Daniel Pezzoni, July 2006



Façade view of Brookshire House



Corn crib/guano house and dependencies

**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 an 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 Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm  
other names/site number Summer Duck Farm

**2. Location**

street & number 1881 East NC 73 N/A not for publication  
city or town Ellerbe X vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Richmond code 153 zip code 28338

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  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.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
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 certifying official/Title Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm  
Name of Property

Richmond County, N.C.  
County and State

### 5. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

#### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

#### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	3	buildings
1	0	sites
3	3	structures
1	0	objects
11	6	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

N/A

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions

(Enter categories and subcategories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE: animal facility

AGRICULTURE: storage

AGRICULTURE: processing

AGRICULTURE: agricultural field

FUNERARY: cemetery

#### Current Functions

(Enter categories and subcategories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE: storage

AGRICULTURE: agricultural field

FUNERARY: cemetery

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Late Victorian

#### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Glass, Concrete, Stone

#### Narrative Description

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

Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm  
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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- 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.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

Ca. 1870-1957

### Significant Dates

Ca. 1870, 1937

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Lauder, George, workshop (tombstone maker)  
McElwee & Pate (tombstone maker)

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

## 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm  
Name of Property

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County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** Approximately 25 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>601320</u>	<u>3888800</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u>601290</u>	<u>3888190</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>601760</u>	<u>3888500</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>601070</u>	<u>3888400</u>

See continuation sheet

### 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 J. Daniel Pezzoni  
organization Landmark Preservation Associates date May 30, 2007  
street & number 6 Houston St. telephone 540.464.5315  
city or town Lexington state VA zip code 24450

### 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name John R. Georgius  
street & number 1881 East NC 73 telephone 910.439.6753  
city or town Mt. Gilead state NC zip code 27306

**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 listing. 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Park Service

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Richmond County, N.C.

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### **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

#### **Summary**

The Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm, also known by the modern name Summer Duck Farm, is located at 1881 East NC 73 in northwest Richmond County, North Carolina, approximately eight miles northwest of the closest nearest community, the town of Ellerbe. The sparsely populated northwest area of the county, referred to as the county's panhandle, is characterized by farmland and forest—most of the latter reforested farmland—with scattered historic and modern dwellings and other buildings. The nominated area comprises the historic core of the farm and encompasses approximately twenty-five acres on the east side of Buffalo Creek near its confluence with the Little River. The nominated area includes a knoll that rises to approximately 270 feet above sea level on which the Brookshire House (the principal dwelling on the farm) and associated resources stand. The grounds around the house are planted with walnut trees, willow oaks, magnolias, boxwoods, and other tree and shrub species. Spreading between the farmhouse and NC 73, which bounds the nominated area on the north side, is a modern vineyard that covers approximately twenty acres in its entirety. The Brookshire House faces north towards NC 73, located approximately a thousand feet from the house. Most of the adjoining acreage (historically part of the farm) is comprised of forested river bottomland at an elevation of approximately 200 feet above sea level.

The Brookshire House is a story-and-a-half frame dwelling that was probably built in the early 1870s. Its principal exterior features include weatherboard siding, an asphalt-shingled gable roof, and a front porch with Victorian ornament. The center-passage plan interior has plaster-and-lath wall and ceiling finishes, wood floors, and twentieth century mantels. Behind the house is a group of outbuildings that includes two frame dependencies, a frame barn, a corncrib and guano house of square-notched sawn plank construction, a stone flowerhouse, and a modern pool in a screened enclosure. To the west and down slope is a large gambrel-roofed frame barn. Miscellaneous other buildings and structures, mostly modern, dot the grounds. To the northeast of the farmhouse on a wooded rise lies the Powell-Brookshire Cemetery, which contains a number of finely carved marble monuments from the antebellum and post-bellum periods as well as several vernacular markers and numerous grave depressions marked with fieldstones.

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### **Inventory**

#### *Contributing resources*

1. Brookshire House. Early 1870s; mid-20<sup>th</sup> c.; mid-1990s. Contributing building.
2. Dependency. Late 19<sup>th</sup> c.; ca. 1940. Contributing building.
3. Dependency. Ca. 1940. Contributing building.
4. Flowerhouse. Ca. 1940. Contributing building.
5. Corncrib and guano house. Late 19<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing structure.
6. Barn. Early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
7. Watering trough. Early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing object.
8. Hog butchering scaffold. Ca. 1940. Contributing structure.
9. Stock and hay barn. 1937. Contributing building.
10. Gate. Early/mid-20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing structure.
11. Powell-Brookshire Cemetery. 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing site.

#### *Noncontributing resources*

12. Pumphouse. Late 20<sup>th</sup> c. Noncontributing structure.
13. Swimming pool. 1993. Noncontributing structure.
14. Chickenhouse. 1990s. Noncontributing building.
15. Kennel. Ca. 1993. Noncontributing structure.
16. Shed. Ca. 1993. Noncontributing building.
17. Garage. 1990s. Noncontributing building.

### **Brookshire House**

The story-and-a-half Brookshire House has a conventional side-gable rectangular form with a one-story front porch and one-story side wings from the historic period and an extensive one-story modern porch across the rear. The dominant exterior feature is the front porch, which extends most of the way across the three-bay façade. The porch has chamfered posts with unusual lobate sawn brackets. Between the posts spans a sawn balustrade with a stylized vasiform repeat. The side balustrade panels attach to chamfered newel-like boards on the house wall. The porch has a mid-twentieth century concrete floor and a recent natural finish beaded tongue-and-groove panel ceiling, and it shelters a center front entry with sidelights and a narrow seven-pane transom. The double door leaves each have two panels, one above the other.

Under the house roof runs a wide friezeboard with frieze and cornice returns in the gables. On the front (north) face of the roof are three gabled dormers and on the back is a shed dormer. The dormers, the stretcher-bond brick underpinning that encloses the original foundation, and the

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stretcher-bond brick den chimney date to the mid-twentieth century. The brick chimney serving the living room was reconstructed in the 1990s. The brick chimney on the east gable end may date to the nineteenth century or early twentieth century, although the smooth red stretcher-bond brick of its upper section appears to date to the mid-twentieth century. The house is reported to have stone foundation piers at the corners and other piers of handmade brick inside the brick underpinning. The corner boards have caps with canted moldings.

A wide screen porch was added across the back of the house in the mid-1990s. The porch has a Chinese Chippendale railing, a natural finish beaded tongue-and-groove panel ceiling, and a mid- or late-twentieth century brick well curb that may mark the location of a historic well. The house wall under the back porch has vinyl siding. Two gabled wings extend from the east and west gable ends of the original section of the house. The east kitchen wing appears to date to the mid-twentieth century. The smaller west wing, which has an engaged back porch with a five-panel door, may date to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century but was remodeled in the mid-twentieth century and again in the mid-1990s. It contains a den.

Most exterior wall planes have fenestration with single or grouped window openings of conventional upright rectangular form. The windows have recent replacement double-hung false-muntin sashes. The twentieth-century dormers have smaller window openings as does the east kitchen wing; the windows of this wing presumably date to a mid-twentieth century remodeling. A laundry room extends across the rear elevation with a continuous row of windows facing into the back porch. Also on this elevation is a sliding door that communicates with the kitchen. The modern landscaping and sprinkler system around the house was installed by Bryant's Turf of Rockingham.

The front entry opens into a wide center passage that is divided into a front section and a shorter rear section by a partition with a four-panel door. A one-run stair rises from the back section so that its upper part passes through the front section. The stair's square newels and balusters, molded handrail, and risers and treads all appear to be mid- to late-twentieth century replacements, although the stair location itself is probably original. A widened opening on the west wall of the front passage connects to a living room that features a mid-twentieth century Colonial Revival post-and-lintel mantel with fluted pilasters, a dentil bed molding, urn and festoon motifs on the frieze, and a black granite hearth and fireplace surround. The room on the opposite, east side of the center passage is accessed through a four-panel door and features a mid-twentieth century built-in glass-fronted china cabinet. This and a connection to the kitchen wing through a panel door next to the east chimney suggests the room has functioned as a dining room since at least the mid-twentieth century.

The kitchen has a brick chimney breast with a raised brick hearth and a wood mantel shelf. The den in the west wing connects to the living room and an adjacent back room through doorways



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with four-panel doors. The den is finished with knotty pine, has a brick mantel with a molded wood shelf and a terra-cotta tile hearth. Behind the two front rooms in the main section of the house are two small rooms. Both back rooms have two double-panel closet doors. These doors plus the simple fillet door surrounds throughout the first floor are the principal Greek Revival-influenced features of the interior. The original function of the two back rooms is unknown for certain although the presence of what appears to be nineteenth century closets suggests they functioned as bed chambers either originally or early in the history of the house. The second floor was redone in the mid-twentieth century with knotty pine wall and ceiling finishes. Presumably originally the second floor contained two bed chambers with the stair rising into a center passage or into one of the rooms. Modern partitions now divide the space into two bedrooms and a bathroom with an enclosure at the top of the stairs. The second floor has low knotty pine doors opening to storage spaces in the eaves, modern sliding closet doors, and doorways with hollow-core doors and ranch trim.

### **Domestic and Agricultural Outbuildings**

The outbuilding description is keyed to the inventory by numbers in parentheses. Directly behind the house are two one-story frame dependencies. The larger of these (2) most recently served for food storage. The late-nineteenth century building has a metal-sheathed front-gable roof, vinyl siding, and two rear shed additions that date to different periods. It is entered from a recessed corner porch with a recent Chinese Chippendale railing and two five-panel doors that may date to the late 1930s or 1940s. The windows have modern sashes. The principal room, which comprises the historic core of the building, served as a freezer room. It has a terra-cotta tile floor and paneled walls and ceiling, finishes that suggest it was made into a freezer room in the mid-twentieth century or later. The formerly exterior west wall, now enclosed by an early- to mid-twentieth century extension of the building, has circular-sawn board-and-batten siding attached with cut nails and bearing traces of whitewash. Traces of an earlier gable roof with exposed rafter ends are apparent in the extension. The west rear shed addition contains a wood-fired furnace that heated water for a radiator heating system in the house. The furnace and the shed that contains it probably date to the late 1930s or 1940s. The proximity of the nineteenth century building core to the rear of the house suggests it originally served as a meat house or some other function related to the operation of the household (if it was a meat house its later conversion to a freezer room would have perpetuated its use for meat storage). The second and smaller dependency (3) appears to date to ca. 1940 and may have served as a workshop, canning shed, or similar function. It is of circular-sawn frame construction with German weatherboard siding, a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, a rear shed wing that probably dates to soon after original construction, and two small one-over-one windows and a wood and glass panel door that suggest the building dates to the mid-twentieth century. Next to it stands a farm bell on a post. The bell is old but whether it is original to the farm is unknown.

Farther behind the house are outbuildings with agricultural and horticultural functions. The

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easternmost of these is a small rock flowerhouse (4) with a metal-sheathed shed roof and south-facing six-pane windows (now missing their glass). The windows and an entry that once contained a wood panel door are edged with brickwork to provide a more secure attachment for their jambs than the rock would have allowed. The door and window surrounds, roof fascia boards, and exposed rafters have traces of red paint. The wire-nailed roof structure indicates the building is twentieth century and may in fact date to the 1930s or 1940s. Resting on the dirt floor are wooden plant stands. Near the flowerhouse is a mid- to late-twentieth century brick pumphouse (12) of small rectangular form with a new lift-off roof for access. The pumphouse may date to the historic period (before 1958) but because of uncertainty about its date it is classified as a noncontributing structure.

To the southwest of the house stands a late-nineteenth century corncrib and guano house (5) with a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. The one-story building consists of two long rectangular cribs constructed of thick sawn planks square-notched and cut-nailed together like logs. Some corners are covered with wide corner boards. The cribs have a metal mesh inner lining. Between the cribs is a compartment that served for storing fertilizer (guano) with a metal lining and roofing metal attached to the back to protect the fertilizer from rain. The cribs and guano compartment have wire-nailed batten doors hung on triangular strap hinges. The slightly projecting gables are weatherboarded on the north end and flush board sheathed on the south end. Tie rods run through the building to rigidify its structure. The building is lifted high off the ground on tall stone piers with a few cinder block piers inserted for additional support. The building has hewn sills, log floor joists, and common rafters butted and nailed at the ridge. Behind the building is a ca. 1993 swimming pool (13) in a screened enclosure with an attached shed-roofed pumphouse.

Farther west is an early-twentieth century two-level barn (6) of wire-nailed frame construction. The barn has a metal-sheathed front-gable roof, vertical board siding, and stone footers. A central drive-through runs longitudinally through the building north to south. The animal stalls that line the drive-through have vertical board enclosures with slatted openings at the top. Overhead is a hay loft with doors on the south and north ends and common rafters butted and nailed at the ridge. A modern open-ended and metal-sided shed addition for sheltering equipment extends on the west side. Behind the barn is a concrete-parged brick watering trough (7) that appears to date to the early twentieth century, presumably the same period as the barn. Beyond the barn and watering trough is a group consisting of a modern chickenhouse (14), kennel (15), and shed (16). The chickenhouse, built in the mid-1990s, is a small building of wire-nailed frame construction with vertical board siding and a corrugated metal-sheathed front-gable roof. It has a center door with a mesh opening at the top and a hatch at the bottom through which the chickens passed in and out. On each side of the door are mesh openings with flip-down batten shutters. The back (south) half of the building is an open-air mesh enclosure to which plywood has been tacked. The building was used only briefly for chickens and is now used intermittently to keep quail. The kennel has a concrete slab, a slightly pitched metal-sheathed shed roof, and wire cages. The small frame shed, which probably stores

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supplies for the kennel, has T1-11 siding and a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. The kennel and shed date to 1993 or 1994.

To the west of the house is a ca. 1940 hog butchering scaffold (8) constructed of poles wired together. A chain hangs from the horizontal pole and glass insulators are attached to the top of one of the vertical poles (the other end of the scaffold has two crossed pole supports like the legs of a sawhorse). The presence of the insulators suggests the vertical pole doubled as a power pole from the first generation of electrical service to the farm. Under the scaffold is a brick and iron firepit with a tub used to boil water for hog butchering. To the northwest of the house is a late-twentieth century one-vehicle garage (17) of vinyl-sided frame construction with a metal-sheathed front-gable roof, a concrete slab, and an aluminum garage door.

To the west of the hog butchering scaffold and garage, partway down the knoll on which the Brookshire House stands, is the farm's largest building, the 1937 stock and hay barn (9). The two-level weatherboarded frame barn has a battered concrete foundation and a metal-sheathed gambrel roof with exposed rafter ends, triangular brackets, and a hay bonnet on the north (front) end that shelters the exterior end of a hay fork rail. There are long slatted openings under the eaves for ventilation. The building has a longitudinal drive-through entered through large openings at the north and south ends. On the north end is a small door at the floor level of the hay mow. Above, at the top of the elevation, is a larger door that opens by sliding down iron tracks. A modern treated lumber exterior stair rises on the south end to a hay mow door. At the top of the south elevation is a six-over-six window. The drive-through on the barn's lower level is lined by animal stalls with Y-braced posts, board railings, and batten doors on triangular strap hinges. At the northwest corner is a store room (probably for animal feed) with the wood floor approximately three feet above grade. The hay mow is a single undivided space. It has wood floors with lift-up slatted panels for manger drops. At the north end, under the upper door, is a platform reached by a ladder. To each side of the upper door and extending below it are trackways for a system of cables and concrete weights that raised and lowered the door. At the top of the mow, suspended under the ridge, is a hay fork track. The metal hay fork itself is stored in a corner of the hay mow.

A farm lane passes in front of the stock and hay barn with a branch that continues southward. This may be a part of a road depicted on the 1886 McDuffie and Graham map that connected the historic road course of NC 73 with the Pee Dee River. The northernmost resource on the property is the stone gate (10) at the entrance to the driveway on NC 73. The gate, which probably dates to the early years of the W. H. Parker ownership in the late 1930s or 1940s but may be earlier, is constructed of two wall sections of dark irregular fieldstones set in concrete and has two modern metal gate leaves. The driveway is the principal historic circulatory feature on the property. It and an offshoot that leads to the stock and hay barn and the aforementioned road to the Pee Dee River are graveled.

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### **Powell-Brookshire Cemetery**

The Powell-Brookshire Cemetery (11) is located in a wooded area that is slightly higher than the surrounding agricultural fields and vineyard. Tombstone obit dates from the 1830s have been observed in the cemetery, indicating the cemetery was in use by that decade. The presence of numerous uninscribed fieldstone gravemarkers raises the possibility the cemetery was in use prior to the 1830s. Most graves appear to be aligned east-west in regular rows and in an approximately rectangular formation. The finest marble tombstones and the earliest dates have been observed at the northwest corner of the cemetery. The largest memorial in the group is that of Pleasant M. Powell (1805-60), the Powell family patriarch and the owner of the plantation on which the cemetery was established. Powell's monument has a rounded top defined by a bas relief roll molding and inscribed with Powell's name in a curved banner. There is an interesting if apocryphal local tradition related to this grave that claims Powell was buried sitting in a chair due to severe arthritis. The P. M. Powell monument and several others in the group are inscribed "Lauder, Fayette[ville]." Some of the tabular Lauder markers have decoratively carved tops of varying complexity. The top of the headstone of Elizabeth Manly (1768-1855) has symmetrical wave-like folds whereas the headstone of Hannah E. Powell (d. 1835) has a simple peaked top. The headstone of Jemima Ann Ingram (1818-39) was also carved at the Lauder workshop. An exception to the prevalence of Lauder markers is the monument over the grave of Minnie V. Brookshire (1864-84), which was carved by McElwee and Pate of McColl, South Carolina. The Brookshire monument has a block-like form with chamfered corners and an urn finial.

Historic plantings are now difficult to discern in the wooded cemetery, although the periwinkle (*Vinca*) that surrounds the professional monuments was a standard graveyard ground cover that would have been intentionally planted. So too some of the older cedars may have been planted or may have been volunteers that were permitted to grow. The cemetery was overgrown with smaller cedars until it was partially cleared in recent years as part of a landscape maintenance program.

### **Integrity Assessment**

The Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm possesses good integrity from the period of significance. A quantitative measure of this is the resource count and inventory which demonstrate a healthy ratio of contributing resources to noncontributing resources. Principal historic resources such as the Brookshire House, the corncrib and guano house, the stock and hay barn, and the Powell-Brookshire Cemetery possess a high degree of exterior and (as applicable) interior integrity. Of these resources the house is the most altered—its windows are modern replacements and a large porch has been constructed across the rear, among other 1990s modernizations—yet it retains its basic accretive form as it had evolved by the end of the period of significance (1957) as well as important character-defining features such as the decorative front porch and entry. As noted above, the historic circulation system and land use patterns of the farm are discernible. The approach drive

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dates at least to the 1930s or 1940s and likely dates to the construction of the Brookshire House in the late nineteenth century if not earlier. The house and other resources are surrounded by open land that remains in agricultural use although at a finer scale the modern vineyard use differs from the historic use for the cultivation of cotton and field crops. This is one reason the nominated area represents only a portion of the modern 333.05-acre parcel on which the historic resources stand, which in turn is only a portion of the full extent of the farm historically. Another reason is that the part of the parcel outside the core historic area and vineyard has reforested and is no longer agricultural in character.

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### **NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

#### **Summary**

The Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm comprises one of the largest and most diverse historic agricultural complexes in Richmond County, North Carolina. The farm was established after the Civil War by William F. Brookshire and his wife Elizabeth C. (Powell) Brookshire on a portion of the Powellton plantation. Powellton was owned before the war by Elizabeth's father, Pleasant M. Powell, who is buried in the Powell-Brookshire Cemetery on the farm. The cemetery features professionally carved marble monuments from the Lauder workshop and others and numerous graves marked only by fieldstones. In the early 1870s the Brookshires erected a story-and-half-frame farmhouse to the southwest of the cemetery on a knoll overlooking the bottomlands of Buffalo Creek and the Little River. At least two outbuildings survive from the Brookshire period, most importantly a large corncrib and guano house of unusual square-notched sawn-plank construction that illustrates a melding of traditional form and progressive farming and construction technologies. W. F. Brookshire served as a magistrate and a Richmond County Commissioner and he may have had business interests in addition to farming, for in the late nineteenth century the post office hamlet of Powellton clustered near the front gate of the farm. After the Brookshires' deaths in the early twentieth century the farm passed through a number of owners before it was acquired by W. H. Parker in 1937. Parker initiated the second phase of the property's development, constructing an impressive braced-rafter gambrel barn that signified the farm's integration into mainstream farming practices. The Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm, now known as Summer Duck Farm, was acquired in 1991 by retired bank president John R. Georgius and has been developed as a vineyard, retreat, and hunting preserve.

The Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion C in the area of architecture. The period of significance extends from ca. 1870 when the development of the present farm under the Brookshires began and embracing the first twenty years of Parker family ownership (1937-57) when significant additions and alterations were made to the farm. The period of significance does not extend beyond 1957 because the property is not of exceptional significance for the post-1957 period. The Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm is eligible at the local level of significance.

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### Historical Background

The Powell-Brookshire Farm occupies a portion of the Powellton plantation, which was owned in the late antebellum period by Pleasant M. Powell (1805-60). Powell's obituary in the *Raleigh Weekly Standard* noted that "Colonel Powell" was "at the time of his death one of the Councilors of State." The 1860 federal census, taken a few months before Powell's death, valued his real estate at \$18,000 and his personal estate at \$50,000, the latter an indication of a substantial slaveholding. The Powells lived at Powellton, a two-story Greek Revival house located across the highway from the Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm. The portion of the Powellton farm that would become the Brookshire Farm after the Civil War is mostly comprised of bottomland along Buffalo Creek and the nearby Little River. This flat low-lying land was extensively cultivated during the historic period (in 1879, for example, the farm included 260 improved acres, an area much larger than the upland area around the house). The knoll on which the Brookshire House and other buildings are located would have had certain advantages as a house site; however, Pleasant Powell and his wife Lucy S. Powell (b. ca. 1807) chose to build their plantation house nearly a half mile to the northeast on higher ground. Superior views may have been the reason, or perhaps greater distance from the potentially disease-ridden bottomland. (In 1879 John P. Little, another large farmer of the area, moved from his antebellum house to a second home on higher ground after his family was stricken with malaria.) It is conceivable that the Powellton slave quarters and/or overseer's house were located on the Brookshire House knoll. The sole resource known to have existed in the nominated area before the Civil War is the Powell-Brookshire Cemetery, established by the end of the 1830s and used into the twentieth century.<sup>1</sup>

In 1859 Pleasant and Lucy Powell's daughter Elizabeth "Bettie" C. Powell (b. 1837) married William F. Brookshire (b. 1830). Little is known about the young couple. William, who may have been a native of Randolph County, served in the Fifty-second Regiment of the Confederate Army, a unit apparently comprised largely of Richmond County men. The Brookshires lived in Montgomery County in 1861, probably just over the line from Richmond County (the county line, labeled "indefinite" on maps, runs about two miles north of the Powell-Brookshire Farm),

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. census; Turberg and Pezzoni, *Architectural History of Richmond County* (draft); "Richmond County, NC Obituaries 1840-;" *Weekly Standard*, August 29, 1860. A number of individuals and organizations helped with the preparation of the nomination. Foremost among these was the owner of the property and sponsor of the nomination, John R. Georgius. Property manager Will Russell assisted the author in documenting the property and otherwise facilitating the nomination. Assistance was also provided by Betty McBryde, who provided copies of recent deeds and attempted to identify individuals familiar with the farm's recent history, and Chandrea Burch of the North Carolina Office of Archives and History.

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and they lived in the same county as late as November 1870. Despite his residence in Montgomery County, William Brookshire began to purchase portions of the Powell lands as early as 1861. Presumably soon after their marriage the Brookshires intended to make their future home on Elizabeth's home plantation. This they had apparently done by October 1874 when a deed describes William F. Brookshire as a resident of Richmond County. The move to the Powell-Brookshire Farm may have occurred by November 1871 when William and Elizabeth's daughter Lillie (b. 1863) died and was buried in the Powell-Brookshire Cemetery, although since the cemetery was a family burial ground the interment may have occurred there regardless of the Brookshires' place of residence.<sup>2</sup>

The architectural character of the Brookshires' Greek Revival-Victorian farmhouse is not inconsistent with a date of construction in the early 1870s. Another possibility is that the Brookshires remodeled a pre-existing dwelling, perhaps an overseer's house. In the 1880 federal census William Brookshire is listed as a farmer living with his wife Elizabeth, his daughters Louisa P. (b. 1863; possibly Lillie's twin) and Mary V. (b. 1867), and his sister-in-law Mary J. Powell (1848-85). By 1877 William Brookshire had been named a Steeles Township magistrate and by 1883 he had become a county commissioner. He was listed as one of three Powellton area farmers in an 1883 statewide business directory. Powellton, the name of Pleasant Powell's plantation during the antebellum period, was also the name of a post office as early as 1852. A small community developed in conjunction with the post office and was described as having a population of thirty in 1897. The existence of a post office may imply the existence of a store, and although Brookshire was not listed as a storekeeper in period business directories, he may nevertheless have owned a store operated by another. On the 1886 McDuffie and Graham map Powellton is shown as a discrete settlement located near the farm's front gate on NC 73. At least two derelict buildings stood at the location as recently as the 1990s. In the 1880s the name Powellton was also given to the African American school district associated with Liberty Hill School, but whether this means the schoolhouse was located for a time at Powellton on the Powell-Brookshire Farm or whether it was only referred to as Powellton is unknown.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Richmond County Deed Book AA, p. 214, and Deed Book PP, pp. 341, 357; McLaurin, *Richmond County Record*, 378, 436; Benton, *Richmond County Grave Yard Record*, 7; Johnson, "Hoover Marriage Bonds;" Lunsford, "Randolph Co., NC Marriages;" Miller, "Descendants of Johann Friedrich Miller;" "Powell Archives." Historian Myrtle N. Bridges states that Elizabeth and William were married "about 14 December 1859" (Bridges, *Estate Records*, 125 footnote). Searches of the 1860 and 1870 census indexes have failed to turn up information on William and Elizabeth Brookshire. A large part of the Powellton plantation was inherited by William and Elizabeth from Elizabeth's sister Mary J. Powell in 1885 (Richmond County Will Book 6, p. 313).

<sup>3</sup> 1880 U.S. census; *Thomson's Mercantile and Professional Directory*;" Chataigne, *Chataigne's*



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William F. Brookshire may have retired from public life by the late 1890s for he was no longer listed as a county commissioner or magistrate. He had died by April 1912 when Elizabeth sold the “Brookshire Farm” of over 1,200 acres to D. S. Hurley and Frank McAulay. McAulay gained full ownership in 1918. The farm was later acquired by J. M. Parker who sold it to W. H. Parker in 1937. The farm acquired by Parker in 1937 totaled approximately 845 acres. W. H. Parker, the owner of the W. H. Parker Insurance Agency in Rockingham, had the large hay and stock barn erected in 1937. The size of the barn and the date of its construction, which immediately followed Parker’s purchase of the property, suggest Parker intended for cattle production to be a major focus of the farming operation. Parker also made improvements to the farmhouse during the middle decades of the century. Parker died in 1969 and the following year his heirs—listed as Ruth Parker Harris, Lurline Parker Barksdale, and Bernice Parker Anderson—sold the farm (which then contained just over 316 acres) to James Howard Manuel and his wife Martha Janet Manuel. In 1991 the Manuels sold the farm (containing 333 acres) to John R. Georgius, a retired First Union Bank president.<sup>4</sup>

Georgius renamed the property Summer Duck Farm and in 1999-2000 he developed a vineyard on his acreage. John D. Mabry constructed the trellises for the vines, which are of five French vinifera grape varieties. The wine produced from the vineyard’s grapes is bottled under the label *Little River*. The vineyard covers about twenty acres and extends to the north and east of the Brookshire House. Two unsalvageable buildings that stood near NC 73 to the east of the farm gate were removed and vines planted in their place. Another unsalvageable building near the picnic shelter was also removed in the 1990s. Summer Duck Farm is also used for duck hunting and has hosted special sporting events sponsored by wildlife organizations. Since 2000 property manager Will Russell has overseen farm operations and has done most of the landscaping.<sup>5</sup>

### Architecture Context

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*North Carolina State Directory and Gazetteer, 1883-84, 530, 534; Branson, North Carolina Business Directory, 1877 and 1878, 257, 258; Branson, Branson’s North Carolina Business Directory for 1884, 554; Branson, Branson’s North Carolina Business Directory, 1897, 518, 522; McDuffie and Graham, “Map of Richmond County;” Pezzoni, “Liberty Hill School.”* Powellton was often spelled Powelton. Liberty Hill School was established at its present location on Covington Community Road in 1892 or earlier.

<sup>4</sup> Russell, “Brookshire Farm;” Richmond County Deed Book 76, p. 85; Deed Book 113, p. 42; Deed Book 229, p. 299; Deed Book 521, p. 208; Deed Book 763, p. 207.

<sup>5</sup> Will Russell personal communication.

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Farm buildings are one of the larger functional categories of historic resources on the Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm. These buildings, which date from the late nineteenth century through the late 1930s, are relatively numerous and substantial by Richmond County standards, based on the findings of a countywide survey conducted in 1999-2001 and subsequent research conducted in 2004-06 for a county architectural history. That the buildings survive at all is fortunate. The northwest section of the county, historically a center of plantation agriculture, has lost many of its historic agricultural buildings. Only a few farm buildings, all of them small, survive on the farms of important antebellum houses in the vicinity such as the Dumas-Bradley-Matheson House, the Pemberton-Stanback House, and Powellton, the latter plantation being the one from which the Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm was created after the Civil War. Some of the county's most intact farmsteads are located in the sandy pine country around Hamlet and Hoffman. These differ markedly from the Powell-Brookshire-Parker farm complex in scale and character. The nineteenth century farm of James and Penelope Watson near Hoffman, for example, preserves a barn, a chickenhouse, a cotton house, a smokehouse, and a dwelling-like building used (or reused) as a corncrib. Although the Watson Farm is comparable to the Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm in the number of its surviving historic outbuildings, the buildings themselves are much smaller, indicative of the less productive agriculture practiced in the infertile pine woods.<sup>6</sup>

The property's substantial farm buildings reflect its relative productiveness as a farm during the historic period. The 1880 federal census—the only one from the period of the farm's historic development to record detailed production statistics—notes that William Brookshire was the owner of 260 improved acres and 395 unimproved acres with a total value of \$7,000. The estimated value of farm production for 1879 (the year for which the statistics were recorded) was \$4,135, of which \$726 was paid out in wages to farm hands and \$120 devoted to the purchase of fertilizers. Of Brookshire's improved acres, 100 acres yielded 2,000 bushels of corn, 60 acres yielded 30 bales of cotton, 50 acres yielded 1,000 bushels of oats, and 50 acres yielded 350 bushels of wheat. A cursory comparison suggests Brookshire's farm was one of the most productive in Richmond County's Steeles Township, both in terms of total yield and yield per acre.<sup>7</sup>

The principal nineteenth century farm building to survive on the Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm is the corncrib and guano house. This remarkable building perpetuates the traditional double-crib form of North Carolina's larger corncribs, which typically featured two log cribs separated by a wagon drive-through with the cribs left unchinked for ventilation. The farm's corncrib differs from documented Richmond County examples of log corncribs such as those on the McDonald Farm and the John and Mary Dunn Farm in that its structural members are not really logs at all

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<sup>6</sup> Turberg and Pezzoni, *Architectural History of Richmond County* (draft).

<sup>7</sup> 1880 U.S. census.

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but thick sawn planks. In this regard it is reminiscent of a mid-nineteenth century double-crib corncrib on the John D. McIver Farm in Lee County, which is constructed of slender sawn timbers diamond-notched like logs. The McIver corncrib is considerably smaller than the one on the Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm, but like it its center space (which would have been too narrow for a drive-through) is enclosed to serve for storage. The two corncribs share another feature: they are raised above the ground on high stone piers. This would have provided some protection from vermin and may also have served to keep the corn drier. That the Powell-Brookshire-Parker corncrib was constructed of sawn timbers rather than hewn (or pit-sawn) ones suggests it was built at a time when mill-sawn lumber had become more affordable or convenient than manually produced lumber. This would likely have been the case in the post-bellum period when sawmills were more plentiful and slave labor was no longer available to large farmers like William F. Brookshire. In a technological sense the corncrib is transitional: it relies on sawn lumber like later slatted corncribs but its form perpetuates log construction.<sup>8</sup>

The middle section of the corncrib appears to have been used for fertilizer storage, as indicated by its metal lining which would have helped protect the reactive fertilizer from the elements. Fertilizer was a mainstay of Southern agriculture after the Civil War for its value in restoring exhausted land and boosting yields. High-phosphate Peruvian guano was in use in the Carolinas by 1860 and with the development of South Carolina's phosphate deposits beginning in 1868 a source of commercial fertilizer was close at hand to Richmond County farmers. The name "guano" remained in use, even for the later non-organic fertilizers, and hence fertilizer sheds on North Carolina farms could be referred to as "guano houses." Although these humble but essential outbuildings were presumably once common on North Carolina's larger and more progressive farms, they are rarely mentioned in the literature. An exception is the guano house on Onslow County's Justice Farm, which was documented before it was destroyed by Hurricane Fran in 1996. Whether the guano compartment of the Powell-Brookshire corncrib was an original feature or an early infilling of an original drive-through is unknown. It seems likely the smaller of the farm's two barns and the associated water trough were built during the McAulay ownership.<sup>9</sup>

Beginning in 1937 W. H. Parker made a number of improvements to the farm, most notably the construction of the 1937 stock and hay barn. This impressive building—among the largest farm buildings to survive in the county—continues the theme of agricultural innovation illustrated by the corncrib and guano house. Parker's barn was the direct product of three-quarters of a century of innovation in barn construction, much of it emanating from the Midwest. A seminal factor in

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<sup>8</sup> Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*, 155; Pezzoni, *History and Architecture of Lee County*, 90, 195.

<sup>9</sup> Sheridan, "Fertilizer," 36; Pezzoni, *Architectural History of Onslow County*, 108.

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modern barn evolution was the introduction of the hay fork/hay carrier system of moving hay into and through a barn. Horse-powered hay forks were popularized in the Midwest in the early 1860s as a way to lift loose hay from a wagon and drop it into the mow by way of ropes, pulleys, and the hay fork itself. This greatly reduced the amount of manual labor necessary for barn loading by eliminating the need to hand-pitch the hay from the wagon into the mow. The Parker barn's hay fork is the direct descendent of one of several nineteenth century models: the grappling fork with two pairs of tines that closed on the hay and then released it by means of a pull rope. Early hay fork systems had the disadvantage of working from a single pulley mounted inside the barn, complicating the task of moving the hay to all parts of the mow. This problem was solved by an Iowan inventor named William Loudon who patented the hay carrier in 1867. Loudon mounted a rolling hay fork on a track suspended from the roof and extended the track the length of the barn. The hay could be lifted perpendicularly from a wagon parked outside the barn, moved horizontally into the barn to any desired point along the length of the mow, and then swung to either side and the hay dropped at the right location. As with the precursor hay fork systems the labor was provided by draft animals. Adopted by manufacturers and popularized in farm journals, Loudon's hay carrier quickly replaced earlier hay fork systems.<sup>10</sup>

The implications for barn design soon became apparent. As early as 1870 one commentator observed that bank siting of barns was no longer as necessary since the hay no longer had to be driven into the hay mow, and another noted that barns could be wider since the hay did not have to be hand-pitched from a central point or axis. In 1879 the editor of the *American Agriculturalist* wrote that barns built to accommodate hay carriers should be "high rather than spacious," which allowed for savings in construction materials, and they should be designed so that there are "no crossbeams to interfere with the run of the hay fork with its load from end to end." Traditional frame barns with their forests of posts and cross members were not well suited to the new labor-saving technology. As historian Lowell J. Soike sums up the developments, "Loudon's hay carrier encouraged farmers to think about building higher barns, longer barns, barns free of driveways for loading and unloading by hand, barns free of crossbeams, and barns with a hay door for outside access to the loft, especially at the gable end."<sup>11</sup>

A roof form well suited to the requirements of the hay carrier was the gambrel roof. However, gambrels based on traditional timber framing were prone to structural deficiencies that limited their popularity. This began to change around the turn of the twentieth century with the adaptation of light framing techniques to hay barn construction. At the end of the nineteenth century the preferred alternative to heavy timber framing was plank framing, which used sawn

<sup>10</sup> Soike, "Affordable Barns for the Midwest: Beginnings," 87-88.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, 88, 90.

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planks in lieu of timbers to conserve lumber. In the first decade of the twentieth century Ohio barn designer Joseph E. Wing improved upon plank framing by marrying balloon framing to the gambrel roof form to create what came to be known as “braced-frame” or “braced-rafter roof” construction. The Parker barn has what is essentially a braced-rafter roof based on Wing’s design. Although the form used smaller framing members, it achieved strength and span by bracing each rafter pair with a collar-like member or chord (the “brace”), creating a series of miniature trusses that efficiently transferred loads to the walls at the base of the mow. No additional support was needed, allowing the hay carrier to operate in an unobstructed space. “Moreover,” writes Lowell Soike, “the braced-rafter unit required about 11 percent less lumber, and its materials were of stock size and length that could be bought at any lumber yard.” In addition to its advanced braced-rafter gambrel form, the Parker barn has two secondary features of note. One is the hay bonnet or hay hood that projects over the end of the hay carrier rail to protect it from the elements. Hay bonnets are common features on Midwestern barns. The other is the system of concrete weights and cables that opens and closes the hay door. Weighted hay door openers are rare in the East although they may be more common west of the Mississippi.<sup>12</sup>

W. H. Parker may have become aware of braced-rafter construction in any of a number of ways. From its inception the technique received favorable attention in agricultural journals. It was also adopted and publicized by mail order building companies like Sears, Roebuck and Gordon-Van Tine. In 1918 Sears offered for sale a braced-rafter barn that is nearly identical to the Parker barn. Gordon-Van Tine stated in its 1926 *Farm buildings* catalogue that braced-rafter construction had become the most popular barn building technique (at least in the Upper Midwest where the company sold many pre-cut barn kits). State agricultural departments, colleges, and farm experiment stations were another source of information on modern barn building techniques.<sup>13</sup>

W. H. Parker’s barn represents the integration of the Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm with mainstream twentieth century farming practices. Similar integration was at work in the county at large. The closest documented Richmond County analogue to the Powell-Brookshire barn was the dairy barn at the Battley Dairy near Hamlet. Apparently built about 1905, the Battley barn was a large gambrel-roofed barn. Its silos and semi-detached milk house were novel accoutrements of scientific dairy farming circa 1900. Peach farming, established in the eastern half of the county by Northern entrepreneurs in the 1920s, also required specialized large

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<sup>12</sup> Soike, “Within the Reach of All,” 147-149, 153-157; Noble and Cleek, *Old Barn Book*, 40-42. A 1917 barn on the Gustav and Annie Swanson Farm has a large up-and-down sliding hay door, although whether it was operated with the aid of weights is not clear from the literature (Sladek, “Swanson, Gustav and Annie, Farm,” 10, 15).

<sup>13</sup> Soike, “Within the Reach of All,” 157; Stevenson and Jandl, *Houses by Mail*, 34.

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facilities. However, the majority of the county's farmers grew cotton, tobacco, and cereal crops during the era and continued to rely on smaller and simply constructed farm buildings not unlike the ones their ancestors had built and used.<sup>14</sup>

The Powell-Brookshire-Parker farm buildings, in particular the corncrib and guano house and hay and stock barn discussed above, contribute to the architectural significance of the farm as well as to its historical significance. Two other resources are of especial architectural significance: the Brookshire House and the Powell-Brookshire Cemetery. Most documentary evidence points to the house being built for the Brookshires in the early 1870s, although its Greek Revival detail could hint at an earlier date of construction, perhaps in the late antebellum period. The house has some resemblance to another Ellerbe-area house: the McNair-Nicholson House, believed to date to 1845. The front porch of the Brookshire House, especially its sawn balustrade, date to the early years of the Brookshires' ownership even if the house itself does not. The house's "back-rising" stair, which rises from a back space forward through part of the front of the house, relates to other central North Carolina houses with similar stair arrangements.<sup>15</sup>

The Powell-Brookshire Cemetery contains a rich collection of gravemarker forms. Established by the late 1830s, the cemetery initially served the Powell family, although there are also early graves for individuals like Jemima Ann Ingram (1818-39) and Elizabeth Manly (1768-1855) who are of unknown association with the family. The cemetery is located downhill from the ca. 1850 Powellton house and may have been visible from it, just as later it would likely have been visible from the front of the Brookshire House. Many of the antebellum marble monuments were produced by the Fayetteville workshop of George Lauder. The Scottish-born Lauder established his "marble factory" in 1845 and soon became a principal gravestone supplier to wealthy clients in the central North Carolina region. Of the several Richmond County cemeteries with documented Lauder stones, the Powell-Brookshire Cemetery has one of the largest collections and also possibly the largest Lauder monument, that of Pleasant M. Powell (1805-60). The cemetery's Lauder markers provide a sample of the range of classical forms, profiles, and lettering styles produced by the workshop. Two Lauder markers, those of Hannah E. Powell (d. 1835) and Jemima Ingram (d. 1839), are demonstrably backdated, since the obit dates predate the 1845 establishment of Lauder's workshop. The cemetery also contains at least one monument by another marblyard, that of McElwee and Pate in McColl, South Carolina, which carved the urn-topped monument of Minnie V. Brookshire (1864-84). McColl is located in Marlboro County, which adjoins Richmond County on the south. The Powell-Brookshire Cemetery also illustrates several standard nineteenth and early-twentieth century representational motifs, the

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<sup>14</sup> Turberg and Pezzoni, *Architectural History of Richmond County* (draft).

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

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aforementioned urn being one, also a willow on the headstone of Nancy Powell (1808-48), a lamb on a tombstone that appears to mark the grave of two children, and clasped male and female hands on the headstone of Wade Alsobrooks (1842-1925). Included with the Powell family tombstones is the small marble headstone of Lizzie (1847-1920) inscribed "A faithful servant." An illuminated historical and genealogical chart of the Powellton farm states that Lizzie was a family slave who remained on the farm after emancipation.<sup>16</sup>

Vernacular gravemarker traditions are also represented in the cemetery. Behind the front row of marble monuments are several rows of grave depressions, many accompanied by fieldstone head- and footstones, others without markers. Presumably these are mostly graves of slaves and tenant farmers who worked or lived on the Powell and Powell-Brookshire farms. Presumably also many of the graves are of African American farm workers, although a certain number may be of whites. It is possible the family cemetery also performed double duty as a community burial ground and that some of the unidentified graves belong to poor whites and blacks who lived in the area but were otherwise not closely associated with the farm owners. Two gravemarkers provide clues to the temporal range of the graves in this section. One is an uninscribed sandstone effigy headstone with round "head" and small "shoulders." In other contexts effigy markers (also known as discoid markers) are most common during the first half of the nineteenth century, although they are an ancient form. The other informative marker is a small metal funeral parlor marker with a panel for a card that would be written with information on the deceased. The card is missing but the marker itself has what appear to be patent dates of 1925 and 1927. The marker's stake is set into the ground next to a fieldstone. Although it is possible the metal marker was placed sometime after interment, more likely it was provided by the funeral director at the time of death and therefore dates the burial to no earlier than 1927. A late date for fieldstone-marked graves is not implausible considering the economic conditions that perpetuated the practice in the South extended through the Great Depression. Also of note is the pointed concrete gravemarker of Vinie Morgan (1798?-1900). This marker, like the 1830s Lauder tombstones described above, may have been backdated. Taken in combination, the range of gravemarker forms and materials represented in the low status section of the graveyard and the artistically refined monuments in the cemetery's "front row" make the Powell-Brookshire Cemetery a significant representative of Richmond County's historic cemeteries.

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid.; Little, *Sticks and Stones*, 200; "Powellton."

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**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

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### **Geographical Data**

#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated area contains approximately 25 acres and is depicted on the 1:200 map that accompanies the nomination.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The nominated area encompasses the core area of the Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm and its associated historic resources.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

1. 1. Subject: Powell-Brookshire-Parker Farm (same for all photos)  
2. Location: Richmond Co., N.C. (same for all photos)  
3. Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni (same for all photos)  
4. Photo date: July 2006 (same for all photos)  
5. Original negative archived at the N.C. Office of Archives and History, Raleigh  
(same for all photos)  
6. Description of view: Brookshire House, front (north side) and part of west elevation.  
View looking east.  
7. Photograph number appears at beginning of entry (same for all photos)
2. 6. Brookshire House, rear (south) elevation, and part of Dependency number 2.  
View looking north.
3. 6. Brookshire House living room.
4. 6. Corncrib and guano house with Barn and Swimming Pool beyond.  
View looking west.
5. 6. Stock and hay barn. View looking southeast.
6. 6. Powell-Brookshire Cemetery. View looking southeast.
7. 6. Brookshire House as viewed from NC 73 showing the vineyard and a portion of the  
Gate on the left. View looking south.