

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 Hood-Anderson Farm

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Old Battle Bridge Rd., 0.4 mi. S of jct. w/ Old Tarboro N/A not for publication
Road

city or town Eagle Rock vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27591

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Stephen Crow SHPO 3/16/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of 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 official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<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) _____	_____	_____

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 the county.)

Contributing		Noncontributing		
12		1		buildings
6				sites
1				structures
				objects
19		1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
"Historic and Architectural Resources
of Wake County, N.C., ca. 1770-1941"

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural fields
- COMMERCE
- GOVERNMENT/post office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural fields
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation STONE: granite
- walls WOOD: weatherboard
- roof ASPHALT
- other METAL: tin

Narrative Description

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

3. 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 a birthplace or 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture _____

Social History _____

Architecture _____

Period of Significance

ca. 1830s-1948 _____

Significant Dates

ca. 1839 _____

1854 _____

1905 _____

1912 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Hood, William Henry _____

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: _____

Good-Anderson Farm
Name of Property

Wake Co. NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 138 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 _____
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

~~XXX~~ 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 David Ashbill Anderson

organization _____ date 11/10/98

street & number 3545 Keystone Avenue, Apt. 7 telephone 310/202-7126

city or town Los Angeles state CA zip code 90034

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 See 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 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 (1024-0019), Washington, DC 20503.

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Hood-Anderson Farm
Wake County, North Carolina

Property Owners List

Andrew Vance Anderson, Jr.
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(919) 787-9500

Andrew Vance Anderson, III
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(919) 821-2459

David Asbill Anderson
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Harriet Anderson Gayle
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(910) 887-8964

John Hellen Anderson, Jr.
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Raleigh, NC 27609-7656
(919) 954-1171

Samuel Garland Anderson
813 Eagle Rock Rd.
Wendell, NC 27591-9697
(919) 365-7921

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Hood-Anderson Farm
Wake County, North Carolina

7. Narrative Description

The Hood-Anderson Farm is located in eastern Wake County, North Carolina along both sides of Old Battle Bridge Road just south of US Highway 64 in a rural area historically known as Eagle Rock. The one hundred and forty-five acres of the nomination constitute the remaining portion of a 364 acre tract purchased by William Henry Hood from Jeremiah Kyle in 1837. The property is bounded on the eastern edge by Buffalo Creek and by other properties owned by Anderson family members to the west and south. The Hood-Anderson Farm is an exceptionally complete antebellum agricultural complex featuring a two-story transitional Federal/Greek Revival house (ca. 1839), a combined general store and post office (1854), a one-room dwelling, a two-room tenant/slave house, a barn (1912), a smokehouse, and several other outbuildings and sites including a family cemetery, the remains of a cotton gin, the remains of a blacksmith shop, agricultural fields, woodlands, and evidence of a dam made of earth and timbers across Buffalo Creek.

The landscape of the Hood-Anderson Farm is representative of the rural land-use practices of the nineteenth century. The entire farm slopes gently down to Buffalo Creek which is a wide, shallow, slow-moving creek with stands of cypress, some of which were used in the construction of the house and buildings. There are two large fields to the east and west of the primary domestic complex, providing open views from the front and back of the house. Two smaller fields lie on either side of Old Battle Bridge Road to the north. Tobacco is still grown in the fields every year, though cotton has been supplanted by soybeans. Approximately two-thirds of the farm is comprised of woodlands that have been periodically harvested for timber in addition to providing such useful products as acorns to feed the hogs. The most recently harvested woodlands are planted in pine, while the older stands have mature hardwoods. The area around the main house was planted more formally with junipers, pecans, crape myrtles, and other ornamentals.

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Hood-Anderson Farm
Wake County, North Carolina

The farm complex is located northwest of a bend in Old Battle Bridge Road. The house is reached by an unpaved driveway, outlined by a formal allé of juniper trees that are estimated to be one hundred and fifty years old. The driveway was once a section of the original roadbed of Battle's Bridge Road, which passed immediately in front of the house and the general store/post office. The one-room frame dwelling, the barn, and the early twentieth century garages are arranged in a semi-circular cluster around the general store/post office to the north of the main house. Further to the north are three tobacco curing barns, and continuing north is an unpaved remnant of the original Tarboro Road that cuts across the property from west to east. The remains of the cotton gin lie across Old Battle Bridge Road from and slightly north of the main house in a grove of pine trees. The tenant/slave house and the remains of the blacksmith shop lie across Old Battle Bridge Road southeast of the main house. The smokehouse, the remains of a privy, a chicken coop, and a well house lie in the back yard to the north and west of the main house in a grove of pecan trees. The family cemetery, surrounded by an iron fence, lies on the crest of a hill in the middle of the field to the west of the house.

Inventory

The numbers preceding the following resources are keyed to the accompanying sketch map.

1. **Main House.** ca.1839 Contributing Building
Viewed from above, the main house on the Hood-Anderson Farm is L-shaped, made up of an original two-story, east-facing I-plan house with a low-pitched hip roof and a rear two-story, hipped-roof ell that connects with the northern half of the original I-house. Behind the ell to the west is a one-story, hipped-roof breezeway, enclosed in the 1950s, connecting to a one-story kitchen that dates from 1912. The house is set on a foundation of fieldstone piers with some brick piers supporting the additions.

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The front elevation of the house is three bays wide and is dominated by a large, one-story porch, built in 1917, with a hip roof covered in tin. The porch runs the width of the house and features solid wooden Tuscan columns (purchased in 1912), one at each corner, and four columns, set in two closely spaced pairs, on either side of the wide wooden central steps leading up to the porch. Tuscan pilasters (half-columns) are set against the house at either end of the porch. Photographic and structural evidence indicates that the original porch on the house was narrower and probably had a second story deck with a balustrade onto which a door opened from the upstairs central hall, possibly similar to the porch on nearby Midway Plantation (NR 1970). A photo circa 1888 shows the house with flush boards surrounding the front door; a few flush boards were never removed and are still in place, hidden by the hip roof of the current porch. According to family letters, the upstairs door was made into a window in 1917.¹

The front façade of the house appears broad, a feeling accentuated by the low pitch of the hip roof. The exterior of the house is covered in weatherboards and painted white; the paint in some sections is in poor condition. Molded cornerboards extend up the front corners of the house at either end. Two exterior end-chimneys, well constructed of ashlar masonry, frame the house on either side, serving the four fireplaces in the original one-bay deep I-plan part of the house. The chimney on the north side of the house was rebuilt in the early twentieth century. A couple of stones have fallen from the top of the chimney on the south side. A third, partially enclosed, chimney on the west end of the ell serves its two fireplaces.

The double hung sash windows are 9/9 on the first floor and 9/6 on the second floor. Many of the windows have been damaged as the result of vandalism, and most have been boarded over in an effort to protect them. The double front doors, which were installed along with the new porch in 1917, each have a single beveled glass pane in their upper halves. One door has been broken by vandals but is repairable. According to photographic evidence, the

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Hood-Anderson Farm
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original doors were similar, but had no glass panes. The six transom lights above the door are original.

The front doors open into a central hall that extends through the house to the double back doors, which also have six transom lights. The rear doors have 1/1 beveled panels and are original. A steep staircase with a closet underneath rises next to the front door on the north side. Through the rear doors of the central hall is the L-shaped back porch that borders the west side of the original section of the house and the south side of the ell. The back porch has a hip roof supported by square posts.

The interior of the house is plainly finished with a simple baseboard, molded chair rail, and picture molding. The mantelpieces have molded vertical surrounds, a frieze with a simple horizontal molding, and a simple shelf. The mantelpieces in the ell have stepped shelves, indicating a greater Greek Revival influence. The hearths are of stone construction except for those two fireplaces in the rebuilt chimney which have brick facing and hearths. The floors are wide, heart pine boards with a slightly rough surface. The dining room has later tongue and groove boards over the wider pine original flooring; this floor sustained extensive water damage before the roof was repaired in 1991.

The original paint scheme in the house appears to have been bare or whitewashed plaster walls with an intense blue on the woodwork. Faux woodgraining was applied to the doors and the woodwork in the central hall, at some point after the 1917 porch remodeling. The ceilings in the house were all originally plaster with the exception of the dining room, which has a random-width board ceiling. Most of the plaster ceilings have fallen over time and have been replaced by bead board except for one bedroom upstairs where only lath remains on the ceiling.

Behind the ell is an enclosed breezeway that was equipped with a bathroom in the 1930s and fully enclosed in the 1950s. The porch leads to a 1912 kitchen with two 4/4 windows and a small brick chimney on the hip roof. The

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kitchen has beadboard walls and two transom lights over the two doors that admitted sunlight to the kitchen before the connecting porch was enclosed.

2. **General store/post office.** 1854. Contributing Building
The General store/post office is a rectangular two-room structure on fieldstone piers with unpainted weatherboard siding and a metal roof. The roof is hipped in the front and gabled in the back. The three-bay front has two sets of original shutter on the windows that flank the entrance. The small back storekeeper's room has four over four windows and a fireplace served by a cut-stone exterior chimney on the gable end. The interior was finished in plaster and retains its countertops, shelves, and a wooden rack used to separate mail. Constructed to replace an earlier building with the same functions that burned in 1854, it was used as a combined Eagle Rock Post Office and general store from 1854 to 1874, and it remained in use as a store until the early twentieth century when it began to be used for storage. This building is quite important in that it is "the only antebellum store building known to survive in the county."² It is in fair condition.

3. **One-room dwelling.** 1830s. Contributing Building
The one-room dwelling stands on low fieldstone piers and is covered by unpainted weatherboards and a metal gabled roof. It has a cut-stone chimney at one end and three small four over four windows. The doors are board and batten. The frame is mortise and tenon construction. The interior is unfinished. The building shows signs of decay, and the chimney was damaged by a falling limb in Hurricane Fran.

4. **Barn.** 1912. Contributing Building
The large barn with a gabled metal roof and weatherboard sheathing has livestock stalls on the ground level and a large, open hayloft above. There is a shed extension on the west side with an entrance wide enough for a buggy or cart. It is painted white and is in good condition. The current tenant uses it to house her horses when necessary.

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5. **Two-room tenant/slave house.** Early nineteenth century. Contributing Building

Across the road from and south of the main house, this one-story, two-room tenant/slave house has two rooms on either side of a large, central stone chimney. The house was built on fieldstone piers with axe-hewn log floor joists, hand hewn sills, and very wide floor boards. Each room has a single front door and a single, small 4/4 window in the rear. It has a metal gable roof and unpainted weatherboard siding on the exterior. The interior is finished with plaster. The current five-panel doors were probably added at a later date. This particular building is discussed in *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina* as a typical example of the type of buildings inhabited by slaves and tenant farmers during the early and mid-nineteenth century, and it is noted that few examples of this type survive.³ It is in fair condition.

6. **Garage.** Early twentieth century. Contributing Building

This garage is of simple frame construction with a metal gable roof and white painted weatherboard sides. It was used for automobiles.

7. **Garage.** Early twentieth century. Contributing Building

This garage is of frame construction with a metal gable roof and white painted weatherboard sides. It has a shed extension on the north side and was used for farm equipment.

8. **Cotton Gin House Site.** 1830s-1840s. Contributing Site

Tall stone pillars across the road from the main house are all that remain of the cotton gin house, which burned in the 1950s after being struck by lightning. A documentary photo of the building survives and shows it to have been a gable roof structure.

9. **Tobacco Barn.** Late nineteenth Century. Contributing Building

This late nineteenth century log tobacco barn lies north of the barn. It has a metal roof, and it is beginning to crumble.

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10. **Tobacco Barn.** Late nineteenth century. Contributing Building

The twin of the one above, this late nineteenth century log tobacco barn lies north of the barn. It has a metal roof, and it is beginning to crumble.

11. **Tobacco Barn.** 1930. Contributing Building

The last tobacco barn built on the farm is covered with brick-patterned tar paper and is still in good condition. It is located north of the barn and south of the two older log tobacco barns.

12. **Hood-Anderson Family Cemetery.** Mid-nineteenth century. Contributing Site

Located at the crest of a slope west of the house in the middle of a field, the family cemetery contains approximately twenty graves of Hoods and Andersons, the earliest dating from 1848, the last, from 1984. It is surrounded by an iron fence. The tombstones are west-facing, and several of them were ordered in 1922 by Laura Ella Hood Anderson to replace more primitive earlier markers.⁴

13. **Smoke House.** Late-nineteenth century. Contributing Building

The smoke house, located just northwest of the kitchen, has a metal gable roof and an unpainted weatherboard exterior. It is beginning to collapse on one side. Family legend holds that it was used by Union troops in 1865 to store meat looted from the neighborhood.

14. **Blacksmith Shop Site.** Mid-nineteenth century. Contributing Site

Located across a small stream on the edge of the woods south of the tenant/slave house, a fieldstone chimney and hearth mark the remains of the blacksmith shop. Some anvils and tools are still in family possession. Archaeological examination may yield more data on this site.

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15. **Dam Site.** Mid-nineteenth century. Contributing Site
The remains of a dam made of earth and wooden timbers are located on the margins of Buffalo Creek directly east of the main house. The dam was anchored on rocky outcroppings along the bank. A thorough exploration of the site may reveal if there was a mill there at one time. Samuel G. Anderson recalls that large timbers were still visible there when he was a boy in the 1920s and that Ivon Anderson told him that they used to cut blocks of ice from the pond in the winter.⁵

16. **Chicken House.** Early twentieth century. Contributing Building
Located west of the kitchen, the chicken house has a simple metal shed roof, a wooden frame, and a wooden plank exterior. It remained in use until the 1970s.

17. **Privy Site.** Late nineteenth century. Contributing Site
The site of the privy is to the west of the main house and slightly to the north. It was still standing in the 1970s, but has since collapsed in on itself. This site could provide important archaeological data both in terms of the remnants of the structure and the non-perishable items which may have been accidentally--or purposefully--dropped into the pit during the period of significance.

18. **Mobile Home.** 1990s. Non-contributing Building
Recently, a tenant was allowed to locate a mobile north of the main house as a way to reduce vandalism and produce income for restoration and maintenance.

19. **Old Tarboro Road.** Eighteenth Century. Structure
Running through the northern end of the property is what may be the last unpaved remnant of the Tarboro Road. It has a packed sand surface and drainage ditches along either side. This section was bypassed by current US 64.

20. **Landscape.** Contributing Site
The landscape of the Hood-Anderson Farm includes the fields, woodlands, springs, and waterways that were essential for

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the range of functions of the farm, and the integrity of these interrelated resources is an important aspect of the value of the property as a whole ~~as a resource~~ in terms of the ways they reveal the patterns of management and use during the period of significance. Slow-moving, swampy Buffalo Creek supports many cypress trees, some of which were used in the construction of the main house and other buildings. Mary Anderson wrote to her brother Davis in 1906 that "The cypress trees Pa is selling are a size larger than telegraph poles."⁶ Buffalo Creek was also used for fishing, and at one time, it was dammed, possibly for a small mill. Buffalo Creek, however, did not provide good drinking water, and prior to electrification and the digging of a well, the family got its entire supply of drinking water from springs on the property.⁷ The primary spring is located southeast of the tenant/slave house, next to the site of the blacksmith shop on the southern edge of a small branch. Another spring is located in the woods northwest of the main house, and yet another, rumored to have been the spring designated for use by slaves, is located in the woods northeast of the cotton gin site. In addition to the cypress swamp along Buffalo Creek, the other woodlands surrounding the Hood-Anderson Farm provide evidence of how timber use has been managed since 1837. The woodlands provided timber for building as well as firewood, and, as mentioned above, Lila Anderson often told other family members about how she used to rake acorns to feed the hogs. The arrangement of the fields shows how a balance between fields and woodlands was maintained on the farm and how buffer zones of trees and vegetation were maintained along watercourses. The spatial association of the buildings and the fields is an important aspect of the integrity of the farm in terms of its ability to convey the feeling of a nineteenth century farm.

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Hood-Anderson Farm
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8. Statement of Significance

Summary

The Hood-Anderson Farm is historically significant as one of the few remaining antebellum agricultural complexes in Wake County, North Carolina that has remained largely unaltered since the nineteenth century and is still in original family ownership. The extensive records and oral histories preserved by the Hood and Anderson descendants make this farm a particularly rich cultural resource for understanding the changing role of the family farm in central North Carolina over the last one hundred and sixty years. The Hood-Anderson Farm meets Criterion A for significance in both agricultural and social history. In terms of its agricultural history, it represents the rise of its owner, William Henry Hood from yeoman farmer to the status of small planter during the last twenty years of the antebellum period. After the Civil War, the farm chronicles Hood's descendants making the transition to a new agricultural economy, including an increasing reliance on the production of cash crops, cotton, in particular, and the gradual shift to tobacco as the dominant commercial crop. In terms of social history, the Hood-Anderson Farm functioned as a center of the local community in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, having at various times the local post office, a general store, a cotton gin, and a blacksmith shop. The Hood-Anderson Farm is eligible under Criterion C for significance in architecture, featuring examples of the modest, functional houses occupied by most North Carolina farmers in the early nineteenth century and the agricultural outbuildings that served the needs of the family well into the twentieth century, as well as a transitional Federal/Greek Revival farm house built in the late 1830s that embodied William H. Hood's aspirations to a higher social status. The farm's buildings are set in an agricultural landscape of fields, woodlands, creeks, and pecan groves--a well-preserved example of the historic rural landscape of central North Carolina. The Hood-Anderson Farm

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is also eligible under Criterion D for its likely potential to yield important information about the history of agriculture in Wake County. The cotton gin site, dam site, blacksmith shop site, and privy site are among the known archaeological resources located on the farm. The significance of the Hood-Anderson Farm is discussed in all four historic contexts included in the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)." It meets the registration requirements set forth in the following Associated Property Types: "Farm Complexes: Colonial Period to 1865"; "Houses Built from the Colonial Period to the Civil War Era (ca. 1770-1865)"; and "Commercial and Transportation-Related Buildings and Structures" for the (former) store and post office remaining on the farm, the only antebellum commercial building known to survive in Wake County.⁸

Historical Background and Social History

William Henry Hood (1812-1862), the progenitor of the Hood-Anderson line, was born in Johnston County, North Carolina and first lived on this property as a tenant in the mid-1830s. At that time, the property was owned by absentee landlord Jeremiah Kyle of Cumberland County, North Carolina and had been leased to a different tenant, Willie Carpenter, in 1830. In April, 1837, William H. Hood bought the property, then encompassing an estimated 364 acres, for the sum of \$1,000. William H. Hood, who married his first wife Mary Ellis (1818-1848) in 1836, was at that time probably living in one of the early dwellings on the property, either the one-room house near the store/post office or the two-room tenant/slave house across the road; either of these dwellings is in close proximity to one of the two main sources of spring water on the property.

On his new farm, Hood found himself the neighbor of some of the larger planters of Wake County; as Kelly Lally points out in *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina*, "Wake County's wealthiest residents settled and

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Hood-Anderson Farm
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prospered in the fertile Neuse River basin east of Raleigh in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries."⁹ To the west of William H. Hood's farm at Eagle Rock were the plantations of the Hinton, and to the south at Shotwell lay the large Mial plantation, Walnut Hill. Aspiring to the status of planter himself, Hood quickly built a house in the most modern style of the time, a Greek Revival I-plan residence overlooking Battle's Bridge Road, and set out to make his fortune.

With only two slaves in 1840, Hood lacked the labor power for the large scale production of cash crops like cotton, but by 1850, Hood had fifteen slaves and a highly diversified agricultural output raising corn, sweet potatoes, hogs, sheep, cattle, wheat, rye, oats, peas, and beans. A farmer, Hilliard Sanderford, listed on the 1850 census may have overseen the agricultural operations of the farm. Mary Ellis Hood bore four children with William H. Hood: Latney, Indianna, William Jr., and Wiley, but died in 1848. Six months later, he remarried to Mary Ann Wiggins (1827-1882) with whom he had five children: Mary Ann Leah, Verona, Laura Ella, James, and John.

In addition to farming, William H. Hood had other pursuits including a general store that he operated from a building near the main house and a cotton gin that served local growers. In fact, he listed his occupation as merchant rather than farmer on the 1850 census. In 1851, he became Eagle Rock postmaster and began operating the local post office from his general store.¹⁰ By running both the local store and post office from his farm, Hood made it into a center of local community activity where people could come, buy essential supplies, collect their mail, and socialize. Hood also established a blacksmith shop, essential in the mid-nineteenth century for the forging and maintenance of farming implements and other hardware. The blacksmith shop may have been operated by slaves skilled in that trade. In addition to the connections he formed with those who came to his store, gin, and blacksmith shop, Hood expanded his network of association through participation in the Masons and was an active member of Hiram Lodge #40.¹¹

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William Hood was also involved in the affairs of his community beyond the scope of his farm. Historian Catherine Bishir has noted that there were two competing philosophies among politically-minded North Carolinians in the mid-nineteenth century: one faction wanted the government to take an active role in promoting internal improvements, while their opponents argued that the government should not entangle itself in such tax-and-spend endeavors.¹² William H. Hood was clearly a member of the former group and demonstrated a particular interest in promoting and improving transportation systems. Since the eighteenth century, North Carolina had lagged behind Virginia and South Carolina in agricultural wealth in part because the geography of the state made it difficult and expensive for farmers to transport their products to market. In 1849, Hood was appointed as a Wake delegate to the committee for the construction of the North Carolina Railroad that enabled farmers to get their crops to market much more efficiently.¹³ In the 1850s, Hood continued to promote transportation improvements and was one of the investors in Wake County's moderately successful, but ultimately ill-fated system of plank roads.¹⁴

The Civil War brought an end to William H. Hood's rise to planter status. According to family history, the farm was looted by the two Union divisions that passed through Eagle Rock in April, 1865.¹⁵ A story has also been passed down through the family that a single Yankee straggler was caught in the upstairs southern bedroom where he was shot and killed; supposedly, the family buried him secretly somewhere on the farm.¹⁶ Hood continued to serve his community as a chairman of the Wake County Court of Wardens of the Poor from 1865 until his death, certifying appeals for food by desperate families whose farms were ruined by the war. When William H. Hood died in 1868, his wife took possession of his estate, now reduced to 208 acres from a peak of 390 acres prior to the war.

During the period of Reconstruction, between 1868 and 1882, a series of transitions took place on the Hood-Anderson

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Farm. Mary Hood assumed the role of Eagle Rock postmistress after her husband's death, but she eventually discontinued the operation of the post office at their store in 1874. It appears that Samuel Peterson Anderson the husband of William H. Hood's daughter, Laura Ella Hood, whom he had married in 1873, moved to the Hood farm in the mid-1870s. In 1875, Samuel P. Anderson began buying out the interest of the other Hood heirs, and by 1877 he was operating the general store at Eagle Rock.¹⁷ Receipts from the 1870s show that he was active in cotton farming at this time and that he had a merchant's license. By 1880, Mary Wiggins Hood was living with her daughter Verona Hood and Verona's husband, Dr. William E. Richardson, down the road at Richardson's house. In 1882, Anderson bought the remainder of the farm through an agent when it went up for auction after Mary Wiggins Hood's death. Samuel Anderson then began farming cotton and tobacco as cash crops in addition to food for his growing family which, by 1892, included eight children: Mary, Tilden, Davis, Jesse, Ivon, Vance, Lillie, and Lila.¹⁸

By the 1890s, Samuel Anderson had his farm in good order. The sandy soils proved ideal for the cultivation of brightleaf tobacco, and he constructed two log tobacco curing barns. He also continued to operate the cotton gin which served the local community. Additional income came from renting his farm at Lizard Lick.¹⁹ Samuel Anderson continued Hood's tradition of involvement in the community, but his enthusiasm seems to have been directed towards education and local politics. In 1895, he was appointed a member of the Marks Creek Township District 1 School Committee, and in 1911, he was appointed one of the four original commissioners of the newly incorporated town of Eagle Rock.

The lives of the Andersons are especially well-documented during the time period 1902-1922 owing to a collection of letters discovered and painstakingly transcribed by Anderson descendant Julia Sanders Eller.²⁰ What emerges is a portrait of a middle-class farming family, neither particularly rich nor poor. The children had to work in the fields, but--as one can tell from their letters--they

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were also well-educated. Samuel Garland Anderson recalled that the one-room house was referred to as the "Latin'n House," confirming family stories that it was used for a time as a schoolhouse.²¹ Tilden and Davis eventually attended business academies, and Vance Anderson was able to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The family was also quite interested in music. By 1911, the Andersons had both a pump organ and an upright piano, and later they acquired both an Edison phonograph (since stolen) and an early Atwater Kent radio. During the 1910s, a piano teacher came by train from Wilson to give music lessons to Lila and Lillie.²²

Relative prosperity brought on by high tobacco prices from 1911-1920 enabled the family to make repairs on the house, build a new front porch, add a new kitchen, and build a new barn;²³ Jesse Anderson had built his own house by early 1912 down the road from the main house.²⁴ After Samuel Anderson's death in 1912, Ivon and Jesse assumed the primary farming and building responsibilities.²⁵ The collection of letters provides ample evidence that the farm was a gathering place for a large, extended family made up primarily of Hoods, Andersons, and Richardsons, among whom the web of marriages had become exceedingly complex by the early twentieth century.²⁶ Lila Anderson recollected that particularly in the summertime, they were deluged with visitors; as her sister Mary put it in 1906, "we have company nearly all the time."²⁷ Company also came for a more somber purpose as witnessed by the fact that at least twenty of the members of this extended family are buried in the cemetery behind the main house. Thus, even though some of the children were moving to nearby towns, the farm continued to serve as a social nexus for an expanding kinship system composed of a number of local families who had intermarried over the last century.

During the agricultural depression of the 1920s and the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Andersons survived by focusing their energies on remaining self-sufficient. By diversifying their crop production, they were able to provide for practically all their needs from the farm. They

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were so successful, in fact, that they were able to supply vegetables, ham, eggs, butter, and chicken to the many relatives who often visited from Raleigh and other nearby towns.²⁸ According to Samuel G. Anderson, the last tobacco barn was built around 1930, and the only other major change during that time was the arrival of electricity in the late 1930s.²⁹ In 1935, Laura Ella Anderson died and left the property jointly to her six surviving children: Tilden, Jesse, Ivon, Vance, Lila, and Lillie.³⁰

In 1947, Laura Ella Anderson's heirs decided to split up the property among them. Vance and Tilden Anderson took the farm at Lizard Lick; Ivon, Lila, and Lillie Anderson took the main house, the outbuildings, and the surrounding 166 acres; and Jesse Anderson took the portion of the Hood-Anderson Farm upon which his house had been built.³¹ Ivon continued to cultivate the fields around the main house, which he plowed with a team of mules; he finally acquiesced to the modern era and bought a tractor in 1951.³² At some point during the 1950s, he enclosed the breezeway between the house and the kitchen and bathroom. Occasionally, they supplemented their income through timber sales. Lillie died in 1953, leaving only Ivon and Lila living in the main house.

After Ivon's death in 1962, Jesse's son, Samuel G. Anderson, took over the farming of Lila's portion of the property on a profit-sharing system. Lila continued to cultivate a large vegetable garden for as long as she remained living on the farm. She lived in the main house by herself until 1975 when she was forced to enter a nursing home, and afterwards she refused to allow anyone else to occupy the house. Consequently, the house suffered some damage from vandals and thieves despite an alarm system that was installed. When she died in 1983, she left the farm to her two nephews, John Hellen Anderson and Vance Anderson, Jr. since she had had no children of her own. Other than the installation of a new roof in 1991, little attention was paid to the house, though the fields were still farmed through a tenant arrangement with a local farmer. When John Hellen died in 1998, he left his share to his two children, John H.

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Anderson, Jr. and Harriet Anderson Gayle. It remains in the family.

The Hood-Anderson Farm is enriched as a resource by the fact that many of the most important items from the farm have been preserved including the above-mentioned letters, books, a substantial amount of clothing, light fixtures, the original Carpenter-style door locks, deeds, papers, photos, the pump organ, the piano, sheet music, the Atwater-Kent radio, farm tools, cooking implements, anvils from the blacksmith shop, and handmade quilts. The quilts, handmade by Laura Ella Hood Anderson, are of very fine workmanship and are featured in the book *North Carolina Quilts*.³³ Lila was also a fine seamstress, and much of her work has been preserved. Of great significance as well is the fact that the family has preserved many stories about their Anderson and Hood ancestors through oral tradition such that it is possible in many instances to know the personality and character of those who built and maintained the farm in addition to knowing the facts of what they accomplished.

Agricultural and Historical Archaeology Context

The Hood-Anderson Farm has been in continuous cultivation by the family since the late 1830s, and as such, the story of the farm is intimately related to the history of agricultural practices in central North Carolina, practices subject to the factors of economy, demand, transportation, competition, soil science, weather, war, and politics. In the 1840s, when William H. Hood was establishing his farm, North Carolina agriculture was in a state of growth following a moribund period in the 1820s and 1830s.³⁴ Prior to 1835, many North Carolina farmers were geographically isolated due to poor roads and shallow rivers, but after that time, transportation and trade began to improve as the result of railroad and plank road construction.³⁵ Because of this history of isolation, the typical North Carolina farmer of the period tended to pursue a goal of self-sufficiency rather than commercial crop production.³⁶

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William H. Hood's farming practices followed a typical pattern of medium-sized farmsteads, first producing for the subsistence of the family and livestock and later expanding into cash crop production.³⁷ The most important crop by far was corn, which was an essential element of the diet for people and livestock alike. Hood's production was substantial: 755 bushels of corn in 1850.³⁸ Corn could also be used for making whiskey, and, though no corroborating evidence has been found, Samuel G. Anderson reports that he was told that William H. Hood had a license to produce whiskey which he made in a still located near the blacksmith shop site.³⁹ In the antebellum period, Wake County was one of the leading counties in the cultivation of sweet potatoes, an important food source for both people and cattle,⁴⁰ and Hood devoted a portion of his land to their cultivation.⁴⁰ Hood also raised grains including wheat and oats, which were vital crops for the self-sufficient family farm.

When he first began operating his farm, William H. Hood relied little on slave labor, having only two slaves in 1840.⁴¹ In this regard, Hood was representative of many North Carolina farmers since in comparison to other slave states, North Carolina had "proportionately fewer units which concentrated entirely on the production of a staple crop than any other slave state."⁴² This situation was to change over the next twenty years, however; as agricultural historian Cornelius Cathey notes: "slavery had a much stronger hold on the community at the end of the [antebellum] period than in the beginning."⁴³ The decade from 1850-1860 was the most prosperous for antebellum farmers in North Carolina, and slaves were in great demand during this decade as commercial crop production increased.⁴⁴ William H. Hood participated in this trend towards increased slaveholdings and cash crop production towards the end of the antebellum era, owning fifteen slaves in 1850⁴⁵ and twenty-four in 1860.⁴⁶ During this decade, Hood doubled the amount of acreage he had under cultivation, and for the first time, began cultivating cotton. In 1860, Hood produced three bales of cotton which he probably ginned in the cotton gin on his farm.⁴⁷

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Hood's farm, however, never became a monoculture. Perhaps because he also operated a local store on his farm, Hood raised a large number of livestock including hogs, cattle, and sheep. The raising of sheep for wool and mutton never became a large-scale industry in North Carolina,⁴⁸ but Hood was somewhat unusual in that he kept an increasingly large herd of sheep, reaching a maximum of seventy, during the period 1850-1860.⁴⁹ Hogs, on the other hand, made up an important part of the everyday diet, and by 1860, Hood also had seventy hogs on the farm.⁵⁰ He probably cured their meat in his smokehouse both for his family's consumption and for sale in his store. A number of milk cows for dairy products and beef cattle were also kept on the farm. To support all this livestock, some of his fields were likely planted in forage crops.⁵¹

The Civil War, however, brought an end to Hood's increasing prosperity. A temporary decline in agricultural production followed the Civil War, and many fields in Wake County were allowed to grow wild.⁵² The farm Mary Hood took over after her husband's death in 1868 was 208 acres, down from the 390 recorded on the 1860 census. On the whole, after the Civil War, the trend in Wake County was for farms to become smaller since they were now worked largely by family members rather than a labor force of slaves.⁵³ The Civil War also resulted in a decline in numbers of livestock since many of them were taken from their owners by foraging Confederate and Union troops. Stories passed down through the Hood and Anderson families indicate that much of the livestock on the Hood-Anderson Farm was seized by Union troops. After the Civil War, the decrease in the size of farms, in conjunction with the enactment of fencing laws for livestock, led to a decline in livestock numbers on many Wake County farms, and livestock production on the Hood-Anderson Farm would never again reach pre-war levels. The drop in livestock numbers illustrates the general shift from subsistence to commercial agriculture that was taking place in Wake County at that time.

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What happened agriculturally to the Hood-Anderson Farm between 1868 and 1882 is somewhat unclear due to the fact that it appears no agricultural census data was collected for the farm in 1870; in 1880, the fact that the farm was not being operated by its owner makes the available census data difficult to interpret. What is certain is that by the mid-1870s, Samuel P. Anderson, who had married Laura Ella Hood in 1873, assumed responsibility for operating the Hood farm as well as the nearby Anderson farm at Lizard Lick. Receipts show that Samuel Anderson was influenced by the scientific farming methods becoming increasingly popular and widespread in North Carolina during the nineteenth century. Access to fertilizers was becoming easier as more railroads were built, and Anderson, in the 1870s, was buying guano and other fertilizers and treatments to improve the soil of his fields. In 1879, he produced six bales of cotton--twice what his father-in-law William H. Hood had produced twenty years earlier with slave labor--helping to contribute to the fact that by 1879, Wake was the leading cotton producing county in the state.⁵⁴

The cotton boll weevil was not to arrive in Wake County until 1927, but cotton's dominance was already being challenged in the 1880s by the spread of tobacco cultivation in Wake County.⁵⁵ As agricultural historian Pete Daniel explains, "when smokers turned to cigarettes in the late nineteenth century, they created a demand for gold-colored tobacco, and this set in motion a dynamic expansion of the bright tobacco culture."⁵⁶ Tobacco production spread south into Wake County from Virginia and the northern counties of North Carolina.⁵⁷ The sandy, alluvial soils of the Hood-Anderson Farm proved a great boon to the Andersons since such soils are ideally suited to the cultivation of brightleaf tobacco. The Marks Creek district of Wake County, where the Hood-Anderson Farm lies, became one of the centers of tobacco production in the county, and, as a result, land there continued to rise in value between 1900 and 1920.⁵⁸

Under Samuel P. Anderson's direction in the 1880s and 1890s, agricultural activity focused on the commercial production

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of cotton and tobacco. The combination of the two crops was found to work well since the two crops did not require attention during the same times of the year.⁵⁹ To cure the tobacco leaves, Anderson built two log tobacco barns on the farm in the late nineteenth century. The farm was worked primarily by family members at this time, and the labor-intensive aspects of tobacco production are attested to by a 1903 letter from eleven year old Lila Anderson; she was irritated at her brother Davis, who lived in Raleigh at the time, for not being there to help.⁶⁰ Samuel P. Anderson was also involved in offering lumber for sale, particularly some of the large cypresses growing along Buffalo Creek. In 1905, according to a letter written by Mary Ella Anderson, her father had "thirty acres in corn, twelve in cotton, [and] three in tobacco."⁶¹ The opening of a railroad depot in Eagle Rock in 1905 greatly reduced the cost and difficulty of getting commercial crops to market and gave a boost to farming in the area.⁶²

The arrival of the railroad and the suitability of the soil for tobacco production put the Andersons in a position to prosper. A combination of factors including "the breakup of the American Tobacco trust in 1911, the disruption of World War I, and increasing tobacco prices made 1911 to 1920 a golden decade for bright leaf growers."⁶³ This prosperity was reflected on the Hood-Anderson Farm by a number of improvements including necessary repairs on the house and farm buildings and the construction of some new outbuildings including a new barn. In 1923, Ivon Anderson was able to purchase the family's first automobile.⁶⁴

Prosperity was not to last indefinitely, however, and the boom in the first two decades of the twentieth century was followed by a downturn. The period between the two World Wars was a hard time for farmers across the South. In the early 1920s, prices for commercial crops plummeted, and the Great Depression of the 1930s drove many farmers out of business. The Andersons weathered these difficult times by returning to traditional patterns of self-sufficiency. Fortunately, they had never incurred significant debts, and in addition to the farm they lived on at Eagle Rock, they

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were able to rent the Anderson farm at Lizard Lick for shares. Thus, the Great Depression did not hit the Hood-Anderson Farm as hard as it did many less fortunate farmers.

The Hood-Anderson Farm represents a number of typical trends between the World Wars; some family members left the farm to pursue careers in the city, but others remained and diversified their agricultural production both as a way of remaining self-sufficient and as a way of reducing their vulnerability to the caprices of the cotton and tobacco markets.⁶⁵ Vance Anderson, Jr., whose father had left the farm and moved to Raleigh to go into business, recalls though it seemed "nobody had any money" in the 1930s, the Andersons living at the farm always had plenty to eat and plenty to share with their urban relatives.⁶⁶ According to his recollection, the siblings remaining on the farm--Ivon, Lillie, Lila, and Jesse--had hogs, cows, chickens, and guinea fowl, and raised corn, sweet potatoes, butterbeans, snap beans, squash, cabbage, onions, collards, turnips, mustard greens, peas, apples, pecans, and grapes. Sausage, smoked ham, eggs, bacon, and butter were shared generously with any family members who came to visit.⁶⁷ Commercial crops of cotton and tobacco continued to be grown, and a third and final tobacco barn was built around 1930.⁶⁸ The Andersons also supplemented their income by occasional sales of timber, and the balance maintained between agricultural fields and woodlands on the property demonstrates how these resources were managed; stands of timber were maintained at the northern borders of the farm in areas less suited to cultivation.

The 1940s brought additional changes to the Hood-Anderson Farm in the form of the arrival of electricity, mechanization, and new crops. The Andersons granted Carolina Power & Light an easement for electrical service in 1937, and it is thought that the house was wired just prior to World War II.⁶⁹ Ivon Anderson continued to plow his fields with mules until 1951, when he bought his first tractor. Samuel G. Anderson, the son of Jesse Anderson, recalls that they put in their last cotton crop just after World War II.⁷⁰ After that time, soybeans began to take the

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place of cotton, while tobacco remained the primary cash crop.

In 1947, the combined property of the Anderson family was divided three ways. Vance and Tilden Anderson took possession of the Anderson farm at Lizard Lick; Lila, Lillie, and Ivon Anderson got the main house at Eagle Rock and the surrounding 166 acres; and Jesse Anderson and his children got the other part of the farm at Eagle Rock upon which Jesse had already built his own house in 1912. Ivon and Lila continued to operate their portion of the Hood-Anderson Farm until Ivon's death in 1962. After that time, Jesse Anderson's son, Samuel G. Anderson, farmed Lila's portion under a share agreement. Lila, however, raised to be self-sufficient, determinedly kept her own garden, raising, freezing, and canning vegetables well into her eighties. In 1975, she was forced to enter a nursing home. Since her death in 1983, the fields have been rented by her heirs to a local farmer through a profit sharing agreement which lasts to the present. Now, however, family farms in Wake County are rapidly vanishing, giving way to suburban sprawl and commercial development.

The Hood-Anderson Farm also possesses significant archaeological resources both above and below ground that document the farm's settlement and evolution. Although thorough analysis and documentation of the archaeological resources has not been carried out yet, there is great potential that these resources will yield important information about historical agricultural practices and land use on the farm over its one hundred and sixty year history. A site containing traces of an earth and wooden timber dam may be found on Buffalo Creek; archaeological examination may yield data about the construction methods used and whether or not a grist mill was operated there at one time. Archaeology could also establish when the dam was built and whether or not its construction preceded William H. Hood's ownership of the property. Other important sites include the cotton gin house site (documented by a photograph taken before it burned), which may provide data on the significance of cotton as a cash crop. The blacksmith shop

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site, marked by a fieldstone chimney and hearth, is undisturbed and may provide information about period craftsmanship and the range of goods produced there. The privy site may also prove valuable for any artifacts that may have been deposited there.

Architectural Context

The architecture of the main house on the Hood-Anderson Farm represents William H. Hood's aspirations to a higher social status. On a practical level, the I-house plan is ideally suited to the hot North Carolina summers due to the good ventilation inherent in the design, but the plan also conveyed a message to all passers-by concerning the social position of the owner. The I-House plan maximized the visual impact of a four room house from the road, and the siting of the house on the uphill side of Battle's Bridge Road looking out over the broad fields stretching down to Buffalo Creek is an architectural statement of mastery of the landscape that symbolizes achievements of its owner.⁷¹

At the same time, the Hood-Anderson house can also be read as a vernacular attempt to approximate the style of finer houses. The house has many of the features of the house of a wealthy planter, but on a more modest scale; the woodwork is not so elaborately crafted as in some houses, and the accommodation of a staircase within the confines of the central hall resulted in one that is steep and somewhat treacherous. One could say, perhaps, that the Hood-Anderson House is a farmhouse that aspires to being a plantation house. Still, Hood's architectural gesture was a lasting and effective one, and in spite of the modern road now running past, it remains easy to imagine William H. Hood walking out on the upper deck of his front porch to survey his fields, store, and cotton gin from a vantage point of his own creation.

Built at the end of the 1830s, the main house on the Hood-Anderson Farm is an excellent example of the late Federal/early Greek Revival style popular from the 1830s through the early 1870s in Wake County.⁷² The house is

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particularly significant for its high integrity; other than the addition of a new front porch in 1917, some hardware replacements, routine maintenance, and the presence of electrical fixtures, the original portion of the house appears much as it did when it was first built. One upstairs bedroom, in fact, appears never to have been repainted. Some elements that were removed, such as the shutters around the windows, were stored and are still in good condition.

The Greek Revival form of the house departs from the tall, narrow Federal style typical of earlier houses in that it has broader proportions on its front façade and a shallow-pitched hip roof that emphasizes the horizontal lines of the house. Other typical Greek Revival features include the symmetrical center-passage plan, the row of six transom lights over the front door, and molded cornerboards. The house does, however, also show some Federal characteristics. For example, the house has tall nine-over-nine and nine-over-six windows rather than the broader six-over-six windows typical of later Greek Revival houses. The interior moldings and mantels, as well, are of a simple, delicate design more reminiscent of Federal restraint than the bolder carvings found in Greek Revival pattern books such as Asher Benjamin's *American Builder's Companion*.

In terms of local architectural context, the Hood-Anderson House shares characteristics of style with a number of other historic houses in eastern Wake County. For example, the Hartsfield House, built in 1835 in the vicinity of Rolesville, has a front façade almost identical to that of the Hood-Anderson House and still retains the central, upper front door like the Hood-Anderson House had prior to that door's conversion to a window in 1917.⁷³ The construction, placement, and proportions of the chimneys on the two houses are remarkably alike, and the proportions of the windows on the Hartsfield House are virtually identical to those on the Hood-Anderson except that Hood used 9/6 rather than 9/9 windows on the upper floor. In contrast, however, the Hood-Anderson House has double front doors more typical of the Greek Revival style compared to the single front door of the

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Hartsfield House. Historically, William H. Hood is known to have been acquainted with the Hartsfields, and his second wife, Mary Wiggins, was a Hartsfield descendant, so the design of that house may have provided inspiration for his own.

Harmony Plantation, built in the 1830s and even closer to Eagle Rock and the Hood-Anderson Farm than the Hartsfield House, has a similar façade including flush boards surrounding the front doors, a common feature on houses of that era and one that the Hood-Anderson House had prior to the 1917 porch addition, as shown in a photograph taken around 1888.⁷⁴ The house at Midway Plantation, built in 1848 only a few miles down the road from Eagle Rock, has the larger 6/6 windows typical of later Greek Revival style, but in terms of the overall proportions of the front elevations, the two designs bear a strong resemblance.⁷⁵ In particular, the front porch at Midway may illustrate the appearance of the original porch on the Hood-Anderson House. The porch at Midway extends only a short distance on either side of the front door, but it has a second story deck surrounded by a balustrade accessible by a central upper door. Structural ghostmarks and remaining flush boards behind the roof of the current porch on the Hood-Anderson house suggest an original porch of the same or similar design. More detailed comparisons of these properties may yield additional information about design influences.

The construction of Hood-Anderson House is typical of early to mid-nineteenth century materials and methods. It was built using heavy timber framing with mortise and tenon joints; the lumber was cut locally including cypress from the banks of Buffalo Creek. The three cut-stone, shouldered chimneys serving the house's six fireplaces were products of fine craftsmanship, and only one has required rebuilding since their installation. The interior walls and ceilings were originally plastered and whitewashed, and the woodwork was painted an intense blue. The woodwork consists of a plain baseboard, a flat plaster wainscot, a simple molded chair rail, and plain picture molding. A cornice molding

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was added in rooms where the plaster ceiling fell and was replaced by beadboard.

Practically all I-plan houses had ells added to them at some point, and from construction details, it appears that the two-story ell, comprising a dining room below and a bedroom above, was added fairly soon after the construction of the original section of the house, possibly when William H. Hood married his second wife in 1848.⁷⁶ Unlike the windows on the original section of the house, the window frames of the ell have cornerblocks, evidencing an increasing influence of the Greek Revival style. The ell bedroom is different from other rooms in that it has a wooden paneled wainscot. Other than the installation of two interior doors, the addition did not disrupt the original plan of the house; in fact, no attempt was made to remove the exterior sheathing on the original section of the house; thus, the east wall of the dining room is composed of weatherboards. The ell contains a rear enclosed stairway, somewhat wider, less steep, and generally more commodious than the one in the front hall.

Additions to the Hood-Anderson continued sporadically through the first half of the twentieth century without greatly altering what had been built previously or detracting from the house's value as a resource. This pattern of addition illustrates how farming families adapted their homes to new needs as opposed to building new houses. In 1912, a kitchen building was built or moved into place at the end of the back porch breezeway, but the most significant alterations were made in 1917, when the current front porch was added.⁷⁷ At that time, the flush boards surrounding the front doors were removed, and the door in the upper central hall was capped off to make a window (the upper part of the door was preserved after its removal). Faux woodgraining was applied to the woodwork and doors of the central hall after 1917. The wooden slatted shutters seen around all the windows in the 1888 photo may have been removed and stored in the post office at this time. At some point, part of the back porch behind the ell was enclosed, and in the late 1930s, it was converted into a bathroom as soon as the installation of electricity allowed running

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water to be pumped from a well. In the 1950s, the entire back porch was finally enclosed so that one could reach the bathroom and kitchen without going out into the cold or heat, but no attempt was ever made to conceal the weatherboards that were now interior rather than exterior walls. It is, thus, very easy even for the untrained observer to follow the progress of additions.

The landscape that William H. Hood would have surveyed from his home in the mid-nineteenth century is not so different from the one that may be seen today. The complete collection of outbuildings on the Hood-Anderson Farm is architecturally significant because of the way in which the forms of the buildings and their placement relative to the main house and each other reveal their historic functions and patterns of use. The buildings also document changing building methods and styles. In the early part of the nineteenth century, the houses and outbuildings of the average North Carolina farmer "were but little improved over those of the colonial period."⁷⁸ It is well documented that visitors traveling through the state often expressed dismay at the generally unrefined character of buildings they observed. The two-room tenant/slave house is one of the very few surviving and relatively unaltered examples of the simple buildings commonly used by farm tenants and/or slaves in rural North Carolina during the nineteenth century.⁷⁹ William H. Hood may well have lived in this house or another one-room house nearby, prior to his purchase of the property and the construction of a more elegant home.

Of particular interest is Hood's 1854 store/post office that retains its interior plan of two large counters that start at the outer walls near the entrance and converge towards the back of the store where the storekeeper's office and fireplace are located. Rows of shelves and racks for separating mail still line the walls. The Hood store served as a post office from 1854 to 1874, replacing an earlier structure that burned in 1854, and it is an extremely important resource since it is the oldest general store/post office--and "the only antebellum store building"--known to survive in Wake County.⁸⁰

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Other contributing buildings include the one-room building that apparently served at various times as a dwelling, a schoolhouse, and a storage building, the above-mentioned early nineteenth century two-room tenant/slave house, two late-nineteenth century log tobacco barns, a frame tobacco barn covered in tar paper built around 1930, two early twentieth century garages, a 1912 barn, a smokehouse, and a chicken coop. The remains of the cotton gin, the blacksmith shop, and the remains of an earthen dam are sites that can provide a mixture of archaeological and architectural information. Documentary photos of the cotton gin indicate that it dated from the 1830s or 1840s, and the photos include a buggy house that had to be torn down to accommodate the paving of SR 2366 in 1953. The cotton gin was of similar design to the one at nearby Walnut Hill Plantation.⁸¹ The contrast between the nineteenth and twentieth century tobacco barns illustrates how construction and curing technologies evolved over time. The large, two-story, gable-front, barn, built in 1912 by Ivon and Jesse Anderson, is characteristic of the barns built for use by tobacco farmers in the early twentieth century.⁸² Taken as a whole, this collection of buildings is a remarkably well-preserved resource for understanding the building practices and architectural styles embraced by middle-class family farmers in Wake County, North Carolina from the 1830s to the mid-twentieth century.

Endnotes

- ¹ Letter to Ivon Anderson from Tilden Anderson, 4 February 1917.
- ² Kelly Lally, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County* (Raleigh: Wake County Government, 1994), pp. 53-55.
- ³ *Ibid.*, p. 29.
- ⁴ Letter to Tilden Anderson from Laura Ella Hood Anderson, 3 January 1922.
- ⁵ Interview with Samuel G. Anderson, Eagle Rock, N.C., 22 October 1998.
- ⁶ Letter to Davis Anderson from Mary Anderson, 8 April 1906.

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⁷ Lila Anderson, in fact, refused to drink from the well and continued to drink only spring water as long as she lived in the house--until 1975.

⁸ Lally, pp. 52-55.

⁹ Ibid., 4.

¹⁰ Elizabeth Reid Murray, *Eagle Rock: Postmasters, Post Office Locations*, Unpublished, 1991.

¹¹ Eller genealogy.

¹² Catherine W. Bishir, Charlotte V. Brown, Carl R. Lounsbury, and Ernest H. Wood III, *Architects and Builders in North Carolina: A History of the Practice of Building* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1990), p. 131.

¹³ Elizabeth Reid Murray, *Wake: Capital County of North Carolina, Volume I, Prehistory through Centennial* (Raleigh, North Carolina: Capital County Publishing Company, 1983), p. 261.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 257.

¹⁵ Ibid., p. 504.

¹⁶ There is a stain on the floor in front of the hearth in this bedroom that is said to be a bloodstain.

¹⁷ Elizabeth Reid Murray, *Some Possible Additions to Hood-Anderson Timeline*, in letter to David A. Anderson, 19 July 1998.

¹⁸ The agricultural census data are difficult to interpret for this period since Samuel P. Anderson had his own smaller farm at nearby Lizard Lick, and it is unclear whether he included produce from both farms under his name.

¹⁹ Part of the acreage of the farm at Lizard Lick is still under Anderson family ownership.

²⁰ I wish to acknowledge my great debt to the research on genealogy and family history that Julia Sanders Eller made available to me. Her hard work, generous assistance, advice, and encouragement were invaluable.

²¹ Interview with Samuel Garland Anderson, Eagle Rock, NC, August 12, 1998. Also, in a letter to her brother Davis Anderson dated 19 March, 1910, Lillie Anderson wrote: "I know I must close and write my latin, before supper."

²² Letter to Davis Anderson from Lila Anderson, 15 January 1912.

²³ Lally, p. 7.

²⁴ Letter to Samuel Tilden Anderson from Davis Anderson, 22 January, 1912.

²⁵ Letter to Davis Anderson from Samuel Tilden Anderson, 27 March 1913.

²⁶ Based on examination of genealogies prepared by Julia Sanders Eller, Clois Richardson, and David A. Anderson.

²⁷ Letter to Davis Anderson from Mary Anderson, 8 April 1906.

²⁸ Interview with Andrew Vance Anderson, Jr., Raleigh, NC, August 18, 1998.

²⁹ Interview with Samuel Garland Anderson, Eagle Rock, NC, August 12, 1998.

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- ³⁰ Grant of Easement to Carolina Power & Light Company, 17 January 1936.
- ³¹ Deed signed 10 January 1947, Registered in the Office of the Register of Deeds, Wake County, North Carolina, 13 February 1947.
- ³² Receipt for purchase of tractor.
- ³³ Ruth Haislip Roberson, ed., *North Carolina Quilts* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1988), p. 69.
- ³⁴ Cornelius Oliver Cathey, *Agricultural Developments in North Carolina 1783-1860* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1956), p. 79.
- ³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 193.
- ³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 194.
- ³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 146.
- ³⁸ United States Department of the Census, Schedule 4., Productions of Agriculture in the Eastern Division of Wake County in the State of North Carolina, 1850.
- ³⁹ Interview with Samuel Garland Anderson, Eagle Rock, NC, August 12, 1998.
- ⁴⁰ Cathey, p. 161
- ⁴¹ United States Department of the Census, Slave Inhabitants in the N. Eastern Division in the County of Wake, State of North Carolina, 1840.
- ⁴² Cathey, p. 49.
- ⁴³ *Ibid.*, p. 54.
- ⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 67.
- ⁴⁵ United States Department of the Census, Slave Inhabitants in the N. Eastern Division in the County of Wake, State of North Carolina, 1850.
- ⁴⁶ United States Department of the Census, Slave Inhabitants in the N. Eastern Division in the County of Wake, State of North Carolina, 1860.
- ⁴⁷ United States Department of the Census, Schedule 4., Productions of Agriculture in the Eastern Division of the County of Wake in the State of North Carolina, 1860, p. 28.
- ⁴⁸ Cathey, p. 180.
- ⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 28.
- ⁵⁰ United States Department of the Census, Schedule 4., Productions of Agriculture in the Eastern Division of the County of Wake in the State of North Carolina, 1860, p. 28.
- ⁵¹ Cathey, p. 190.
- ⁵² Lally, p. 59.
- ⁵³ *Ibid.*, p. 61.
- ⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 63.
- ⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 140.
- ⁵⁶ Pete Daniel, *Breaking the Land: The Transformation of Cotton, Tobacco, and Rice Cultures since 1880* (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1985), p. 23.
- ⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 23.
- ⁵⁸ Lally, p. 68.
- ⁵⁹ Daniel, p. 37.
- ⁶⁰ Letter to Davis Anderson from Lila Anderson, 14 May 1903.

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- ⁶¹ Letter to Samuel Tilden Anderson from Mary Anderson, 1 April 1905.
⁶² Letter to Davis Anderson from Mary Anderson, 19 March 1906.
⁶³ Daniel, p. 35.
⁶⁴ Receipt from Central Motors, Inc., Raleigh, N.C., 6 April, 1923.
⁶⁵ Lally, 142.
⁶⁶ Interview with Andrew Vance Anderson, Jr., Raleigh, NC, August 18, 1998.
⁶⁷ Ibid.
⁶⁸ Interview with Samuel Garland Anderson, Eagle Rock, N.C., 22 October 1998.
⁶⁹ Grant of Easement to Carolina Power & Light Company, 17 January 1936.
⁷⁰ Interview with Samuel Garland Anderson, Eagle Rock, N.C., 22 October 1998.
⁷¹ Southern, p. 71.
⁷² Lally, p. 136.
⁷³ Ibid., p. 241.
⁷⁴ Ibid., pp. 217-218.
⁷⁵ Ibid., pp. 40-42.
⁷⁶ Michael Southern, "The I-House as a Carrier of Style in Three Counties of the Northeastern Piedmont," *Carolina Dwelling*, ed. Doug Swaim, (Raleigh: North Carolina State University School of Design Student Publication, 1978), p. 72.
⁷⁷ Letter to Tilden Anderson from Laura Ella Hood Anderson, 3 January 1922.
⁷⁸ Cathey, p. 49.
⁷⁹ Lally, p. 29.
⁸⁰ Ibid., p. 52-55.
⁸¹ Ibid., p. 55.
⁸² Ibid., p. 93.

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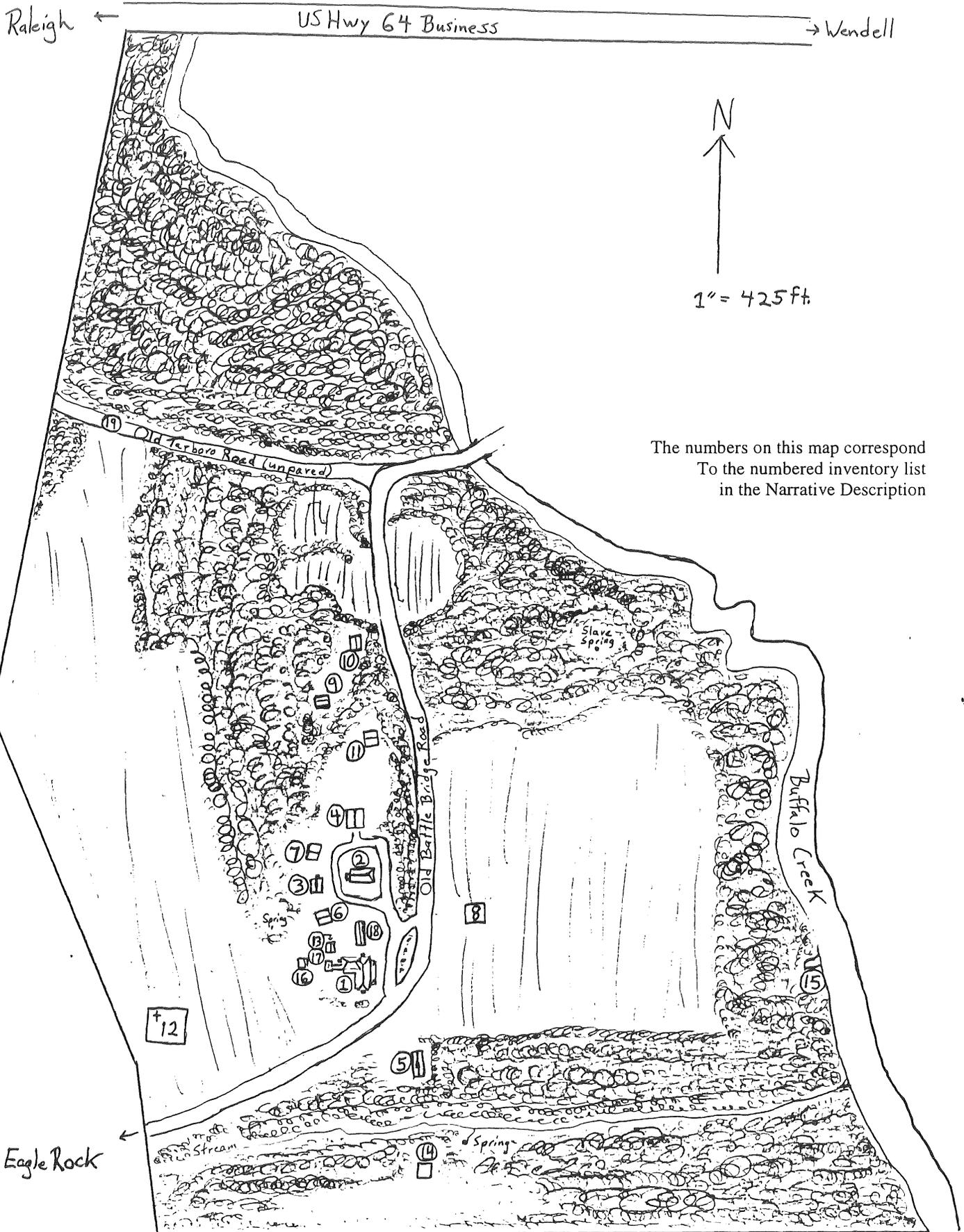
10. Geographical Data

UTM References

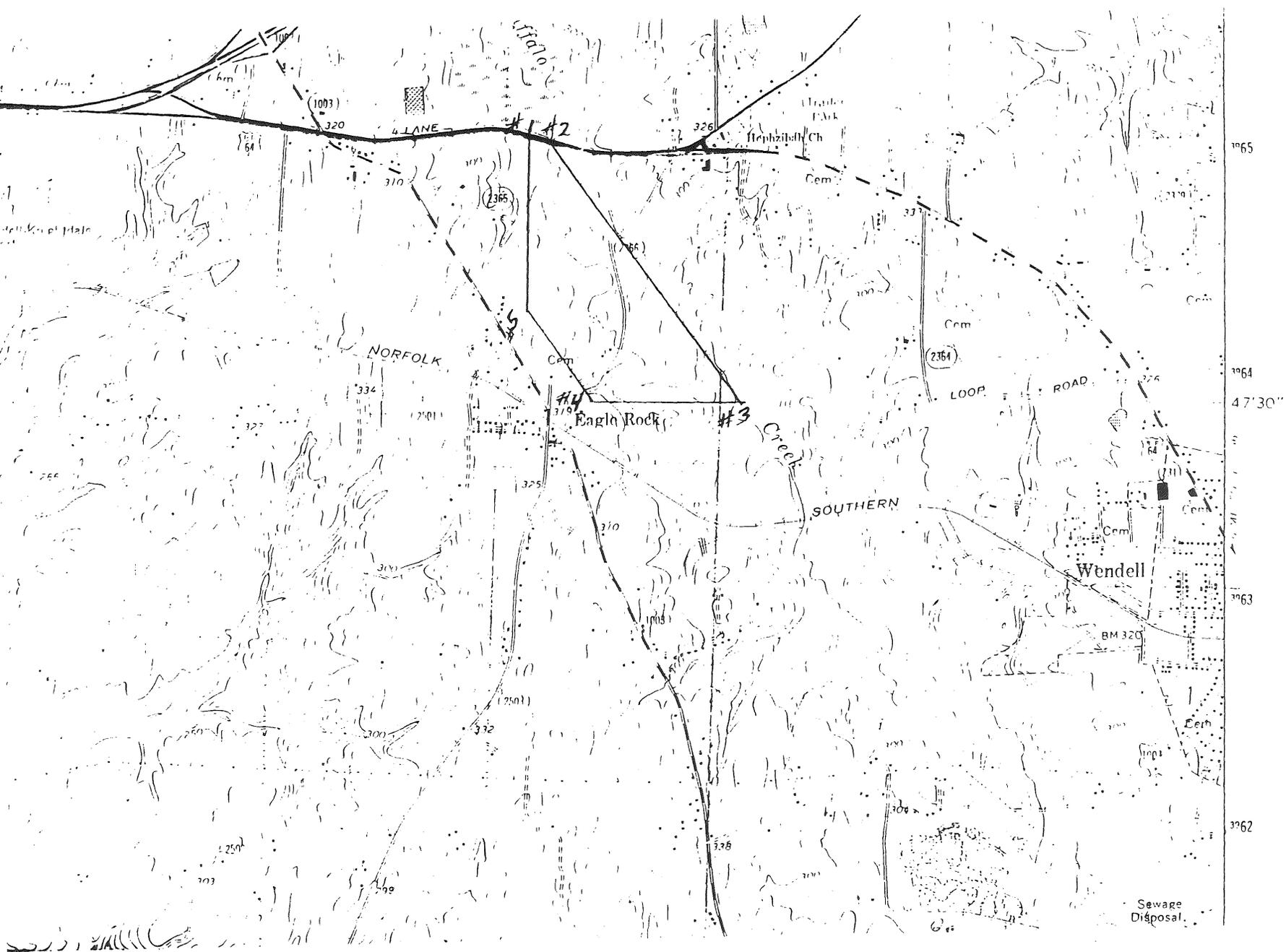
	Zone	Easting	Northing
1)	<u>17</u>	<u>734233</u>	<u>3965145</u>
2)	<u>17</u>	<u>734367</u>	<u>3965119</u>
3)	<u>17</u>	<u>735103</u>	<u>3964002</u>
4)	<u>17</u>	<u>734462</u>	<u>3964008</u>
5)	<u>17</u>	<u>734278</u>	<u>3964446</u>

Verbal Boundary Description: The property included in this nomination is outlined on the attached USGS map, Knightdale Quadrangle.

Boundary Justification: The 145 acres included in this nomination includes the core property holdings, buildings, sites, fields, and woodlands that have descended through the Hood and Anderson families from 1837 to the present. 11 acres of wetlands along Buffalo Creek north of US Highway 64 have been excluded since they are cut off from the rest of the property by the highway. The nominated tract contains resources which retain historic and architectural integrity in an intact agricultural setting.



The numbers on this map correspond
To the numbered inventory list
in the Narrative Description



HOOD - ANNE...
 WAKE COUNTY, N.C.

- #1 17/734100/3964940
- #2 17/734200/3964920

- #2 17/734080/3963800
- #4 17/734420/3963780
- #5 17/734120/3964180

Knightdale
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