

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Midway Plantation House and Outbuildings

Knightdale, Wake County, WA4818, Listed 6/15/2007
Nomination by Cynthia de Miranda
Photographs by Cynthia de Miranda, December 2006



Façade view



Side view and outbuildings

**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 Midway Plantation House and Outbuildings
other names/site number Midway

2. Location

street & number 1625 Old Crews Road not for publication N/A
city or town Knightdale vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27545

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 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 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	Signature of the Keeper _____	Date of Action _____
<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: _____	_____	_____

Midway Plantation House and Outbuildings
Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina
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	
5	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	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,
North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

5

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structures

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structures

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE, BRICK, STONE

walls WOOD/weatherboard

roof WOOD/shake, METAL/copper

other

Narrative Description

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

Midway Plantation House and Outbuildings
Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina
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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** 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1820 – ca. 1880

Significant Dates

ca. 1820, ca. 1848, ca. 1855, ca. 1860, ca. 1865-1880

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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 # HABS NC-211
- 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:

North Carolina State Archives

Midway Plantation House and Outbuildings
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>726160</u>	<u>3967500</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u>726380</u>	<u>3967400</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>726240</u>	<u>3967360</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>726390</u>	<u>3967250</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 Cynthia de Miranda
organization Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. date December 6, 2006
street & number Post Office Box 1171 telephone 919/682-2211
city or town Durham state NC zip code 27702

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 Charles Silver and Dena Williams
street & number Post Office Box 1277 telephone 919/261-8967
city or town Knightdale state NC zip code 27545

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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Midway Plantation House and Outbuildings
Wake Co., N.C.

The Midway Plantation House and Outbuildings stand in a wide clearing on an otherwise wooded ten-acre polygonal parcel north of Knightdale, an eastern Wake County town on U.S. Highway 64, just a few miles east of Raleigh. In 1970, when Midway Plantation was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the house and several outbuildings stood in their original location just north of U.S. Highway 64 on the road between Raleigh and Knightdale. The buildings were all moved in August 2005, and the new location, about two miles northeast of the original, is on land that was originally part of Midway Plantation.

The new location is accessible from a newly cut gravel lane that leads roughly west from Old Crews Road (SR 2228), a north-south road about a half mile east of the parcel and about a mile and a half north of the Town of Knightdale. The gravel lane passes through the pastureland and woods that border the east and south sides of the parcel. A small 1990s subdivision of houses on multi-acre parcels occupies a swath of land north and west of the parcel; the subdivision is shrouded from view by the woods edging the north and west sides of the new Midway parcel. A small unpaved roadway, mostly hidden behind trees at the north side of the parcel, leads west to the subdivision. Despite the nearness of the subdivision, the new site is rural in character and the owners have made every effort to make it comparable to the original site. The approach to the buildings, both from Old Crews Road and along the winding gravel road that leads from Old Crews Road through the pasture and surrounding woods, belies the nearby presence of residential development.

The 1970 nomination states that six and a half acres were listed in the National Register, and it briefly describes the house as well as mention the carriage house (referred to in this nomination as the smokehouse), the kitchen, the schoolhouse, the east office (destroyed by Hurricane Fran in 1996), and the dollhouse. In 1970, these outbuildings stood at the locations that had been recorded in a 1963 plan drawn for Historic American Building Survey (HABS) documentation: the house faced south, toward U.S. Highway 64, and was surrounded by outbuildings on three sides on land that sloped only slightly away from the house to the north. This is the earliest documented arrangement of buildings; it corresponds with family tradition and includes marks for "reconstructed" locations for buildings that had been demolished by the date of the HABS work. The plan shows that the east office stood southeast of the house, the tiny dollhouse stood directly east of the house, the kitchen stood north of the east wing of the house, the carriagehouse/smokehouse stood north of the west half of the house, and the schoolhouse stood west of the house. A driveway led north from the highway and quickly split to form a circular drive in front of the house. The HABS drawing shows mature trees in front of the house and surrounding the dollhouse; woods occupy the land immediately west of the farmstead. The HABS drawing also shows extensive formal gardens east of the farmstead; these gardens were not mentioned in the 1970 nomination and, according to family tradition, did not survive even to 1963. The schoolhouse saw several additions in its conversion to a residence; these additions were made in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, prior to listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970, but they were not mentioned in the nomination form. Two additions were made to the kitchen in the second half of the twentieth century: a shed-roofed garage on the west side, and a shed-roofed storage room at the back. A shed-roofed porch roof was added to the center section of the smokehouse during this period as well. The kitchen and smokehouse were also both covered with masonite siding in the 1970s. The main house had 1960s additions at the rear that were briefly mentioned in the 1970 nomination. Those additions were removed in early 2005 in anticipation of the move, as were all the additions to the school house, the kitchen, and the smokehouse. By this time, due to road widenings, the house stood less than two hundred feet north of US Highway 64. A row of osage orange trees that had been planted as buffer between the house and the road were lost to the widening, as was the original picket fence. The

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dollhouse had been relocated to a position southwest of the smokehouse in the mid-1980s, in order to protect it from falling tree limbs.

At the new location, a large square clearing at the center of the wooded parcel accommodates the Midway Plantation House and Outbuildings as well as a circular drive, yards, fencing, and landscaping that replicate the original setting. The topography is rolling, with a drop in grade from the east side to the northwest corner. A stream runs along the north and west edges of the parcel. The ca. 1848 house, a two-story, single-pile, hip-roofed Greek Revival house with additions, stands roughly at the center of the clearing and is surrounded on three sides by outbuildings. The tiny dollhouse stands northeast of the house, facing the rear additions to the house. North of the east end of the house stands the kitchen, and the smokehouse with flanking storage rooms stands north west of the house; both of these buildings appear to predate the house. A one-room schoolhouse, which also predates the main house, stands east of the front block of the house. Directly north of the dollhouse, at the northeast corner of the parcel, stands a 1942 gable-roofed barn that is not historically associated with Midway; the barn was built at nearby Beaver Dam (NR 1987) and was also moved to the parcel in August 2005.

In their new location, the buildings have been arranged to match the HABS documentation from 1963, including orientation to compass points and relationship to other buildings. The exception in the arrangement is the dollhouse, which was positioned slightly northwest of its location in the HABS drawing, due to the rising elevation of the land at the east side of the new parcel. Seven young oaks have been planted in the front yard, in locations matching those at the original site, and two American hollies have been planted in locations similar to the original site. The unpaved circular drive has also been recreated and a pair of cedars flanking the entrance to the drive has been planted in locations matching the original site. A new fence encircles the grouping of Midway buildings; its siting nearly matches that shown in the HABS plan and its configuration matches historic photographs. The fence encircles a slightly smaller yard area than did the original fence, as the east leg of the fence is not as far east as the original fence, due to the rising hill at the east side of the parcel. A set of substantial fence posts, topped with the original cast-iron caps, mark the un-gated opening to the circular drive. The south leg of the fence is a picket fence that closely matches the original picket fence at the site. This section of the original fence, along with the Osage orange hedge that stood just outside the south line of the fence, were lost to a widening of U.S. Highway 64 in 1954. The east, north, and west legs of the fence are a crossbuck design that matches the original fence. A barn not historically associated with Midway has also been moved to the new site; the 1942 barn stands north of the dollhouse in the northeast corner of the parcel, outside the fence that encircles the rest of the compound.

The Midway Plantation House and Outbuildings were moved in deference to the ever-widening highway it historically fronted and to the imminent construction of an outer-loop highway circling nearby Raleigh that will pass within eighteen hundred feet of the original Midway location. All outbuildings associated with Midway Plantation that survived to 2005 were moved with the house.

For three months prior to the move, the Midway Plantation House and Outbuildings were stabilized and braced in preparation for the move. The smokehouse and kitchen, which stood directly on the ground, required repairs to their rotting sills, as well extensive sistering to shore up the structures. Two chimneys were deemed strong enough to survive the move and maintain their usefulness: the stone chimney in the east addition of the house, and the brick chimney in the schoolhouse. The too-soft brick in the other chimneys and all stacks were removed

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prior to the move. Those chimneys and all stacks were rebuilt using new brick that was selected for its compatibility with the old brick. All the original stone fireboxes and hearths were removed and reinstalled after the move.

All additions were removed from buildings, including all three sets of additions to the schoolhouse, all rear additions to the main house, the two additions to the kitchen, and the added porch on the smokehouse. The porch on the main house was also removed, in part because it was difficult to support during the move and made the overall structure quite wide, and in part because it was fairly deteriorated. The porch was dismantled and much of the superstructure was retained, repaired, and reinstalled at the new site.

Steel grids designed to support the buildings during the move were slid beneath the buildings and wheels were inserted beneath the grids to enable the move. Foundations were removed; all bricks were salvaged for reuse, and the stone at the foundation of the east wing of the house was numbered before its removal so that it could be reinstalled in the same configuration. The buildings were towed and pushed to the new site over four days, using existing public roads and private roads as well as roads cut for the move. On the first day, the group was moved over a road cut through the woods immediately east of Midway until it reached Old Montague Lane, a public road. The buildings traveled north along Old Montague Lane until they reached Wake Stone Quarry and were moved onto a cleared holding site west of the road, where they stood overnight. On the second day, the buildings traveled along a private road that edges the west and north sides of the quarry, stopping for the night at the northeast edge of the quarry, just south of Forestville Road. On the third day, the buildings were hauled east over Forestville Road and north along Old Crews Road. The route turned west off Old Crews Road at the north edge of a pasture; the buildings spent one night in the pasture just off Old Crews Road. On the fourth day, the buildings were pulled over a new road cut through pasture and woods to the new parcel and the work properly siting the buildings began.

House, ca. 1848, 1860, Contributing Building

The Midway Plantation house is one of Wake County's best examples of antebellum Greek Revival domestic architecture. A low-pitched hip roof shelters the dwelling, which features three bays across its facade and a single-pile depth. As it did in its original location, the house faces south. A flat-roofed, single-story reconstructed front porch supported by four massive fluted Doric columns is centered at the facade; nearly full-width wood steps lead up to the porch. An original, single-story, hipped-roof section housing back rooms spans nearly the width of the rear elevation, being slightly inset from the corners of the two-story block of the house. The house stands on a new concrete-block foundation faced with the brick from the original foundation, re-laid in the original stretcher bond and matching the three-foot height of the original foundation in the front. The foundation height rises toward the back of the house to accommodate the sloped land at the site. Reconstructed interior brick end chimneys rise through the roof near the shallow side eaves of the two-story section, and two reconstructed exterior brick chimneys rise at the rear elevation of the ca. 1848 house, each chimney centered in one of the two back rooms in the appendage. The chimneys are all built to match the original chimneys using modern brick selected for its similarity to the original brick; all brick has been laid in stretcher bond, imitating the original construction. Weatherboard sheathes the walls of the house, new cedar shingles cover its roof, and newly-installed copper covers the porch roof. Overall, the house presents the broad proportions that marked a

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strong departure from the more narrow, upright dimensions of earlier antebellum houses typically designed in the Federal style.

Around 1860, the owners added a single-bay, single-pile, hip-roofed wing extending from the east elevation of the two-story house, slightly inset from the corners of and featuring a lower roof ridge than the main house. The east wing stands on a new concrete-block foundation faced with stone from the original foundation and features an original interior end chimney with a reconstructed brick stack of new brick that closely matches the original brick. An additional course of stone was added in the foundation at the back in order to accommodate a slope at the new site; the new stone closely matches the original but is discernable.

In addition to the broad overall proportions, exterior details on the house express its Greek Revival design. Four huge original six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows with reproduction louvered wood blinds contribute to the broad proportions of the house at the facade. The windows feature recessed-panel molding with plain cornerblocks. The blinds were reconstructed based on the original set that remained at the doorway. A single window, matching the size and detailing of those on the original block, pierces the south wall of the ca. 1860 side addition. The main entrance of the ca. 1848 dwelling, centered on its south-facing facade features a double-leaf paneled door surrounded by a glazed transom and sidelights; double-leaf, partially glazed storm doors were added in the 1960s. The entrance is sheltered by the centered front porch that stands on brick-faced concrete-block piers. The four stout, fluted Doric columns that support the porch roof are reconstructed versions of the originals, which had been replaced at some point with narrower fluted columns. The original columns are documented in photographs and the proportions of the reconstructed columns are based on paint markings on a plinth discovered under the porch during preparations for the move. At the second floor, directly above the front entry, a wide single-leaf, partially glazed door leads out onto a small terrace on the porch roof, which is edged with a corner-braced balustrade of square balusters beneath a curved handrail; the railing is a reproduction based on photographs. Across the original rear of the house, in the original single-story section that houses the two back rooms, the once-symmetrical fenestration has been altered slightly over the long life of the house. Reading from east to west, the original rear elevation shows a two-panel door, a reconstructed exterior chimney, and an original six-over-six window in the back room on the east side. Centered on the original rear elevation is a pair of paneled doors leading into the center passage. A swinging paneled door, installed in the 1960s, replaced the original six-over-six window that pierced the wall east of the second exterior chimney, which is also a reconstruction of new brick.

Overall, the original dwelling and the side addition both have a boxed cornice featuring two pairs of cyma recta and cyma reversa molding. Another exterior door provides egress from the north elevation of the addition; the same recessed-panel molding and plain cornerblocks seen on the windows surrounds that double-leaf paneled door.

An addition has been made at the back of the house since the move, replacing a 1960s addition that was demolished in preparation for the move. The addition includes new construction as well as a nineteenth-century outbuilding that had been appended to the east corner of the north elevation around 1860, covering the exterior chimney on the east end of the rear elevation. The outbuilding, which housed a pantry and later a bathroom, was detached from the house in preparation for the move and has been reattached in a slightly different configuration. It is no longer attached directly to the original section of the house; rather, an end-gable-roofed

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one-room-hyphen joins the outbuilding to the house, keeping it about five feet from the back of the house. Similarly, a second, new gabled hyphen connects a gable-roofed addition to the back of the west side of the house. The addition, housing a kitchen, matches dimensions and roof slope of the early nineteenth-century freestanding kitchen that stands behind the house. A shallow-pitched shed roof shelters the remaining space between both sets of gabled hyphens and rear attachments. This arrangement creates an enclosed breezeway between the back of the ca. 1848 house and the later attachments. Thus, the rear wall of the ca. 1848 house and the two reconstructed exterior chimneys are visible inside the enclosed breezeway. Also visible is most of the west elevation of the nineteenth-century outbuilding, including the west eave and a small section of slate roof. The outbuilding houses a remodeled bathroom, but the pantry cupboards—with their vernacular Greek Revival paneled doors—remain, as does beadboard walls from the 1930s. All of the rear additions feature the same cedar-shingle roofing that was installed on the main section of the house in 2006. From the north (rear) wall of the breeze way, three sets of double-leaf French doors open onto a deep back porch with tongue-and-groove flooring that fits between the appended outbuilding and the new kitchen addition. The second generation of porch columns from the front porch has been reinstalled at the back porch. A wide staircase of treated wood leads down several steps from the porch before dividing into two separate stairs, leading east and west. The staircases have a rail with a curved hand rail topping squared balusters. The foundation height at the back of the house nears six feet in height. Similar stairs of treated wood with hand rails leads down from double-leaf French doors at the east and west ends of the breezeway as well.

Inside, the ca. 1848 dwelling features a center-passage floor plan with the passage extending into the back single-story section. Rooms in the main block of the house are larger than the original back rooms; all rooms feature original high baseboard molding; the plaster walls and ceilings were necessarily re-done following the move. An open stair rises along the left side of the center passage, with the base of the stair facing the rear of the house. The stair features a simple turned newel post with cap and squared balusters. The space under the stair—a closet since at least the 1960s—once provided access to the cellar below the house. Interior doors throughout the house feature two vertical recessed panels; door and window trim comprises a variety of heavily molded Greek Revival designs with plain corner blocks; some moldings are derivative of plates in Asher Benjamin's *Practical House Carpenter* of 1830. The seven mantels, all original, are rendered a variety of Greek Revival designs.

Extensive paint analysis has revealed the paint colors and finishes used throughout the house. The high baseboards in the center passage feature reproduced jasper faux finishes dating to 1850; the front doors and the paneled doors on the east side of the house have reproductions of the original birds-eye maple faux finish. The door and window surrounds and stair balusters are painted creamy white, matching the original trim color revealed by the paint analysis.¹

The room to the left of the center passage is the parlor. The room has a fireplace in the west wall with a paneled mantel featuring a simple shelf above a cushion resting on engaged, reeded columns. That wall is covered with original, restored mid-nineteenth-century linen wallpaper: blue with stripes and a leaf motif rendered in gold. A window allows light to enter from the south wall, and two large pocket doors in the north wall open into the

¹ The paint and finish analysis was completed by George Fore in "Midway Plantation, Wake County, North Carolina, Historic Finishes Analysis," prepared for Charles Silver and Dena Williams in 2005. The report also details dates for some interior alterations.

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library, the room in the west end of the shed appendage. Each pocket door has three vertical inset panels, and the doorway is framed with heavily molded trim and plain corner blocks. The back parlor also has a fireplace centered in the north wall of the room; its mantel is identical to that in the parlor. A window, added ca. 1855, pierces the west wall of the room. A door to the right of the fireplace was added in the 1960s to provide access to a rear addition; the window that it replaced was used in the rear addition and has been reused again in the north wall of the schoolhouse since the move. Reproduced faux finishes in the parlor and back parlor date to 1855, when the baseboards were painted to look like sienna marble, the mantels like black marble, and the doors like oak. The reproduced finishes to the baseboards are complete; work is still underway on the mantels and has yet to be done on the doors. As in the hall, door and window surrounds are painted in their original creamy white.

The front room to the right of the center passage in the main block of the house historically served as a bedroom, according to family tradition. A fireplace centered on the east wall features a paneled mantelpiece with a shelf and cavetto molding resting on semi-engaged fluted columns. Doors flank the fireplace; each is a single-leaf door with two vertical panels framed by molded trim accented with plain corner blocks. Both doors lead out of the main block of the house into the single-story side wing; they were added one at a time, the first concurrent with the ca. 1860 construction of the wing and the second between 1865 and 1880. Originally, the east addition housed a single heated room, but the space was divided into three rooms between 1865 and 1880: a bathroom and a small passageway were created by adding an interior wall to the west third. From the passage, situated at the north side of the east addition, one turn left to exit the house into the rear yard through the door on the north elevation; continue straight to enter the room historically used as a nursery and later used as a kitchen; or turn right for an alternate entry into the added bathroom, which has been remodeled at least twice, most recently just after the move. The nursery features a single window on both the north and south walls and a fireplace on the east wall. The baseboard molding is not quite so high as in the rest of the house. The woodwork in the bedroom and east addition was stripped by the current owner and his brother in the 1960s; it remains unfinished.

The back east room, historically used as the dining room, has a fireplace on the north wall flanked by a window on the left and a door on the right. The mantel matches that in the first-floor bedroom and is painted to match its original color, black. All other trim in the room is the same creamy white seen elsewhere. A second window, added between 1865 and 1880, provides light from the east wall of the room. The door to the right of the fireplace leads to the enclosed breezeway of the new addition, which leaves the original exterior of the house, including the rebuilt exterior chimneys, exposed. From the breezeway, new doors on both the east and west sides provide egress from high stoops. A door provides entry into the old pantry that connects to the east end of the north side of the breezeway. Three steps lead down into the pantry, which historically was joined to the house at a similar lower elevation. At the west end of the north wall of the breezeway is the new kitchen addition.

Upstairs, in the ca. 1848 portion of the building, bedrooms flank the center passage. Each bedroom has an entry door on the interior east or west wall, a fireplace on the exterior east or west wall flanked by original closets, a window on the south wall and a featureless north wall. The fireplace mantels are similar but not identical: they both have chamfered molding with sunk and raised fillets, but the patterns differ slightly. The high baseboards and door and window moldings seen downstairs appear in the upper bedrooms as well; the moldings, however,

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feature patterns with chamfers and fillets, similar to those seen in the upstairs mantelpieces. A large storage room was inserted in the northeast corner of the center passage around 1855; in the twentieth century, it was converted into a bathroom. The mantels are painted the original black and all woodwork the original creamy white.

The ca. 1848 house and 1860 side addition look substantially like they did at construction, having undergone few changes, particularly at the facade. In the early nineteenth century, a slate roof was put on the building, probably replacing wood shingles. The slate roof survived to 2005, but so many tiles broke in the move that the owner removed it and installed cedar shingles in deference to the supposed original roof material. While the new addition at the rear is substantial, it is easily discernable from the earliest sections of the house, and it has been built so as not to destroy or obscure original material and without changes to the original floor plan.

Dollhouse, ca. 1860, Contributing Building

The dollhouse is a single-story, one-room, hip-roofed building that stands on large stone piers; the original stone piers were not reused because they did not lift the building high enough to keep it dry. Unlike all the other Midway buildings, the dollhouse faces west, toward the main house. Original narrow beaded weatherboards sheathe the exterior and new wood shakes cover the roof. Reeded corner boards and a boxed cornice provide elegant ornament to the simply detailed building. A shallow, shed-roofed front porch on the west elevation is enclosed on the sides with lattice; the porch floor is modern decking. The porch shelters the single-leaf, two-panel, Greek Revival door centered on the facade. A single four-over-four double-hung wood window pierces the center of the east elevation and another is centered at the south elevation. Louvered exterior blinds have been reinstalled on the building. The interior features plank walls, ceiling, and floor.

Kitchen, ca. 1820, Contributing Building

The kitchen is a single-story, one-room building with a steep side-gable roof and a large exterior rebuilt stone chimney with brick stack. Original and new beaded weatherboards sheathe the walls and new cedar shingles cover the roof. The building includes some new materials due to extensive deterioration of the original fabric prior to the move. However, the original braced timber frame survives, including corner braces, ceiling joists, and rafters. Salvageable weatherboards have been relocated to the lower half of the west side of the building; elsewhere, matching new beaded weatherboards have been installed. The building, which originally stood directly on the ground, now stands on concrete-block piers faced with brick salvaged from original chimney stacks. The foundation is about a foot high in the front and about two-and-a-half-feet in the back. While the foundation is higher than at the original site, the building actually stands a bit lower in relationship to the house than it did at the original site due to the greater slope of the land.

The west wall also features a new nine-over-six double-hung wood window. A new wood vent has been installed above the window in an original opening in the west gable wall. The north elevation holds a mid-twentieth-century six-over-six wood window that was salvaged from a demolished addition to the school house, and the south-facing facade features new wood nine-over-six windows, copied from the originals, flanking a new wood plank exterior door with Z-bracing that swings outward. Another door opens into the kitchen at the same opening on the south elevation; this mid-twentieth century door is partially glazed and was built by Charles Silver Sr., the previous owner. The exterior chimney at the east elevation is rebuilt from the original

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stone and new brick. Its dimensions are larger than the chimney that was dismantled before the move; the kitchen's timber frame showed the size of the original chimney, and stone from its base was found underneath the second chimney. Patches found around the existing chimney when it was dismantled showed that an earlier chimney was wider at its base. The dimensions of the new chimney are based on that evidence. An exterior hearth, based on one seen at Haywood Hall (NR 1970) in Raleigh, has been added.

Inside, some early wall finishes survive. The west wall features a crude wainscot assembled from wide horizontal planks with plaster above; the finish dates to about 1850. The north, east, and west walls continue the wainscot with fresh plaster walls above. The wide fireplace, hearth, and timber mantel are all new construction.

Prior to the move, the kitchen had a late-twentieth-century shed-roofed garage addition on its west side and a shed-roofed storage room appended to its north side. Masonite siding covered the original beadboard weatherboards.

Smokehouse, ca. 1820, Contributing Building

Like the kitchen, the smokehouse had seen extensive deterioration to its historic fabric, and the building now includes a substantial amount of new material inside and out. The three-room building features a central side-gabled room flanked by sizable shed-roofed rooms; each room has a single door centered on the south elevation. The building's original sill ran the entire width of the building, indicating that the shed rooms were original. They appear to have first built as open bays, however, given the beaded weatherboards that form the east and west walls of the center room. Original weatherboards also survive at the tops of the gable walls of the center section, but new beaded weatherboard sheathes most of the exterior of the building. New cedar shingles cover all roof surfaces. Each room has a new plank door with Z-bracing on the south elevation; there is no other fenestration. The building stands on a new foundation of concrete block piers faced in salvaged original brick; the foundation height at the front is just over a foot; at the back of the building, it measures 2-³/₄ feet.

Inside the center room, the original braced timber framing survives. Heavy studs are joined to the top plate with mortise-and-tenon construction. Original rafters and ceiling joists of substantial size also remain and are visible since the room has no ceiling. On the east and west sides of the room, the back of the original beaded weatherboards are visible; these weatherboards became protected interior walls once the shed rooms were enclosed. Hanging on both the north and south walls, just below the framing top plate, are split logs with wood pegs for hanging meat.

The shed rooms were likely enclosed soon after the gabled center section of the smokehouse was built, as they feature the same mortise-and-tenoned braced frame as the central section. The frame survives only on the north and south walls of the shed rooms, however. The exterior wall and the entire roof structure of each shed room have been rebuilt. The beaded weatherboards of the central section are visible inside each of the shed rooms, the early narrow plank wood floors also remain.

Schoolhouse, ca. 1820, Contributing Building

The schoolhouse is a single-story, single-room, hip-roofed braced timber-frame building standing on a new concrete-block foundation faced with salvaged original brick. The building features its original weatherboard

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exterior and a new cedar shingle roof. An original interior brick chimney rises near the eave at the west side of the building. Fenestration includes a door on the south elevation and a single six-over-six double-hung wood window centered on each of the east and north elevations. The east elevation's window is original; the window on the north elevation had originally been in the north wall of the main house, just east of the west exterior rear chimney. It was replaced with a door in the 1960s and the window put in storage until it was installed in the rehabilitated schoolhouse in 2006. The two-panel Greek Revival door originally hung on the nineteenth-century outbuilding joined to the back of the main house. The exterior door and window trim feature plain cornerblocks and wide molding with a recessed panel. Corner boards show the same treatment as the door and window molding. A boxed cornice adds to the clean, elegant lines of the simple building.

Inside, the original plank floors remain beneath a new floor of oak, milled from the old oaks that were cut down at the original site. Beaded timbers serving as ceiling joists also remain, as do some original rafters; those have been hidden above the new plaster ceiling; new plaster walls have been installed as well. A simple original mantle, with pilasters, a recessed panel, and a plain shelf, surrounds the hearth.

In its original location, the schoolhouse had been altered throughout the second half of the twentieth century to serve as a residence. A wide, shed-roofed addition was made to the west side of the building in the 1940s, housing two bedrooms and a bathroom. A kitchen was added in another shed-roofed addition built across the back of the schoolhouse at the same time. In the 1950s, a shed-roofed third bedroom and a front porch were added across the front of the building; in the 1960s, a den and second bathroom were added east of the kitchen in a final flat-roofed addition. The result of these additions was that three sides of the original structure were completely obscured by additions by the end of the 1960s. All were removed prior to the move.

Barn, 1942, Noncontributing Building

The barn is not historically associated with Midway, having been built at Beaver Dam in 1942. It is a gabled frame building, 18½-feet wide and 32½ feet deep, with plank siding, a single-leaf door centered on the south eave wall, and a 16-foot-wide shed addition on the north elevation. The barn has a standing-seam metal roof. It stands directly north of the dollhouse and northeast of the kitchen, outside the fence line in the far northeast corner of the parcel. Standing aside in this location, and given the different materials and appearance, the barn does not appear to be part of the grouping of Midway buildings.

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Summary

Midway Plantation was the last of the many Hinton family plantations established in eastern Wake County. Midway was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1970 in the area of History. In the summer of 2005, the house and all the surviving outbuildings at Midway Plantation were moved to a ten-acre tract approximately two miles northeast of the original location, on land historically part of Midway Plantation.

In their new location, the Midway Plantation House and Outbuildings meet NRHP Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The house is a finely rendered Greek Revival antebellum planter's home in Wake County, with molding derived from plates published in Asher Benjamin's 1830 pattern book, *Practical House Carpenter*. The outbuildings, which date from the early to mid-nineteenth century, are excellent examples of supporting structures to a plantation household. Some feature Greek Revival details; others are more strictly utilitarian in appearance. The house and outbuildings meet Criteria Consideration B for moved properties that retain integrity and derive their significance primarily from their architectural value. The period of significance extends from ca. 1820, the approximate construction date for the three early outbuildings, to ca. 1880, the date by which the re-design of the interior of the one-story side addition was completed. A large barn at the back of the complex is not historically associated with Midway and is a noncontributing building at the site.

Context 1, "British and Africans Shape an Agrarian Society (Colonial Period to 1860)," and Context 2, "Civil War, Reconstruction, and A shift to Commercial Agriculture (1861 to 1885)" in "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina, Ca. 1770-1941" (MPDF) provide historic context for the construction of the Midway Plantation House and Outbuildings. The locally significant Midway Plantation House and Outbuildings fall under Property Type 1A, "Farm Complexes: Colonial Period to 1865," which provides their architectural context. The house also falls under Property Types 3A, "Houses Built from the Colonial Period to the Civil War Era (ca. 1770-1865)" and 3B, "Houses Built Between the Civil War and World War I (1865-ca. 1918)." Houses in Wake County are significant as reflections of the architectural trends that reached the county and the choices and adaptations that people made in terms of architectural design and style. Similarly, the outbuildings also fall under Property Type 2, "Outbuildings," which provides their architectural context. The property meets the registration requirements for the three property types as outlined on page F-117 for farm complexes, page F-124 for outbuildings, and pages F-141-142 for houses. Additional historical information specific to the Midway Plantation House and Outbuildings is included herein.

History of Midway Plantation

Members of the Hinton family have lived in eastern Wake County since the Colonial period, when land grants from Earl Granville gave Colonel John Hinton (1715-1784) vast tracts along the Neuse River. Various descendants of Colonel John Hinton built several plantation houses in eastern Wake County between about 1765 and 1848, including Clay Hill on the Neuse (ca. 1765), the Oaks (ca. 1790), Silent Retreat, Stony Lonesome, River Place, Beaver Dam (ca. 1810), and Midway (ca. 1848). Three of those houses—The Oaks, Beaver Dam, and Midway—still stand, but only Beaver Dam and Midway survive with their architectural integrity intact.¹

¹ Mary Hilliard Hinton, "Colonel John Hinton," *The North Carolina Booklet* 14 (April 1915): 225-236, published online at www.mindspring.com/~baumbach/hinton/jhinton.htm, accessed April 29, 2005; "Clay-Hill-on-the-Neuse," *The North Carolina Booklet* 3 (October 1903): 27-27, published online at <http://www.mindspring.com/~baumbach/hinton/clayhill.htm>, accessed April 29, 2005; Virginia Oswald and Jerry L. Cross,

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Colonel Hinton's grandson, Charles Lewis Hinton (1793-1861), lived at The Oaks, a Hinton-family plantation about ten miles east of Raleigh, in a house built by his father David Hinton (1770-1850). A graduate of the University of North Carolina, Charles Hinton held a series of important positions in private industry and later in state government while remaining a planter with significant land holdings. Hinton held leadership positions in the Neuse River Navigation Company and later in the Wake County Internal Improvements Association (which advocated for statewide railroad development) and was involved in the 1851 reorganization of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad. Hinton was a senator from North Carolina and twice served as state treasurer. As treasurer, he also sat for a time on the commission to rebuild the state Capitol in the 1830s. Hinton also served as a commissioner for building the State Hospital for the Insane and as commissioner for the sale of Indian lands. From 1832 through 1860, Hinton was also a trustee of his alma mater. He married Ann Perry around 1820.²

Family tradition holds that Charles Lewis Hinton built a house on the north side of Tarboro Road in 1848 as a wedding gift to his son David Hinton (1826-1876), who married Mary Boddie Carr (niece of Governor Elias Carr) in 1852. The stylish Greek Revival dwelling stood halfway between the houses at The Oaks and Beaver Dam plantations; thus the genesis of the name given the newest house, Midway. Charles maintained ownership of the substantial tract of land under Midway's foundation until his death in 1861, when he willed the land to his son David. The 1860 census shows the younger David Hinton as head of a household that included his wife Mary and two children, Charles, age 7, and Bettie, age 5, and plantation overseer Riley Phillips. David and Mary Hinton would ultimately have two more children, Jane and Mary Hilliard Hinton, both born after the 1860 census. The census also records that David owned no real estate in 1860, but that the value of his personal estate was an impressive \$200,000. The 1860 slave census lists nine enslaved people under David Hinton's name; these nine all likely worked in the house and would have accounted for a fraction of the value of David Hinton's personal estate. The census lists 126 enslaved people under Charles Lewis Hinton's name for the same year, and records that Charles owned over thirty-five-hundred acres of improved and unimproved farmland. The 1860 census indicates that Charles Lewis Hinton and his son David lived in different households, but the census taker proceeded directly to David Hinton's dwelling after recording the inhabitants at Charles's household, indicating that the houses were in proximity to each other.³

The 1860 census also shows that Charles was one of very few men in Wake County with more than one hundred slaves; others with substantial slaveholdings included John Smith, Jacob Mordecai, and Dr. John H. Jones. In Hinton's case, enslaved laborers worked on at least three plantations: The Oaks, Midway, and River Place.⁴

"Beaver Dam," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1986; J.G. Zehmer and Sherry Ingram, "Midway Plantation," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1970; grave markers at the family cemetery at The Oaks.

² Elizabeth Reid Murray, *Wake: Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. I (Raleigh: Capitol County Publishing Company, 1983) 132-133; 252-261; 292; 400; 428-429; William Powell, ed., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1988), 148.

³ Will of Charles Lewis Hinton, February 1862 in possession of Charles Hinton Silver, Jr.; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Wake County, North Carolina, Free and Slave Population Schedules, National Archives, Washington, D.C. (microfilm, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh); Eighth Census of the United States, 1860 Free and Slave Population Schedules, National Archives, Washington, D.C. (microfilm, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh).

⁴ Kelly A. Lally, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina* ([Raleigh]: Wake County Government, 1994), 16; Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Slave Population Schedules.

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David Hinton was, like his father, a graduate of the University of North Carolina. Unlike his father, David did not choose public life, concentrating instead on running the plantation. In 1876, the year of David Hinton's death, an inventory of his estate reveals that Midway stood on twenty-five hundred acres and that David also owned the River Place tract, which contained about a thousand acres.⁵

One effect of the Civil War and the end to slavery can be seen in comparing the estate of David Hinton in 1876 to that of his father sixteen years earlier. While the extensive acreage, passed down through generations of Hintons, had been preserved, the family's wealth had diminished greatly. In 1860, Charles Lewis Hinton owned seventeen horses, seventeen mules, twenty-five cows, eight oxen, forty sheep, and over two hundred swine on two tracts of land that included about forty-five hundred acres. David Hinton's 1876 inventory lists only eight mules, a single horse, six cows, six calves, two oxen, and nine hogs, despite his land holdings of about thirty-five-hundred acres. The inventory also shows that, despite owning just the one horse, David Hinton also had one four-horse wagon, one two-horse wagon, a jersey wagon, one carriage, and one buggy, all likely purchased and used before the war.⁶

The house and outbuildings have remained in the family, passing to David Hinton's youngest daughter Mary Hilliard Hinton after her parents' deaths. Mary Hilliard Hinton had been born at Midway in the years following the Civil War and lived there all her life, with the exception of the years she boarded at Saint Mary's School on the west edge of Raleigh. Mary Hilliard Hinton, who never married, died in 1961, leaving all her land her oldest grandnephew, Charles Hinton Silver, the son of her niece Bessie Hinton Silver and Henry Sprague Silver. Charles Silver and his family had lived in the schoolhouse from 1945 through 1961, expanding it in stages with wings to the north, south, and west. Upon inheriting Midway in 1961, Charles Silver began an expansion of the main house as well. Silver built a kitchen and breakfast room addition on the north side of the house, which was demolished in preparation for the 2005 move. Silver also added three bathrooms in existing closets or pantries in the house.⁷

Charles Silver died in 1979, leaving his wife Betty Silver a life interest in Midway and directing that it pass upon Betty's death to his eldest son, Charles (Charlie) Hinton Silver Jr. Charlie and his wife Dena Williams have lived in the house since 2001. Tarboro Road, now U.S. Highway 64, has evolved into a four-lane divided highway that will soon be widened again to accommodate dramatically increased traffic demand. Construction of the eastern segment of Raleigh's new outer loop road, Interstate 540, will create a major interchange at its juncture with U.S. 64. The route of the six-lane I-540 passes just eighteen hundred feet west of Midway's original location. The traffic noise on U.S. 64 is already constant; soon, heavy traffic will pass on the west as well. The massive road project follows significant growth in the area. During the 1990s Wake County experienced a growth rate of nearly fifty percent; Knightdale's population has increased twenty-three percent since 2000.

Because of these massive road projects, Mr. Silver and Ms. Williams moved the house and all the remaining outbuildings in the summer of 2005 from the original location to the ten-acre parcel two miles northeast, on land that was also historically Hinton land. The owners have gone to great lengths to recreate the original

⁵ Powell, 150; Inventory of David Hinton, 1876, Wake County Estate Records, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

⁶ Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Wake County, North Carolina, Agricultural Census, National Archives, Washington, D.C. (microfilm, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh); Inventory of David Hinton Estate, State Archives.

⁷ Charles Hinton Silver, interview with the author, 2 May 2006.

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setting and spatial relationship of the buildings at the new site, in some cases improving upon the integrity of buildings that had been heavily altered before the move. While the group of buildings no longer fronts a major transportation route, as it did originally, the circular drive that contributed to the character of the original site has been reproduced at the new location. Buildings have nearly all been sited to match the arrangement recorded in Historic American Building Survey (HABS) drawings completed by students at North Carolina State University in 1963. One building recorded in the HABS drawings, the East Office, was destroyed in 1996 after sustaining damage in Hurricane Fran. However, the schoolhouse and kitchen, which had both seen multiple additions in the mid-to late-twentieth century, have been restored to more closely match their original appearances.

The entire project, including the move, rehabilitations to outbuildings, removal of additions made in the second half of the twentieth century, and the construction of a new addition to the rear of the house, has been planned in consultation with the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (HPO). An archaeological study completed by Carolina Coastal Research at the new site in March 2005 found no archaeological sites during the survey and determined that the relocation of the house and outbuildings would not affect any archaeological sites.

Architecture Context:

Greek Revival Domestic Architecture in Wake County

The Midway Plantation house is a mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival dwelling built by Charles Lewis Hinton, one of Wake County's wealthiest and most prominent residents at the time. In its organization and floor plan, the house reflects traditional building practices that had been established decades earlier. In its architectural treatment, both exterior and interior, the building exhibits an elegant, restrained version of the Greek Revival style, preferred by planters in the county since the 1820s. The house is one of the most pure examples of the Greek Revival residential style surviving in Wake County.

Kelly Lally, in her architectural survey of Wake County, found that the county's economic and architectural development, not surprisingly, paralleled agricultural development. In the middle of the nineteenth century, the typical Wake County farm was a subsistence farm. Larger farms, especially those with substantial acreage and populations of enslaved people, were the exception. Land in the eastern part of Wake County had a higher assessed value than in the west, and eastern Wake County farms had a greater concentration of slave labor. Not surprisingly, eastern Wake County also saw more Greek Revival plantation houses built in the decades just before the Civil War. The houses from these large plantations tend to be the residential buildings that survive from this period, but even these feature only modest detail in their chosen architectural style. In the nineteenth century, architectural trends shifted from the Georgian style to the Federal in the early part of the century, and then to the Greek Revival, which dominated for several decades.⁸

Three separate events contributed to the enduring popularity of the Greek Revival style for domestic architecture in nineteenth-century Wake County. In 1826, the wealthy Mordecai family of Wake County hired architect William Nichols to design a substantial addition to and remodeling of their late eighteenth-century house. Nichols had just redesigned the State Capitol building in Raleigh, creating a cruciform plan and adding a rotunda. For the Mordecai house (NR 1970), Nichols's addition featured a two-tier pedimented front portico with Ionic and Doric columns inspired by Stuart and Revett's *Antiquities of Athens*. The new design introduced the Greek Revival style to domestic architecture in Wake County and proved to be influential in domestic architecture for the next several decades. The Greek Revival became popular with the planter class throughout

⁸ Lally, 4-5, 15, 39.

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eastern and central North Carolina in the middle decades of the nineteenth century, and the Mordecai house served as a direct inspiration for several Wake County houses built with similar pedimented porticos.⁹

The second strong influence on Wake County planters who built houses in the 1830s through the 1850s was the 1830 publication of Asher Benjamin's *Practical House Carpenter*. Benjamin's pattern book showed scale drawings of overall house plans and interior and exterior detail, including porch and entry treatments, mantels, wainscoting, and window trim. The 1837 South Brick House (NR 2003, Wake Forest Historic District) in Wake Forest exhibits Benjamin details in its Greek Revival woodwork.¹⁰

Finally, the third significant influence was the reconstruction of the State Capitol in Raleigh. The State Capitol building burned in 1831 was rebuilt over the course of a seven-year construction period. The building, finally finished in 1840, ultimately included plans by Nichols's son William Nichols Jr. and by Ithiel Town and Alexander Jackson Davis. The end result was a Greek Revival State House with a rotunda atop a cruciform plan and massive Doric pedimented porticos on the east and west sides. Both reflecting and reinforcing the popularity of the Greek Revival style, the building was the state's most prominent building effort of the time.¹¹

Many examples of the Greek Revival style in Wake County, directly echoing the influence of the projects cited above, feature pedimented one-story or two-tier porticoes or full-height porticoes. Midway, by contrast, has a single-story porch with a flat roof supported by four Doric columns. The roof also serves as a balcony accessed from the second-story hall. While the more modest portico gives Midway a simpler overall appearance, it is also a more pure example of the Greek Revival style. Several of the county's earlier Greek Revival dwellings also employed some Federal-era details or proportions. Midway features the Greek Revival style's characteristic broad proportions and low profile, a contrast to the taller, more upright lines of Federal era designs. Midway also features a typical Greek Revival floor plan, with a wide center hall flanked by single rooms in the symmetrical main block of the building.

Midway's plan, however, may also have been influenced by an earlier Hinton family house, Beaver Dam, built around 1810 by William Hinton and owned by Charles Lewis Hinton from 1832 to 1841. Outwardly, Beaver Dam exhibits the transitional Georgian-Federal style, making it more vertical and narrow in its proportions than Midway. At Beaver Dam, the single-pile, three-bay house features original shed rooms at the rear, a common arrangement when Beaver Dam was built and one that was duplicated at Midway. In both houses, a central stair rises from the rear of the house, originating in the shed-room portion and rising to the front of the house to provide access to bedrooms flanking the stair hall. A significant difference between the plans of the two houses is the use of the more formal center-passage at Midway, a rarity in antebellum houses in Wake County. Beaver Dam employed the more traditional hall-parlor plan, with the centered front door opening into the hall, the larger of the plan's two rooms.¹²

The surviving Midway Plantation outbuildings include structures that predate and post-date the house. The land at Midway had been part of the vast Hinton family tracts long before the house was built, and it is not surprising that small structures were erected at the location to assist the Hinton family's extensive farming operations before the main house was built. Construction details indicate that the kitchen, the smokehouse, and the schoolhouse were built in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Common to all three buildings are heavy

⁹ Lally, 35-38.

¹⁰ Lally, 39, 41.

¹¹ Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 107-108.

¹² Oswald and Cross, 7.0-7.1; Lally, 31, 40-42.

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braced timber frames assembled with pegged mortise-and-tenon construction. The schoolhouse also features beaded ceiling joists and the kitchen and smokehouse have beaded weatherboards. The kitchen may have doubled as an early overseer's residence, and the schoolhouse may have been an early office. The slave houses, the location of which was indicated on the HABS documentation even though they did not survive to 1963, may have been from this early period as well. The presence of slave houses, indicating more people living at this location before the ca. 1848 house was built, makes the early presence of the smokehouse more logical.

The construction of the ca. 1860 dollhouse, like the ca. 1860 addition to the house, illustrate the growth of David and Mary Hinton's family and serves as a personal counterpoint to the utilitarian nature of the other outbuildings.

Criteria Consideration B

The house and outbuildings that survive from Midway Plantation, while no longer in their original location, still collectively evoke the antebellum period and physical complex that would house the planter and his family and provide shelter for additional activities relating to running the household and the plantation. The house, a fine example of the Greek Revival style that characterized the decades leading up to the Civil War, retains many of its original, defining architectural elements and is an excellent example of the pure Greek Revival style as rendered in eastern Wake County. The outbuildings are a rare surviving collection that retain their relationship to each other and the plantation house, despite their relocation. In addition, some buildings have improved architectural integrity due to the removal of additions and alterations from the late twentieth century. The entire grouping of antebellum structures was relocated in an attempt to keep it in a rural setting once it became clear that nearby highway construction and the resulting development pressures would quickly erode the rural character at the original location. Through regrading, landscaping, and careful placement of the buildings, the original setting has been recreated as closely as possible.

In order to faithfully recreate the original setting, the owners regraded the new site to flatten the natural slope in the center of the parcel; the original site was quite flat. While the new site is still more sloped than the original, the overall topography of the yard housing the buildings is compatible with the original site. The remaining slope is gentle and generally located in the northwest portion of the parcel, at the back of the complex. Two buildings behind the house, the kitchen and the smokehouse, stand lower than they did at the original location, despite their higher new foundations. They are not significantly lower, however, and they do generally retain the same relationship to the house as they did in the original location.

All buildings that survived to 2005 were moved to the new site. The HABS drawing from 1963 was an excellent documentary resource that the owners leaned on in recreating the placement and orientation of the buildings. The buildings all retain the directional orientation shown on the HABS drawing; similarly, the relationship among buildings has been preserved, each surviving building being sited in the new location the same distance from its neighbors in the original location. The only exception is the dollhouse, which has been sited slightly northwest of its location in the HABS drawing, due to the rising elevation of the land at the north side of the new parcel. Recreating the exact placement of the dollhouse would have put it on a higher slope than the house, which would have altered its relationship to the house more than repositioning the building slightly northwest. In terms of the altered location, the small building is in a compatible position with regard to the main building, more so than if it had been sited precisely according to the HABS plan.

The HABS drawing was also essential to developing the landscape plan for the new site. Several young oaks have been planted in front of the house, in locations matching those on the HABS drawing. American hollies and cedars have likewise been planted to match the original plan. The owners had originally intended a

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driveway leading from the subdivision behind the compound into the parcel, but decided instead to recreate the experience of approaching the house from an east-west road. The gravel road that leads east from Old Crews Road achieves this purpose and enabled the recreation of the circular drive in front of the house that existed historically at the original site. There is a small unpaved road that leads from the back of the parcel out to the subdivision, but it is difficult to find among the trees either from the parcel or from the subdivision road.

Finally, the owners took the opportunity of the move to restore some architectural integrity that had been lost or obscured in the second half of the twentieth century. Masonite siding had been installed in the 1970s on some of the outbuildings and additions; all masonite siding was removed prior to the move. The outbuildings in particular were deteriorated, and extensive stabilization reinforced their structure prior to the move, with bracing and sistering. Rotted weatherboards have been replaced with new wood weatherboards, including beaded weatherboards where appropriate. The owners removed the mid-to-late-twentieth-century additions to the schoolhouse, kitchen, smokehouse, and main house, revealing the original walls once again. The porch on the main house, which had been altered with replacement columns at an unknown date, was a necessary removal prior to the move. It was rebuilt to the exact specifications of the original, including reproductions of the original columns. Documentation for the column reproductions had been found in the form of photographs and a plinth with paint markings, showing the diameter of the column and the dimensions of the fluting. Before the move, the porch had no balustrade; local code requirements required a railing, so an unobtrusive cast-iron rail was installed at the new location. The replacement columns from the front porch have been reused on the new back porch.

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UTM References (continued)

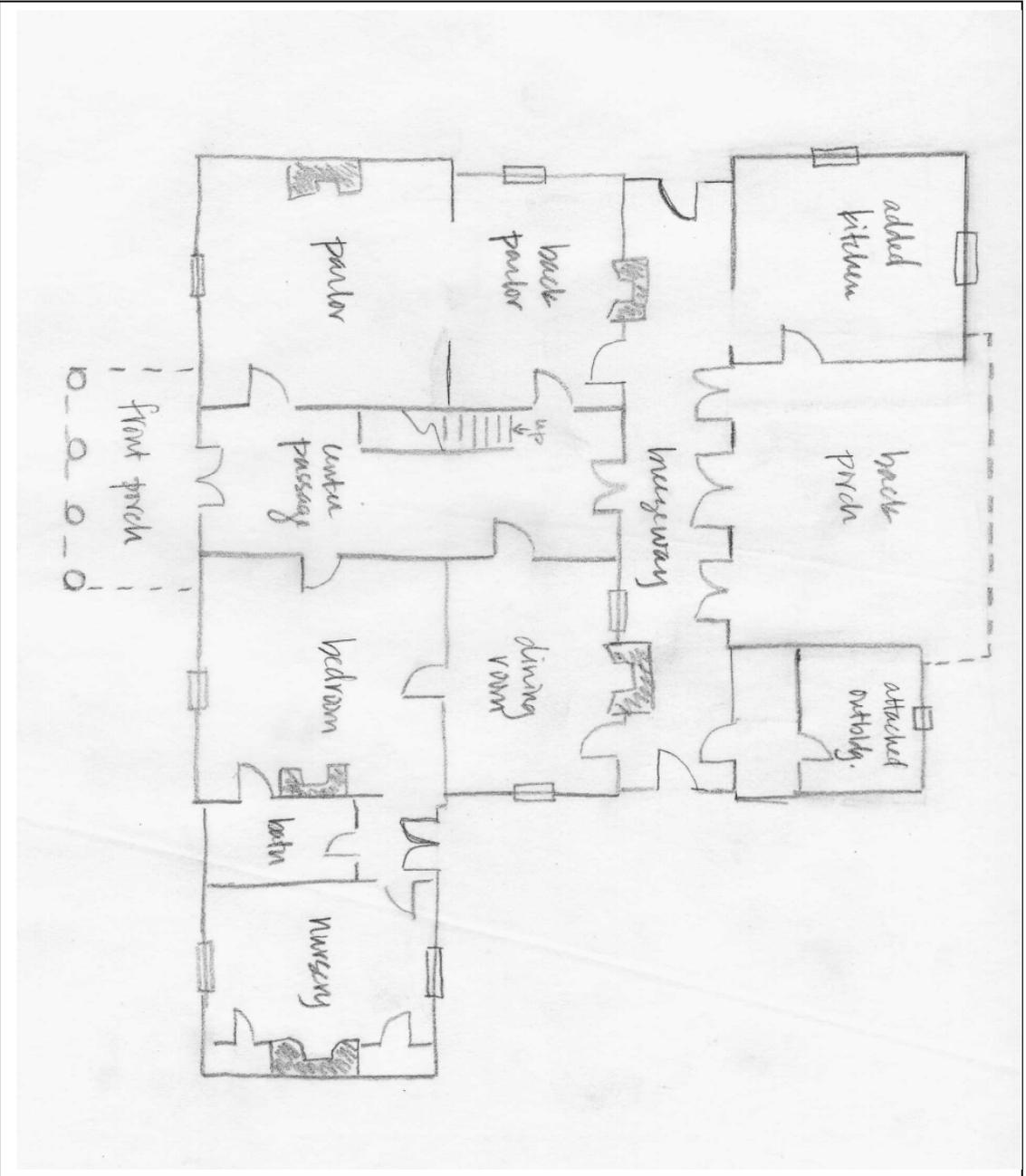
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- 6. 17 726255 3967270
- 7. 17 726165 3967370
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Boundary Description

The boundary coincides with that of Wake County Parcel 1745956003.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated parcel is the legally recorded boundary line of the parcel to which the Midway Plantation House and Outbuildings have been relocated. The boundary encompasses all the contributing resources recorded in this nomination form, and it provides an appropriate setting for the plantation house and outbuildings.



Midway Plantation House, current plan of first floor. Not to scale. December, 1882