

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 Old Neck Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by U. S. Highway 17, SR 1302, SR 1300,
Suttons Creek, and Perquimans River N/A not for publication

city or town Hertford vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Perquimans code 143 zip code 27944

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.)

Jeffrey J. Crow, SHPO 7/16/90
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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

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 count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
44	94	buildings
5	0	sites
12	29	structures
1	1	objects
62	124	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

see continuation sheet

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

see continuation sheet

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

see continuation sheet

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood: Weatherboard
Metal: Tin, Aluminum, Steel

roof Metal: Tin

other Brick
Wood

Narrative Description

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

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.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1813-1946

Significant Dates

1813

1891

1921

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 3,365 acres more or less

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	8
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3	6	9	9	4	0
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4	0	0	7	9	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

2

1	8
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3	7	1	1	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	0	0	8	5	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3

1	8
---	---

3	7	3	6	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	0	0	7	9	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

4

1	8
---	---

3	7	5	1	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	0	0	5	6	8	0
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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 Drucilla H. York, Architectural Historian; Raymond A. Winslow, Jr., Historian

organization Local History Associates date June 3, 1996

street & number 2001 East Fifth Street telephone (919) 752-5260

city or town Greenville state NC zip code 27858

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 _____

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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Old Neck Historic District
Perquimans County, North Carolina

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Narrative Description:

Encompassing a rural agricultural area containing approximately 3,365 acres, the Old Neck Historic District is located across the Perquimans River one half mile east of the Perquimans County seat, Hertford. The district begins at the foot of the bypass bridge for U. S. Highway 17 and extends southeast for approximately 3.7 miles, roughly paralleling the east side of the Perquimans River. The area is bounded in part by U. S. 17 to the north and SR 1302 and Sutton's Creek to the east. A small creek, historically known as Jones' Creek, cuts into the heart of the district from the southwest and includes a stretch of wooded swamp. To the east, Sutton's Creek is also lined by wooded swamp and contains small inlets, such as Lydia's Gut. In contrast, the Perquimans River's undulate bank rises from the waters edge between three and four feet in most areas, and usually a narrow strip of woodland lines the river bank. This bank is subject to erosion.

The vast majority of land included within the district is open flat farm land criss crossed by drainage ditches and punctuated by five major plantation seats and seven smaller farms. The district contains only one large area of timberland which is adjacent to Sutton's Creek. Although logging is currently underway in a portion of this area, a timbered buffer zone will serve as a screen to preserve the character of the historic district.

Paved roads and farm lanes provide access to most areas within Old Neck. Old Neck Road (SR 1301) and New Hope Road (SR 1300) are the primary east-west arteries with Union Hall Road, also known as Frog Hall Road, (SR 1302) running north and south. Old Neck Road originally extended to the southern end of Old Neck and once connected most of the major plantations in Old Neck. The William Jones Plantation (6), Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon Plantation (NR, 7), and Cove Grove (NR, 16) are the three major plantations lining the road today. A private lane now provides the only access to the southern tip of the neck at Sutton's Creek. This area includes the sites of the former White-Tucker and Hollowell plantations. Branching off the beginning of this private lane to the northeast is a farm road extending back to Sutton's Creek. The portion of this road paralleling Lydia's Gut is the former Perrisho Landing Road. All these roads have nineteenth-century origins, except the stretch of New Hope Road (SR 1300) between SR 1301 and SR 1302 which was cut in 1921. Today existing property lines provide additional evidence to other early roads, such as the one to Ferry Point near the Francis Nixon Plantation (1). In turn, new roads such as SR 1391 and SR 1382 appear to follow old field or property lines. These roads now lead to several small waterfront developments, Matthews Acres, Chesterfield, Cove Grove Estates, and Billy's Beach, which are not included within the historic district.

Navigable waterways, fertile farm land, abundant natural resources, and a rich Quaker heritage are all important elements in the development and creation of the Old Neck rural historic district. Bounded by Sutton's Creek and the Perquimans River, Old Neck maintains its agricultural roots and character. In many ways, the

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agricultural landscape has changed very little throughout the period of significance 1813-1946. The district clearly illustrates the development of an important plantation society and economy during the antebellum period followed by a rise in tenant farming and the creation of small independent farms during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Field patterns, drainage ditches, roads, and fences as well as the domestic and farm complexes with their layout and landscape are all important factors in illustrating this historical overlay.

The architectural character of the district spans from major Federal and Greek Revival-style plantation properties to a plain, independent farmstead completed in 1946. Within the district, there are five antebellum plantation seats, three small independent late-nineteenth-century farms, and three twentieth century farmsteads. Most structures are frame with the antebellum ones built using mortise-and-tenon construction. Brick is primarily used in the construction of foundations and chimneys. Plantation houses ranged in size with the earlier ones more modest in scale and asymmetrical in their fenestration patterns, such as the Francis Nixon Plantation (1), William Jones Plantation (6), and Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon Plantation (7). The increasing economic prosperity of the antebellum period, however, paralleled a shift in style preferences toward the Greek Revival resulting in larger, more ambitious building projects with a bent toward symmetry, as exemplified by Cove Grove Plantation (16) and the Thomas Nixon Plantation (62). Throughout the antebellum period, buildings were constructed by skilled craftsmen.

In contrast, the late-nineteenth and twentieth-century dwellings were smaller and unsophisticated. Each exhibits standardized features now associated with mass production and a decreasing dependence on highly skilled craftsmen. At the turn of the century, the tradition of building principally two-story frame dwellings began shifting to include one-story structures. Late nineteenth century small farms exhibiting these building trends are the Winslow Farm (60), John Newbold Farm (61) and Matthew Towe Farm (28). More modest twentieth century examples are the Miller-Skinner House (27), Miller-Bundy Farm (36), and John C. Bundy, Jr. Farmstead (41).

Definition is given to the sweeping open agricultural landscape of Old Neck by the orientation of each farm toward an existing local road and the presence of woodland, waterways, drainage ditches, and field patterns. Early on, hedgerows and trees gave a clear definition to the field patterns; however, today modern farming practices have virtually eliminated this element from the landscape. An open network of fields and ditches, however, remains. These ditches drain into the low wooded swampy areas of Jones' and Sutton's creeks as well as the Perquimans River. Narrow stretches of woodland also outline the river bank which rises four feet in most areas. The wooded areas are dominated by cypress mixed with oak and pine.

Each plantation or farm centers around a domestic complex of buildings, with additional agricultural buildings organized closeby. A variety of fences, usually picket, wire-and-post, and board, help define these areas. Throughout the nineteenth

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century, complexes were usually set back from the road by several hundred feet. This pattern shifted during the twentieth century when new farm complexes were built along side the road. Most complexes have a mature canopy of trees, usually pecans and oaks. The plantation complexes include a more formal display of a wide variety of trees and shrubs, such as walnut, holly, and crepe myrtle trees plus forsythia, azaleas, and camellias.

The needs of farm and home dictate the agricultural character of this rural historic district which includes buildings, structures, sites, and objects that contribute to the district. A patchwork of individual plantations and farms make up the district, and each is presented as an independent site. Buildings associated with each site include the main residence and an assortment of auxillary buildings, either dependencies for the main house, or farm related. The dependencies included within the district are dairies, smokehouses, a carriage house, a well house, pump houses, a privy, a slave house, and kitchens. Barns and stables are the principal types of farm buildings. Domestic and farm associated structures are fences, a windmill, farm bells, and a water pump. Other special structures or sites within the district are bridges, roads, agricultural fields, woodlots, and cemeteries. One community school building is also included.

The condition of the resources within the district varies. Most dwellings range from fair to excellent and have experienced only minor alterations. In recent years, restoration and rehabilitation work was undertaken, respectively, at the Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon (NR, 1994) and the Thomas Nixon houses. The former was adapted in 1992 into a bed-and-breakfast inn. Auxillary buildings, however, oftentimes suffer from years of neglect. Continued use is the key to the preservation of most buildings. If their usefulness was valued through the years, then their maintenance was reasonably assured. Otherwise, the building or structure was abandoned to the elements. The rarity of several outbuildings, namely the slave kitchen, slave quarter, and carriage house at Cove Grove, and the barns at the Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon and the Thomas Nixon plantations, transcends their poor condition.

Recent building activity within the district, in most cases, has taken place unobtrusively in wooded areas where the impact was minimized. Considered as non-contributing elements within the district, these buildings include mobile homes, ranch houses, and storage shelters. The most concentrated stretch of this type of development extends along New Hope Road (SR 1300) between SR 1301 and SR 1302. Other non-contributing buildings within the district are ones which have sustained either major alterations or were built after 1946.

Integrity Statement

In many North Carolina coastal areas today, the rural landscape is marred by housing and strip developments along the road and water fronts. The integrity of the

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Old Neck Historic District, however, sets it apart from other rural areas within the Albemarle region and makes it an outstanding example within North Carolina. Its significance stems from the blending of the natural and historic rural landscape with the exceptional quality and range of the historic buildings within the agricultural environment. These buildings illustrate both farm and domestic use, and their placement within each complex and the landscape conveys in location, design, materials, and workmanship a high degree of integrity. The Perquimans River, Jones's Creek, and Suttons Creek give definition to a little changed natural setting dominated by great expanses of agricultural farmland. Woodland frames much of the waterfront along the river and creeks, and acts, in many cases, as a natural buffer. Old Neck's developing overlay of roads, paths, lanes, and field drainage patterns during the period of significance also reinforce an important feeling within the historic district established by its rich architectural fabric. In Old Neck, the family ties established in the early nineteenth century between the Nixon, Jones, Skinner, and Fletcher families have extended to the present day with the continuous ownership to much of the land by their descendants. This association combines with the feeling and setting of the historic district to establish a significant statement of integrity for the Old Neck Historic District.

Although today the district includes a large number of non-contributing buildings, most of these do not infringe upon the integrity of the rural historic landscape. Some non-contributing structures are outbuildings and serve as integral parts of farm complexes and reinforce the integrity of the historic district's setting and design. In the case of Cove Grove Plantation (16) and the John C. Bundy, Jr. Farmstead (41), several important outbuildings are just outside the period of significance by five years or less but add significantly to the complex by association. Many non-contributing structures, however, are modern brick or frame houses or mobile homes. Their placement is concentrated primarily along SR 1300, and their presence is oftentimes either minimized or concealed within a historic woodland setting. One example is the group of fourteen non-contributing structures (#51-59), primarily trailers, just east of the intersection of SR 1300 and SR 1301. In addition, the unobtrusive scale and character of these non-contributing resources does not mar the setting, feeling, and association of the historic district.

Potential Archaeological Resources

Although the scope of this nomination did not include the investigation of potential archaeological resources within the nominated acreage, it is likely that the district includes archaeological remains which have the potential to yield information about pre-history and history. The Yeopim Indians, a branch of the broad linguistic and cultural family of Algonquians, were the first known inhabitants of Perquimans County. Old Neck was one of the county's first areas of substantial English settlement stemming from a 2,500 acre land grant to William West in 1663. The land was soon sold in small parts to settlers from Virginia and New England.

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Through the missionary efforts of William Edmundson and George Fox in 1672, most of these yeoman farmers became Quakers. Scant archaeological information is known about this early settlement and its Quaker associations through the eighteenth century. References, however, are documented in deed surveys of the period (Exhibit #1 & #2). Even the locations for Old Neck Meetinghouse and the Perquimans River ferry landing at Newby Point are uncertain. Also, the area along Suttons Creek potentially contains rich archaeological evidence of a former mill pond and private landings. Timberland adjacent to the creek contains historic field and cultivation patterns. In addition, Old Neck contains important archaeological information relating to antebellum life on a plantation, such as the location and design of slave rows or streets important in the study of African-American history. Also, evidence might exist related to the growth of fisheries along the river, which were an important economic asset to many farmers and planters, such as Francis Nixon and Benjamin S. Skinner.

The Inventory List

The inventory listing for the historic district first follows the development along the river traveling the roads in a southeasterly direction. It begins at the Francis Nixon Plantation on SR 1300 and then turns onto Old Neck Road, SR 1301. From here it follows primarily along SR 1301, circles back on SR 1302 in a northeasterly direction and then turns to the northwest cutting through the central core of the district along SR 1300 or New Hope Road. Short stretches along SR 1300, SR 1302, and SR 1301, and US 17 are picked up respectively as each is approached. Several residential areas which were developed in recent years along the Perquimans River, Matthews Acres, Chesterfield, Cove Grove Estates, and Billy's Beach, were omitted from the historic district, because they are not in keeping with its rural agricultural context.

In general, the methodology utilized in the production of the nomination was three part: field survey, research, and writing. Utilizing the basic standards of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, a field survey of all buildings within the proposed district was completed. Resulting property files record all structures and include current exterior photographs, historic data structures sheets, and in several cases, property sketch maps. These survey files were augmented by research materials collected from public and private repositories, such as East Carolina University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, and North Carolina Division of Archives and History. Wills, deeds, estate papers, private manuscripts, U. S. census records, and newspapers were utilized. Also, the research assistance of Raymond A. Winslow, Jr., a genealogist, in Hertford was invaluable and his talents helped varied accuracy. The compilation of all these materials was essential in developing the boundaries for the historic district, identifying period and level of significance, understanding integrity, and developing the context for the nomination as well as dating many of the structures.

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Aside from the standard requirements, the nomination is supported by ten documentary exhibits, including maps, deeds, and photographs.

In addition, two types of maps, an overall district sketch map and individual site plans, are incorporated into the nomination to help illustrate the district. Each type map identifies both contributing and non-contributing resources. The overall sketch map, which is keyed to the nomination's inventory list, was traced from the Perquimans County Tax Office orthophotoquad base maps. Even though the county mapping system is currently being upgraded, improved maps were not available during the project. The smaller site plan sketches illustrate in more detail outbuilding placement for plantation or farm complexes. However, they are not drawn to scale. Following the inventory list, each site is numbered and individual resources within a complex are assigned a letter of the alphabet. Contributing resources are identified on the roof by diagonally drawn parallel lines and non-contributing ones are simply shaded.

Resource Identity Key: Contributing (C) Non-contributing (NC)
Property & Resource Types: Building (B) Site (S) Structure (ST) Object (O)

1) **Francis Nixon Plantation:** S side of SR 1300, 0.4 mi. W of jct. with SR 1301.

Over a period of seventy years, Francis Nixon [1798-1887] developed his home plantation, known as The Homestead, from a 103-acre tract inherited in 1815 from his father, Samuel Nixon, into a 676-acre farm by 1887. Nixon was a prominent planter and civic leader, and his antebellum plantation, located in the northwest section of Old Neck, was oriented to the former Ferry Point Road (also known as Nixon Landing Road) which roughly paralleled the northwest side of Jones Creek and lead to the ferry landing. He married Harriet Barber in 1818 and about that same time started building his two-story frame dwelling with side-hall-plan, enlarging it first ca. 1821 and again in ca. 1835. Throughout the antebellum period the plantation prospered by using slave labor. Following the Civil War, Nixon began paying wages for farm labor but by 1880 was renting for shares with tenants. Nixon died in 1887, and ever since his descendants have retained ownership of the homeplace; however, the total acreage associated with the plantation has diminished today to 152 acres. Both the house and farm land are leased under separate tenant arrangements.

Landscape: Bounded by U.S. Highway 17 to the northwest and Jones Creek to the southeast, the 152 acres associated with the Francis Nixon Farm today exhibit a striking resemblance with the field patterns and landscape of the farm during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. An 1855 preliminary chart of the Albemarle Sound area for the U.S. Coast Survey indicates that the acreage associated with Francis Nixon's farm called the Homestead was divided into four principal fields. Chart updates between then and 1877 illustrate little change, a fact which was

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mirrored ten years later in the settlement of Nixon's estate. Prior to 1906, a more direct road to Hertford was established through the farm which roughly bisected the 1887 inheritance of William Nixon, Jr. and his brother, Henry B. Nixon, along the dividing line. This stretch of road is the component of the present SR 1300 between SR 1301 and US 17.

Today, two open agricultural fields dominate the landscape of the farm paralleling US 17 with the house sited in the eastern corner of the property just north of the bend in Jones Creek. A major ditch, which drains into Jones Creek, separates the two fields, with the largest one near the river containing approximately 100 acres and the smaller approximately fifty acres. Along the waterfront, a narrow strip of woodland skirts the Perquimans River and the northwest mouth and run of Jones Creek. The Newby-Nixon family cemetery is located approximately one half mile southwest of the former plantation seat in the middle of the main field near the river and the mouth of the creek. Oriented toward the former Nixon Landing Road, the main residential complex has diminished through the years leaving only the house and its landscape features as a reminder of this once thriving plantation center.

Situated on a slight rise, the house site although modest in design features a generous open yard with scattered mature plantings from the antebellum period and a gently curving driveway which leads to the main house. The site is framed by SR 1300 and two drainage runs to Jones Creek. A deep man-made one parallels the former Nixon Landing Road and is lined by mature cedar trees. The other drainage run follows a natural contour dip, which is maintained regularly by men farming the fields. Open lawn surrounds the house. A circular drive may once have looped in front of the house. Cedar trees and crepe myrtle are scattered around the yard, except for the three cedars and one crepe myrtle which line the former driveway directly in front of the house. Sole pecan and walnut trees are remnants of a former grove.

C NC P&R

1A	1	S	Newby-Nixon Cemetery: Located in the agricultural fields between the Francis Nixon house and the Perquimans River, the cemetery is defined by a cement block wall and contains grave stones. Traces of several unmarked graves are also evident. A Knoxville marble obelisk, purchased in 1888 from the Gaddess Brothers Steam Marble & Granite Works in Baltimore, memorializes Francis Nixon, his wife, two sons and a daughter. The cemetery also includes the slate tombstone of Nathan Newby (ca. 1730-1762), who operated a ferry over the Perquimans River at a nearby ferry landing. The inscription of His New England-style slate marker is framed by an arch with winged angel head and smaller flanking arches with foliate designs. It is the second oldest known grave marker in Perquimans County.
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C NC P&R

Main Residential Complex:

- 1B 1 B Francis Nixon House: Ca. 1818. The three-part telescopic form of the Francis Nixon house is the best example found in Perquimans County of the continued enlargement of an early nineteenth century dwelling to fit the increasing social and economic needs of a family at the beginning of the antebellum period. Now the central section, the original three-bay two-story frame dwelling followed a side-hall plan with a one-story rear shed. Francis Nixon built this house in all probability ca. 1818, the year in which he married. According to family tradition, as the family began to grow, Nixon brought up from the ferry landing near the river a small one-and-half-story coastal cottage and appended it to the northeast side of his dwelling. This addition, contemporary with the original dwelling, probably was added shortly after he purchased the neighboring Ferry Plantation in 1821. The tall two-story final addition was constructed ca. 1835 and contains one room on each floor, a dining room on the first floor and a master a bedroom with large closet on the second.
- Modest in scale and form, this house is highly representative in detail of Federal-style frame dwellings typically built during the first quarter of the nineteenth century for small plantation owners in Perquimans County. Outstanding exterior features are the beaded weatherboard, nine-over-six double-sash windows with molded sills, and the exterior-end chimney laid in Flemish-bond with paved single shoulders. Unifying all three segments of the house, a one-story shed-roof porch extends across the front facade and wraps around the southwest elevation. Notable porch details include beaded flush sheathing, delicately tapered Federal-style posts with simple caps, and a simple rounded handrail connecting the posts. Three-part Federal-style surrounds with mitred corners frame the windows and doors. The front entrance features a four-light transom and a six-panel door with raised panels. On the interior, the quarter-turn stair in the original side hall, the flat-paneled wainscoting, and the mantels all exemplify the Federal-style.
- 1C 1 B Utility shed: Ca. 1940, gable-front frame structure with exposed rafter ends, weatherboard sheathing, and central double-door entry.
- 1D 1 B Equipment shelter: Ca. 1940, shed-roof wood house with rough vertical plank sheathing; altered by addition of crude open shelter used for car repair.

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2) **Farming complex:** S side of SR 1300, 0.30 mi. W of jct. with SR 1301; six farm-related modern structures comprise this site.

C NC P&R

- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| 1 | B | Equipment shelter: large open end shelter with gable-roof and metal sheathing. |
| 1 | B | Large Butler building used for workshop and equipment storage. |
| 1 | ST | Small shed-roof storage shelter used for hay. |
| 3 | ST | Three cylindrical metal grain bins of varying sizes. |

3) **House:** S side of SR 1300, 0.25 mi. W of jct. with SR 1301.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | B | Built ca. 1985, one-and-one-half-story frame dwelling with two dormers and a garage. |
|---|---|--|

4) **Mobile Home:** S side of SR 1300, 0.2 mi. W of jct. with SR 1301.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 3 | B | Mobile home with two frame storage shelters at the rear. |
|---|---|--|

5) **Jones Creek Bridge:** Spans creek on SR 1301, 0.03 mi. S of jct. with SR 1300.

- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| 1 | ST | Built ca. 1935, small concrete bridge with open guard rails spans approximately twenty-eight feet over Jones Creek on SR 1301. |
|---|----|--|

6) **William Jones Plantation:** SW side of SR 1301, 0.25 mi. S of jct. with SR 1300.

Fronting on the Perquimans River and spanning Jones Creek, the property is associated with the land holdings of four prominent families in Perquimans County, that of William Jones, James P. Whedbee, Benjamin S. Skinner, and F. E. Winslow. Initially, the plantation was amassed by William Jones (1778-1836), who first purchased property in the area in 1805 and expanded his holdings to the east and north by two substantial tracts in 1815. A prominent planter and the proprietor of the toll float bridge at Hertford, Jones married four times and by 1813 had built the original and highly sophisticated two-story section of the present house. Following Jones' death in 1836, the plantation was consecutively owned by James P. Whedbee until 1844, James N. Whedbee until 1849, and then Benjamin S. Skinner, who willed it to his son Joshua (1845-1911) subject to the life estate of his mother, Elizabeth Leigh Skinner (1805-1871). Reconstruction brought notable changes to the plantation such as the shift from slave labor to wages and its sale in 1872 to Frank E. Winslow (1827-1882). Owning extensive property holdings in Perquimans County, Winslow made this 480-acre plantation his home. An early proponent of cotton, he became its largest producer in Old Neck. When Frank E. Winslow died in 1882, his son Edward Daniel Winslow (1856-1926) continued to live on the property until his death. Until recently, family members have successively owned the farm and chosen to rent it to a

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resident farming family. Tradition maintains that Mae Wood Winslow named the farm Riverside in the early twentieth century.

Landscape: Bounded by the Perquimans River, Jones Creek, SR 1300, SR 1301, and the agricultural fields of the Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon Plantation (7), the Jones Plantation today contains approximately 235 acres including extensive agricultural fields and woodland. The topographical appearance of the land today is almost identical to that identified on the the U.S. coastal survey maps dating from 1855-1877. Open agricultural fields surround the plantation seat which is set back from the road approximately 750 feet down a long lane. Facing northeast, this domestic and farm complex fronts on the original Old Neck Road (SR 1301) which bisected the area and connected each major plantation. Woodland skirts the river and creek. Near the river at the edge of the woods, a large seven-and-a-half-acre pond was created approximately ten years ago when sand was supplied for the widening of US 17.

Fences and mature trees help define the domestic and farm complex into three distinct areas: the front lane and pasture, the house yard, and the farm yard. Wire-and-post fences define the outer perimeter of this entire complex. Directly in front of the main house is an open pasture. A random combination of cedar, pine, and walnut trees line each side of its perimeter, and a central drive bisects it. This lane begins at Old Neck Road, goes through a cattle guard entrance defined by board rails, and extends directly up to the main house where it gently curves to the north and opens into the farm yard. Sheep roam freely between the pasture and farm yard.

A white picket fence defines the grounds around the main house with gates at the front, southeast, and northwest sides. Mature pecan trees provide a canopy for this area with small dogwood trees as a graceful understory. Camellias and azeleas are planted around the house with nandina and acuba as accents. In the side yard to the north near the site of the former kitchen dependency are located a farm bell and water pump.

Framing the grounds of the main house to the northwest and west, the farm lane and the vestige of a domestic orchard, respectively, serve as a buffer to the farm yard. Just outside the picket fence by the drive is a well. The present day farm yard includes five buildings, grape arbor, and cemetery. Mature pecan trees provide cover to the more domestic area of the yard near the cemetery and arbor. A farm equipment shelter and livestock barn are distanced farther from the house to the rear in an open work area.

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Main Residential Complex:

6A 1 B William Jones House: Originally a two-story gable-roof frame dwelling built ca. 1813, the house was modified in all likelihood ca. 1861 by the addition of a two-story full-facade porch and

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two-story rear T-addition with flanking double-tier piazzas. A small one-story wing with engaged rear porch extends from the northwest side of the house. It measures approximately fourteen feet by twenty feet and may pre-date the main house by several years. Approximate measurements for the house are twenty feet by thirty-four feet for the earlier section and twenty feet by thirty-eight feet for the T-addition exclusive of porches.

A mix of Federal and Greek Revival styles characterizes the house today. Its early Federal-style section stands on an English bond foundation with openings containing vertical diagonally-set ventilator grilles. An exterior end chimney laid in Flemish bond, marks the southeast elevation. It has paved, double shoulders, an off-set stack with a saw-tooth cap band, and a May 1813 date brick centrally placed near the top shoulders. The facade's four-bay asymmetrical fenestration pattern features nine-over-nine sash with Federal surrounds and molded sills and a Greek Revival entrance with sidelights and transom. Shutters hung on pintle hinges frame each window. The Greek Revival engaged porches are supported by full-height, slightly tapered, paneled posts. Along the T-addition, the porch second floors are protected by balustrades. Standing-seam tin protects each roof and boxed cornice returns distinguish the gable ends, except in the wing which has flush eaves and tapered rake boards.

Interior features stylistically follow the development pattern of the house ranging from highly sophisticated Federal to Greek Revival elements. A straight flight stair, with square-in-section newel post, rounded handrail, and simple ballusters, rises out of the center hall. The southeast parlor contains an outstanding modillion cornice with dentil detailing. This detailing is repeated in the three-part Federal mantels, featuring flat panels, reeding, and sunburst motifs. Other notable Federal details are the flat-panel wainscoting in the two principal rooms downstairs and the unusual six-panel doors with rounded panels. The Greek Revival rear addition enlarges the floor plan with a wide transverse hall and one large room on each floor. In the halls, handsome doorways with sidelights and transoms open onto the flanking porches. Typically, the mantels are simple and feature Tudor arches, and all doors have four flat panels with corner block surrounds.

6B 1 O Farm bell: The No. 3 cast iron bell is raised on an iron pole, supported by cast bell frame, and rung using a rope attached to a

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lever pull; originally came from Chowan County farm and installed here ca. 1970.

6C 1 O Water pump: A cast iron hand pump with crook spout has maker's stamp noting Etter's improved little giant pump #864, patented in Canada December 2, 1902. A long wooden pole serves as the handle for the force pump.

6D 1 ST Picket fence: Ca. 1940, picket fence defines the perimeter of main house grounds, presenting its formal finished face on the outside at the front entrance and northwest side and inside the grounds at the southwest and southeast elevations. Simple diagonal cuts mark the pickets along the front and sides. At the front a double swing gate provides entry, and a single gate is located at each side. A slight arch is formed by the pickets at each gate. At the rear the fence run is slightly taller than the other sides and the pickets are twice-cut points.

6E 1 ST Well: Ca. 1940, connected to northwest run of grounds' perimeter fence near the rear and adjacent to farm lane, the well opening is framed by a glazed terra cotta pipe neck with a wooden post and lintel support bearing the pulley wheel.

Main Farm Complex:

6F 1 B Farm shop and garage: 1972, frame structure, sheathed with vinyl siding, contains large central shop room flanked by garage sheds on each side.

6G 1 B Smokehouse and fish table with sink: Ca. 1900, gable-front frame smokehouse with plain weatherboard and batten door, stands on cinder block foundation, former cypress butt shingles on roof nearly obscured by standing-seam tin; abutting smokehouse at the rear is a modern fish table with sink.

6H 1 ST Boat shelter: 1975, modern two-bay frame shelter with shed roof and corrugated metal sheathing.

6I 1 S Jones family cemetery: 1836, small cemetery located in grove of pecan trees containing only two marble slab markers: William Jones, 1778-1836, and his son William Hunter Jones, 1832-1839; the son's memorial was made by R. Dalrymple, Norfolk.

6J 1 B Stable: Ca. 1890, Gable-front frame stable with central passage

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separating six stalls on one side from four pens and a tack room on the opposing side; exterior is sheathed with German siding and standing seam metal protects roof; equipment sheds extend from each side and rear.

- 6K 1 ST Equipment and storage shelter: 1973, modern equipment storage shelter featuring three bays, corrugated metal exterior sheathing, and shed roof with pent opening.
- 6L 1 ST Farm fence: Late 19th century, woven wire fence supported by wooden posts encircles most of plantation seat.
- Other Buildings On Farm:
- 6M 1 ST Grain storage bin: Ca. 1976, Prefabrifacted, conical grain storage bin of corrugated steel.
- 6N 1 ST Grain storage bin: Ca. 1976, Prefabrifacted, conical grain storage bin of corrugated steel.
- 6O 1 ST Equipment shelter: Ca. 1976, Large five-bay gable-roof shelter with open sides and metal roof.
- 6P 1 B Hog building: Ca. 1980, pole building with gable-roof and metal sheathing; used for farrowing house.
- 6Q 1 B Beasley house: Ca. 1985, two-story log house with white cedar sheathing

7) Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon Plantation: NE side of SR 1301, 0.45 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1300.

William Fletcher (ca. 1794-1826), a prominent planter and merchant, amassed approximately 391 acres between 1814-1824 to form this plantation. In January 1817, he married Sarah Nixon and shortly thereafter probably built his plantation house. Lost at sea during a trading voyage to the West Indies in 1826, Fletcher's plantation was sold. Between 1827 and 1849, the property was owned at various times by four Skinner brothers. The final purchase was made by Benjamin S. Skinner [1795-1861] in 1843, and he in turn deeded the property to his eldest son, James Leigh Skinner in 1849. It is uncertain when James L. took up residence at the now approximately 362-acre plantation; however, by 1850, he was maintaining his own household, married to Nancy Baker Hoskins, and had an infant son, Benjamin Skinner. Like most prominent planters following the Civil War, Skinner hired work for wages and eventually began

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to raise cotton. Skinner was probably the one who named the plantation Swampside. In 1897, he sold the 480-acre farm to Joseph A. Byrum for \$10,000. Byrum in turn sold it in 1903 to J. J. Fleetwood, a prosperous lumber mill operator. Fleetwood amassed an 844-acre tract in Old Neck dotted with tenant houses, which he sold to the White Land Company in 1919. Thomas Nixon then purchased in 1922 the approximately 230-acre portion of the Fleetwood property which included the plantation seat. His descendants own the property today.

Landscape: Dominated by agricultural fields, the Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon Plantation includes 220 original plantation acres and extends from the Perquimans River northeast across Old Neck Road (SR 1301), Jones Swamp, and SR 1300. The appearance and use of the acreage appears little altered since the 1855 U. S. Coast Survey of the Albemarle Sound region. Today, two roads divide the property into three distinct sections: a river front and agricultural tract; the plantation seat with surrounding pasture, agricultural fields and woodland swamp lying between SR 1301 and SR 1300; and open agricultural farmland just north of SR 1300.

The river front tract includes expansive agricultural fields which extend from the road to a narrow strip of woodland which skirts the river bank. Numerous mature cypress trees grow in the river's shallow water and give evidence to the gradual erosion of the bank. A dock extends out into the water beyond this tree line. Originally a farm road, extending from the barn to the river, bisected the fields. In recent years, a new lane was built from directly in front of the main house to the river and dock.

The central section of the farm includes elements from both domestic and agricultural life on this former plantation. Jones Creek bisects this section and its surrounding swamp contains woodland dominated by cypress trees. The plantation complex is oriented to the river and faces the Old Neck Road. Fences define this area with whitewashed board ones separating the domestic areas from those of the farm and a picket fence separating the front yard and road. A post and woven wire fence with cedar trees outlines the perimeter of the pasture and farm complex. A small field to the northwest and two medium fields to the southeast flank the complex. Opposite the creek is another field. At the edge of the woods and field near the creek stands in deteriorating condition the sole surviving tenant house on the plantation.

Currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places is the 5.006 acre domestic and farm complex. It includes the house site with two dependencies, fenced pastures to the northwest and southeast, and a strip of pasture directly behind the house. A large mid-nineteenth-century barn stands southeast of the house and pasture in the area of the former farm complex and is its sole survivor. On the other hand, all the structures associated with the house site are connected by a network of oyster shell walks and a driveway. The house is set back from the road approximately seventy-five feet with a walk leading directly to the front entrance. Located midway between the drive and the north corner of the house is the household well. Directly

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behind the cook's house, two perpendicularly placed short walks link it with the dairy to the northwest and smokehouse to the northeast. Mature pecan, walnut, and cedar trees shade the northwest side and rear portions of the yard. In 1954 Hurricane Hazel destroyed the grove of trees in front of the house.

Agricultural fields comprise the third section of the farm. Open farmland primarily surrounds this section. A drainage ditch divides the property and creates a small field in the northwest corner. This ditch drains both fields and extends across SR 1300 back to Jones Creek.

C NC P&RMain Residential Complex:

- 7A 1 B Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon House (NR, 1994): Built ca. 1820, an outstanding frame, two-story, Federal-style plantation house with engaged double-tier piazza and rear one-story shed roof porch. Its five-bay asymmetrical fenestration pattern mirrors the center-hall plan. Initially a single-pile dwelling with one-story rear shed, it measures approximately thirty-two feet by forty-four feet. The shed was raised ca. 1850 to a full two stories. Beaded weatherboard sheaths the exterior except those areas protected by the porches where there is flush beaded sheathing. At each side elevation stands a pair of exterior brick chimneys; the front two are laid in Flemish bond with stepped double shoulders and the rear ones are laid in 1:5 common bond with stepped single shoulders. The principal windows contain nine-over-six sash on the first floor and six-over-six on the second.

On the interior, the plan evolves around a generous center hall with with a straight stair rising from the back of the hall. Interior finishes include plaster walls and pine floors throughout the house. Highly sophisticated Federal-style woodwork, featuring reeding, drillwork, and sunburst medallions, graces both the hall and the northwest parlor on the first floor. The wainscoting features raised panels in the parlor and flat panels in the hall. The Federal-style woodwork elsewhere is simplified and later Greek Revival additions reflect the development of the dwelling.

Currently serving as the kitchen for the main house, the former cook's house is perpendicularly placed with its gable end to the northeast corner of the back porch. The simple one-room gable-roof structure features gable-end entrances with a breezeway connector to the main house and an interior sheathed with beaded tongue-and-groove boards.

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- 7B 1 B Dairy (NR): Rare ca. 1820 brick dairy with stucco skim coat measures approximately nine feet square and features a pyramidal roof with finial cap, wooden shingles, and deep eave overhang measuring one foot three inches with a boxed cornice. Entered through a central door, the dairy also has a window with fixed louvres on the southwest elevation. Rectangular ventilators are beneath each overhang and contain a diagonally set grille and a board shutter. The interior has stuccoed and whitewashed walls, plaster ceiling, dirt floor, and three tiers of shelving.
- 7C 1 B Smokehouse (NR): Mid-nineteenth-century gable-roof frame smokehouse built with heavy mortise-and-tenon construction and measuring twelve feet four inches by ten feet three inches. Exterior features include beaded weatherboards, tapered rake boards, brick pier foundation, exposed ceiling joists, and steeply pitched roof with wood shingles. The board-and-batten door is a replacement.
- 7D 1 ST Well (NR): Mid-nineteenth-century circular brick well with cement overcoat; presently capped.
- Farm Buildings:
- 7E 1 B Barn (NR): Outstanding mid-nineteenth-century one-story transverse frame barn with loft measuring approximately sixty feet by fifty-five feet. This massive mortise and tenon structure features a steeply pitched gable roof, weatherboard sheathing currently absured by agricultural metal, pent roofs protecting each central gable-end entry, and massive board-and-batten doors hung on strap hinges. A shed extension of the main roof protects a combination entry on the northwest elevation. The interior has a wide center aisle flanked by five cribs on the southeast side and three on the northwest. This interior was used for crop and equipment storage as well as thrashing; the loft area was used for additional storage. It was accessed by an interior stair and hoist opening plus a gable-end opening on the northeast elevation.
- 7F 1 B Tenant House: Modified into a tenant house ca. 1900, this two-story three-bay frame dwelling follows a hall-and-parlor plan with rear shed rooms. An enclosed stair rises out of the hall. The interior is sheathed with narrow tongue-and-groove ceiling. The hip-roof front porch has collapsed, and the remainder of the house is in poor condition.

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- 8) **Mobile Home:** N side of SR 1301, 0.1 mi. NW of jct. with SR 1391.
2 B Trailer with metal storage shed in the back yard.
- 9) **Mobile Home:** N side of SR 1301, 0.05 mi. NW of jct. with SR 1391.
1 B Trailer.
- 10) **Mobile Home:** S side of SR 1301, at west corner of jct. SR 1301 & SR 1391.
2 B Trailer with frame storage building at the rear.
- 11) **House:** N side of SR 1301 at jct. SR 1301 & SR 1391.
3 B Brick ranch house with metal storage building and frame two-bay garage/equipment building at the rear.
- 12) **Club House:** NE side of SR 1301 at jct. SR 1391, down lane approx. 500 ft.
1 B Crude frame structure with shed roof.
- 13) **House:** NE side of SR 1301, 0.13 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1391.
1 B One-story three-bay frame dwelling built ca. 1994.
- 14) **House:** SW side of SR 1301, 0.4 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1391.
1 B Brick ranch house with frame garage/storage building at the rear; former site of Skinner tenant house.
- 15) **House:** NE side of SR 1301, 0.55 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1391.
1 B Brick ranch house with five-bay central block featuring engaged front porch and two-bay flanking wings; former site of Skinner tenant house with barn.
- 16) **Cove Grove Plantation:** SW side of SR 1301, 0.25 mi. NW of jct. with SR 1302.

Oriented to the Old Neck Road and extending to the Perquimans River, Cove Grove Plantation was the home of Benjamin S. Skinner (1795-1861), who developed it during the antebellum period into the largest agricultural seat in Old Neck. By 1860, Cove Grove included approximately 840 acres, stretching from the river across the Old Neck Road and SR 1300 to Union Hall Road (SR 1302) and beyond toward Bear Garden Branch. In 1818, Benjamin S. Skinner began purchasing land in Old Neck by acquiring five small contiguous tracts which became the core of Cove Grove Plantation. A wealthy planter, Skinner was a patron of education and an organizer in the Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity in Hertford. His marriage to Elizabeth Leigh (1805-1871) on December 23, 1819 served as the catalyst for the development of Cove Grove Plantation. In all probability, Skinner built his impressive Greek Revival plantation house ca. 1830 with the assistance of his father-in-law, James Leigh, a skilled carpenter and builder. By 1860, the U. S. Census, listed Skinner as owning 1,000 improved acres and 12,000 unimproved ones with 117 slaves, who were quartered

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in nineteen slave houses.

On the eve of the Civil War, Skinner died bequeathing Cove Grove to his son, Capt. Benjamin S. Skinner, Jr., who was killed in 1864 at the battle of Reams Station, Virginia. The economic disruption of the war and early death of Capt. Skinner precipitated the sale of the 840-acre "Old Homestead farm ... known as Eyerville" at auction on January 3, 1870. Skinner's younger brother, Joshua (1845-1911), purchased the plantation for \$4,000 and made it his home. Initially Skinner chose to hire colored field hands for wages, but by the turn of the century, he began constructing on the farm small tenant houses, several with barns.

Following Joshua Skinner's death in May 1911, the first major subdivision of Cove Grove took place. In 1923, the joint ownership of 300-acre homeplace was mediated with Joshua J. Skinner (1882-1969), a biochemist with the United States Department of Agriculture, receiving the newly apportioned ninety-seven-acre tract containing the main house. In the 1930s, he had two dairy related buildings constructed on the property and developed the formal boxwood garden with two benches and sundial behind the main house. Following Skinner's death in 1969, the homeplace was bequeathed to his sons Joshua Hopkins Skinner and Frank Brightwell Skinner (1915-1967). Today, members of their families continue to live at Cove Grove.

Landscape: Stretching from the Perquimans River to Old Neck Road (SR 1301), Cove Grove today contains approximately 127 acres, most of which is agricultural fields. A narrow stretch of woodland outlines the cove of the river bank and a small natural ravine which aids field drainage. Tradition maintains that a slave cemetery is located near the ravine. Two large cultivated fields extend from this woodland to the Old Neck Road. The plantation seat is situated in the southeast corner of the farm and encompasses both domestic and farm use. An 1837 survey of the plantation by Exum Newby illustrates in exceptional detail its original perimeter and long lane with circular drive. These features today remain much as they were.

The waterfront and agricultural lands comprise approximately 120 acres. Its two major agricultural fields follow much the same pattern documented on the 1855 U. S. Coast Survey preliminary map. Today, these fields, however, are further defined by a drainage ditch which runs from the western corner of the plantation seat to the ravine.

The plantation seat stands today as an oasis with mature canopy trees in the middle of an expanse of open fields. Fronting on the Old Neck Road and facing northeast, this area encompasses approximately seven and a quarter acres and includes formal and informal uses associated with domestic and farm activities. Fences and mature trees help define these four distinct areas, namely the front lane and grounds, the house with gardens, the domestic service yard, and farm yard. A deep agricultural drainage ditch extends along the southeast boundary; however, a smaller run-off ditch

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stretches along the northwest side and bisects the farm yard.

Containing approximately four acres, the front grounds and lane follow an informal but imposing design. The lane connects on axis the main house with Old Neck Road and also forms a circular drive near the house. A woven wire fence skirts the perimeter of the grounds and brick pillars with a picket fence extension frame the entrance with its cattle guard footing. Cedar trees sporadically line the fences, especially across the road front and northwest side. Oak, sycamore, holly, and cedar trees form a grove near the road; however, inside the circling lane, two holly trees mark the beginning of the loop and four mature oaks shade the area. Also positioned at the beginning of the loop is an arched sign spelling Cove Grove, which is made of metal and supported by two upright posts. The grounds extend to the northwest and include a row of three pecan trees paralleling the fence line. Joshua J. Skinner planted these pecan trees as well as the pine.

Defined by a fenced perimeter, the main house grounds include small front and side yards and large ornamental garden in the rear. A picket fence with central gate extends across the front in a splayed manner to compliment the curve of the drive. Post-and-rail fences forming an x-pattern frame the remaining three sides. Boxwoods line the short walk leading to the house and the brick arch foundation of the portico. Mature crepe myrtles skirt the fence. Forsythia, mahonia, and camellias accent the front and side yards. The mahonia, boxwood, and camellias are all twentieth century additions to the yard made by Joshua Skinner and the family of Frank Skinner.

The rear garden reflects both nineteenth and twentieth century development patterns. The placement of the well near the western corner of the house and the outhouse at the southwest corner of the yard are both antebellum features. Planted during the 1930s in a complex pattern, the boxwood garden today has diminished and includes only two features a central lined walk and to the northwest an overgrown circular grouping around a sundial. The original 1930s boxwood cuttings come from George Washington's home, Mount Vernon. A large South Carolina live oak planted in the 1950s shades one garden bench and a mature pecan tree shades the other. Newer additions to the garden are a magnolia, weeping cherry, plum tree, red buds, dogwood, and bird bath. Flower beds extend along the fence at the rear and northwest corner.

Located northwest of the house and grounds, the domestic service area comprises a large open area which extends beyond the grounds. A branch of the front lane links the grounds and service area forming another circle drive beside the house. Two structures associated with the former domestic quarters define the rear boundary of the area to the west. Located to the northeast are the former carriage house and two pump houses. Several large oaks soften the transition from the grounds into this area, and a woven wire fence skirts its outer boundaries. In recent years young fruit trees were planted in the open area near the quarters.

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The farm yard to the northwest includes an equipment shelter, a livestock barn, and dairy with a cattle and sheep pen at the rear. These buildings are lined in a row and unified by a farm road to the west. The woven wire fence of the stock pen encircles the former livestock barn and connects with the former dairy.

C NC P&RMain Residential Complex:

16A 1 B Cove Grove (NR, 1974): Built ca. 1830, Cove Grove is an impressive and unusually graceful coastal plantation house combining the boldness of the Greek Revival with much of the delicacy of the late Federal period. This five-bay two-and-a-half-story frame dwelling is raised on a brick foundation and distinguished by front and rear engaged hexa-style porticoes featuring graceful unfluted Ionic columns, simple entablatures, flush sheathing, and semi-circular arches forming a brick foundation arcade. Adhering to a symmetrical fenestration pattern, the front facade is complemented by a central entrance with side lights and beautifully detailed semi-circular fanlight. Above the entrance, a handsome trabeated Greek Revival entrance opens onto a graceful wrought iron balcony with a sheaves-of-wheat balustrade design and scrolled bracket supports. The less formal rear facade features a second floor gallery and transverse stairs connect each floor. The double-pitch of the gable roof is clearly evident at each side elevation and complemented by paired single-shoulder chimneys featuring concave shoulders. A handsome modillion cornice with returns skirts the eaves. The overall house measurements are approximately fifty-five feet by fifty-eight feet, inclusive of the porches which are eleven feet deep.

Containing an outstanding combination of the Federal and Greek Revival style woodwork, the interior follows a double-pile center-hall plan on all floors, except the third with two flanking rooms. A handsome transverse arch with keystone motif bisects the central hall. This hall exhibits elaborate woodwork including a slightly raised flat-panel wainscoting with right-angle cut corners. A dog-leg stair rises between each floor in the rear hall, and on the first floor it has a monkey-paw newel and wave-patterned stair brackets. The interior finish in each first floor room includes chair rails and marbleized baseboards. The northwest parlor and dining room feature similar, elaborate, three-part Federal-style mantels with sunburst motifs, gougework, and dentil cornices. A large archway with pocket doors, nearly identical to the one in the hall, connects these rooms. The woodwork elsewhere in the house is more simplistic, especially on the second floor.

The basement also follows the same floor plan and has brick floors.

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The four rooms were used primarily for household and food storage. Beneath the side entrance at the southwest corner of the house stands a very small brick closet which may have been used previously as a dairy.

- 16B 1 ST Well house: Ca. 1930, picturesque gazebo well cover framed by corner posts and diagonal bracing supporting a pyramidal roof and central cupola. Open to the garden, this square structure has a picket skirt encircling the three opposing sides. Lattice infills the bracing at the gazebo's open end as well as the upper area of three sides leaving a small open window in each. Housing the farm bell, the cupola has louvred sides and a pyramidal roof. The circular brick well dates from the mid-nineteenth century, has a cement overcoat, and is presently capped. In a ca. 1925 photograph this well appears to have a well sweep.
- 16C 1 B Privy: Mid-nineteenth century, rare example of antebellum outhouse in form and placement. It is located behind the main house in the southern corner of the garden and positioned out over the drainage ditch which parallels the the plantation seat. The one-room plan for this simple gable-front frame structure places one row with three adult seats along the rear wall and on the opposing front wall another row for children with two seats to the right of the door. During the 1970s, extensive repairs were made to the building.
- 16D 1 ST Picket and rail fences: Ca. 1940. The grounds of the main house are defined by a picket fence at the front and board with cross rail fences along the other three sides. The picket fence is placed on a slight diagonal inward to the central gate.

Domestic Service Area:

- 16E 1 B Tenant house/slave quarter: ca. 1830, ca. 1900, A simple one-story frame dwelling, with three-room T-plan and detached one-room kitchen in rear. Its two-room gable-front section is a rare former slave quarter which measures sixteen feet by twenty-two feet. Although its interior is altered, the exterior retains many original features, such as the flush gable-ends with tapered rake boards, exposed ceiling joist ends, and beaded weatherboards. In all likelihood, Joshua Skinner undertook this adaptation contemporary with the construction of tenant houses elsewhere on the farm.
- 16F 1 B Slave kitchen: ca. 1830, An extremely rare example, this one-room frame kitchen with beaded weatherboards measures sixteen feet by

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twelve feet two inches and stands reasonably intact. Its gable-roof exhibits a tapered rake board along its flush eaves, and an unusually deep eave overhangs at both the front and rear. The disappearance of the exterior-end chimney located at the southwest gable end has necessitated a partial restructuring of this elevation. The three-bay front facade features a central entrance with batten door hung on HL hinges. Vertically sliding interior batten shutters secure each window opening, two in the front and rear. Evidence of a red and white paint scheme survives. The interior is unfinished and heavily smoked. Features characteristic of a kitchen include the evidence of two produce storage bins located between the rear windows and a row of drying pegs secured in the central exposed ceiling joist. One peg remains in place.

- 16G 1 B Carriage house: ca. 1840, An extremely rare example, this gable-front frame structure has a central carriage bay flanked by shed rooms. Each shed contains corner tack rooms, two at the front and two at the rear. These rooms do not connect and have only one entrance at its respective gable end. Their batten doors are hung with massive strap hinges on pintles. A pent roof protects the carriage bay. A boxed cornice with returns distinguishes the front gable; however, the rear one has flush eaves and a tapered rake board. Evidence of a red with white trim paint scheme survives.
- 16H 1 ST Pump house: Early 20th century; Facing southwest, this small frame structure has flush sheathing, a pyramidal roof with standing seam tin roof, and central batten door.
- 16I 1 ST Pump house relay: Early 20th century; Facing southeast, this small shed-roof frame structure rests on a brick foundation and has flush sheathing. A small stove stack with stove pipe extension rises on the southwest side. The facade has an entrance in the eastern corner.

Farm Buildings:

- 16J 1 B Equipment Shelter: ca. 1945, Joshua J. Skinner rebuilt this structure using materials from the former building and at the same time reversing its orientation away from the main house. The long one-story gable-roof frame structure has an open two-bay entrance at the southwest gable end and a single bay equipment opening at the east corner of the southeast elevation. The entire northwest elevation is unsheathed and open; however, both the southeast and northeast elevations have weatherboard sheathing.

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16K	1	B		Shed: Pre-1946; Small, shed-roof, frame structure with weatherboard sheathing and a single door opening. It was formerly a chicken house and brooder located behind the boxwood garden near the main house, but in recent years was moved here and use for storage.
16L	1	B		Dairy: Ca. 1950, large gable-front concrete block structure. Its sides elevations are low block half walls with open framing above for ventilation. Top hinged board shutters aid in controlling the ventilation. The roof is sheathed with agricultural metal. The interior contains at one end a central passage flanked by five stalls and a feed storage room and at the other end an open pen. The loft above provided an area for feed storage, and a milking room extends from the southern corner.
16M	1	B		Equipment & feed barn: Ca. 1950, large gable-front concrete block structure with central passage. Agricultural metal sheaths the roof. A central doorway with two sliding doors provides entry into the building. The interior is one large open room with a central partition extending from the back wall for hay and corn storage.
16N 1		ST		Farm fence: Ca. 1900, Woven wire fence supported by wooden posts encircles much of the plantation seat
17)	House:	SW		side of SR 1301 down, 0.05 mi. W of jct. with SR 1302.
	1	B		One-and-a-half-story house under construction.
18)	House:	SE		side of SR 1363, 0.25 mi. SW of jct. with SR 1301.
	2	B		Brick one-and-a-half story dwelling with dormers and attached two-car garage built ca. 1994. One-story gable-front storage building in rear.
19)	Towe Farm Complex:	SW		side of SR 1301, 0.1 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1363.

During the early nineteenth century, Joseph Towe established a 302-acre plantation. Following his death, it was divided in 1841 among his heirs. The map for this division identifies two sites on the plantation, the present house noted as the "white house" and an earlier group of three buildings called the "manor buildings." The U. S. coast survey, published in 1860, indicates that open farm land extended from the house site to the river and agricultural land mixed with stands of woodland extended across the Old Neck Road. By the second quarter of the twentieth century, tenants were occupying the farm and cultivating it. Today, open farm land comprises much of Joseph Towe's original plantation, and a small residential development called Billy's Beach skirts the river front. Billy's Beach is not included within the boundaries of the historic district. The farm, itself, includes

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approximately 220 acres. No associated dependencies or farm structures remain.

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | B | Joseph Towe House/Equipment Shelter: Probably built ca. 1820 for Joseph Towe as a three-bay two-story frame dwelling with hall-and-parlor plan and rear shed rooms, this structure now serves as a farm equipment shelter. It retains a significant amount of original Federal-style fabric including flat panel wainscoting with pierced chair rail, doors with six raised panels, and a three-part mantel with reeded pilasters and central lozenge motif. Original exterior features of note are beaded weatherboards, nine-over-six sash windows with mitred surrounds, and a 1:3 American bond chimney with stepped double shoulders. The house was enlarged later by an additional bay and converted into a center-hall plan. Today, a metal shed for small equipment substitutes for the original shed-roof porch, a tall metal sheathed equipment shelter replaces the rear shed rooms and wraps around the southeast side elevation where the removal of the first floor wall facilitates the storage of additional farm vehicles. |
| 1 | B | Repair shop: Built ca. 1965, gable-front structure sheathed with agricultural metal and extended by shed addition to side. Used as repair shop and storage of small equipment. |
| 1 | B | Shed: Built mid-twentieth century, small gable-front frame building with central bay and flanking sheds sheathed with agricultural metal. |

20) **Mobile Home:** SW side of SR 1301, 0.15 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1363.

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | B | Double-wide trailer placed on brick foundation. |
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21) **Tucker Farm Complex:** SW side of private lane, 0.72 mi. from the end of SR 1301.

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | B | Kitchen: Late nineteenth century one-room frame kitchen with engaged front porch; exterior sheathed with plain weatherboards and standing seam tin roof; interior finish narrow beaded ceiling; fair condition. |
| 1 | B | Stable: Mid-twentieth century, built by Calvin Bundy; gable-front frame structure with cement floor, contains a grain storage room, a cattle feeding area, two mule stalls, one cattle stall, and three pig pens. |

22) **E. Leigh Winslow House:** SW side of private lane, 1.275 mi. from end of SR 1301.

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|---|---|--|
| 1 | B | Brick ranch house built ca. 1970 with two car garage. |
| 1 | B | Two-bay gable-front frame garage built by Calvin Bundy ca. 1950. |

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- 23) **Mobile Home:** SE side of SR 1302, 0.5 mi. SW of jct. with SR 1300.
2 B Trailer enlarged by frame addition; small frame storage building behind trailer.
- 24) **House:** SE side of SR 1302, 0.45 mi. SW of jct. with SR 1300.
2 B Frame one-story gable-roof dwelling sheathed with asbestos shingles
1 ST built ca. 1950; at rear small gable-roof garage with storage room and large open frame canopy with gable-roof used as shelter for automobile repair.
- 25) **House:** SE side of SR 1302, 0.2 mi. S of jct. with SR 1300.
1 B One-story frame dwelling with gable-roof sheathed with asbestos shingles built ca. 1950.

1 B Barn: early twentieth century three-portal gable-front frame barn.
- 26) **Mobile Home:** E side of SR 1302, 0.13 mi. S of jct. with SR 1300.
1 B Double-wide trailer with cinder block underpinning.
- 27) **Miller-Skinner House & Outbuildings:** SE corner of junction SR 1300 & SR 1302.

This farm complex is representative of the small independent farms constructed in Perquimans County during the first quarter of the twentieth century. In 1900 & 1901, W. T. Miller, who lived and operated a store across the New Hope Road at the former swing gate, acquired two tracts of land totalling approximately sixty-five acres. Local tradition maintains that he had this complex built for his son Gaston, as an enticement to become a farmer. Gaston lived here until 1940 when foreclosure forced the sale of the property. In 1942, William Skinner, an African-American farmer, purchased the farm, where his family continues to live.

Landscape: Located at the southeastern corner of the intersection of New Hope, Union Hall, and Old Neck roads, the house site today consists of a little under one acre of land; however, Skinner's heirs also retain ownership of approximately fifty-six acres of surrounding open farm land. The house retains a small complement of outbuildings behind it. A board fence separates them from the house. A mature cedar tree and crepe myrtle are the primary landscape features in the the small front yard which is bisected by a straight walk leading up to the front door. At the rear, the farm yard is open with the smokehouse and chicken house framing the southern boundary and the barn the eastern one. Today a mobile home is located near SR 1300.

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- 27A 1 B House: Built ca. 1915, this one-story frame bungalow with pyramidal roof features a hip-roof porch, gable-front dormer, and rear ell.

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- Sheathed with aluminum siding, the double-pile three-bay house also has two-over-two sash and two stove stack chimneys, an interior one and an exterior one at the rear ell's gable end. Lightning rods intermittently line the ridge of the roof. Although enclosed the porch retains its original features.
- 27B 1 B Shed: 1985; Small gable-roof frame structure with off-center entrance, plywood sheathing, and rolled-asphalt roofing.
- 27C 1 B Smokehouse: Ca. 1915, Gable-front frame structure with off-center entrance, weatherboard sheathing, and rolled asphalt roofing.
- 27D 1 B Chicken house: Ca. 1915, Gable-front frame structure with weatherboard sheathing, a raking-gable slope to one side, and an off-center entrance.
- 27E 1 B Barn: Ca. 1915, Tall gable-front central block with hay loft flanked by sheds, one enclosed for grain storage and the other open for equipment storage; exterior sheathed with weatherboards and the standing seam roof is pierced by lightning rods identical those of the house.
- 27F 1 B Mobile home.

28) **Matthew Towe Farm:** S side of SR 1300, 0.5 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1302.

In 1899, Matthew Towe [1861?-1934], an African-American farmer, purchased from T. G. Skinner approximately sixty-six acres for \$637.50 and began developing this small farm paralleling Sutton's Creek. Married to Teadie Harrell [1866?-1958, also known as Otelia] since June 3, 1886, Towe sold the next year thirty-six and three-quarters acres to his neighbor, W. T. Miller. In all probability, this sale signaled the construction of the present house. Although no associated farm buildings survive, only the principal dwelling, the property remains in the possession of Towe's descendants.

Landscape: Surrounded by open fields on three sides, the house site sits midway between the outer boundaries of the farm along New Hope Road (SR 1300), its northern boundary. A wide stretch of woodland extends along the farm's eastern boundary paralleling the creek, and a narrow strip defines its southern boundary. Today the farm includes approximately twenty-six-and-one-half acres.

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#	C	NC	P&R	
1		B		Built ca. 1900, three-bay two-story frame house with gable roof and one-story two-room rear ell; the low hip-roof porch features a beaded tongue-and groove ceiling, square-in-section posts with chamfered edges, and a central entrance with sidelights; exterior details include plain weatherboard sheathing, two-over-one sash windows, and extended eaves with boxed cornice returns; an interior stove stack chimney is placed at each gable end and between the ell's two rooms.

29) THIS NUMBER IS NOT USED.

30) **Benjamin S. Skinner, Jr. Farm:** W side of SR 1302, 0.2 mi. N of jct. with SR 1300.

Probably built ca. 1818 for Benjamin S. Skinner to serve as his residence until the completion of Cove Grove. Family tradition maintains that its original site was just southeast of Cove Grove. Skinner, in all likelihood, moved it ca. 1860 to its present site on the Union Hall Farm, a property he had purchased in 1836. As he had for his older sons, Skinner was probably establishing a place for his young son, Benjamin S. Skinner, Jr. (1839-1864). This structure may very well be the house that Benjamin, Sr. was working on when a tree fell and killed him in 1861. In 1870 Joshua Skinner purchased this property as a part of Cove Grove from the estate of his brother, Benjamin, Jr. Following Joshua's death in 1911, his son Edmund B. Skinner inherited the balance of Union Hall Farm, which remains in the ownership of his descendants.

Landscape: Located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Union Hall (SR 1302) and New Hope roads (SR 1300), the property contains approximately 90 acres and includes the house site and open farm land. The house is sited along Union Hall Road (SR 1302) approximately 300 feet from the road, with a long drive looping in front of it. Today, a large shed near the road remains as the only known outbuilding within the period of significance. Pines and scattered cedars dominate this landscape. Major drainage ditches frame the road frontage and bisect the two principal fields. Smaller ones skirt the house site and bisect the back field.

#	C	NC	P&R	
30A 1		B		House: Built ca. 1818, two-story gable-roof frame dwelling with front shed-roof porch and rear shed addition.
30B 1		B		Shed: Late-nineteenth century frame gable-roof shed resting on brick piers and presently encased with aluminum siding.

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#	C	NC	P&R	
30C	1	ST		Equipment shelter: mid-twentieth century; open front shed-roof shelter with protective roof pent extending across front, side and rear sheathed with agricultural metal.
30D	1	B		Mobile Home.
30E	1	ST		Pump house.
31)	House:			W side of SR 1302, 0.3 mi. N of jct. with SR 1300.
	1	B		Brick ranch house with enclosed garage, built ca. 1975.
32)	Mobile Home:			W side of SR 1302, 0.35 mi. S of jct. with US 17.
	1	B		Trailer with metal skirt around foundation.
33)	(former) Willow Branch School:			W side of SR 1302, 0.3 mi. S of jct. with US 17.
33A	1	B		One of the county's largest early twentieth-century community schools, this frame school originally followed a two-room plan with a sliding door partition and separate entrances into each room within the protection of the gable-front porch; each room also had a cloak room at the front; modern alterations have now obscured and eliminated respectively the original diagonal sheathing and modified Palladian window at each gable end. In 1882, Joshua Skinner deeded the property to the Fifth District Colored School Committee, and the school operated until 1951 with grades 1 through 7 taught. In recent years it has served as a residence.
33B	2	B		Outbuildings: all built during mid-twentieth century; equipment
33C	3	ST		shelter sheathed with agricultural metal, small shed-roof frame structure; cinder block pump house; two dilapidated frame structures with shed roofs.
34)	House:			NE side of SR 1300, 1.07 SE of jct. with SR 1301.
	1	B		One-story frame dwelling built ca. 1960
	1	B		Barn: Built ca. 1939 and moved from original site on Miller-Bundy Farm ca. 1985, however, present site still associated with original farm tract; gable-front frame structure with central bay; first floor used for mule stable and grain storage and second floor was hay loft; built for John C. Bundy, Sr.
	1	B		Shed with gable-front

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35) **Mobile Home:** NE side of SR 1300, 1.02 mi SE of jct. with SR 1301.
2 B Trailer with modern workshop in rear.

36) **Miller-Bundy Farm:** N side of SR 1300, 1.0 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1301.

In 1922, W. T. Miller purchased from the White Land Company parcel # 12 of the Fleetwood Farm, which contained approximately forty acres. Miller may have developed this small farm for his daughter, Sallie Maude, who married Blaney Turnage earlier that year. He, however, sold the property "with improvements" in 1925 to R. L. Knowles, who had previously purchased the neighboring tracts # 9, 10, and 11 which included approximately eighty-six acres. In 1933, the Virginia-Carolina Joint Stock Land Bank bought the 126.8 acre farm at a public auction following foreclosure. Tradition maintains that an African-American tenant farmed the land until 1940 when John C. Bundy, Sr. purchased the farm from the bank. Bundy had moved to the area in 1936 from Pasquotank County and initially lived as a tenant on the Towe Farm in the main house. He then purchased this farm and raised corn, soybeans, and hogs. At first, his sons helped farm, but later, he began to work on halves with one son, John C., Jr., who farmed the land while he furnished the equipment and gas. John C. Bundy, Sr. lived here until his death, and the land was divided among his children.

Landscape: Much of the farmland associated with the home site today is lost to strip residential development along SR 1300; however, the house site with landscape, dependencies, and site plan remains reasonably intact. Framed by shallow drainage ditches on both sides, the grounds are distinguished by mature pecan trees and crepe myrtles in the front and large oak trees in the rear. A drive extends along the northwest side of the house to the farm buildings at the rear. The house is approximately eighty feet from the road. A trailer is located just west of the house across the drive and shaded by pine and pecan trees.

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- 36A 1 B House: Ca. 1923; One-story three-bay frame bungalow raised on a brick pier foundation with pyramidal-roof, hip-roof porch, central hip-roof dormer, and rear ell. The porch features brick pillars supporting square-in-section tapered wood posts. The windows contain two-over-two sash and are paired on the front facade. Asbestos shingles sheath the exterior, and standing seam protects the roof with original butt shingles.
- 36B 1 B Wash house: Ca. 1923; One-story gable-front frame structure originally located northwest of house spanning a drainage ditch but moved when property was divided.
- 36C 1 B Pump House: Ca. 1940, small gable-front concrete-block structure with standing-seam tin roof.

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36D	1		B	Workshop: Ca. 1941, small gable front frame structure with central bay vertical board sheathing and standing-seam tin roof; constructed with boards salvaged from the river; used to change oil for trucks and gas tractors.
36E	1		B	Barn: Ca. 1920; Three-bay gable-front frame structure with sheds; used for storage of hay, corn, and peas.
36F	1		B	Mobile Home: Ca. 1965 trailer with metal skirt around foundation.
37)				Perry House & Outbuildings: NE side of SR 1300, 0.85 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1301
	1		B	(former) Knight House: Originally located on White Hat Road, it was moved here ca. 1970 and has since undergone extensive remodeling; formerly a one-and-a-half-story frame dwelling built ca. 1890 with engaged front porch and rear shed rooms.
	1		B	Storage building: Moved from White Hat Road during 1980s, this three-bay one-and-a-half-story frame coastal cottage was built around the turn of the century and stands reasonably intact with its engaged front porch and rear shed rooms.
	1		B	Carport with three bays.
38)				Mobile Home: NE side of SR 1300, 0.85 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1301.
	4		B	Double-wide trailer with three storage buildings.
39)				Mobile Home: NE side of SR 1300, 0.82 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1301.
	3		B	Trailer with large workshop and small storage shed.
40)				Mobile Home: NE side of SR 1300, 0.77 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1301.
	1		B	Trailer with sheet metal skirting foundation.
41)				John C. Bundy, Jr. Farmstead: NE side of SR 1300, 0.75 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1301.

In August 1945, the construction of this farmstead for John C. Bundy, Jr. was initiated by John C. Bundy, Sr. for his son shortly after his marriage. Joe Elliott, a local farmer who was clear cutting nearby land, supplied the timber, which was sawn at a local mill. A local carpenter, Odell Cartwright, built the original complex and was paid 60¢ an hour. It was the first house Cartwright built serving as head carpenter, and John C. Bundy, Jr. assisted. He finished the work, which included the construction of an outhouse, smokehouse, henhouse, and barn, in 1946 for \$1,800. Although rural electricity had not reached this area at the time of construction, the

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house was wired for it and ready when it was available shortly thereafter. The upstairs was built to be finished at a later date. Here the Bundy's raised seven children, and he farmed approximately eighty-six acres on a halves basis with his father. Bundy supplied the labor while his father furnished the equipment, gas, and lime which was needed roughly every five years. They raised primarily corn, soybeans, and hogs. Peanuts and cotton both were abandoned in the late 1940s. Wheat also proved unsuccessful and was later given up. Following his father's death, Bundy inherited twenty acres and was given his house and lot. He increased his holdings later to approximately sixty acres by buying out his two brothers. About ten years ago, Bundy retired from farming and sold off his hogs four years later. Presently, he rents his farmland to a local farmer.

Landscape: Presently the tract comprises approximately fifty-one acres, which includes open fields, former pig lots/farrowing house, farm building complex, and domestic complex. Although the majority of the buildings within the complex are outside the period of significance, their traditional setting and placement still convey use, either farm or domestic. Each is positioned behind the other beginning at New Hope Road (SR 1300) with a farm road bisecting the domestic complex with the household vegetable and flower garden to the northwest opposite the main house. The house is set back approximately forty feet from the road. Mature pecan trees and oaks shade the area paralleling the drive. Two frame domestic outbuildings are associated with the house, a combination wood shed/smokehouse to the northeast and a wash house just across the drive to the northwest. A long double-run clothes line is located behind the wash house and garden. A cluster of fig bushes at the rear completes the domestic area. Directly behind this area is an open work area shaded by trees and framed by various farm outbuildings, such as a shed, barn, brooder house, sorting house, and equipment shelter. Pig lots once extended back to the farrowing house and grain bins.

#	C	NC	P&R	
41A	1		B	House: 1945, Simple, three-bay, one-and-a-half-story, gable-front dwelling with a shed-roof front porch and rear shed; original four-room floor plan included a living room, two bedrooms, and a kitchen with pantry; the upstairs was finished in 1954 and a bathroom addition on the southeast elevation was built in 1964
41B	1		B	Wash house with cleaning table: Ca. 1949; Simple gable-front frame structure made of cypress with one-bay facade and offset entrance; features small paired windows along side elevations, exposed rafter ends, plain weatherboard siding, standing-seam tin roof; wooden table used for cleaning vegetable and fish placed in front of building on opposite side of entrance.
41C	1		B	Smokehouse/wood shed: 1945; Frame gable-front structure with side

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- shed; exhibits open portal entrance to wood shed and offset batten door entrance to smokehouse; protected by standing-seam tin roof with exposed rafter ends; exterior walls sheathed with plain weatherboards.
- 41D 1 ST Shed: Ca. 1974; Gable-roof shelter with cement floor and partially enclosed side used to feed originally steers and later hogs.
- 41E 1 B Barn: 1945, Gable-front frame building with central entrance used to store corn and stable livestock; to provide additional space sheds were added on each side and at rear, the northeast one for corn in 1960s, the rear shed for tractors in late 1960s, and the southeast one for steers in 1970s.
- 41F 1 ST Chicken house: Ca. 1975; Cypress board-and-batten structure with shed roof built by John C. Bundy, Jr.; front facade has large wire mesh opening with door offset to side.
- 41G 1 ST Setting hens house: Ca. 1975; Small low shed-roof structure.
- 41H 1 ST Brooder house: Ca. 1950; Large shed-roof structure sheathed with vertical boards; entry off-set to one side on facade.
- 41I 1 ST Equipment Shelter: Ca. 1965, Frame open-faced structure features agricultural metal sheathing, shed roof with pent, and four bays; Bundy initially built with \$400 worth of timber and later enlarged it with left bay addition; originally built for tractors, too small for present day equipment.
- 41J 1 ST Small storage shelf, and gas tank
- 41K 1 ST Farrowing house: Ca. 1950, open front shed-roof structure with pent roof and sheathed with agricultural metal; originally constructed with five pens at costs of \$500 per pen; four additional pens added two years later.
- 41L 1 ST Hog shelter and sorting house: Ca. 1950
- 41M 3 ST Grain bins: Ca. 1950, cluster of three metal grain bins, two large and one small, used to store corn for hogs; originally two small 1330 bins were installed which contained 1,400 bushels and three years later two 3000 bins installed which actually contained 3,200 bushels of grain.

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41N	1	B		Boat works: Ca. 1980; Large gable-front frame building with metal sheathing.
410	1	ST		Grain bin: Moved to present site in 1984, one of the original small 1330 bins installed ca. 1950 near farrowing house.
42)	Mobile home:			NE side of SR 1300, 0.65 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1301.
	2	B		Trailer with equipment shelter in rear.
43)	Mobile home:			NE side of SR 1300, 0.55 mi. E of jct. with SR 1301.
	1	B		Trailer.
44)	House:			SW side of SR 1300, 1.06 mi SE of jct. with SR 1301.
	1	B		Brick ranch house built ca. 1985.
45)	House:			SW side of SR 1300, 1.0 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1301.
	1	B		Frame ranch house built ca. 1990.
46)	House:			SW side of SR 1300, 0.95 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1301.
	1	B		Frame ranch house built ca. 1990.
47)	House:			SW side of SR 1300, 0.9 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1301.
	1	B		Frame ranch house built ca. 1985.
48)	House:			SW side of SR 1300, 0.80 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1301.
	1	B		Frame ranch house built ca. 1990.
49)	House:			SW side of SR 1300, 0.78 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1301.
	1	B		Brick ranch house built ca. 1990.
50)	House:			SW side of SR 1300, 0.7 mi. SE of jct. with SR 1301.
	1	B		Frame ranch house built ca. 1990.
51)	Mobile Home:			S side of SR 1300, 0.27 mi. E of jct. with SR 1301.
	2	B		Trailer and frame gable-front garage.
52)	Mobile Home:			S side of SR 1300, 0.25 mi. E of jct. with SR 1301.
	2	B		Trailer and small metal storage building.
53)	Mobile Homes:			S side of SR 1300, 0.22 mi. E of jct. with SR 1301.
	1	B		Trailer.
54)	Mobile Home:			S side of SR 1300, 0.22 mi. E of jct. with SR 1301.
	1	B		Trailer.

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- 55) **Mobile Home:** S side of SR 1300, 0.22 mi. E of jct. with SR 1301.
1 B Trailer.
- 56) **Mobile Home:** S side of SR 1300, 0.19 mi. E of jct. with SR 1301.
1 B Trailer.
- 57) **Mobile Home:** S side of SR 1300, 0.18 mi. E of jct. with SR 1301.
2 B Trailer with frame playhouse and dog house.
- 58) **Mobile Home:** S side of SR 1300, 0.17 mi. E of jct. with SR 1301.
2 B Trailer with large gable-front frame storage building.
- 59) **House:** S side of SR 1300, 0.08 mi. E of jct. with SR 1301.
2 B Ca. 1994, one-and-a-half story five-bay dwelling with engaged front porch, two gable dormers, and attached one-bay enclosed garage; two-bay detached garage in the rear.
- 60) **Winslow Farm:** E side of SR 1301, 0.5 mi. N of jct. with SR 1300.

Initially part of the William Jones Plantation, this land became known as "the Cornered field" by Frank E. Winslow who had acquired the plantation in 1872. The present house site was developed by the Winslow family during the 1880s. In 1894, however, E. D. Winslow sold it and approximately sixty-two acres to D. W. Byrum, who retained the farm until 1903. M. H. White, the new owner, in turn sold it the following year to W. A. Harris and G. E. Harris. By 1919, the farm had become a part of the J. J. Fleetwood Farm. Then in 1922, E. D. Winslow re-purchased the property which included approximately seventy acres. Used primarily as a tenant farm, the property had become known by 1936 as the Godwin tract. The farm remains today in possession of Winslow descendants.

Landscape: Located along the east side of the former Old Neck Road (SR 1301), the farm today contains approximately 128 acres which includes open agricultural fields, house site and woodland. Drainage ditches divide the farmland into five distinct fields, and roughly twenty-three acres of woods frame the northeast corner of the farm. Centered between the principal fields along the old road, the main complex contains both domestic and farm buildings. Although the majority of the buildings are outside the period of significance, their traditional setting and placement still convey use, either farm or domestic. The main house is centrally positioned along Old Neck Road and approximately 100 feet from the road. A straight lane runs just the north of the house, connecting both farm and domestic functions. The domestic buildings are directly behind the house and the farm building just beyond paralleling the lane. Formerly, an apple orchard was just north of the farm buildings and a pig lot to the south. A mature row of cedar trees lines the north side of the lane while mature pecan trees uniformly landscape the expansive front yard.

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- 60A 1 B House: Built ca. 1885; This three-bay two-story frame farmhouse features a gable-roof with extended eaves and boxed cornice returns; a shallow hip-roof front porch, now screened, with chamfered posts and hinged run-off boards; and a one-story rear ell. The former breezeway is now enclosed. Other exterior details include plain weatherboard sheathing, six-over-six sash, and a brick pier foundation. The original double-pile center-hall plan, with a straight stair rising from the front, is now slightly modified with the enclosure of the back hall. Other interior appointments are vertical narrow beaded wainscoting, three-panel doors, a massive turned newel.
- 60B 1 B Equipment shelter: Ca. 1925; Former gable-front shed converted into equipment shelter; poor condition.
- 60C 1 ST Equipment shelter: Ca. 1975; Roughly framed shelter with agricultural metal sheathing.
- 60D 1 B Smokehouse: Ca. 1975; Gable-front frame structure with shed side addition.
- 60E 1 ST Chicken house: Ca. 1940; Large frame structure with side sloping shed roof; sheathed with agricultural metal.

61) John Newbold Farm: E side of SR 1301, 0.3 mi. S of jct. with US 17.

Small approximately sixty-four-acre farm developed in 1894 by John Newbold [1861-1935] following the purchase of a portion of the Jones Farm from the F. E. Winslow estate. A farmer, Newbold had married Enolia Elliott on December 29, 1886. The property remained in the Newbold family until 1955 when it was sold to D. M. Jackson.

Landscape: Open fields dominate this small farm which is bisected by a major drainage ditch. The house site with ancillary buildings encompasses approximately five acres in the northwest corner of the property. A small cotton field separates the house site and the two farm buildings which line the northern boundary. The house is set back approximately 100 feet from Old Neck Road (SR 1301) with a drive leading up to its south side. Oaks, cedars, and pines provide shade for the site.

C NC P&R

- 61A 1 B House: Ca. 1895; Three-bay two-story frame farmhouse with hip-roof front porch and rear ell; the gable roof features boxed cornices with returns and interior gable-end chimneys; other details include plain weatherboard sheathing, turned porch posts and two-over-two sash windows.

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61B 1 B Stable: Early 20th century; Gable-front frame stable with central passage, flanking stalls and agricultural metal sheathing.

61C 1 B Shed: Ca. 1950; Gable-front frame shed sheathed with tar paper in poor condition.

62) Thomas Nixon Plantation: S side of US 17, 0.35 mi. E of jct. with SR 1301.

In 1838 Francis Nixon purchased a portion of the Jones Plantation, along the main road between Elizabeth City and Hertford in the northernmost part of Old Neck, and in 1848 he deeded approximately 280 acres to his son Thomas Nixon [1826-1887]. Construction of the plantation house may have begun with the young Nixon's coming of age; however, his marriage in 1849 to Cornelia Townsend [1829-1899], the daughter of Joseph W. and Harriett Jones Townsend, was the catalyst the completion of the house early in the year. The plantation was known as Elmwood. Nixon died in 1887 leaving a life right to his plantation to his wife, who lived there until her death in 1899. Throughout much of the twentieth century, tenants have occupied the farm. Today, the farm remains in the ownership of Nixon's descendants as Elmwood Farms Limited Partnership.

Landscape: Lying south of U. S. 17 and framed by SR 1301 and 1302, the acreage associated with the former plantation seat includes approximately 360 acres of primarily open agricultural fields. This complex, which has both farm and domestic buildings, is near the northwest corner of the property and faces U. S. 17. Drainage ditches divide the agricultural land east of the plantation seat into nine fields. West of the complex, a narrow stretch of woodland helps divide this area into four fields, and includes a cemetery and Scuppernong grape arbor near its northeast corner.

Today tree rows, and fences roughly define the plantation seat and delineate the more formal domestic areas from the associated farm areas. In many cases disuse has eroded a clear definition of these areas; however, four distinct divisions remain, namely the tree-lined front lane, pasture to the east, farm yard with barn and stable to the west, and main house with its grounds and outbuildings at the end of the lane. Cedar trees line the eastern boundary of the former pasture, which extends nearly the length of the plantation seat paralleling the farm lane and the grounds of the main house. A wire-and-post fence defines its western limits. A wood rail fence extends along the road front unifying the lane area and farm yard.

Two brick pillars mark the entrance to the plantation seat, and a straight lane extends approximately 500 feet then circles in front of main house. A grove of mature cedar and elm trees parallels the lane and practically obscures the main house from the road. To the east, two rows of cedar trees flank a central row of elm trees; to the west, two rows of cedar trees flank two central rows of elms.

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The grounds of the main house are defined at the front and sides by a picket fence with central gate and include the main house, four outbuildings and brick grill. In all likelihood, each outbuilding was relocated to its present site behind the house. Little landscaping surrounds the house, except for a large magnolia tree in the front just east of the house, a young holly tree just behind the house to the southwest, and small grove of pecan trees to the rear. The grounds have little definition and no enclosure at the rear.

The surviving farm buildings, a barn and stable, are located northwest of the house and parallel to the lane. A farm lane branches off the main drive and connects each building. Closest to the road is the stable which is paired with a standard windmill. A wire-and-post fence runs behind the stable and connects with the rail fence along the road. Set-back from and just southwest of the stable is the grain and feed barn.

C NC P&RMain Residential Complex:

- 62A 1 B Thomas Nixon House: Originally a two-story gable-roof frame dwelling completed in 1849, the house was modified, in all likelihood, ca. 1860 by the addition of a two-story full-facade porch and a two-story rear ell with a double-tier porch framing the ell. The dimensions for the earlier portion of the house are forty-two feet by nineteen feet with the ell measuring sixteen feet by twenty-two feet. The front porch measures ten feet deep and the rear one is eight feet deep. The original front porch was probably double-tiered and had an engaged roof line similar to the present one. Tall slightly tapered square-in-section porch posts rise two stories to support the roof. The three-bay front facade with flush sheathing features a symmetrical fenestration pattern and central entrance with sidelights, framed by reeded pilasters and an entablature with dentil row. The windows contain nine-over-nine sash on the first floor, and six-over-six sash on the second. In the ell, the window sash are the same but feature typical Greek Revival surrounds with plain corner blocks. The exterior-end chimneys are either rebuilt or heavily repointed; however, each basically follows its original form with stepped double shoulders, off-set stacks, and stepped bases.

The interior follows a center-hall plan, and the woodwork exhibits both early and late features characteristic of the Greek Revival style. The quarter-turn stair has a square-in-section newel with molded cap, plain thin balusters, and rounded handrail. All the mantels are simple and most have pilasters supporting either a plain frieze or one with a Tudor arch. The principal doors are grained and have six flat panels. Those associated with the rear ell are late

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Greek Revival ones that contain two vertical panels.

- 62B 1 B Dependency: First half nineteenth century; Unusual gable-roof frame structure measuring approximately 15 feet 4 inches by 12 feet 5 inches features plain weatherboard, flush gable ends with tapered rake board, mortise and tenon construction, beaded ceiling joists, white washed interior, and pinned cornice with canted fascia treatment; evidence of single window at both front and rear; off-set entrance and batten door with carpenter lock #60.
- 62C 1 B Milk house: Mid-nineteenth century; Rare former stilted dairy with recessed door beneath front gable and flush sheathing.
- 62D 1 ST Grill: Ca. 1950 brick cookout grill.
- 62E 1 B Kitchen: Late nineteenth century; Former two-room detached kitchen; two-bay gable-roof frame structure with pedimented gable ends, a shed-roof porch and central stove stack; interior sheathed with narrow beaded ceiling and the partition wall removed.
- 62F 1 B Smokehouse: Late nineteenth century; Gable-front frame structure sheathed with plain weatherboards; features offset entrance and cypress shingle roof.
- Farm Buildings:
- 62G 1 B Barn: Ca. 1848, enlarged ca. 1860; Gable-front Dutch barn; enlargement includes central cross passage with banked entrance to accommodate wagons; exterior features include plain weatherboard sheathing, flush gable ends, shed addition to southwest elevation, and massive doors supported by strap hinges resting in pintles.
- 62H 1 B Stable: Ca. 1860; Large gable-front structure with shed extensions; contains three portals including central passage flanked by four stalls on each side; exterior sheathed with plain weatherboard and standing seam tin protects the roof as do the three lightning rods along the ridge.
- 62I 1 ST Windmill: Late nineteenth century; Standard farm windmill standing on steel frame with four sloping legs braced at intervals; the steel blades and rudder are designed to follow wind shifts by simple rotation.

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63) Old Neck Historic District Landscape:

#	C	NC	P&R
1			S

The natural and historic landscapes of Old Neck blend together and form an open panorama of agricultural fields interspersed with stretches of woodland. Scenic waterways lined by cypress lowlands frame much of the district. During the period of significance, overlays of roads, ditches, plantations, and farms developed, which today remain virtually intact and illustrate a remarkable integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Modern non-contributing properties although numerous are usually concentrated within specific areas. Their placement either within or in close proximity to historic wooded areas significantly reduces their impact on the historic landscape and integrity of the district.

The natural landscape of Old Neck is defined largely by the Perquimans River and its tributaries Suttons Creek and to a lesser extent Jones Creek. The navigable waters of the river and Suttons Creek historically have encouraged the economic development of the neck. Erosion does occur along the river bank. Woodland, dominated by cypress and gum, lines the waters edge and the swampy lowlands associated with the creeks. Small tracts of woodland are present in the northern section of the historic district between the Thomas Nixon Plantation (62), and the John Newbold (61) and Winslow (60) farms.

Bisected by the boundary for Parkville and New Hope townships, Suttons Creek serves as the eastern boundary for the historic district. Throughout the eighteenth and much of the nineteenth century, the creek was the scene of commerce with landings along its western bank. A mill was once located near Lydia's Gut and its former site is still identifiable on the landscape. Significant woodland has always been associated with Suttons Creek. Today, this wooded tract preserves, within an area of new growth trees, a rare example of a nineteenth century field with six-foot wide plowed rows

The agricultural development of Old Neck stems back to the late seventeenth century when settlers began along the river's edge to carve out small farms from the forests. Then the land provided a wide range of bounty including timber, agricultural products, and fishing. Over time as the land was cleared and developed, farmers increasingly relied on the land's agricultural potential. By the early nineteenth century, Old Neck's agricultural economy was historically shifting from one based on small farms with home sites oriented to and near the river to a plantation economy with the plantation seats now oriented to roads and back from the river. Today, the landscape of the Old Neck Historic District documents this antebellum plantation society as well as its coexistence with late nineteenth and twentieth century historical and agricultural developments. This nomination's inventory listing

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includes a landscape description for each plantation or farm.

The open landscape of Old Neck reflects its agricultural use. It includes numerous agricultural fields, which vary in size from approximately 100 to three acres. Average size fields contain between twenty and thirty acres. In many instances, these field patterns are historical and can be documented using land surveys or maps. On the 1855 map marked Exhibit #3, several fields currently associated with the Francis Nixon (1) and Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon (7) are illustrated. A twentieth century example is the 1938 plat map of the Winslow Farm (60), located in Plat Book 2, 177. It illustrates not only fields but woodland, thicket, and the fenced house site with pasture. Most of these delineations remain today.

64) Transportation Network:

#	C	NC	P&R
1			S

The earliest road bisecting the historic district today is Old Neck Road (SR 1301). Today, it combines with SR 1302 and SR 1300 to provide the primary transportation network within the district. A portion of another early road, the Nixon Landing Road, is now a farm road separating two fields. Originally, cart paths cut through farms sometimes running along side ditches, and these today now serve as farm roads. Although water transportation was once an integral part of life in Old Neck, today it is limited to recreational use; however, a few docks, like the modern one at the Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon Plantation (6) are included within the district.

65) Land Drainage Network:

#	C	NC	P&R
1			S

A network of drainage ditches criss crosses Old Neck and runs into either the Perquimans River, Suttons Creek, or Jones Creek. Many date from the antebellum period when planters were working to increase their plowable acreage.

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Perquimans County, North CarolinaSection number 8 Page 41**Statement of Significance:**

Situated in the heart of the Albemarle region along the northeastern bank of the Perquimans River just south of Hertford, the Old Neck Historic District in Perquimans County embodies the evolving cultural patterns and architectural trends taking place between 1813 and 1946 within the region's predominately rural agricultural society. Possessing a high degree of integrity, Old Neck's historic rural landscape is composed of a remarkable overlay of extant architectural fabric, transportation networks, and farming patterns. The topography of the neck, with its link to the navigable waters of the river, sounds, and ocean, provides a rare insight into important nineteenth-century settlement patterns along the rivers of eastern North Carolina and, more particularly, the Albemarle region. Influenced by its early Quaker heritage, easy accessibility to navigable waterways, rich agricultural farmland, and developable field drainage, Old Neck evolved during the early nineteenth century from an area of small farms with strong Quaker ties lining the waters edge into a significant plantation society dependent upon slave labor. The placement of these plantation seats was further inland away from the waters edge. Modest early dwellings such as the one built ca. 1818 for Francis Nixon (1) were gradually enlarged to accommodate increasing spatial needs. The larger, more sophisticated Federal-style houses at the William Jones (6, completed in 1813) and William Fletcher (7, built ca. 1820) plantations were also enlarged with Greek Revival additions during the height of antebellum prosperity. On the other hand, Cove Grove (16) built ca. 1830, stands virtually unchanged as the ultimate Greek Revival antebellum mansion in scale, style, and form. Close family ties, especially between the Nixons, Joneses, Fletchers, and Skinners, connected many plantations and broadened the sense of community within Old Neck. Following the Civil War, most plantation owners shifted their dependence on slave labor to tenant farming. Some planters, like Francis Nixon and James L. Skinner, managed to hold onto much of their pre-war acreage; however, inheritance bequests began to reduce farm size by the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Cove Grove (16) exemplifies this trend. Concomitant with this pattern was the increase in number of small farms, such as the Winslow (60), John Newbold (61), and Matthew Towe (28) farms. During the twentieth century, the preference for two-story frame dwellings was slowly supplanted by variations of the more modern one-story bungalow, like the Miller-Skinner House (27) and the John C. Bundy, Jr Farmstead (41). Today the district also contains a remarkable cross section of both domestic and farm related outbuildings that spans the period of significance and complements agricultural history of the rural historic landscape. Exceptionally fine examples of barns, stables, dairies, or smokehouses remain at the Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon (7) and Thomas Nixon (62) plantations. Both the antebellum slave kitchen and carriage house at Cove Grove (16), are extremely rare. Many of these structures are in their original location and illustrate an important sense of place and utility within the site plan of the plantation, especially the Thomas Nixon Plantation (62) and Cove Grove (6), or farm, like the Winslow Farm (60) and John C. Bundy, Jr. Farmstead (41). Since the early nineteenth century, a system of man-made ditches has enhanced the natural drainage system of the neck and aided in

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the cultivation of large tracts of land. This network fed directly into the river or lowlands associated with Jones or Suttons creeks. Crop production trends mirrored those elsewhere in northeastern North Carolina: corn and wheat during the antebellum period and corn followed by cotton during the post-Reconstruction years through the early twentieth century. Transportation within the neck depended either on the river or Old Neck Road (SR 1300) for much of the nineteenth century. The need for more direct access routes led to the completion of a new road to Hertford by the early 1920s. This new stretch of SR 1300, connecting SR 1302 and SR 1301, was the catalyst for the development in the heart of Old Neck of several small twentieth-century farms, such as the Miller-Bundy Farm (36) built ca. 1923 and the John C. Bundy, Jr. Farmstead (41) completed in 1946. Today, the district contains a remarkable cross-section of buildings that reflect architectural trends, from the sophisticated Federal and Greek Revival styles of the antebellum period to the plainer patternbook forms of the early twentieth century. It also includes a wide range of both domestic and farm-related outbuildings spanning the period of significance. The remarkable overall integrity of the Old Neck Historic District's agricultural and natural landscapes, its farm complexes and plans, and transportation network, constitute a significant microcosm of the social, agricultural, and architectural transitions taking place within North Carolina's Albemarle region during the period of significance, from 1813 to 1946. Given its exceptional character and rarity within the Albemarle region and eastern North Carolina, the Old Neck Historic District is important to both North Carolina and Perquimans County.

Agricultural Context

Formed circa 1668 and one of the oldest counties in the state, Perquimans County is geographically isolated from most of North Carolina in an area known as the Albemarle region. Its accessibility to navigable waterways, primarily the Albemarle Sound and Perquimans, Little, and Yeopim rivers, promoted trade and development during the early years of the region's history. Out-migration from Virginia and England initiated the settlement of the Albemarle which occurred in Perquimans County in areas, such as Durant's Neck, Old Neck, and Harvey's Point. Fertile land, abundant fish, and timber resources ensured the development of a stable economy. Architectural developments within this region are closely linked to this agrarian economy and reflect the influences of vernacular building traditions and trade.

Throughout the eighteenth century, Perquimans County was a center for the Society of Friends in North Carolina. Following the visitation of George Fox in 1672, the Quaker influence in the county grew rapidly reaching its height at the turn of the nineteenth century. Five meeting houses were serving the congregational needs of the Quaker community, with the North Carolina Yearly Meeting convening at Old Neck through 1788. Old Neck also was the gathering place for the first monthly meeting in

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Perquimans County with a second one established at Suttons Creek in 1794. Between 1825 and 1854, six of the seven individual Quaker congregations in Perquimans, however, were discontinued and only Piney Woods Meeting remained.¹

Although small subsistence farms dominated the rural landscape of Perquimans County throughout the eighteenth century, a shift began during the early nineteenth century toward the consolidation of farms giving rise to the development of large plantations. One underlying reason for this shift was that the land and economy were unable to support the rising population. Another reason was the growing slavery issue for Quakers. The ensuing out-migration proceeded along two lines, with many Quakers beginning circa 1812 to move to free states in the old Northwest, especially Indiana, and others, primarily slaveowners, moving to the deep South. The population continued to grow, however, rising from 5,440 to 7,419 between 1790 and 1830. By 1860, it did begin a slight decline to 7,238.²

Farmers in Perquimans County depended on two principal crops, Indian corn and wheat, during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Smaller quantities of oats, beans, and potatoes were also produced. The 1780 taxables list indicates that 65% of the Perquimans landowners owned 200 acres or less. Although the Society of Friends had renounced slavery at the time of the Revolution, slaves were an important part of the labor force in Perquimans County. As early as 1790, slaves comprised thirty-five percent of the Perquimans population, and were owned by forty-six percent of the families in the the county. Fewer than five bondsmen were owned by sixty percent of these slave-holding families. In 1790 the largest number of slaves in Perquimans were held by Gosby Toms and William Skinner, with fifty-two and forty-seven, respectively.³

Trade with the West Indies remained active during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, with corn, staves, and shingles the principal exports. The rivers and creeks of Perquimans County provided numerous private landings where schooners and sloops from northern and West Indian ports traded commodities and manufactured goods for produce of the county. Many local merchants purchased their goods in New York and Philadelphia, and a few, like Samuel Nixon, owned sailing vessels.⁴

Beginning around 1810, as the Quakers' small farm society began to decline in Perquimans County, their property was often consolidated into large plantations worked by slaves for such planters as James Leigh, Benjamin S. Skinner, William Jones, Francis Nixon, and Josiah T. Granberry. Many of these planters lived in Old Neck and were of Quaker descent, for example, Francis Nixon and Benjamin S. Skinner. Two Old Neck planters, William Jones and William Fletcher, were disowned by the Quakers in 1799 and 1817 respectively. A non-Quaker, James Leigh, the son of Gilbert Leigh a skilled carpenter, rose to become one of the wealthiest planters in the county by 1850 and also served as a deputy sheriff, magistrate, legislator, and head of the county militia.⁵ Early on as an orphan, he became a carpenter's apprentice.

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Raised in New Hope Township, he later settled at its southern point Durants Neck and built his plantation home, Land's End.

Drainage of land by ditches or canals was a common practice among farmers and planters due to ". . . the low and marshy terrain of Perquimans, particularly in the peninsulas or necks."⁶ Many of the most successful farmers in the Albemarle region lived in Perquimans County, and southern agriculturalist Edmund Ruffin noted that the county was the ". . . scene of the greatest drainage labors in northeastern North Carolina. . . . And ditching was remunerative."⁷ Extensive fencing protected each farm from livestock, which was allowed to graze openly. During the 1850s, Ruffin criticized this practice and recommended developing fenced pastures for livestock as a more economical alternative.⁸ Clearing land, constructing and maintaining drainage systems, and building fences required time and a great deal of labor.

Concomitant with the growth in size of plantations was the growth of slave labor. Between 1830 and 1860, the slave population in the county increased from 2,749 to 3,558. Indian corn and wheat remained the county's two principal crops; however, the cultivation of cotton was rapidly on the rise. The two bales of cotton produced in 1850 had dramatically increased to 225 bales by 1860.⁹

Although the economic depressions of 1819 and 1837 had reduced land values significantly in Perquimans County as well as in North Carolina, by 1850 general economic prosperity was once again on the upswing. "From 1850 to 1860 improved acreage in the county rose by twelve percent, to 52,182 acres; the cash value of farms, forty-nine percent, to \$1,537,770; and the value of farm implements and machinery, forty-two percent to \$47,594."¹⁰ The value of livestock also rose by fifty-one percent. By 1860 in Perquimans County, the principal draft animals during the antebellum period, oxen, were slowly being replaced with mules. The 1850 and 1860 census figures clearly reflect this shift from 605 oxen and 471 mules to 568 oxen and 661 mules, respectively. In addition, the decline in the number of farms from 505 to 456 underscores the continuation of the trend to consolidate farms during the decade preceding the Civil War.¹¹

Support for the Confederacy during the Civil War was not wholesale. The Quaker community, whose numbers had risen once again prior to the war, were opposed to both slavery and the war. Also, seven out of every ten white men in the county did not own slaves, and resented this unfair form of competition with free labor.¹²

Reconstruction and its ensuing years wrought significant changes to the agricultural economy of Perquimans County. Farmers were confronted with two major problems, "adapting to a new labor system" and "obtaining capital and credit."¹³ Although few changes took place in agricultural production, a system of farming through tenancy now became widespread and furnished a solution to both of the farmers' problems. This system provided an alternative for many unskilled laborers and was based either on a cash arrangement or, as in most cases, on share-cropping.

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Usually the landowner supplied the necessary seeds, tools, and mule teams. In return, he received one-half share of the tenant's crop.¹⁴

Indian corn, wheat, and oats continued as the staple crops in the county following the Civil War. Corn remained the primary cash crop. By the end of the century cotton had become an important cash crop, while wheat production had declined notably. During the early twentieth century, both soybeans and peanuts emerged as important money crops. Tobacco was also grown, but on a small scale by comparison with other tobacco producing counties.¹⁵ By the mid-twentieth century, soybeans, corn, and peanuts were the county's principal crops.¹⁶

Livestock continued to provide income and labor for farmers. In spite of Edmund Ruffin's recommendation some sixty years earlier, cattle and hogs still foraged freely. However, hogs provided a good return for farmers with very little care. Farmers used both oxen and mules to cultivate the land, a practice which had shifted in favor of mules by 1920. Raising sheep for wool also peaked and fell between 1880 and 1920. During the early twentieth century, interest developed in dairying with herds increasing fifty-five percent by 1920.¹⁷

The severe economic repercussions of the Civil War brought dramatic changes in farm ownership and management patterns. Large plantations often were divided into smaller farms, and as the figure for the number of farms increased, the size of farms diminished. In North Carolina, the number of farms increased from 75,203 in 1860 to 225,000 in 1900. Conversely, the average size of a farm decreased from 316 acres in 1860 to 101 acres in 1900. The number of farms operated by tenants increased significantly; in 1880, more than one-third of the farms in the state were operated by tenants. This trend continued throughout the nineteenth century.¹⁸

Paralleling the state trend, the number of farms in Perquimans County also rose and fell. From 1870 to 1880, this number had more than doubled from 491 to 1,016, of which 744 were owner occupied and 272 hired. The number of tenant farms also continued to rise steadily and totalled 641 by 1900 and 762 by 1920. This 1920 figure represents fifty-two percent of all the county's farms.¹⁹ Between 1920 and 1954, the number of farms, however, began a dramatic decline from 1,462 to 888, respectively. Eighty-four percent of the county's farms ranged in size from one to ninety-nine acres in 1920.²⁰

Architectural Context

Throughout the early history of Perquimans County until the present, the major common denominator associated with its built environment is its agrarian economy. Farms were first oriented toward navigatable waterways which provided settlers with an easy source of transportation. As the population increased and land along waterways was no longer available, inhabitants moved inland, necessitating the

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construction of roads and resulting in a new orientation pattern for farms.

Until the early nineteenth century, small subsistence farms were the hallmark of Perquimans County and the Albemarle region, with each rooted in the vernacular building traditions of its inhabitants. An emerging plantation society based on slave labor, however, slowly introduced a more formal definition to the landscape and its buildings. Domestic areas, quarters, and farm yards were carefully planned as was the approach to the plantation seat. Family and slave cemeteries were also components of the plantation landscape. By the turn of the twentieth century, the overlay of small tenant farms initiated into the landscape began to break down, simplify, and replace the complex orientation of the plantations. Concomitantly, small independent farms were built with their plans now adapted toward convenience and mechanized forms of agriculture.

Although brick and log were early building materials, heavy timber frame construction with mortise-and-tenon joinery was the norm for most buildings. The expense of brick usually limited its use to foundations and chimneys. All materials were initially fashioned by hand, including lumber, shingles, bricks, and nails. The earliest known example of the use of hand cut nails in the county is at the John Bogue House built in 1802. By 1850 three saw mills were operating in the county producing plank and scantling. Exum Stokes as agent operated, with the help of seven men, the county's only steam powered mill which produced one million board feet valued at \$8,000. The other two water-powered mills, operated by Josiah T. White and Thomas Wilson, produced 80,000 and 90,000 board feet respectively.

Regional in character, vernacular in interpretation, retardataire in development, and modest in form, the county's architectural evolution throughout the nineteenth century exhibits an increase in spatial needs and a re-evaluation of spatial functions. A desire for more utility, privacy, and/or formality, often, dictated a change in traditional plans. The growing plantation society in the Old Neck, Durants Neck, and Harveys Neck areas, however, introduced and fostered a more sophisticated appreciation for up-to-date architectural trends. By the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, new construction in Perquimans County was increasingly governed by popular trend and mass production rather than tradition.²¹

Period styles were usually illustrated in exterior and interior woodwork details, often, in a retardataire manner. During the first half of the nineteenth century, these styles typically ranged from transitional Georgian/Federal to Greek Revival. Elements of the Greek Revival style, however, extended into the late nineteenth century when local mills were mass producing building materials and millwork conforming to current modern styles. The most sophisticated of these Victorian styles, the Queen Anne and Eastlake, were more often seen in urban areas; or small communities. In the rural areas, the typical two-story gable-roof dwelling most often was simply dressed-up in turned and sawn work detailing. During the early

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twentieth century, the bungalows became moderately popular in rural as well as urban settings.

In Perquimans County by the nineteenth century, typical dwellings evolved as a composite of house forms, floor plans and styles with economics, traditions, ability, and personal preferences serving as the determinates. One-and-a-half story and two-story dwellings with gable roofs were the norm. Most floor plans were either hall and parlor or center hall, with both usually having one or two shed additions. The front shed additions were always porches which were either engaged or attached and one or two stories; however, rear sheds comprised a series of two or three rooms, with the central area sometimes serving as an open porch. A double-pile plan and a symmetrical fenestration pattern were rarely used until the mid-nineteenth century. The same holds true for the use of two-story rear ells which were associated only with large plantation homes.

Porches traditionally fall into two types, the more common one-story shed-roof form and the double-tier piazza. Representing a practical extension of living space, each is supported by posts and includes a balustrade. The double-tier piazza, however, is usually associated with more up-scale dwellings and derives from long-standing trade associations with the West Indies. In Perquimans County, two early nineteenth-century examples are the Isaac White House and Ashland, the home of John Skinner, which burned in 1952. During the antebellum period, this porch form took on classical proportions as exemplified by Land's End (ca. 1835), the home of planter and carpenter James Leigh, and Cove Grove ca. 1830, the home of Benjamin S. Skinner. It was also incorporated into two-story rear additions creating either an ell or T-plan, as illustrated at the Edmund Blount Skinner House (ca. 1845) and the William Jones House (ca. 1861 addition).

Replacing the one-and-one-half-story dwelling in popularity, the early two-story gable-roof dwelling usually had a one-story shed-roof porch at the front and a one-story rear shed addition. Their interior plans were either hall-and-parlor or center-hall ones. In Perquimans County, the James Whedbee House (ca. 1790) is one of the finest examples of this form with transitional Georgian/Federal style detailing and a center-hall plan. On the other hand, the modest Layden-Reed House (ca. 1810) has a hall-and-parlor plan with transitional Georgian/Federal style detailing. Both of these houses have one-story front and rear shed-roof additions but the stair placement on the interior varies. In the James Whedbee House, a dog-leg stair rises in the hall, but at the Layden-Reed House, a straight stair rises out of the central room in the shed. Located on Durants Neck road, both houses have asymmetrical fenestration patterns.

Three remarkable Federal-style examples of this two-story form in the county are the John McNider House (ca. 1805), Joseph Mardre House (ca. 1810), and Thomas D. White House (ca. 1845). Located in Bethel Township, the McNider and Mardre houses both exhibit modest examples of Federal woodwork. Here, the wainscoting and six-panel

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doors feature typical flat panels and the three-part mantels are distinguished by a molded cornice and flanking pilasters with reeding. On the other hand, the Thomas D. White House illustrates the retardataire use of various styles. The wainscoting and six-panel doors have raised panels featuring polychromatic trompe l'oeil painting to enhance these panels. The Federal three-part mantels are massive and elaborately reeded.

In Old Neck, the dwellings associated with the Francis Nixon (1), William Jones (6) and Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon (7) plantations reflect features typical of the Federal-style in Perquimans County. All are two-story frame dwellings with gable roofs and beaded weatherboard sheathing. Interiors contain important Federal woodwork, including mantels, wainscoting, and staircases. The two-story center-hall plan dwelling, built for William Jones and completed in 1813, is the earliest example and includes an outstanding modillion cornice with dentil row, a rare interior feature in the county. Similar in plan, the two-story frame house built ca. 1820 for William Fletcher, which faces the Perquimans River, features an original double-tiered engaged piazza. The interior includes outstanding Federal woodwork with sunburst medallions and chevron-patterned reeding. Francis Nixon's more modest side-hall-plan dwelling built ca. 1818 also has its original porch. This one-story shed-roof porch is supported by delicate tapered posts with both capitals and bases, very similar to those at the Joseph Mardre House.

Earliest use of the Greek Revival style in Perquimans County probably stemmed from the work of James Leigh, a local builder and one of the largest property owners in Perquimans. In his plantation Land's End (ca. 1835), Leigh utilizes the Greek Revival vocabulary of Asher Benjamin's architectural pattern book, Practical House Carpenter, published in 1830. Cove Grove (16, ca. 1830) and the Edmund Blount Skinner House (ca. 1845) also imitate the mantel designs featured in Benjamin's 1830 pattern book. Minard Lafever's The Modern Builders Guide, may have inspired the Greek Revival tripartite design for Stockton (ca. 1840), the plantation of Josiah T. Granbery. Both Stockton and the Skinner house exhibit two-story T-additions at the rear with flanking piazzas.

Elsewhere in Old Neck, Thomas Nixon, who initially completed in 1849 his two-story plantation house (62) at Elmwood, later enlarged it at the rear by a Greek Revival two-story ell-addition with an engaged double-tier piazza along the rear and ell. The William Jones house (6) underwent a similar addition which also included a flanking double-tier piazza. The interiors of each ell contained typical Greek Revival two-panel doors, tall baseboards, and simple Tudor-arch mantels.

Following the Civil War, the two-story gable-roof house form continued to dominate the landscape well into the twentieth century and most often featured a one or two-story rear ell. Mass production of popular Victorian turned and sawnwork elements enabled builders to economically update this modest house form with fanciful woodwork details. Porches and cornices were the primary recipients of these

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decorative elements. Boxed cornices with returns also had become a mainstream element. Chimney placement was shifting from an exterior position to usually an interior gable-end one. These interior stacks oftentimes reflected the increasing use of freestanding wood stoves for heating. Also, the location of the cooking and dining areas in a home was in a state of transition from a separate and detached form to a two-room kitchen/dining room rear ell. The Burwell S. Riddick House (ca. 1880) is one of the most outstanding early examples of this development to embody all these elements. Important more restrained later examples are the James H. Miller House built for \$600 in 1889 and the Wellington K. Barclift House built around the turn of the twentieth century. A modest one-story example of the period is the Henry V. Corbett House (ca. 1895).

Small farms became more prevalent within Old Neck during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The earliest extant example is the Winslow Farm (60) built ca. 1885. This large two-story double-pile frame house, with rear breezeway and connecting kitchen, is protected by a gable roof with boxed cornice returns and features a shallow one-story hip-roof porch with chamfered posts and six-over-six sash. Interior details include narrow beaded wainscoting, large three-panel doors, and a massive turned newel. In comparison at the neighboring John Newbold Farm (61), its two-story frame dwelling built ca. 1895 follows very much the same form but on a smaller scale. Here mass production building materials are more common, such as the turned porch posts and two-over-two sash. By 1900 when Matthew Towe probably built his house (28), the two-room kitchen/dining room rear ell was fully incorporated into this same two-story house form.

In eastern North Carolina, the perpetuation of the coastal cottage as a typical house form throughout the nineteenth century provided the perfect backdrop for the acceptance of the nationally popular bungalow during the first half of the twentieth century. Modest gable-roof frame dwellings usually incorporated typical bungalow features such as deep overhanging eaves, dormers, and spacious porches supported by square-in-section posts resting on brick pedestals, all of which were accented by oversized brackets. Two outstanding rural examples of this style built in the 1920s are the two-story gable-front John J. Chappell House and the one-and-a-half-story James W. Overton House with engaged porch and extended shed-roof dormer. Each has weatherboard sheathing on the first floor and stained shingles on the second level.

Old Neck has three modest examples of the bungalow, which are located in close proximity to one another on SR 1300. Two are in an area that was made assessable for development by the construction of a new segment of SR 1300 in 1921. In all probability, W. T. Miller had the Miller-Skinner House (27) on SR 1302 and the house at the Miller-Bundy Farm (36) constructed ca. 1915 and 1922 respectively. Almost identical in form, these one-story double-pile bungalows feature two-room rear ells, hip roof porches and pyramidal roofs with a central gable dormer. Tradition maintains that Miller built each house for one of his children. Nearly twenty-five years later, a third more modest and basic example of a bungalow was built for John

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C. Bundy, Jr. in 1946. This gable-front one-and-a-half-story frame dwelling originally contained four rooms. The upstairs was built to be finished at a later date, which it was in 1954.

Completely intact plantation and farm complexes do not exist today in Perquimans County; however, a good cross-section of domestic and agricultural outbuildings does survive which illustrates common construction techniques and forms. This cross-section includes smokehouses, dairies, kitchens, wash houses, privy, lock house, slave quarters, carriage house, sheds, stables and barns. Outbuildings within a complex were placed according to convenience and use, either domestic or farm. Boundaries within these areas today, oftentimes, lack clear definition due to attrition. Most outbuildings were frame and utilized heavy timber mortise-and-tenon construction until the late nineteenth century. Evidence of the use of brick, plank, or log is rare. Many had gable roofs protected by standing-seam tin covering the roof's original cypress shingles. Piers, both brick and cypress logs, provided foundation support.

As a part of the plantation seat, smokehouses, dairies, and kitchens were positioned close to the main dwelling at the rear. A privy might be set to one side apart from the other structures. Ancillary buildings such as a carriage house or shed were located next to this domestic area. Farm related barns and stables were set back near the outer perimeter of the plantation seat. The slave row or street was located either apart from the main complex or on its periphery. The most intact antebellum complexes in Perquimans County are Land's End, Cove Grove (16), the Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon (7), and the Thomas Nixon (62) plantations.

The majority of surviving domestic outbuildings, dating from before the Civil War, are smokehouses and dairies. One rare example of a carriage house, however, survives at Cove Grove (16G). Smokehouses usually had gable roofs and central entrances with board and batten doors featuring strap hinges and pintles. The stud system was closely placed and supported with diagonal bracing. The Col. Wilson Reed, the Charles W. Skinner, Sr., and the Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon (7C) smokehouses are extant examples. Usually smaller in size, dairies featured either weatherboard or flush sheathing and either a pyramidal roof with deep overhanging eaves or a gable roofline simple front overhanging eave. The dairies at Land's End, Issac White, and Woodlawn, respectively, illustrate these various features. Each is aided by either grille or fixed louver ventilators. Two exceptional early examples are the Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon dairy (7B), a rare pyramidal-roof brick dairy and the John Bogue dairy, a stilted one with flush sheathing. The Thomas Nixon dairy (62C) is a mid-nineteenth century example of stilted one.

The institution of slavery necessitated the construction of living quarters for the slaves, usually in the form of individual structures in an area set aside for that expressed purpose, that formed a street or row. In Perquimans County evidence suggests that these slave houses were typically two-room gable-roof frame structures

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sharing a central chimney. Two rare examples survive at Land's End and Cove Grove (16E). Another exceptional slave-related building remains at Cove Grove, a slave kitchen (16F).

Only three antebellum barns survive in the county today. These massive gable-roof frame structures are primarily grain barns with mortise-and-tenon construction. The Toms Barn (ca. 1845) is a three-bay English barn with the central bay serving as a runway and grain threshing area. This bay is placed prependicularly to the gable roof. The two Dutch barns at the Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon (7E) and Thomas Nixon plantation (62G) are both mid-nineteenth century gable-front examples. Each has a central runway at the gable end protected by a pent roof. Not long after it was built, the Thomas Nixon barn was nearly doubled in size by an addition including another runway perpendicular to the original one. The doors of each barn are hung on a series of massive strap hinges resting on pintles.

Late nineteenth and early twentieth century outbuildings maintained much the same form as their predecessors with the only major change a lighter timber frame construction. Their placement within the complex became less formal and based on convenient access out back behind the domestic area. Sometimes new buildings replaced either destroyed or outmoded older ones. Equipment shelters, chickens houses, wash houses, wood sheds, and workshops were also part of the complex.

Extant examples of late nineteenth century outbuildings include kitchens, smokehouses, and stables. The William Jones Plantation contains examples of a late nineteenth century gable-front smokehouse (6G) and a stable (6J). Detached kitchens are the most prevalent surviving late nineteenth century outbuildings. Most examples have gable-fronts and contain either one or two rooms. Kitchens were usually connected to the main house by an open breezeway or a board walk. Only two one-room examples with breezeways remain in situ, the ones at the Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon Plantation (7) and the Winslow Farm (60). Previously a cook's house, the Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon kitchen was adaptively reused as a kitchen in the early twentieth century. One other example is found at the former Tucker Farm Complex (21). It, however, is similar in form with the kitchen at the Thomas Nixon Plantation (62E) which is the only two-room example. Both have gable-ends and front porches.

Twentieth century examples of outbuildings include wash houses, smokehouses, barns, chicken houses, and well houses. All are frame and basically follow traditional forms. Within Old Neck, the three complexes associated with the Miller-Skinner (27), Miller-Bundy (36), and John C. Bundy, Jr. (41) farms give a clear overview of the range of buildings typically within a complex as well as their placement. The most intact site plans are at the Miller-Skinner and John C. Bundy, Jr. farms. Each differs from the other. At the Miller-Skinner House, the two small outbuildings, a smokehouse and chicken house, are lined in a straight row behind the dwelling with the barn at the end facing the house. The John C. Bundy, Jr. Farm is a larger complex with a clearer definition of domestic and farm use. The domestic

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outbuildings, positioned near the house, include a wash house with a fish cleaning table and a combination smokehouse/wood shed. The chicken and sitting hens houses are also nearby as are the household garden and clothesline. The brooder house, barn, shed, equipment shelter, hog sorting shelter are all located around the perimeter of the complex with the grain bins and farrowing house farther out beyond the pig lots.

Historical Background and Social History Context

Occupying the left bank of the Perquimans River between Suttons Creek and Vosses Creek, known today as Mill Creek, Old Neck was one of the first areas of substantial settlement in Perquimans County during the seventeenth century. Two thousand five hundred acres were granted to William West in 1663, and the land was soon sold in small parts to settlers from Virginia and New England. Old Neck became the home of William Charles, Thomas Kent, and William Bundy from Rhode Island, and Christopher Nicholson and George Sutton from Massachusetts.²²

Through the missionary labors of William Edmundson and George Fox in 1672, most of these independent yeoman farmers became Quakers. Thomas Kent and William Bundy apparently had Quaker ties, and Christopher Nicholson had once suffered from his Quaker leanings in Salem. One of Old Neck's most notable residents was Francis Tomes (ca. 1633-1712), moving there from across the river in the Beech Springs area, possibly in 1683. Converted by Edmundson, Francis Tomes became a notable Quaker leader, active in government as a magistrate and as a member of the governor's council. He first opened his home to Quaker meetings as did Christopher Nicholson, and later was instrumental in the erection of the earliest Quaker meeting houses in Perquimans. Upper Meeting House, later known as Wells's, was built first in 1704. It was followed in 1706 by Lower Meeting House, later known as Old Neck.²³

For more than a century, Old Neck was dominated culturally by the Society of Friends, who formed a strong community. In addition to Tomes, some other local families with Quaker associations were Albertson, Fletcher, Moore, Nicholson, and Saint. A neighboring Quaker congregation also developed at Suttons Creek in 1744. The importance of the Old Neck community is underscored by the fact that the Quakers' North Carolina Yearly Meeting generally convened at Old Neck through 1788.²⁴

Initially, small yeoman farms were oriented to the Perquimans River, providing easy access to water transportation. Landings were established also along Jones and Suttons creeks, which provided additional access to navigable waters for an increasing number of inland farms. Old Neck Road (now SR 1301) was one of the earliest roads to traverse the area. As early as 1736 John Powell petitioned to keep a ferry crossing the Perquimans River linking Phelp's Point with Newby's Point on Old Neck.²⁵ Nathan Newby, however, did operate a ferry during the mid-eighteenth century between these points from his Ferry Plantation.

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Challenges to Quaker concerns and beliefs began arising during the late eighteenth century and evolved primarily around two issues, military activity and slavery. Slavery became the most troublesome issue, putting slave holding members in disunion with the Society. Francis Nixon's father, Samuel, was disowned in 1796 as was Joshua Skinner, the father of Benjamin S. Skinner. As early as 1777, some Quakers were manumitting slaves; however, local authorities regarded it as illegal, once again selling the newly freed back into slavery. The tension of living in a society increasingly rooted in slavery was a catalyst in the outmigration of many Quakers from North Carolina. Starting about 1812, many of the practicing Old Neck Quakers began to migrate to free states. Others remained and intermarried with neighboring families. A degree of tension still remained for some, like William Fletcher, who was one of the first North Carolinians to make a testamentary request that his slaves be freed and transported to Liberia or some similar place.²⁶

If located along the waterfront, late eighteenth century plantations usually faced the water with only a protective setback. Older deeds picture two such sites. An 1815 plat identifies the "Home or Fletcher Plantation" [Exhibit #1] located near Jones Creek and illustrated as a two-story gable-roof dwelling with flanking exterior end chimneys. Another plat records, in 1841, three "manor buildings" [Exhibit #2] on the Towe Farm near the river's edge.

Roads, drainage ditches, and fences all aided in giving a new definition to the agricultural landscape of Old Neck during the antebellum period as property owners continued to increase their holdings and consolidate smaller farms. By mid-century, roads, cartways, and lanes traversed Old Neck. In the northeast section, Union Hall Road joined with New Hope Road and Perrisho Landing Road in an area which included a store and Union Hall Academy. A cartway also branched off Union Hall Road and extended across Old Neck Road to Brick House Landing on the river. At the northwest end of the Neck, a road also extended by the Francis Nixon Plantation, paralleling the north side of Jones Creek, and may have once lead to Newby Point as well as Nixon's Landing.²⁷ Evidence of many of these roads survives today.

Deep drainage ditches or canals crisscrossed the open agricultural fields in Old Neck. All followed either property lines or the natural drainage contour of the land emptying into the river or creeks. Most were constructed during the nineteenth century at great cost using slave labor. Over a forty-year period, width measurements varied from seven-and-a-half to four feet. For farmers, the drainage of agricultural land was an important issue resolved by petitioning the court of pleas and quarter sessions.²⁸

For example, immediately following his initial property purchase in 1818, Benjamin F. Skinner began petitioning to create and maintain proper drainage for his plantation's "flat land." An 1818 drainage agreement with Jesse Fletcher describes the present ditch as seven-and-a-half feet wide and four feet deep. Another petition in 1831 describes a proposed ditch six feet wide that would drain through land owned

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by Benjamin Saunders but leased by James P. Whedbee. This ditch would extend along the edge of Whedbee's "wheat patch" and drain "into a swamp commonly called Mill Dam Creek Swamp or Jones's Swamp." Skinner also expressed concern that otherwise the land "is liable to be very materially damaged by the overflowing of water in the fall of heavy rain." In 1860, he presented another petition to the court to establish a canal through the property of Thomas Nixon; however, this time the ditch would measure "four feet at top and two and a half feet in the bottom and the depth ... shall not exceed five feet in the deepest part." The description also noted that the drain would be cut with oblique sides "as Drains are usually cut."²⁹

Open agricultural land dominated Old Neck by the mid-nineteenth century as the 1855 preliminary and 1860 final charts of the Albemarle Sound for the U. S. Coast Survey (Exhibits #3 & #4) indicate. Expansive fields are noted with stretches of woodland primarily extending along the the creeks and water's edge. Straight lanes lead up to each plantation seat; however, the detailed plan for each complex is unintelligible. Typically, fencing would enclose each farm, thereby protecting it from roaming livestock. Little evidence remains of this antebellum fencing network in Old Neck.³⁰ A land survey completed by Exum Newby in 1837 for Benjamin S. Skinner of Skinner's home plantation gives a rare and remarkably detailed diagram of the plantation seat. It records a long lane with circular drive leading up to the mansion. Several smaller buildings are noted, and what appears to be a fence line marks the perimeter of the area. Each building illustrated mirrors the original.³¹ By 1860, several "home" plantations ranged in size as follows: James Leigh Skinner, 762 acres; Benjamin S. Skinner, 840 acres; and Thomas Nixon, 350 acres.³²

Plantation life during the antebellum period was a prosperous one for a planter and his family in Old Neck. Families usually were large, with eight or more children; but mortality rates for infants and small children were high in some families. By 1860, most Old Neck planters paid taxes for a carriage or riding vehicle, plate, and jewelry. The homes of Francis Nixon, his son Thomas Nixon, and James L. Skinner also included pianos. In addition, Nathan Tucker, James L. Skinner, and Francis Nixon owned gold pocket watches.³³ Some households included individuals outside of the family. Francis Nixon provided a home for Henry W. Barber, his brother-in-law and a clerk in his store, and Benjamin S. Skinner's household contained a housekeeper, Martha Brinkley, and Abel Ashbee, the overseer of negroes, both of whom were white.³⁴ In addition, both Francis Nixon and Benjamin S. Skinner made a concerted effort to establish the economic security of their children as each came of age.

Slaves labored in both domestic and farm environments. Benjamin S. Skinner owned 117 slaves, and Francis Nixon's holdings totaled forty-nine slaves. Their sons James L. and Thomas respectively, owned twenty-six and thirty slaves.³⁵ Some slaves were valued for special skills, such as Stephen, Charles, and Mustapha who were highly regarded carpenters of Benjamin S. Skinner. In his will, Skinner made a special provision so each son to inherit one; James L. Skinner received Stephen,

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Benjamin received Charles, and Joshua received Mustapha.³⁶ In all probability, these slave carpenters assisted with the Greek Revival additions to James L. (7) and Joshua (6) Skinners' homes.

Plantations generated products which sustained both the family and its slaves as well as producing market commodities. Indian corn and winter wheat remained the primary crops. Oats, sweet potatoes, peas, and beans were important secondary crops. Slaves used mules and oxen to plow the fields. Sweet potatoes were a staple foodstuff for the slaves, and flax and hops for clothing and enjoyment.³⁷ Benjamin S. Skinner produced the largest yields of each in Old Neck. Francis Nixon had invested heavily in farm implements and machinery by 1850, and it was only in 1860 that Benjamin S. Skinner's investment equaled Nixon's \$1,000 valuation. Both raised significant numbers of sheep and swine. In contrast, Thomas Nixon limited his livestock primarily to work animals and swine.³⁸

Of the eight documented antebellum plantations in Old Neck, five plantations retain their site integrity. The land associated with three others, namely the Towe, White-Tucker, and Hollowell plantations, still possesses much of its antebellum integrity. The woodland of the White-Tucker and Hollowell plantations contains rich archaeological evidence of plowed fields, with six-foot plow rows as well as a former mill site and pond. The Towe Farm also includes rich archeological remains in the neighborhood of Suttons Creek and the former Perrisho landing site.

The effects of the Civil War on Old Neck were significant within its economic and social structure. The elimination of slavery altered the agricultural economy to one first based on wages and then tenant farming. Farm values had plummeted and owners continually walked a financial tightrope balancing earnings and the cost of wages. On nearly every major plantation, the cost of wages approached half the value of all farm production.³⁹ Land became the leverage in maintaining financial security, with portions sold as necessary. By 1880, several owners had significantly reduced their land holdings.⁴⁰ The reconstruction and post-reconstruction landscape of Old Neck, however, changed very little, a fact confirmed by the 1877 revisions to the U. S. Coast surveys of the Albemarle Sound (Exhibits # 5 & 6), which are identical to their antebellum antecedents.

Agricultural production continued to center around Indian corn, wheat, and oats with cotton now becoming a cash crop.⁴¹ A forerunner in cotton production in Old Neck, was F. E. Winslow who had produced twenty-six ginned bales while living on the White-Tucker Plantation in 1870.⁴² Other farmers were only experimenting, with cotton yields raising between three and five bales. By 1880 Winslow was producing thirty-five bales on sixty-five acres at his present home, the William Jones Plantation.⁴³ Most property owners by now had significantly increased their cotton acreage, with the exception of longstanding resident Francis Nixon, who continued to raise primarily corn and oats but no cotton.⁴⁴

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One word--"change"--characterized developments in Old Neck during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The scope of change was both small and large. New roads, a school, and a fencing system, as well as the rise in tenant farming, all had a long-lasting impact on the area. The deaths of F. E. Winslow, Francis Nixon, and Thomas Nixon in the 1880s were a benchmark for this period of transition. Also, in 1882 Joshua Skinner, following in his father's footsteps as a strong supporter of education, deeded property to the Fifth District Colored School Committee for a two-room school known as Frog Hall School and later Willow Branch School (33).⁴⁵

In 1883, the legislature authorized one change that had an impact on the landscape: the fencing in of Old Neck. Similar to a project in Durant's Neck completed in 1882, this fencing, which included gates along the public roads, protected the area from roaming livestock and removed the need for costly interior fencing. For example in 1880, Joshua Skinner reported having spent \$200 on fencing the previous year. T. F. Winslow and Joseph H. Lowe received the contract for building the fence in 1883 for a cost of \$1,650. A keeper hired by the county then maintained the fence at a cost which ranged from \$21.00 in 1887 to \$44.50 in 1900. The county commissioners imposed a realty tax on residents of the area to pay for maintenance expenses.⁴⁶

Road improvements facilitated transportation in the area and later opened up land for development. First, a new, more direct road between Hertford and Old Neck, which bisected the Francis Nixon farm, was completed shortly after the bridge over Bright's Mill Creek was authorized in 1891 (Exhibit #7).⁴⁷ In 1911, a County Good Roads Association was formed that later provided the impetus for building in 1921 the paved road connecting the new road to Hertford with the crossroads of Union Hall, New Hope, and Old Neck roads. This road opened for development former portions of Cove Grove and Swampside, the plantation of James L. Skinner. In addition, highway project #180 for the construction of a road between Hertford and the Pasquotank County line was undertaken in the mid 1920s. Built as a concrete road 16 feet wide, this route was designated in 1925 as U.S. Highway 17, the Ocean Highway.⁴⁸

Various forms of tenant farming are documented in Old Neck as early as 1880 and continue to the present day. Two forms of tenancy were prevalent in 1880, fixed money rental and shares of produce.⁴⁹ If the acreage was small (ranging from five to twenty-five acres), a tenant usually preferred fixed money rental. Francis Nixon, Jr. opted for this arrangement on his eight acres. On the other hand, the 750-acre home plantation of his father, Francis Nixon, included three tenants who rented for shares of produce. James L. Skinner's Swampside Plantation had one tenant who also worked for shares.⁵⁰

By 1900, one- and two-story tenant houses lined the roadside of most large farms except for the William Jones and Francis Nixon farms. Before moving to Raleigh in 1897, James L. Skinner sold his plantation, Swampside, which was purchased in 1903 by

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J. J. Fleetwood.⁵¹ A prosperous lumber mill operator, Fleetwood had also acquired neighboring farmland formerly associated with Cove Grove. In all likelihood, he built approximately eighteen tenant houses and outbuildings on the property before selling it to the White Land Company in 1919, which planned to sub-divide it into small farms (Exhibit #8-10). In 1922, however, Thomas Nixon purchased 240 acres associated with Swampside, including the plantation seat. Nixon, who decided to live in Hertford, continued to rent the land to tenants.

The new stretch of road to New Hope (SR 1300 between SR 1301 and SR 1302), completed in 1921, opened up the central core of Old Neck for development. The land northeast of the road identified as lots 9-12 on the 1922 Fleetwood Farm survey (Exhibit #9) became a small approximately 126-acre independent farm, the Miller-Bundy Farm (36). This farm developed by W. T. Miller possibly for his daughter was similar to another small farm, the Miller-Skinner Farm (27), that he had developed several years earlier for his son. Nearly twenty-four years later, the John C. Bundy Farmstead (41) was carved from the Miller-Bundy Farm, by John C. Bundy, Sr. for his son with whom he farmed on a halves basis.

Throughout the history of Old Neck economics, and family ties and responsibilities have governed much of the lands development. This feeling continues today. Practically all evidence of tenant farming in the area has vanished from the landscape, leaving in its place the open farmland more characteristic of the nineteenth century. The overlay of small independent farms representative of the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries, however, remains. Four of the five major plantations are still owned by descendants of the former antebellum owners. Three are also occupied by tenants. Little building activity took place in Old Neck between 1945 and 1965. The waterfront area known as Billy's Beach, however, began to be developed in mid 1960s on the old Towe Farm (19). Up the river to the northwest, it was followed by Matthews Acres in 1971, and more recently Chesterfield and Cove Grove Estates. These three developments were once part of Cove Grove Plantation (16). Each of these developments is not included within the boundaries of the district. Two subdivisions along SR 1300 were also developed during the late 1970s and mid 1980s, Hurdle & Webb and Matthews, respectively.

To date, the division of property through inheritance or sale has not overridden the value of the land as an agricultural asset, leaving the agricultural landscape of Old Neck much as it was throughout the nineteenth century. In the near future, however, further development of waterfront property may soon impinge on the agricultural and architectural integrity of the area. In recent years local property owners have begun to explore preservation and conservation alternatives for the land. This National Register nomination of Old Neck represents an effort in this direction with the hope that it will become an educational tool for future planning efforts.

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Historical Synopses of the Old Neck Plantations⁵²:William Jones Plantation

Fronting on the Perquimans River and spanning Jones Creek, the property is associated with the land holdings of four prominent families in Perquimans County, that of William Jones, James P. Whedbee, Benjamin S. Skinner, and F. E. Winslow. Initially, the plantation was amassed by William Jones (1778-1836). His association with this property extends back as early as 1805 when he was living on the property then called Brick House Plantation. Although his mother held dower rights to it stemming from her first marriage to Zachariah Toms, a Quaker, Jones purchased this property and a small adjoining piece in 1805. He added in 1815 two substantial tracts totalling 220 acres to the east and north.

A prominent planter, Jones was also public spirited and served as follows: clerk of Superior Court, 1807-1808; House of Commons, 1813-1816; Treasurer of Public Buildings; member of committee planning new courthouse, 1819-1822; and member of commission fixing the county boundaries. In addition, he was a trustee for the Hertford Academy, and the proprietor of the toll float bridge at Hertford.

Jones' family life fluctuated dramatically through four marriages. His first three marriages were into prominent Perquimans County and especially Old Neck families. He is known to have had twelve children, four of which died young. His first marriage was to Mary Skinner (1782-1806), the daughter of Joshua Skinner and sister of Benjamin S. Skinner and Dr. Josiah C. Skinner. Following her death, Jones married on December 24, 1807 Parthenia Newby, a wealthy widow and the daughter of Francis Newby. Although Jones was currently living on the property, it was not until his marriage to Parthenia that the original and highly sophisticated two-story portion of the present house was planned, built, and completed near the May, 1813 date scored into a chimney brick. In 1816, Jones married his third wife, Elizabeth Barber, the sister of Harriet Barber, who became the wife of Francis Nixon and lived at the neighboring farm. His fourth wife was Artemesia G. Hunter, whom he married in 1829.

Following Jones's death in 1836, the provisions of his will were carried out including the sale of "all my Land and plantation contained in several deeds in the Body commonly called by me Amsterdam, also all of my Land and Plantation whereon I now dwell in the Old neck (except my family grave yard)...." His home plantation was sold shortly thereafter to James P. Whedbee (1803-1852), who was married to Lavinia Leigh, the daughter of Col. James Leigh and sister of Elizabeth L. Skinner of Cove Grove. Raised in neighboring New Hope Township, Whedbee was a prominent planter and civic leader, and in 1844 he deeded the property to his nephew, James N. Whedbee. It is uncertain whether or not the younger Whedbee lived on the plantation, but in 1849 he deeded it to Benjamin S. Skinner, owner of the adjoining plantation, Cove Grove.

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The death of Benjamin S. Skinner in 1861 brought a major change to the Jones Plantation. In his will, Skinner gave to his son Joshua Skinner (1845-1911) "the lands and plantation in Old Neck formerly belonging to William Jones"; however, this gift was subject to the life estate of Joshua's mother, Elizabeth L. Skinner (1805-1871). Skinner's will stipulated that "if the buildings at the Jones Place be out of repair when she would go there I direct my Executors to put them in good order and repair for her at the expense of my estate." He also provided her with the privilege of "getting timber and firewood" from another tract of land. In all likelihood, the major Greek Revival additions to the house were made for Elizabeth Skinner shortly after Skinner's death.

Reconstruction brought more changes to the plantation, most notably in farming practices and crop production. Following his mother's death, Joshua Skinner sold the property in 1872 to Frank E. Winslow (1827-1882), who had amassed extensive property holdings in Perquimans County and made this property his home. A local magistrate, Winslow had built in 1868 the float bridge across the Perquimans River at Hertford. Prior to his ownership, farm production centered around winter wheat and Indian corn. Elizabeth Skinner indicated in the 1870 U.S. Census having paid \$1,920 in wages on her 380-acre farm and producing 2,200 bushels of winter wheat and 1,500 bushels of Indian corn. On the other hand, Winslow in 1880 recorded having paid \$1,200 in wages and \$200 in fertilizer to operate the farm. He used seven mules and a yoke of oxen to work the land which produced 750 bushels of Indian corn on thirty-five acres, 600 bushels of winter wheat on forty-five acres, and thirty-five bales of cotton on sixty-five acres. Winslow, an early proponent of cotton, was its largest producer in Old Neck.

When Frank E. Winslow died in 1882, his son Edward Daniel Winslow (1856-1926) continued to live on the property until his death. Family members successively owned the farm until recent years. Family tradition maintains that Mae Wood Winslow named the farm Riverside in the early twentieth century.

Francis Nixon Plantation

Located in the northwest section of Old Neck on Ferry Point, the Francis Nixon Farm developed from an initial purchase in 1806 of 103 3/4 acres for \$933.75 by Samuel Nixon (1768-prior to 1815) from Lewis Newby. One of the wealthiest men in the county, Samuel Nixon amassed numerous land holdings in Perquimans County during the late 18th and early 19th centuries and operated a store and float bridge on the Perquimans River, northwest of Hertford. A former Quaker, he was disowned in 1796 for the holding and hiring of slaves. Nixon willed the land in 1813 to his son, Francis Nixon (1798-1887), who received it in 1815 following the probate of his father's will.

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A prominent planter and civic leader, Francis Nixon married Harriet Barber (1798-1845) on March 5, 1818 and began raising a family of ten children. Nixon increased his holdings in 1821 by purchasing for \$3,237.50 the neighboring Ferry Plantation containing approximately 262 1/2 acres. By 1880, he had acquired approximately 1,600 acres. The Homestead Farm, however, was identified as containing 676 acres following his death in 1887.

Throughout the antebellum period, the Nixon plantation prospered. By 1840, his household of eight included five young children, and twenty-five slaves worked on the plantation. Twenty-two people worked in agriculture. The 1843 tax list indicates that Nixon increased his land holdings to 1,057 acres valued at \$11,000. Between 1850 and 1860, he raised two primary crops, winter wheat and Indian corn; however, by 1860, he was also introducing another crop, oats. Crop production doubled over this ten year period with 2,500 bushels of wheat, 11,000 bushels of Indian corn, and 1,000 bushels of oats raised in 1860. The plantation's slave population, also, increased from thirty-eight to forty-nine, living in twelve slave houses. In contrast, the value of \$1,000 for farming implements and machinery as well as the number of working livestock, mules and oxen, remained virtually the same.

Following the Civil War, Nixon managed to maintain title to his property; however, its valuation plummeted from \$35,000 in 1860 to \$15,500 in 1870. He continued to raise primarily winter wheat, Indian corn, and oats, but the production of wheat and corn fell significantly to 540 bushels and 1,500 bushels respectively. During 1869, Nixon paid \$1,400 in wages for farm labor and continued to raise cattle, sheep, and swine. By 1880, a dramatic shift in farming practices was taking place and underscored by the two separate line items given to his holdings in the 1880 census agricultural schedule. Each listing represents approximately half his holdings and indicates that Nixon was renting for shares to three individuals on each. Wheat was no longer grown, and each property now produced even smaller quantities of Indian corn and oats. Nixon, also, chose not to plant the increasingly popular crop, cotton.

Ever since Nixon's death in 1887, his descendants have retained ownership of the property; however, the house's occupancy has shifted to that of tenants. The farm land remains under cultivation with a lease arrangement.

Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon Plantation

Fronting on the Perquimans River and straddling Jones Swamp, the Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon Plantation encompasses today approximately 220 acres including woodland and broad agricultural fields in the heart of Old Neck. Since 1824, three prominent Old Neck families, the Fletchers, Skinners, and Nixons, primarily have owned the

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property. Initially, the plantation was developed by William Fletcher (ca. 1794-1826) who amassed approximately 391 acres between 1814-1824. In January 1817, he married Sarah Nixon, the daughter of wealthy planter and merchant Samuel Nixon. In all likelihood, Fletcher built his plantation house about 1820.

Life in the Fletcher household centered around the farm and included five slaves. The 1820 census indicates five people were working in agriculture and one in manufacturing. His household also included four children and four adults. Fletcher's life was prematurely cut short when he was lost at sea during a trading voyage to the West Indies in 1826. As stipulated by will, his property was sold except for his slaves and special bequests. One of the first North Carolinians to do so, Fletcher had made special provisions in his will for his slaves to be freed and transported to Liberia, Haiti or any free state they might chose.

From 1827 to 1849, the property was owned at various times by four Skinner brothers. First, Joseph B. Skinner [1781-1851] of Chowan County purchased the plantation from Fletcher's estate on August 14, 1827 for \$5,777.50. Five months later, he sold it to Dr. Josiah C. Skinner [1800-1835] for \$5,777.54 on January 1, 1828. Apparently, Dr. Skinner planned to live on the plantation, because he also bought from his brother eighteen slaves and ". . . all the cattle, mules, hogs, provisions and farming utensils of every description on the plantation late William Fletchers. . ." for \$6,400. By 1830 his slave holdings totalled thirty and his household included ten people, five of whom were children. Following his death in November 1835, Dr. Skinner's will stipulated that his real estate be sold. Charles W. Skinner [1784-1871] purchased the plantation on December 21, 1835 for \$10,000. Residing in the Bethel Township area near the sound, Charles Skinner was a Baptist layman and prosperous planter owning seventy-nine slaves. In all probability, the former Fletcher plantation was one of several owned by Charles Skinner. Benjamin S. Skinner [1795-1861] purchased the property from his brother November 1, 1843 for the sum of \$8,000. This lower price may reflect reduced land valuations following the economic depression of 1837.

As his children matured, Skinner purchased neighboring properties with the intent of providing for each child. His purchase of the adjoining Fletcher plantation fit into this plan. In 1849, Skinner deeded the bulk of the property, approximately 362 acres, to his eldest son, James Leigh Skinner [1823-1902] ". . . in consideration of the natural love and affection which I have and do bear toward my son" This deed was also confirmed by will upon the death of Benjamin S. Skinner in 1861. It is uncertain when James L. took up residence at the plantation; however, by 1850, he maintained his own household, was married to Nancy Baker Hoskins, and had an infant son, Benjamin Skinner. In all likelihood, Skinner named the plantation Swampside.

In 1850, James L. Skinner was a substantial farmer with 14 slaves and a plantation valued at \$8,500 that included 250 acres of improved land and 221

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unimproved acres. He farmed using farm implements and machinery valued at \$100 and working livestock which included six mules and a yoke of oxen. His livestock had a value of \$1,151, and the primary crops raised were 2,500 bushels of Indian corn, 500 bushels of wheat, and 200 bushels of sweet potatoes.

Prior to the Civil War, dramatic changes reflecting increased prosperity had taken place within the household of James L. Skinner. His family included his wife, three children, and a seamstress. The plantation was now valued at \$14,000 and included 336 improved acres and 426 unimproved acres. An increase of improved acreage allowed the farm to become deverse in production and increase crop yields. Sheep and cattle were now being raised and another yoke of oxen assisted with the farming. Corn production had nearly doubled to 4,500 bushels, and wheat had more than tripled to 1,856 bushels. To help feed the livestock, hay production nearly quadrupled to twenty tons. Slaveholding on the plantation also rose to twenty-six and were housed in four slave houses.

The effects of the Civil War on the farm were significant. By 1870 the value of the farm had plummeted to \$7,000. An acreage increase of about 160 acres probably resulted from the settling of Benjamin S. Skinner's estate. Apparently, James L. Skinner, solved the problem of labor by paying his workers wages which may have included board. In 1870 he paid \$2,400 in wages. Farm production included 4,000 bushels of corn and small quantities of oats, sweet potatoes, beans, and Irish potatoes. Cotton was also grown for the first time with four bales produced. Overall the estimated value of the farm production was \$5,350.

By 1880 the farm had not only decreased in size to approximately 610 acres but also included one tenant working on a share basis. Its valuation now was \$4,500. Improvements in crop production were wholesale. Although cotton production showed the biggest increase rising to twenty-seven bales, the largest acreages were planted in wheat and corn with corn production exceeding that of wheat. The estimated value of all farm production was \$3,265. The figure for total wages paid dropped to \$1,055.

The sale of the farm by James Leigh Skinner in 1897 marked a major transition for the property, the end of owner occupancy. For the next twenty-five years, it would be developed and operated solely as a tenant farm. Skinner, who moved into Hertford, sold the 480-acre farm to Joseph A. Byrum for \$10,000. Byrum in turn sold it in 1903 to J. J. Fleetwood, a prosperous lumber mill operator. Fleetwood amassed an 844-acre tract in Old Neck dotted with tenant houses which he sold to the White Land Company in 1919. Thomas Nixon purchased from the White Land Company in 1922 the approximately 230-acre portion of the Fleetwood property which included the plantation seat. Descendants of Thomas Nixon own the property today.

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Perquimans County, North CarolinaSection number 8 Page 63Cove Grove Plantation

Oriented to the Old Neck Road and extending to the Perquimans River, Cove Grove Plantation was the home of Benjamin S. Skinner, who developed it during the antebellum period into the largest agricultural seat in Old Neck. By 1860, Cove Grove included approximately 840 acres, stretching from the river across the Old Neck Road and SR 1300 to Union Hall Road (SR 1302) and beyond toward Bear Garden Branch. Today, less than half of the plantation including the home tract remains in the possession of his descendants.

In 1818, Benjamin S. Skinner (1795-1861) began purchasing land in Old Neck by acquiring five small contiguous tracts which became the core of Cove Grove Plantation. Like his father, Joshua Skinner, a prosperous Perquimans County planter living across the river in Bethel Township, Skinner also became a wealthy planter. A patron of education, he served as a trustee for three Perquimans County academies, Union Hall, Farmington, and Harvey's Neck. In addition, he was a benefactor and the first senior warden for the Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity in Hertford, first organizing in 1848 and then constructing a church in 1849-50.

The marriage of Benjamin S. Skinner to Elizabeth Leigh (1805-1871) on December 23, 1819 served as the catalyst for the development of Cove Grove Plantation. Elizabeth was the daughter of James Leigh, a wealthy and prominent planter. Family tradition maintains that the couple initially lived in a two-story frame dwelling originally located southeast of the present house. This structure was later moved a short distance to Skinner's Union Hall farm. Between 1821 and 1845, the family grew with the addition of eleven children, eight of which reached maturity.

In all probability, Skinner built his impressive Greek Revival plantation house ca. 1830 with the assistance of his father-in-law, James Leigh, a skilled carpenter and builder. The similarities between Cove Grove and Leigh's Land's End are remarkable. Both are impressive Greek Revival plantation houses with details patterned directly from Asher Benjamin's Practical House Carpenter (1830); however, Cove Grove is a frame dwelling illustrating the classical Ionic order and Land's End is brick featuring the more masculine Doric order.

As Skinner's fortunes rose, he continued to purchase land for the Cove Grove plantation in addition to extensive holdings elsewhere in the county. By 1843, he had amassed 1,517 acres which were valued for tax purposes at \$15,160 as well as twenty-one slaves. Intent on providing for his sons, Skinner also purchased neighboring plantations, such as the William Fletcher plantation in 1843 and the William Jones plantation in 1849. In the 1860 U. S. Census, he listed 1,000 improved acres and 12,000 unimproved ones with 117 slaves, who were quartered in 19 slave houses.

Between 1850 and 1860 farm production increased steadily for all crops except

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Indian corn. Yields for 1860 totalled: 40,000 bushels of winter wheat, 10,000 bushels of Indian corn, 500 bushels of oats, 600 bushels of peas and beans, 1,000 bushels of sweet potatoes, thirty-eight tons of hay, 500 pounds of flax, and twenty pounds of hops. Several notable improvements took place including a doubling in value of farming implements and machinery as well as a dramatic increase in the number of mules used as opposed to oxen. The amount of livestock raised, sheep, swine, and cattle, remained approximately the same.

On the eve of the Civil War, Skinner died bequeathing Cove Grove to his son, Capt. Benjamin S. Skinner, Jr., who was killed in 1864 at the battle of Reams Station, Virginia. The economic disruption of the war and early death of Capt. Skinner precipitated the sale of the 840-acre "Old Homestead farm ... known as Eyerville" at auction on January 3, 1870. Skinner's younger brother, Joshua (1845-1911), purchased the plantation for \$4,000 and made it his home.

By 1880, agricultural production on the plantation centered around three major crops, Indian corn, wheat, and cotton, with 100 acres producing 1,600 bushels, ninety acres producing 980 bushels, and seventy-five acres producing thirty bales, respectively. Skinner's labor force consisted of colored hired hands who worked a combined total of 780 weeks earning \$1,565. Average quantities of fertilizers were used to help improve the soil, and mules helped till it. Livestock primarily consisted of sheep, swine, and cows. In addition, 1,000 cords of wood were cut. The estimated value of all farm production was \$6,000, and the farm's value was \$6,720.

By the turn of the century, Skinner began constructing on the farm small tenant houses, several with barns. Originally, a few were located right along Old Neck Road. All now, however, have disappeared from the landscape.

Following Joshua Skinner's death in May 1911, his holdings began to be subdivided among the family according to the terms of his will. The 300-acre homeplace on the southwest side of Old Neck Road was bequeathed to his daughter, Elizabeth Leigh Skinner, and two sons, Benjamin S. and Joshua John Skinner with a life right to his widow, Sallie B. Skinner. In 1923, joint ownership of this tract was mediated with Joshua J. Skinner receiving the newly apportioned ninety-seven-acre tract containing the main house.

Joshua John Skinner (1882-1969) was a biochemist with the United States Department of Agriculture and the author of a number of scientific articles on plant nutrition and soils. In the 1930s, he had two dairy related buildings constructed on the property and developed the formal boxwood garden with two benches and sundial behind the main house. The boxwood cuttings came from Mount Vernon. Later in the 1950s, Skinner added to the garden a live oak which he brought from South Carolina.

Following Skinner's death in 1969, the homeplace was bequeathed to his sons Joshua Hopkins Skinner and Frank Brightwell Skinner (1915-1967). Today, the

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approximately 127-acres associated with Cove Grove are segmented by the heirs according to use, namely waterfront, agricultural, and homeplace.

Thomas Nixon Plantation

In 1838 Francis Nixon purchased a portion of the Jones Plantation, along the main road between Elizabeth City and Hertford in the northern most part of Old Neck, and in 1848 he deeded approximately 280 acres to his son Thomas Nixon [1826-1887]. Construction of the plantation house may have begun with Nixon's coming of age; however, in all probability, the marriage of Thomas to Cornelia Townsend [1829-1899], the daughter of Joseph W. and Harriett Jones Townsend, was the catalyst for the gift. This gift was later confirmed in Francis Nixon's will in 1887. Through the years, eight children were born to the couple.

Thomas Nixon focused his attention on his home plantation, known as Elmwood. In 1850, it included 225 improved acres and seventy-five unimproved acres with a value of \$8,000. He primarily raised swine, wheat, Indian corn, oats, and flax. The labor of seventeen slaves operated the plantation with the assistance of mules and oxen plus \$175 worth of farm machinery and equipment. Nixon's 1860 U. S. census production statistics improved substantially, more than doubling in most cases, with 1,400 bushels of wheat and 6,000 bushels of Indian corn. The cash value of the now 350-acre property had risen to \$12,000 with \$500 of farm machinery and equipment. By this time, thirty slaves also lived on the property in five slave houses.

Following the Civil War, Nixon managed to retain the bulk of his property which now totalled 280 acres. Farm production figures were drastically reduced with Indian corn the major crop and 1,000 bushels produced. Nixon, however, was beginning to branch out into new commodities such as cotton and sheep. Also, he was raising swine on a larger scale. The value of the farm now equaled that of farm production, \$2,000, and \$800 were paid in farm wages during the previous year. By 1880, the farm value remained at \$2,000; however, the acreage decreased to 230 acres, with 200 tilled and thirty woodland acres. Farm production values also decreased to \$1,550 with wheat and Indian corn as the principal crops. Cotton production now included sixteen acres producing eleven bales, and the sheep herd had grown in number to one hundred. Nixon continued to pay wages equivalent to 200 weeks for colored farm help.

Nixon died in 1887 leaving a life right to his plantation to his wife, who lived there until her death in 1899. Throughout much of the twentieth century, tenants have occupied the farm. Today, the farm remains in the ownership of Nixon's descendants as Elmwood Farms Limited Partnership.

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Notes

1. Dru Gatewood Haley and Raymond A. Winslow, Jr., The Historic Architecture of Perquimans County, North Carolina (Hertford, N.C.: Town of Hertford, 1982), 13, 22-24, hereinafter cited as Haley and Winslow, Historic Architecture.
2. Haley and Winslow, Historic Architecture, 21-22.
3. Alan D. Watson, Perquimans County: A Brief History (Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1987), 43, hereinafter cited as Watson, Perquimans County.
4. Haley and Winslow, Historic Architecture, 23.
5. Haley and Winslow, Historic Architecture, 40.
6. Watson, Perquimans County, 45.
7. Watson, Perquimans County, 46.
8. Watson, Perquimans County, 46.
9. Watson, Perquimans County, 45.
10. Watson, Perquimans County, 44.
11. Seventh Census of the United States: 1850 (Washington: Robert Armstrong, Public Printer, 1853), 319; Agriculture of the United States in 1860; Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1864), 109.
12. Haley and Winslow, Historic Architecture, 26.
13. Haley and Winslow, Historic Architecture, 55.
14. Haley and Winslow, Historic Architecture, 55.
15. Haley and Winslow, Historic Architecture, 55.
16. Watson, Perquimans County, 100.
17. Watson, Perquimans County, 98.
18. Haley and Winslow, Historic Architecture, 55.

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19. Haley and Winslow, Historic Architecture, 55.
20. Watson, Perquimans County, 99.
21. This discussion of the architectural fabric of Perquimans County is a distillation of the information found throughout Haley and Winslow, Historic Architecture.
22. Haley and Winslow, Historic Architecture, 4-5.
23. Haley and Winslow, Historic Architecture, 6.
24. Haley and Winslow, Historic Architecture, 13, 205.
25. Watson, Perquimans County, 17.
26. Haley and Winslow, Historic Architecture, 21; Watson, Perquimans County, 59-60.
27. See, for example, Exhibit #3, Preliminary Chart of Albemarle Sound, North Carolina (Washington: U. S. Coast Survey, 1855); Plat of division of land of Joseph Tow, February 19, 1841, Plat Book 1, 152, Office of the Perquimans County Register of Deeds, Hertford, N. C.; and William and Mary E. Nixon to Francis Nixon Sr., December 24, 1867, Perquimans County Deeds, Office of Register of Deeds, Perquimans County Courthouse, Hertford, Deed Book HH, 105, hereinafter cited as Perquimans County Deeds
28. Watson, Perquimans County, 45-46.
29. Petition of Benjamin Skinner to the Perquimans County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for a ditch through the lands of Jesse Fletcher, November Term 1818, Perquimans County Miscellaneous Records, Canals and Drains, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh; Order to lay off a drainage ditch for the land of Benjamin F. Skinner, through the property of Benjamin and Abraham Saunders, Perquimans County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, November Term 1831, Perquimans County Miscellaneous Records, Canals and Drains, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh; Watson, Perquimans County, 45.
30. Watson, Perquimans County, 46.
31. Survey of the land of Benjamin S. Skinner, 1837, in the possession of the heirs of Joshua H. Skinner, Cove Grove Plantation, Perquimans County, 1996.
32. Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Perquimans County, North Carolina, Agriculture Schedule, 13, microfilm of National Archives Manuscript Copy, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, hereinafter cited as Eighth

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Census, 1860, with appropriate schedule and page number; Plat Book 1, 339, Office of the Perquimans County Register of Deeds, Hertford.

33. 1860 Tax List for Perquimans County, copy in the possession of Raymond A. Winslow, Jr., Hertford, N.C.

34. Eighth Census, 1860, Population Schedule, Ballahack District, 34; Suttons Creek District, 31.

35. Eighth Census, 1860, Slave Schedule, Ballahack District, p. 23; Suttons Creek District, 13-15.

36. Will of Benjamin S. Skinner, September 4, 1858, Perquimans County Wills, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

37. Agriculture of the United States in 1860; Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1864), 108-111.

38. Seventh Census, 1850, Agriculture Schedule, Suttons Creek District, 39-40; Eighth Census, 1860, Agriculture Schedule, Ballahack District, 23-24; Suttons Creek District, 13-14.

39. Ninth Census of the United State, 1870: Perquimans County, North Carolina, Agriculture Schedule, Parkville Township, 1-4, microfilm of National Archives Manuscript copy, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, hereinafter cited as Ninth Census, 1870, with appropriate schedule and page number.

40. Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Perquimans County, North Carolina, Agriculture Schedule, Parkville Township, 1, 18, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, hereinafter cited as Tenth Census, 1880, with appropriate schedule and page number.

41. Report on the Productions of Agriculture as Returned at the Tenth Census (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1883), 201, 237.

42. Ninth Census, 1870, Agriculture Schedule, Parkville Township, 3-4.

43. Tenth Census, 1880, Agriculture Schedule, Parkville Township, 8.

44. Tenth Census, 1880, Agriculture Schedule, Parkville Township, 1.

45. Joshua Skinner to School Committee for Colored Race District No. 5, 1882, Perquimans County Deeds, Book RR, 406.

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46. Watson, Perquimans County, 98.
47. Watson, Perquimans County, 102.
48. Fifth Biennial Report of the State Highway Commission of North Carolina, 1923-1924 (Raleigh: Bynum Printing Company, 1924), 90, hereinafter cited as N.C. Highway Commission Biennial Report, with appropriate date; N.C. Highway Commission Biennial Report, 1925-1926, 67-68.
49. Haley and Winslow, Historic Architecture, 55.
50. Tenth Census, 1880, Agriculture Schedule, Parkville Township, 1.
51. J. J. Fleetwood and wife, E. Mae to The White Land Company, January 3, 1919, Book 12, 386, Perquimans County Deeds.
52. Documentation for the following entries can be found in the files for these properties located in the Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

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Major Bibliographical References

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United States Census. Microfilm of manuscript census records (population, agriculture, manufacturing, and slave schedules), Perquimans County, N. C., 1850-1880.

Watson, Alan D. Perquimans County: A Brief History (Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1987.

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Perquimans County, North CarolinaSection number 6,7,8 Page 71**6. Function or Use**Historic Functions

Domestic: single dwelling

Agriculture/Subsistence: processing
agricultural field
animal facility
horticultural facility
agriultural outbuildingLandscape: forest
unoccupied land
natural feature

Transportation: road-related (vehicular)

Funerary: cemetery
graves/burials

Education: school

Current UseDomestic: single dwelling
secondary structureAgriculture/Subsistence: processing
agricultural field
animal facility
horticultural facility
agricultural outbuildingLandscape: forest
unoccupied land
natural feature

Transportation: road-related (vehicular)

Funerary: cemetery
graves/burials

Vacant/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Early Republic: Federal

Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival

Late Victorian: Victorian

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival

Late 19th and Early Twentieth Century American Movements: Bungalow

Materials:

Walls: Stucco

Roof: Asphalt

8. Statement of Significance - Significant dates: 1946

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Perquimans County, North CarolinaSection number 10 Page 72Geographical DataUTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
5]	18	374680	4002820
6]	18	369140	4006140

Verbal Boundary Description

A sketch map of the Old Neck Historic District was traced directly from the Perquimans County tax office's base maps, which utilize aerial photographs at a scale of one inch equals 660 feet. The boundaries of the historic district follow either property lines or natural topographic features beginning at the NE corner of the US Highway 17 bridge over the Perquimans River. In a southeasterly direction, it runs along the bank of the Perquimans River, across the mouth of Jones Creek, again following the river bank down to the beginning of the Matthews Acres development, and excluding it and two other developments, Chesterfield and Cove Grove Estates. From here it follows the river bank to the Billy's Beach development, which is also omitted from the historic district. At the southeastern edge of Billy's Beach, the district once again follows the Perquimans River bank to the mouth of Sutton's Creek, where it turns in a northwesterly direction and follows the Parkville Township line up the middle of Sutton's Creek. At the bridge for SR 1300 over Sutton's Creek the district boundary turns west and proceeds along the south side of SR 1300 to the intersection with SR 1302. The district boundary then runs in a northwesterly direction along the west side of SR 1302 to its intersection with US 17 and follows west along the south side of the highway. The next turning point is at the intersection of SR 1301 and US 17 where the boundary turns the corner and heads south running along the east side of SR 1301. It crosses to the opposite side of SR 1301 at the beginning of the former Nixon Landing Road which is now a farm lane. Here the boundary follows in a westerly direction at the edge of the field at the timber line until it again meets US Highway 17. Following the southeast side of the highway to the Perquimans River bridge, the boundary connects once again with the beginning point of the verbal boundary description.

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of Old Neck Historic District encompass the area of Old Neck which best reflects the agricultural, social, and architectural context discussed in the nomination yet includes a minimal number of non-contributing properties. The historic district boundaries provide an appropriate setting for all the significant buildings, structures, landscapes, natural features, and complexes associated with the nomination's period of significance (1813-1946).

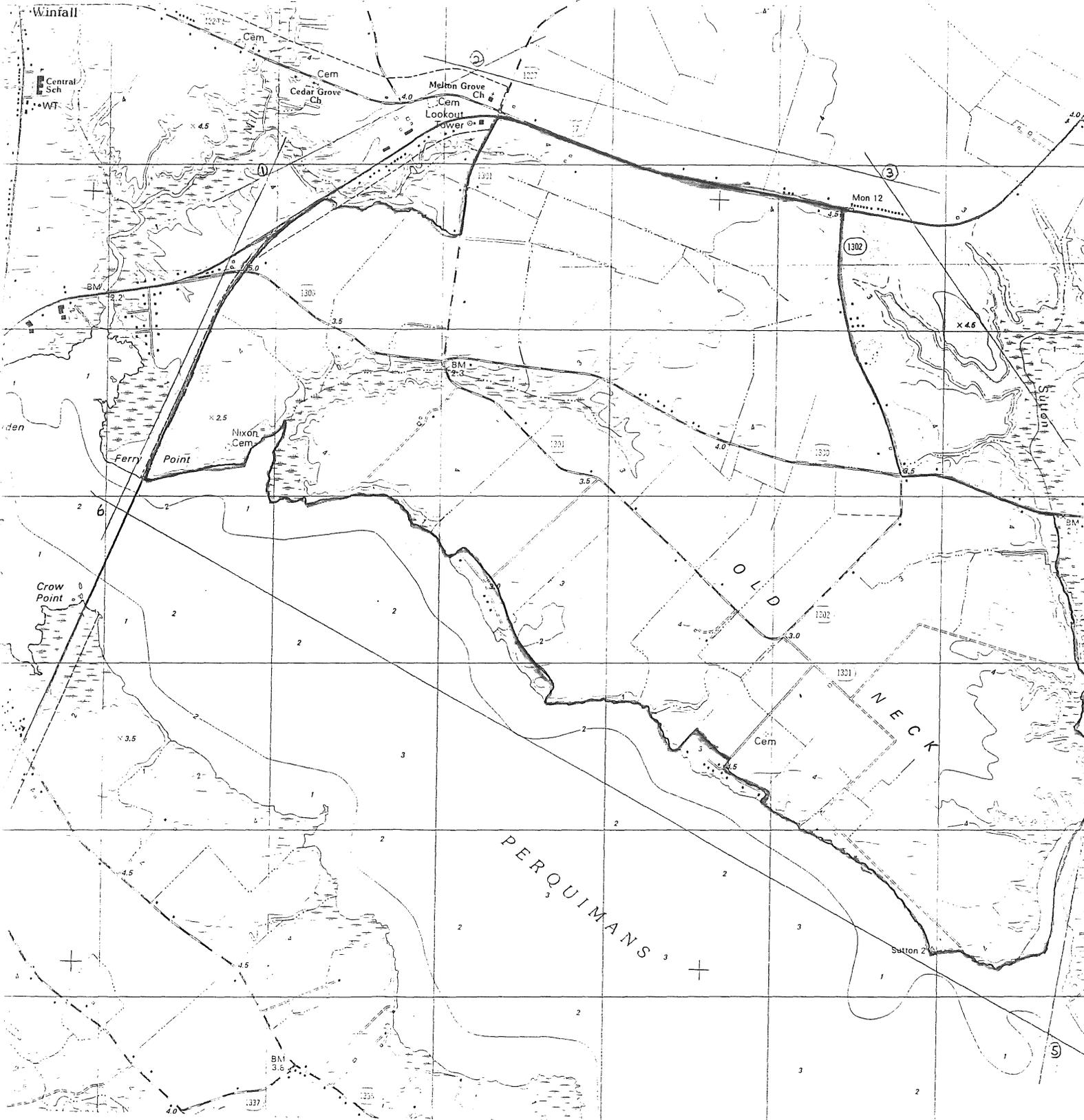
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Perquimans County, North CarolinaSection number _____ Page 73List of Photographs for Old Neck Historic District:

All photographs were taken by Drucilla H. York, architectural historian and consultant for the Old Neck Historic District Survey and Planning grant project. Project negatives are housed at the North Carolina Division of Archives and History at 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC. In the following list, the photograph number is given first. The number following the name of the property is its identification number and letter within the inventory listing.

1. William Jones Plantation [#6]: February 1, 1995; negative # N.96.4.572; W view of plantation from distance on opposing side of SR 1301.
2. Francis Nixon Plantation [#1]: February 1, 1995; negative # N.96.4.538; SW view of plantation house from SR 1300.
3. William Jones Plantation [#6]: March 16, 1995; negative # N.96.4.544; SW view of plantation seat from lane entrance off SR 1301.
4. William Jones Plantation - Stable [#6J]: March 16, 1995; negative # N.96.4.563; N oblique view of stable.
5. Old Neck Road (SR 1301): February 1, 1995; negative # N.96.4.579; NW view from a distance of Old Neck Road (SR 1301) and SR 1391 intersection including from left to right, the William Jones Plantation #6, mobile homes # 10, 8, & 9, and house #11.
6. Cove Grove Plantation [#16]: February 1, 1995; negative # N.96.4.605; SW view down lane of plantation seat at entrance on SR 1301.
7. Cove Grove Plantation [#16]: March 17, 1995; negative # N.96.4.611; N view of plantation seat from rear includes large drainage ditch in foreground and slave quarter/tenant house, privy, and mansion at a distance.
8. Cove Grove Plantation - Slave Kitchen [#16F]: March 17, 1995; negative # N.96.4.651; W oblique view of former slave kitchen.
9. Cove Grove Plantation - Carriage House [#16G]: March 17, 1995; negative # N.96.4.655; N oblique view of carriage house.
10. Old Neck Road (SR 1301) - Mobile home and Towe Farm: February 1, 1995; negative # N.96.4.687; NW view juncton of private lane and end of SR 1301 including mobile home #20 and Towe Farm Complex #19.

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11. Tucker Farm Complex [#21] - Perquimans River: March 30, 1995; negative #N.96.4.692; SE view of river bank at former livestock drinking hole.
 12. Suttons Creek Bridge [#29] - Matthew Towe Farm [#28]: February 1, 1995; negative # N.96.4.730; W view of SR 1300 bridge over Suttons Creek with Matthew Towe Farm in the distance.
 13. Miller-Skinner House & Outbuildings [#27]: February 1, 1995; negative # N.96.4.715; SE view of Miller-Skinner House & Outbuildings at intersection of SR 1300 and SR 1302.
 14. Benjamin S. Skinner, Jr. Farm [# 30]: March 24, 1995; negative # N.96.4.739; NW view of farm from the intersection of SR 1300 and SR 1302.
 15. New Hope Road (SR 1300): February 1, 1995; negative # N.96.4.753; W view of SR 1300 with houses #34 & #44 in the distance.
 16. John C. Bundy, Jr. Farmstead [#41]: February 1, 1995; negative # N.96.4.787; E view of complex from opposing side of SR 1300.
 17. New Hope Road (SR 1300) - Mobile Homes [#56 & #57] & House [#59]: February 1, 1995; negative # N.96.4.805; W view of road with mobile homes and house.
 18. Winslow Farm [#60]: February 24, 1995; negative # N.96.4.816; NE view across SR 1301 of farm at a distance.
 19. Thomas Nixon Plantation [#62]: March 16, 1995; negative # N.96.4.890; SE view of plantation house with dairy and picket fence.
 20. Thomas Nixon Plantation - Dependency [#62B] & Dairy [#62C]: March 16, 1996; negative #N.96.4.864; SE oblique view of the dependency and dairy.
 21. Thomas Nixon Plantation [#62]: March 16, 1995; negative # N.96.4.896; N view from the house of cedar and elm lined lane including picket fence with gate.
 22. Thomas Nixon Plantation - Barn [#62G]: March 16, 1996; negative #N.96.4.875; NW view of the barn.
 23. Thomas Nixon Plantation - Stable [#62H]: March 16, 1995; negative #N.96.4.888; NE view of the stable with windmill [#62I] in the background.



Old Neck Historic District, Perquimans Co.
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 ① 4007925 369950
 ② 4008560 371185
 ③ 4007915 373620
 ④ 4005680 375165
 ⑤ 4002770 374465
 ⑥ 4005925 369060

Hertford Quadrangle
 UTM Zone 17 NR

