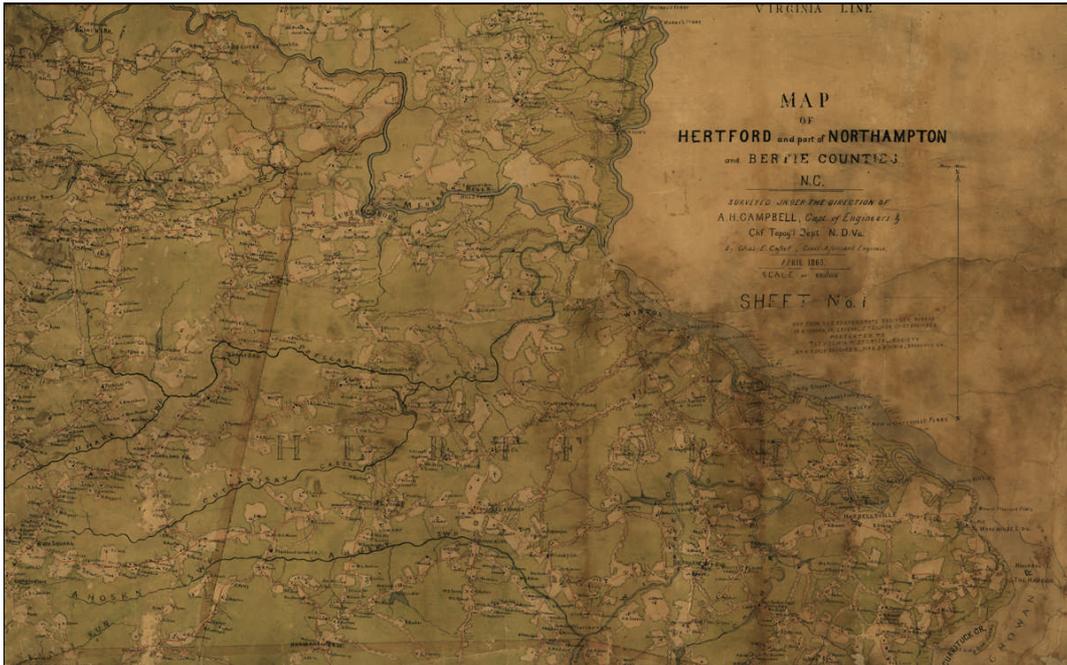


**Comprehensive Architectural Survey
of
Hertford County, North Carolina**



Prepared by:
Jeroen van den Hurk
with contributions by
Ansley Wegner
Submitted by:
Coastal Carolina Research
P.O. Box 1198
Tarboro, NC 27886
NCR-0131

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Introduction and Methodology

This report presents an architectural history of Hertford County, North Carolina from the 1750s through to the 1960s. This architectural history, spanning over three hundred years, is told primarily through examples of extant buildings, augmented by documented descriptions of buildings that no longer stand, along with general county history provided as a context for its building pattern. The work represents the culmination of a comprehensive architectural survey of Hertford County commissioned and administered by the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) with funding from the federal Preserve America program and the state Golden Leaf Foundation. The fieldwork, conducted between January 2010 and January 2011, covered all rural and municipal areas of the county outside of the preexisting National Register historic districts of Harrellsville and Murfreesboro and the proposed National Register district in Ahoskie with the purpose of identifying and recording all properties of historic or architectural merit in order to increase the knowledge, awareness, and understanding of the county's built heritage and to facilitate preservation efforts.

The methodology for the survey of Hertford County followed the project outline set forth by the HPO and the HPO's architectural survey manual *Practical Advice for Recording Historic Resources*. It was further defined by the physical and historical nature of the county as discovered through the windshield survey and preliminary research during the survey's planning phase. Sites of approximately fifty or greater years of age were selected for survey based on their architectural integrity and distinction or their social or historical significance. In addition to domestic buildings, commercial and agricultural buildings, churches, schools, Masonic lodges, and other building types were

documented. Cemeteries were only documented if they were related to a standing house or church or had outstanding artistic merit. Approximately 339 are rural sites, and 206 are municipal sites. Standard documentation included digital photography, mapping, oral history, floor plans, site plans, data entry, and written narratives. Municipal properties were recorded in a more limited manner than rural properties with only exterior documentation and minimal history. Hertford County's online tax records (<http://maps.roktech.net/hertford/map/>) were used to gather some of the data for each property, particularly the GIS PIN number, which was entered into the HPO database. General historical research was performed during the course of the survey to establish a context for the architectural history and is reflected in this report. Several hundred additional resources that were not individually recorded, but appeared to be fifty years of age or older, were map-coded according to building type on USGS quad maps.

At the beginning of the survey, the Survey and Planning Branch of the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) had files for approximately 227 properties excluding the Harrellsville and Murfreesboro historic districts and three properties located within the proposed Ahoskie Historic District. The majority of these files were completed in 1976 by McKeldon Smith. His fieldwork identified numerous historic buildings and structures which he documented with field notes, plan sketches, and black and white photographs. A large number of resources was also documented by Philip S. Letsinger in the 1980s. Since that time, other consultants have contributed Study List applications and National Register nominations to the body of the HPO's information on Hertford's historic buildings. Of the 227 individual properties outside of historic districts previously documented for the HPO, thirteen are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, of

which eleven are still standing, one has been moved out of the state, and one has been demolished. Nine resources on the North Carolina Study List include seven that still appear to be eligible for the National Register and two that are very deteriorated. Of the remaining previously recorded resources, 83 have been removed from their original site.

Despite the fact that these numbers represent an unfortunate loss of some of the county's most distinctive buildings, Hertford retains a rich and varied built heritage. The survey documented approximately 196 rural buildings that had not been recorded previously. While many of these were twentieth-century buildings that fell outside the parameters of earlier surveys, there were also a number of significant nineteenth-century properties that were identified. It is hoped that the following pages provide the reader with a comprehensive view of Hertford County's architecture as it existed from the mid-eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth century.

Ansley Wegner of the Research Branch, in the Office of Archives and History at the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources wrote the historic overview of the county, and Jeroen van den Hurk was the author of the architectural essay.

Historical Context

Location, Geography and Climate

Hertford County is located in northeastern North Carolina, sharing a short border with Virginia. Hertford County was established as such in 1759, being taken from parts of Chowan, Bertie, and Northampton counties. Its present size is about 363 square miles. Hertford County is in the Inner Coastal Plain region and, typical of the area, the land is level to gently rolling. The elevation ranges from about ten to seventy-five feet above sea level. The soil is comprised of silt, shell material, sandy loam, and some sand-clay-loam. Much of the land lends itself to agriculture, which remains an important means of income. Loblolly pine and gum are the most prevalent trees in Hertford, an extensively forested county. Swamps and swamp forests are home to bald cypress, gum trees, river birch, wax myrtle, water oaks, and other water-loving species. The Chowan, Meherrin, and Wiccacon rivers and several creeks, including Potecasi and Chinkapin, cut through the county, creating a varied landscape. The humid-subtropical climate is moderated by the Atlantic Ocean, approximately sixty miles east, with temperatures ranging from a January average of thirty-eight degrees to a July average of seventy-seven degrees, and an annual precipitation total of approximately forty-nine inches. The county now shares borders with Bertie, Chowan, Gates, and Northampton in North Carolina, and Southampton County in Virginia.

Native Americans and Early Colonial Settlement, 1700-1759

At the time of European contact, the Chowanokes and Wyanoakes were the only native peoples living permanently in the Hertford County vicinity. The native people

were subsistence farmers who grew crops that included corn, beans, squash, and sunflowers. They also hunted, gathered, and fished, maintaining permanent and seasonal settlements in the region. The verdant swamps, marshes, and flatlands were home to plentiful plants and animals that were important to the Indian's diets.

During the 1586 Roanoke expedition, Ralph Lane, Thomas Harriot, and John White traveled up the Chowan River to the mouth of the Nottoway and visited Choanoke, the principal village of the Chowanoke Indians, the largest Algonkian tribe in North Carolina's Coastal Plain.¹ In 1622 John Pory, a former English newspaper editor and member of Parliament, traveled south from Jamestown on the Chowan River to Choanoke. He wrote letters to England describing immense pine forests, fertile soils for crops, and other natural resources.² With publicity such as Pory's, Carolina saw numerous settlers move south in search of new lands. Tensions between colonists and the Chowanoke led to a war that resulted in the Indians being moved to a reservation on Bennett's Creek in the Gates-Hertford area in 1677.

The Meherrin Indians, also Algonkian, moved into the former Chowanoke territory around 1685. Assisting the Tuscarora in their war with the English (1711 to 1715), the Meherrins never developed good relations with the colonists and, by 1730, they also were relocated to a reservation.³ Wyanoke Indians, who had been in the vicinity for many years in small numbers, and Nottoway Indians, who came in small numbers from the headwaters of the Chowan River near the Virginia line, lived in the

¹ Dennis C. Gosser, et. al., "Archaeological Survey of Portions of a Proposed Prison Expansion, Winton, Hertford County, North Carolina," (2009), p. 13. (on file in the Office of State Archaeology)

² William S. Powell, *John Pory, 1572-1636: The Life and Letters of a Man of Many Parts* (1977).

³ www.ncmarkers.com, marker A-77

Hertford County area in small numbers and were interviewed by men who were trying to settle the Virginia and North Carolina boundary dispute in the 1720s. Early documents referred to rivers known at various times as Nottoway, Meherrin, and Wyanoke, for the tribes living near them. The Indians, ironically while living on reservations, were asked to help the English determine which rivers were the ones originally used to define the boundary.⁴

In 1726 the Meherrin Indians petitioned to the North Carolina Governor's Council about the encroachment upon their lands by white settlers.⁵ The Council assigned them lands near the confluence of the Meherrin and Chowan rivers but, by the 1730s, the remaining Meherrin, reduced in number to less than twenty families, lived east of the Chowan with the Tuscaroras. Bishop Augustus Spangenburg reported in 1752 that the Meherrin Indians were "reduced to a mere handful."⁶

European settlement in what is now Hertford County began about 1700 when people from the Albemarle region pushed west of the Chowan River and Virginians moved south. Colonists who wished to live near navigable waterways had many choices in Hertford, with its rivers, tributaries, creeks, and swamps. The growing population by 1722 justified creation of Bertie Precinct, of which modern Hertford was entirely a part.

Many settlers who moved into the Bertie Precinct were skilled professionals, artisans, and craftsmen who were unable to find sufficient work in Virginia. The wilds of North Carolina offered abundant opportunities to blacksmiths, coopers, millers, tanners,

⁴ Gosser et al, pp. 14-16

⁵ William L. Saunders, ed., *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, Vol. II, pp. 642-645, available at <http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr02-0294>

⁶ Lewis R. Binford, "An Ethnohistory of the Nottoway, Meherrin and Weanock Indians of Southeastern Virginia," *Ethnohistory* 14, nos. 3-4 (1967), 103-218.

and carpenters. The longleaf pine forests drew tar-burners and men who tapped the trees for rosin and turpentine. Ultimately all settlers had to engage in some level of farming. Crops such as corn, wheat, flax, and tobacco were important for personal use and for trade. When currency was scarce, crops such as these, as well as naval stores, could be used for barter. Some fortunate planters in what became Hertford County were able to start orchards of apple, pear, cherry, and peach trees—the fruits of which were popular locally and abroad.

The extensive native forests and proximity to rivers led some planters to build their own boats. With families living on both sides of the rivers, there was also a great need for reliable ferries. Ferries were used primarily for transporting people and their horses, occasionally for cattle. The types of boats could be canoe-like and operated with oars or sails, or could be flat-bottomed and operated with oars and/or poles. County courts granted most ferry licenses, determining the location, the number and type of boats to be used, and the rates to be charged. Ferrymen also were required to post a bond guaranteeing proper boats and regular attendance at the site.⁷

Colonial, Federal, and Antebellum Development, 1759-1861

Hertford County was created out of Bertie, Chowan, and Northampton counties in 1759, effective the following year. It was named for the Earl (later Marquis) of Hertford, Francis Seymour Conway. By 1760 the county was economically and geographically divided. The northern two-thirds of Hertford was dotted with plantations, most relatively small but a few quite large. The southern one-third of the county, however, was ill-suited

⁷ Alan Watson, “The Ferry in Colonial North Carolina: A Vital Link in Transportation,” *North Carolina Historical Review* (July 1974), pp. 247-260.

for plantation agriculture due to extensive swamps and marshlands. Residents in that area were subsistence farmers who worked the forests for naval stores and animal skins that were valuable in trade.

Offering early social and service opportunities to men of Hertford County were Masonic lodges in Winton and Murfreesboro. Royal William Lodge No. 6 was founded in Winton in 1774. The lodge was inactive during the latter part of the Revolutionary War, but was revived briefly before losing most of its members to the newer American George Lodge No. 17 in Murfreesboro which was chartered in 1789. The American George Lodge, named in honor of George Washington, certainly would have appealed to the recent veterans of the Revolution. While Royal William Lodge was defunct by 1799, the American George Lodge has remained an active group in Hertford County to the present.⁸

There are no records that indicate when the first courthouse was constructed at Winton, but the facility that was in use in 1830 was burned by Wright Allen, a criminal who hoped to destroy the evidence that would convict him of forgery. Although countless records were destroyed in the fire, the clerk of court happened to have taken some materials, including the documents related to Allen's case, to his home in Murfreesboro. Allen was convicted of the crimes and publicly whipped on the square in front of the ruined courthouse.⁹

In 1862, Union troops destroyed the county courthouse once again, which effectively destroyed most of the county's early records. Given that there are few records

⁸ Thomas C. Parramore, *Launching the Craft* (electronic publication available at <http://www.grandlodge-nc.org/nclor/main.htm>)

⁹ Robert P. Burns, *100 Courthouses: A Report on North Carolina Judicial Facilities* (1978), p. 191.

from Hertford County on which to draw for the early period, we can look at the area from a more general perspective. A survey of early land grants indicates that in 1780 most landowners in North Carolina held less than 400 acres.¹⁰ It is important to consider that large tracts of land were rarely fully cultivated. Not only would some of the land be maintained as forest, but some of the acreage, especially in Hertford County, might be swampland not suitable for farming. The average farmer, too, might not have the labor resources to cultivate a great deal of his land.

Slaves were important to the farm economy during the antebellum period. Slave ownership followed agricultural patterns, and since several of the counties neighboring Hertford had large enslaved populations, it is reasonable to assume that Hertford County was also home to many slaves. From 1755 to 1774, about 31% of households, on average, in Bertie County and about 39% of those in Chowan owned slaves. Of those households, the majority owned between one and four slaves.¹¹ Throughout the years of the census, 1790 to 1860, white slave-owners made up about 30% of the state's population, and the majority owned fewer than ten slaves.¹² During that time Hertford's population was between 45% to 59% non-white. The numbers of slaves grew as production of cotton and tobacco increased in the county, but Hertford was never one of the principal slaveholding counties.

Winton was established on the southwest side of the Chowan River in 1768 on 150 acres of land donated by Benjamin Wynns, planter, public official, legislator, and

¹⁰ Alice E. Mathews, *Society in Revolutionary North Carolina* (1976), p. 20.

¹¹ Harry Roy Merrens, *Colonial North Carolina in the Eighteenth Century: A Study in Historical Geography* (1964), pp. 76-77.

¹² William S. Powell, ed., *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* (2006), p. 1047.

later militia colonel. By that time, there were already public buildings, including a courthouse, on the property known as Barfields. The directors and trustees “for the designing, building, and carrying on the said Town” of Winton were Henry Hill, William Murfree, John Baker, Mathias Brickell, Joseph Dickinson, Henry King, and Benjamin Wynns. The act to establish Winton stated that the county court would not be permitted to appoint a ferry for the town as long as Benjamin Wynns or his heirs and assigns chose to operate one.¹³ Also at Winton was a public landing and inspection station. When Gates County was formed in 1779 out of portions of Hertford, Chowan, and Perquimans Counties, Winton was no longer centrally located in Hertford, but it remained the county seat.

By 1771 there were several inspection stations in Hertford County, including the warehouse on the Chowan River, Van Pelt's (Pitch) landing, Wiccacon Creek, Catherine Creek, Hill's Ferry, Murfree's landing, Maney's landing, Bennett's Creek (now Gates County), Mount Zion, and Winton. Inspectors, appointed annually by the county court, examined “flax seed, pork, beef, rice, flour, indigo, butter, tar, pitch and turpentine, staves, headings, lumber, shingles, and other commodities, for sale or export.”¹⁴ Residents were required to take their goods to be examined at one of the inspection stations before selling or exporting them.¹⁵ The greatest percentage of North Carolina's commodities, about 42 %, were exported to other colonies, with about 25 % going to the British Isles and about 33 % going to the West Indies.¹⁶

¹³ Walter Clark, *The State Records of North Carolina*, vol 23 pp. 773-775, (1904).

¹⁴ Benjamin B. Winborne, *Colonial and State Political History of Hertford County, N. C.* (1906), p. 33.

¹⁵ *Ibid*, pp. 791-792.

Murfreesboro was the second town to be established in Hertford County by the General Assembly. Established in January 1787 as Murfreesborough, the town was located at a site along the Meherrin River long known as Murfree's Landing. The legislation describes ideal circumstances for a town:

...there is a very proper situation for a town; that the place is remarkably healthy, and convenient to a country which produces large supplies of tobacco, naval stores, corn, pork and lumber for exportation, and that the convenience for shipping produce at this landing, is greatly superior to what is generally found at other landings: And whereas a great number of citizens of this State, inhabitants of the counties of Hertford, Northampton, Halifax, Warren, Edgecombe, Bertie, Gates and Chowan, have prayed that a town may be erected at this place, and William Murfree, the proprietor of the soil, hath consented that ninety-seven acres of the land adjoining to the river, which has been surveyed and laid off, shall be appropriated to this use.

In making the case for establishing a town at Murfree's rather than Van Pelt's (or Pitch) Landing, the petitioners collected letters from physicians who proclaimed Murfree's Landing more suitable. One such letter was written in November 1786 by the esteemed Hugh Williamson, one of North Carolina's signers of the United States' Constitution, then of Edenton. Williamson stated that Murfree's was "in a situation by far the most healthful." The original commissioners for Murfreesborough were William Murfree, Patrick Garvey, Redmond Hackett, William Vaughan and John Parker.¹⁷

Although many of Hertford County's citizens were satisfied as subjects of the crown, there were ample active participants once the American Revolution began. Most of Hertford's men, including several free blacks, served in the militia. The county's and Winton's founder, Benjamin Wynns, colonel in the militia, led troops in the Battle of

¹⁶ Mathews, p. 15.

¹⁷ General Assembly Session Records, November 1786-January 1787, House bills, North Carolina State Archives.

Great Bridge in December 1775 and the siege on Norfolk in January 1776. It is said that on the return march to Hertford, Wynns “was met with great rejoicing among the people and was rewarded with the unbounded praises of the Americans along his route.”¹⁸

Hardy Murfree, son of Murfreesborough founder William Murfree, rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Continental Army and, while still a major, was the hero of the Battle of Stoney Point. Having moved to Tennessee in 1807 to live on lands granted as bounty for Revolutionary War service, a town later established near where Hardy Murfree settled is named Murfreesboro in his honor.

Murfree, in a letter to General Jethro Sumner, described a Tory militia raid on warehouses in Hertford County on July 17, 1781. He described the forces as having conducted a raid about twelve miles away and then marched “to Wineoak [Wyanoke] & Manny's [Maney's] ferry...Burnt Mr. Manney's dwelling house, with upwards 100 Blls. [barrels] Sugar, a large quantity Rum, Rigging, Coffee, &c. They also destroyed a large quantity Rum, Sugar, Coffee, Wine, &c., at Wine-Oak, took all the horses, plundered the inhabitants in a most cruel manner. They were expected at the Pitch Landing, which is four miles above this & a place of considerable trade. I turned out and raised between 60 & 70 men & took post at Skinner's Bridge on Meher[r]in River, an advantageous post, which is generally supposed prevented their coming this far. The 19th they retreated towards Suffolk.” He went on to ask if he could be permitted to remain in his home county “while the enemy continues so near,” so that he would be available to lead the militia against “those Tories who [have] done more mischief than the British Army.”¹⁹

¹⁸ Winborne (1906)

¹⁹ Walter Clark, ed., *The State Records of North Carolina*, Vol XV, pp. 560-561 (1898),

Indeed, Hertford County's landings had become significant depots for the military supplies and produce and vital refuges for vessels on the Chowan and Meherrin Rivers.²⁰

An interesting Revolutionary War tale has its beginnings in Hertford County. The 180-ton brig named *Fair American* was built in the county, likely at the Wynns' estate "Barfields," along the Chowan River. In July 1780 the completed vessel sailed to Edenton where it was fitted out with guns and a crew was hired. A letter of marque for the *Fair American*, owned by George and William Wynns and four men from Edenton, was issued August 23, 1780. On September 22, the privateer set out with a cargo of tobacco and a passenger, Thomas Wynns, nephew of the owners. The *Fair American* captured a prize just off of the coast of Virginia but on October 7, between Newfoundland and the Azores, the American ship was taken by the British frigate *Vestal*. As was standard procedure, all of the prisoners were questioned by two magistrates in England on November 14. So completely did Thomas Wynns and the ship's captain comply that, two days later, the *London Chronicle* published a thorough, if inaccurate, account of the war in America and the state of the American army's supplies. While Wynns was released and allowed to continue his travels, several of the crew participated in an escape from Forton Prison, near Portsmouth, England, where they were confined.²¹

Even after railroads began to connect other areas of the state, Bertie's transportation depended on its waterways. Boats, bridges, and ferries remained an important part of any movement through the county. Steamboats first came into use on North Carolina waterways following the War of 1812 and by the middle of the century

²⁰ Thomas Parramore, "The Revolutionary Era," p. 90, in The Hertford County Bicentennial Commission's *Hertford County: The First Two Hundred Years* (1976).

²¹ Thomas Parramore, "The Great Escape from Forton Gaol," in *The North Carolina Historical Review* (Autumn 1968) 349-356.

steamers regularly traveled the Chowan and Roanoke Rivers.²² Because of the importance of water to transportation and industry, the locations of towns and individual properties were selected with consideration to the access to water. Just as Salmon Creek was the center of settlement in the seventeenth century, the banks of the Chowan, Roanoke, and Cashie Rivers were sites of expanding development in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The education of Hertford County youth followed the model of most southern communities. Before the 1839 North Carolina law in support of public education, only families with means to hire a tutor or to pay private schools were able to educate their children. Early private schools for boys included Murfreesboro Academy and Hertford Academy in Murfreesboro, Union Academy in Harrellsville, and Buckhorn Academy in Como. Girls could attend Elm Grove Female School in Mapleton and by about 1812 were permitted in the female division of the Hertford Academy, later called Banks School.

The Hertford Academy Building is still standing and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The academy was chartered in 1809 and the large, two-story rectangular brick structure was completed late the following year. Under headmaster Reverend Jonathan Otis Freeman, the academy opened in the spring of 1811 offering courses such as reading, spelling, mathematics, Latin, Greek, geography, and grammar.²³ From 1848 to 1852 the building was used by the Chowan Baptist Female Institute, the

²² Alan D. Watson, *Bertie County: A Brief History* (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1982), 43, and Thomas R. Butchko, *Edenton: An Architectural Portrait* (Edenton, North Carolina: The Edenton Women's Club, 1992), 19.

²³ Thomas Parramore, *The Ancient Maritime Village of Murfreesborough, 1787-1825* (1969), p. 52.

forerunner of Chowan University. The building later was converted into a private residence. Fallen into disrepair by the twentieth century, it was purchased by the Murfreesboro Woman's Club in 1947 and was restored by the group, whose members used it for gatherings until donating it to the Murfreesboro Historical Association in 1983.²⁴

Chowan College, now Chowan University, a four-year institution affiliated with the Baptist State Convention, traces its origins to the May 1848 meeting of the Chowan Baptist Association, where a regional school for girls was recommended. On October 11, 1848, Chowan Female Institute opened in Murfreesboro with eleven students. Renamed Chowan Female Collegiate Institute in 1850, the school featured a curriculum that included math, the sciences, history, and the language and fine arts. In 1910 the renamed Chowan College began granting four year bachelor degrees. In 1929 Chowan College began enrolling men. The absence of male students during World War II forced the college's closing from 1943 to 1948. In 1949 the school reopened as a two-year institution, providing education on a junior college level. In 1992, the college again began offering bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees. The name of the school was officially changed to Chowan University on September 1, 2006, following programmatic expansion.²⁵

Wesleyan Female College, founded by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, opened in Murfreesboro in 1853. Closed temporarily during the Civil War, the school had

²⁴ National Register of Historic Places nomination form, North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC.

²⁵ William S. Powell, ed., *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* (2006) and Chowan University website: <http://www.chowan.edu>

educated about 1500 students by the time the building burned in 1877. Wesleyan Female College reopened 1881 in a brick facility with a tin roof, described in the *Journal of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church* in 1892 as “three stories high, large and comfortable, heated throughout by steam; situated in a beautiful campus, in a quiet and moral village, and among a cultured and refined people.”

Wesleyan Female College burned again the following year and it was not rebuilt.²⁶

In the same 1759 act that established Hertford County, the bounds of the new county also became the Anglican parish of St. Barnabas. It was nine years, with only infrequent visits by missionary ministers, before the Reverend John Alexander began preaching in the parish. In May 1769 Governor William Tryon made Alexander’s appointment to the parish official, “at the request of some of the inhabitants of Hertford County and in consideration of a Testimonial of his good behavior from the Vestry.”²⁷ Two years after the appointment, Alexander filed suit against the St. Barnabas Vestry for not having provided him with a glebe, a home site belonging to the church but loaned to the clergy for his use. It appears that he won the suit since a 1779 tax list shows Alexander as the owner of 350 acres, six slaves, cattle, and horses.²⁸ He remained in Hertford County until 1786, having seen his parish slowly dissipate due to the spread of the Baptist church and, finally, the Revolutionary War. Alexander’s will, probated in 1799, conveys his bitterness about the fall of the Anglican Church, “The Manly,

²⁶ North Carolina Highway Historical Marker website: www.ncmarkers.com (A-68).

²⁷ William L. Saunders, ed., *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, Vol. VIII, p. 50.

²⁸ Hertford County Tax List, North Carolina State Archives.

Masculine Voice of Orthodoxy is no longer heard in our land. Far, therefore, from my Grave be the senseless Rant of Whining Fanaticism, her hated and successful Rival.”²⁹

The Baptist Church was established in the area that would become Hertford County by Joseph Parker, who moved from northern Chowan County by 1730 and built Parker’s Meeting House (later Meherrin Baptist Church) about 1735. Another church, Sandy Run, was established about 1740 in Bertie County along the western border of Hertford. It was Sandy Run Baptist Church that became the pastorate of Lemuel Burkitt in 1773. The preacher resided in Hertford County until 1790. A charismatic leader in politics and the Kehukee Baptist Association, Burkitt is credited with the rapid growth of the Baptist Church in the vicinity.³⁰ In 1803, on the outskirts of Murfreesboro, Burkitt hosted a revival attended by about 4,000 people.³¹ Ahoskie Baptist Church, the second Baptist Church within the bounds of the county, was organized out of Meherrin Church in 1804, predating the town of the same name. Buckhorn Baptist Church (1835) is a good example of a colonial Anglican congregation that eventually converted to Baptist.

Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Reorganization, 1861-1910

Only two days after North Carolina seceded from the Union in 1861, a company of men known as the “Hertford Light Infantry” enlisted in the North Carolina State Troops. The unit was mustered into service at Fort Ocracoke on July 13, 1861 and

²⁹ Bertie County Wills, will of John Alexander (1799) North Carolina State Archives.

³⁰ Thomas C. Parramore, “John Alexander, Anglican Missionary,” in *The North Carolina Historical Review* (Summer 1966), 305-315.

³¹ Thomas C. Parramore, *Murfreesboro North Carolina and the Great Intracoastal Waterway 1786-1814* (2002) p. 32.

became Company D, 17th Regiment. Most of the company was captured at Fort Hatteras the following month and taken to Fort Columbus, New York, and later transferred to Fort Warren, Massachusetts. Once paroled and exchanged, many of the men joined Company C, 17th Regiment (2nd Organization).³² A second company, the “Hertford Greys,” enlisted in Hertford County on July 5, 1861, becoming Company F, 1st Regiment.³³ Many other Hertford County men enlisted in North Carolina units that included Company G, 31st Regiment; Company C, 2nd Regiment Cavalry; Company C, 3rd Battalion Light Artillery; various companies of the 12th Battalion of Cavalry, which was commanded by Samuel J. Wheeler; Company D, 4th Regiment Cavalry; Companies D and E, 68th Regiment; and Company A, 15th Battalion of Cavalry.³⁴

The 15th Battalion of North Carolina Cavalry was organized in September of 1863 for the protection of the northeastern part of the state and, therefore, remained in state service for the duration of the war. James M. Wynn, transferred from the 2nd Regiment Cavalry, was the lieutenant colonel. The two companies were made up largely of men from Hertford and Northampton counties. Stationed in Weldon during the winter of 1863 - 1864, members of the battalion carried out raids to gather provisions. Transferred to Murfree’s Depot, Virginia, for awhile in 1864, the battalion later was distributed in the two home counties—Company A based at Pitch Landing, Hertford County, and Company B at Garysburg in Northampton County. From their respective home camps the men patrolled the river areas seeking either to steal or destroy Union supplies. There

³² Weymouth T. Jordan Jr., *North Carolina Troops 1861-1865: A Roster*, Vol. VI, *Infantry*. Raleigh, N.C.: State Archive, 1977, p. 140.

³³ Louis H. Manarin comp., *North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster*, Volume III: *Infantry*. Raleigh, N.C.: State Department of Archives and History, 1971. p. 201.

³⁴ Weymouth T. Jordan Jr., *North Carolina Troops 1861-1865: A Roster*, various volumes.

likely were many skirmishes and engagements with Federal troops, but the battalion's records are lacking.³⁵

On February 20, 1862, Winton, then a village of about 300, became the first North Carolina town burned by Union forces during the Civil War. After the fall of Roanoke Island, the waterways and towns of the Albemarle and Pamlico regions were vulnerable to Union attack. The First Battalion of North Carolina Volunteers and Company A of the Virginia Mounted Artillery were dispatched to Winton to deter Federal troops. The Confederate forces were forced to occupy almost every building in the small town.

On February 19, 1862, Col. Rush C. Hawkins led a flotilla of eight Federal gunboats up the Chowan River with instructions from General Ambrose Burnside to investigate a reputed group of 500 Union sympathizers reported to be at Winton and to destroy railroad bridges across the Nottaway and Blackwater rivers beyond the town. With two of the gunboats, the *Delaware* and *Perry*, drawing close to land and being waved ashore by a lone mulatto woman, Hawkins noticed the setting sun reflecting off the steel of Confederate weapons and called for the boats to turn away. Sharp fire ensued causing casualties on both sides and damage to the two vessels. The fleeing ships met the other six gunboats and returned downriver, anchoring and making preparations to return to Winton in the morning. Meanwhile the Confederates celebrated their apparent victory and sent reports to various news outlets.

The following morning, when the residents and troops received word that the Union flotilla's return was imminent, people took what they could transport and evacuated Winton. When Hawkins inspected the town and determined the extent of its

³⁵ Louis H. Manarin, comp., *North Carolina Troops 1861-1865: A Roster*, Vol. II: *Cavalry*. Raleigh, N.C.: State Department of Archives and History, 1968, p.643.

use by the Confederates, he approved what he reported as controlled burning of structures that had been impressed into use. The destruction turned into a disorganized ransacking, with only two or three structures escaping the torch. Tar barrels were rolled into the Hertford County courthouse and set ablaze, destroying the seat of government for a second time. Although most were simply burned, houses and military stores were looted, a soldier later reporting, “of course the boys found plenty of everything, and soon came flocking back to the boats loaded with household goods, books, articles of food, and anything that suited their fancy.”³⁶ Due to the Confederates’ precautionary measures, including sinking old ships, felling trees, and running chains from bank to bank, the flotilla was unable to proceed up the Chowan River to destroy the railroad bridges, so they returned to Roanoke Island. Union gunboats continued to patrol the region for the remainder of the war.

Richard Jordan Gatling, inventor of the Gatling gun, was born in the Maney’s Neck community of Hertford County in 1818, educated at the Buckhorn Academy in Como, and grew up on a virtually self-sufficient plantation. His father and older brother invented and patented agricultural machinery. Richard Gatling’s first invention was a screw propeller for a boat but, delayed for several months from travelling to Washington to apply for a patent, he arrived at the patent office just a few days after John Ericsson had applied for a patent on an identical invention. He next turned to agricultural pursuits and patented a rice-seed planter, which he later converted to a wheat planter after moving to the Midwest. There he earned a medical degree and practiced as a physician for a short time. At the onset of the Civil War, Gatling was impressed by the number of troops

³⁶ Thomas C. Parramore, “The Burning of Winton in 1862,” in *The North Carolina Historical Review* (Winter 1962), p. 27.

dying from disease. He believed that if he could invent a gun that fired more efficiently, that the armies would need fewer soldiers. With that in mind, Gatling invented the gun that bore his name—the first Gatling gun, capable of firing 200 rounds per minute, was patented in 1862. He continued to improve upon the gun, patenting a new model in 1865. The United States War Department adopted the Gatling gun the following year. Before selling his patent rights to the Colt Fire Arms Company, Gatling created a gun capable of firing 1,200 rounds per minute. Unfortunately the humanitarian benefits that inspired Gatling to invent such a weapon were never realized.³⁷

Slaves in North Carolina officially were freed by the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment in December of 1865. In 1860, the final slave schedule for the United States census showed that there were 4,445 slaves in Hertford County that would have been affected by the action. Reconstruction, which followed, lasted from 1865 to 1877. It was a tumultuous period of adjustment for both black and white Southerners. The “Presidential Reconstruction” of the first two years was fairly modest, leaving many African Americans in a condition not unlike slavery. “Congressional” or “Radical” Reconstruction, instituted in 1867, set out to guarantee citizenship and civil rights for blacks. The Fourteenth Amendment, ratified in 1868, and the Fifteenth, ratified in 1870, enforced the ideals of Reconstruction. The Freedmen’s Bureau, established under President Andrew Johnson and strengthened later by Congress, “provided humanitarian aid, established schools, and arbitrated labor contracts between black workers and white landowners.”³⁸

³⁷ William S. Powell, ed. *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, “Gatling, Richard Jordan,” Vol 2, (1986) p. 287.

³⁸ John David Smith, *Black Voices from Reconstruction 1865-1877* (1996), p. 16.

Numerous African American men from Hertford County fought with the Union forces during the Civil War. Corporal John Bizzell and five other African Americans served in the Fourteenth United States Colored Heavy Artillery. The veterans reported great difficulties in assimilating back into the general population of Hertford County. In December of 1865, local white militiamen searched the black men's homes and confiscated the weapons and ammunition that they had purchased at the time of their discharge.³⁹ Isaac Newsome escaped slavery, joining the Union army at age 29. When he returned to Ahoskie after the war, he used his pension to purchase a farm. He later donated land for the Newsome Grove Baptist Church.⁴⁰ Parker David Robbins, a free man of mixed black and Chowan Indian ancestry, enlisted as a sergeant major in the Second United States Colored Cavalry in 1864 and served the remainder of the war. In the 1870s Robbins moved to Harrellsville, became the postmaster, and patented a cotton cultivator and saw sharpening machine.⁴¹ Not a Union veteran, but perhaps boosted by their presence in numbers, William D. Newsome, an African American schoolteacher, farmer, and merchant, was elected to represent Hertford County in the state's House of Representatives in 1870 and 1871.⁴²

The African Americans who were able to purchase land and establish themselves in their communities were exceptions. There was a clash between the newly freed slaves who believed the government owed them for their years of unpaid labor, and the whites

³⁹ John David Smith, ed., *Black Soldiers in Blue: African American Troops in the Civil War Era* (2002) pp. 403-404.

⁴⁰ Alice Eley Jones, *Hertford County North Carolina: Black America Series* (2002), p. 73.

⁴¹ *Ibid*, pp. 73-74.

⁴² Eric Foner, *Freedom's Lawmakers: A Directory of Black Officeholders During Reconstruction* (2003), p. 161.

who wanted a return of the old order. But because of stringent Black Codes, laws that limited the civil rights of blacks, in the years just after the war, many freedpeople were left with few options besides sharecropping or tenant farming. A committee of former slaves from South Carolina wrote to General O. O. Howard, head of the Freedmen's Bureau, "we want Homesteads, we were promised Homesteads by the government. If it does not carry out the promise its agents made to us...we are left in a more unpleasant condition than our former...You will see this is not the condition of really free men."⁴³

A post office called Bethel was established in Hertford County in 1827. After confusing the postal service for several years due to the Pitt County town of the same name, Hertford's community changed its name to Harrellsville in 1847. The town was long served by Tar Landing on Wiccacon Creek. In the days when steamboats provided transportation for freight and passengers, the *Keystone* plied the waters between Harrellsville and Franklin, Virginia, for over forty years. Harrellsville was also home to the county's first cotton and saw mills. Established prior to the Civil War, the mills were abandoned during the conflict.⁴⁴ Harrellsville was incorporated in 1883.

A post office operated at Union, in the central part of the county, from 1878-1906. The town was incorporated in 1889 but has fallen inactive in municipal affairs. Como, in Northern Hertford County, was originally known as Buckhorn. When the post office was established in 1883, the community was named for Lake Como in Italy. Como was officially incorporated in 1967.

⁴³ Eric Foner, *Forever Free: The Story of Emancipation and Reconstruction* (2005), p. 77.

⁴⁴ Joseph Ray Parker, ed., *The Ahoskie Era of Hertford County North Carolina* (1939) pp. 161-171.

The town of Tunis was named for Joseph T. Tunis of Salisbury, Maryland, who purchased land in that vicinity, known as Catherine Creek, in 1883. Tunis built a saw mill and a small shipyard on his property. With easy access to forests and railroads, the lumber and shingle industries thrived there. A post office was established in 1884. In 1885 a railroad, built to haul timber to the saw mill, was run between Aulander and Tunis. The rail line, unnamed until 1887, was called the Chowan and Southern Railroad for two years before becoming the Norfolk and Carolina Railroad. Tunis was incorporated in 1909.⁴⁵

Through the end of the nineteenth century, despite the hardships of the agricultural way of life, Hertford County remained largely agrarian, with fishing and fisheries being the only industry of consequence outside of the common grist, flour, and lumber mills. William Valentine, a long-time Hertford County diarist, wrote in May of 1843, “people living remote from the great fishing rivers might with pleasure read a chapter on the Chowan fishing Spring. At this season of the year, fishing is the most intensely exciting business here of any. The whole country around are engaged...back[ing]...their carts and wagons to the beautiful river.”⁴⁶ In 1860 the fisheries detailed in the Hertford County agricultural census reflected shad and herring operations, common in the region. By the 1890s, shad were by far the single-most important fish in North Carolina’s economy, with herring ranked third.⁴⁷ At the time, the seine, a weighted fishing net, was the most prevalent commercial fishing apparatus. Herring fishing remained important to the people of the Meherrin and Chowan River

⁴⁵ Ibid., pp. 179-180.

⁴⁶ Jack Temple Kirby, *Poquosin: A Study of Rural Landscape and Society* (1995), p. 32.

⁴⁷ North Carolina Board of Agriculture, *North Carolina and its Resources* (1896) p. 147.

regions for many years, with some of the fisheries operating on sites fished for over a century. At the industry's peak, in the 1950s and 1960s, the fisheries employed many local men and women, catching millions of pounds of herring, much of which was sold for cat food or bait.⁴⁸ Recently pollution and trawling off of the coast have drastically reduced the local fishing industry.

The rich forests of Hertford County have long been a source of income for local landowners and wage earners. The longleaf pine trees were heavily boxed for turpentine. The diarist Valentine observed in 1845 that "turpentine now being a good price, the labor you bestow on it is now richly compensated."⁴⁹ But Valentine and other early conservation-minded people were concerned about the practice killing the trees. William Cullen Bryant, editor and poet, wrote about his journey south from Richmond in 1843, "We passed through extensive forests of pine, which had been boxed, as it is called, for the collection of turpentine. This is a work of destruction; it strips acre after acre of these noble trees."⁵⁰

In the 1880s the lumber industry initially utilized northern lumberjacks who travelled to worksites with their own equipment, commanding a high wage for their work. However, innovations such as the crosscut saw made it possible for relatively unskilled laborers to cut down trees efficiently. By the 1920s such jobs were held primarily by local African American men. Increased mechanization made the industry a dangerous one. A 1945 study prepared by the United States Department of Labor

⁴⁸ E. Frank Stephenson Jr., *Parker's Ferry* (1995), p. 56.

⁴⁹ Kirby, p. 33.

⁵⁰ *Ibid*, p. 32.

indicated that the two most dangerous industries in which to work, by far, were logging and sawmills.⁵¹ Regardless of the hazards, there were many Hertford County residents, white and black, recorded on the twentieth century censuses as laborers in the “log woods” and saw mills.

Ahoskie was a product, like many other towns, of the railroad boom. With the incorporation and reorganization of the Norfolk and Southern Railroad in 1889 came the emergence of Ahoskie, a town that was growing up along the line. Passenger trains began operating on the Norfolk and Carolina line in 1890, at which time there were only about fifty people living in the area now known as Ahoskie. With the level of operation changing, Ahoskie broke ground for a new train depot to replace the old boxcar that had been used in that capacity.⁵² The town was incorporated in 1893, growing slowly but steadily as the railroad provided transportation for people and industry. After the Norfolk and Carolina Railroad merged with other small companies to form Atlantic Coast Line in 1900, Ahoskie flourished with the opening of a tobacco market, a massive saw mill, a basket factory, and the Columbian Peanut Company.⁵³

The Murfreesboro Railroad Company, chartered in 1887, constructed in 1891 a spur of the Seaboard Air Line that ran from Murfreesboro to Pendleton, in Northampton County, a distance of almost seven miles. A new street was cut between Broad and Main Streets to accommodate the train station. Initially called Railroad Street, it was shortly renamed Winder Street in honor of John H. Winder, general manager of Seaboard Airline

⁵¹ William P. Jones, *The Tribe of Black Ulysses: African American Lumber Workers in the Jim Crow South*. (2005), p. 94.

⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 516.

⁵³ Nancy Van Dolsen, National Register of Historic Places nomination for East End Historic District, Ahoskie, Hertford County (2007).

Railroad, owner of the trains that operated on the company's tracks. The railway, utilized for cargo and passenger service, was an immediate success. However in 1896 the Murfreesboro Railroad Company became involved in legal disputes with the powerful steamship businesses in the region. The shipping magnates did not appreciate losing freight and passenger traffic to the railroad. Finally, on May 5, 1897, after quarrels over rates, Seaboard terminated its lease of the Murfreesboro spur and the tracks were, somewhat mysteriously, dismantled and removed two nights later.⁵⁴

In an area that was once home to numerous ferries, only Parker's Ferry survived into the modern age. On lands that once belonged to the Meherrin Indians near Winton, the crossing, originally called Jordan's Ferry, is believed to have been established in the 1860s. The name was changed to Parker's Ferry in the early 1880s to better reflect the family operation. Isaac Parker was allotted \$85 by the county to purchase a new rope and build a new ferry in 1886. Within a few years Parker's Ferry was appropriated by Hertford County. It remained under the county's jurisdiction until the 1930s when the state of North Carolina incorporated all ferries into the North Carolina Highway Commission (later Department of Transportation). One of three inland cable ferries still running in the state, Parker's Ferry today is operated in partnership with the Department of Transportation and local contractors. Johnnie Miller, the ferry-keeper in the 1980s said of the work, "Low water and ice were problems for me at times. On some winter days I had to break ice with the front ferry apron. It was the only job in life that I enjoyed going to."⁵⁵ Because the rivers are no longer the critical means of commerce and

⁵⁴ E. Frank Stephenson Jr., *The Murfreesboro Railroad Company* (1996).

⁵⁵ E. Frank Stephenson Jr., *Parker's Ferry* (1995)

transportation that they once were in the region, the presence of a working cable ferry is indeed a testament to the prevailing rural culture of Hertford County.

By 1910 the automobile had arrived in Hertford County. Among the earliest owners of automobiles, ironically enough, were officials with the railroad companies. An article in an Ahoskie newspaper in 1910 discussed the need for a repair shop stating, “With the number of automobiles in this vicinity, a garage is greatly needed and, undoubtedly, would prove to be a profitable business.” Another piece in the same issue proclaimed, “Either rain or a street sprinkler is needed to lay the dust on our streets. If relief does not come soon we fear that some ladies, in this community at least, will be sorely tempted to use some mild form of cuss words.”⁵⁶

Road building in Hertford County was complicated by the swampy terrain and multiple rivers and creeks. The bridges required in such an environment left little money for general road improvements.⁵⁷ Initially the bridges were built locally, including the bridge across Ahoskie Swamp, which was completed in the fall of 1923. The first state highway contract in the county was for a steel bridge across the Chowan River at Winton, awarded in January 1924 and completed in May 1925. The Winton-Ahoskie Highway was the first paved road, followed by North Carolina Route 30, both concrete roads poured in 1924.⁵⁸ The bridges, in particular, increased communication and trade between Hertford County residents and those in counties across the Chowan River. However the harbinger of economic growth and prosperity, the interstate highway system, ultimately bypassed Hertford County.

⁵⁶ Joseph Ray Parker, ed., *The Ahoskie Era of Hertford County North Carolina* (1939) p. 609.

⁵⁷ Capus Waynick, *North Carolina Roads and their Builders* (1952) p. 114.

⁵⁸ Parker, p. 666.

At the end of the nineteenth century Hertford County was among the state's top producers of peanuts. Cotton was still widely grown but tobacco was not even categorized for Hertford County in the United States agricultural censuses until 1900.⁵⁹ The crop was in great demand after James B. Duke's American Tobacco Company began utilizing a cigarette rolling machine that greatly increased production and dropped prices. Farmers in Hertford County increasingly shifted crop allocations to tobacco and in 1906 there was enough tobacco grown in the county to justify the establishment of a tobacco warehouse in Ahoskie. "The Hub," as it was known, opened for business in 1907, saving local farmers from having to transport their crop to larger markets such as those in Rocky Mount, Wilson, and Kinston. After closing in 1910, the warehouse reopened as Basnight Warehouse in January of 1915. At its peak, in the late 1940s to 1950s, the Ahoskie tobacco market boasted six large warehouses to serve area farmers.⁶⁰

Promoting agricultural education in this largely rural area, I. O. Schaub, the state's first corn club agent, addressed a group of Hertford County boys in May of 1909. He said, "Better conditions in agriculture will be brought about as you boys study and apply yourselves to present day problems. The yield of corn in North Carolina is approximately fifteen bushels per acre. If you boys would like to do something about it, the Extension Service will help you organize a corn club and attempt to teach you how to increase the yield of corn." Thus the first corn club in North Carolina was launched in Ahoskie. In 1918 the organization joined the 4-H Clubs of America, embracing a broader scope of agricultural education, seeking to improve the "4 Hs"-- head, heart, health, and

⁵⁹ United States Censuses of 1880, 1890, and 1900, Agricultural Schedules.

⁶⁰ E. Frank Stephenson Jr., *Tobacco Market: Ahoskie, North Carolina* (1997); and Robert F. Durden, *Bold Entrepreneur: a Life of James B. Duke*, (2003).

hand.⁶¹ The 4-H Clubs remain an important component of the agrarian education of today's youth.

Lemuel Boone, an early African American Baptist leader, founded the first black Baptist Association in North Carolina in 1866. The following year he helped organize the General Association of the Colored Baptists of North Carolina, the first statewide black Baptist association. Boone is credited with establishing the congregation that became the First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro in 1866.⁶² Other early African American Baptist Churches in Hertford County include Free Colored Baptist Church (ca. 1851, later known as Pleasant Plains Baptist Church); Mill Neck (1866), also boosted by Boone; and Mt. Sinai (1882).

The only denomination to come close to rivaling the Baptists in Hertford County, Methodist congregations numbered six by the 1880s. There were four in Winton, one in Harrellsville, and two in Murfreesboro. However there were only two resident Methodist ministers at that time.⁶³

In 1886 Dr. Calvin Scott Brown, minister at Pleasant Plains Baptist Church, established a school in Winton for African American students known as Chowan Academy. The campus grew along with the school's reputation, attracting students from well beyond the immediate area. The three-story Reynolds Hall was erected on campus in 1893, and Morehouse Hall followed in 1909. By then, the school had a new name: the Waters Normal and Industrial Institute (named in honor of a New York philanthropist).

⁶¹ <http://www.ncmarkers.com/Markers.aspx?ct=ddl&sp=search&k=Markers&sv=A-51%20-%204-H%20CLUB> (marker A-51)

⁶² Alice Eley Jones, *Hertford County North Carolina: Black America Series* (2002), p. 112; and www.ncmarker.com (A-81).

⁶³ Levi Branson, *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1884* (1884), p. 380.

By the early 1920s, funding faltered and in 1924, the school was taken over by the state and the name was changed again to Waters Training School. In 1937, the school where C. S. Brown taught for 52 years before his death was renamed in honor of its founder. The C. S. Brown School Auditorium, a Rosenwald Fund project, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.⁶⁴

African American children's education was greatly enhanced by the Rosenwald Fund, a program offering matching grants for rural black school construction established by Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck, and Company. At a time when the schools were already segregated and the disparities between facilities that were provided for the races were growing, the Rosenwald School program offered architectural plans for modern, low cost, efficient school buildings. Hertford County built ten such schools between 1918 and 1929, most of which are still standing, though not all are in good condition.⁶⁵ They include the C. S. Brown School auditorium (built as part of the Waters Training School) in Winton, Cotton School in the Winton vicinity, Mill Neck School in the Como vicinity, Murfreesboro School in Murfreesboro, Pleasant Plains School in Pleasant Plains, and Vaughantown School in the Murfreesboro vicinity.⁶⁶ The structures bear witness to the African Americans' contemporary struggle for equality in education and the limits of what they could achieve during the Jim Crow era.

⁶⁴ Roy Parker, ed., *The Ahoskie Era of Hertford County* (1939) pp. 257-261 and www.ncmarkers.com (A-58).

⁶⁵ Thomas W. Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools and Black Education in North Carolina," in *The North Carolina Historical Review* (October 1988) pp. 387-444.

⁶⁶ <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/rosenwald/rosenSurvey.htm>

Twentieth Century Change and Continuity, 1910-1965

Illustrative of the era of segregation was Hertford County's Chowan Beach, a vacation destination for African American families along the eastern seaboard. In 1928, after leasing the tract for two years, Eli Reid, a Winton businessman, purchased the riverfront property known as Mt. Gallant, located about a mile upstream from Winton on the Chowan River. While Reid utilized part of the river for herring fishing, he developed the scenic beach into a popular family-oriented resort. He built modern vacation cottages, a dance hall, picnic shelters, bathhouses, a large restaurant, dormitory housing for black 4-H clubs and tour groups, and recreational attractions. One of Reid's daughters described the beach as "a beautiful place—a place of quiet dignity where people could come and enjoy themselves. It was the result of my father's dream of providing a setting, and clean and well-kept one for not only what we called the picnic crowd (social groups, church groups, individual families, and others), but also for the cottage guests (a who's who group made up of professionals—doctors, lawyers, businessmen, college professors...)." ⁶⁷ During its heyday Chowan Beach attracted a variety of black performers such as B. B. King, James Brown, and Sam Cooke. Once advertised as "Carolina's Finest Resort of Negroes," Chowan Beach remained open well beyond desegregation, closing in the 1990s.

The nation's African American baseball teams were also a consequence of segregation. Teams in the South were not as organized as their Northern counterparts, but they were certainly not lacking in talent. Hertford County boasted three remarkable teams during the late 1930s through the early 1950s: the Ahoskie War Hawks, the

⁶⁷ E. Frank Stephenson Jr., *Chowan Beach: Remembering an African American Resort* (2006) p. 18.

Chowan Bees (Winton), and the Como Eagles. Collectively nicknamed the “Cornfield Boys” the players were field hands, sawmill workers, and loggers who played baseball on the weekends. They hosted, and often defeated, professional Negro Major League teams such as the Homestead Grays, Atlanta Black Crackers, Indianapolis Clowns, New York Cubans, New York Black Yankees, and Birmingham Black Barons. The professional teams included future stars such as Satchel Paige, Buck Leonard, and Willie Mays. Hertford County’s black teams never produced such notable players, but the teams’ records were extraordinary and remain a source of great pride. A pitcher for the Chowan Bees, Sherman “Roadblock” Jones, made the major league, playing for the New York Giants, Cincinnati Reds (with whom he appeared in the 1961 World Series), and New York Mets.⁶⁸

The Meherrin Indians, scattered in the eighteenth century, did not attempt reorganization in the atmosphere of racial prejudice in the South during the nineteenth and early to mid-twentieth centuries. During that time the Meherrin language, traditions, and culture were lost. Civil rights legislation helped unify the remaining people of Meherrin descent and in 1977 the tribe was chartered as a nonprofit organization under the leadership of Chief Reuben R. Lewis. The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs officially recognized the Meherrin Indian Tribe in 1986. Most modern Meherrin Indians live in Hertford County near the town of Winton and the river that still bears the tribe’s name.

Basket manufacturing was big business in the county in the first half of the twentieth century. Murfreesboro had the Riverside Manufacturing Company and Ahoskie had the Ahoskie Basket Company. The factories fabricated wood veneer

⁶⁸ Raymond Whitehead and E. Frank Stephenson Jr., *They Called Us Cornfield Boys* (1998).

produce baskets, first by hand, and later with an assembly line and machinery. Local timber was readily available and the nearby railroads moved both the logs and the finished products. By 1936 both basket operations were under the umbrella of the American Package Company. A history of one of American Package Company's subsidiaries describes the early 1900s basket manufacturing process:

The loggers usually shipped the timber in lengths of ten to twenty-five feet. The plant's Log Department then sawed them into bolts of twenty to fifty-two inches. After they've cut the logs into the necessary lengths, they put them into sealed steam boxes and steamed them for twelve hours, usually overnight. In the morning they removed the bolts and the bark either fell right off or could easily be peeled off. The Lathe Department then moved the bark free log to the lathe which cut it into veneer. As the log spun in the lathe a knife trimmed off sheets of veneer, beginning with rough scrap pieces until the log was perfectly round. Then the veneer came from the lathe in one long sheet, usually 1/8" thick, that must be cut into pieces. As the veneer slides down a long table it arrives at a knife that automatically cuts it into manageable pieces. The pieces dropped onto a conveyor table where workers sorted it. Knotty or cross-grain pieces went into the boiler's fire hole. Other workers cut the good stuff to size and forwarded it to the Production Department who made it into baskets. Green, wet and damp from twelve hours in a steam box, the basket strips were ideal for bending into baskets.⁶⁹

Basket manufacturing in Hertford County was terminated when Georgia Pacific purchased American Package Company in 1970.⁷⁰ Georgia Pacific maintained a dimensional lumber facility in Ahoskie.⁷¹ Dimensional lumber refers to standard sizes of finished boards used in construction, such as the 2 x 4.

In the 1930 census Ahoskie began its reign the most populous locale in Hertford County. The progressive character of the town was fostered by the people who were

⁶⁹ <http://www.jerseypackage.info/BASKET%20MAKING.htm>

⁷⁰ Bill Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina*, Vol II (1958) pp. 883-884 and www.jerseypackage.info/

⁷¹ Georgia Pacific website: <http://www.gp.com/facilitydirectory/pdf/northcarolina.pdf>

drawn to the community looking for employment opportunities. In the 1950s an old resident commented, “They were not bound by tradition nor awed by aristocracy. The place had no vested interests to defend the status quo, and no status quo to defend.”

Ahoskie remains the commercial hub of Hertford County. The population of the county waxes and wanes but rarely varies by more than a few hundred residents. Many Hertford citizens who are not involved in agriculture travel to other counties or even to Virginia for work. A scenic byway devoted to Lafayette’s tour of the region in 1825 passes through the older towns in Hertford County. The tour promises views of plantation homes, bucolic communities, and agricultural landscapes. While Parker’s Ferry and the adjacent unpaved road are included in the tour, it is requested that recreational vehicles make a detour. The horse and buggy county, it seems, remains comfortable in its rural trappings.

Results of Comprehensive Survey and Analysis of Architectural Trends

Colonial Period Architecture to 1759

Large-scale surveys, such as the Hertford County survey, not only offer a great insight into the architectural traditions of a particular region during a certain timeframe, but also underscore the shortcomings of any typological study tied to larger trends with defined periods.⁷² Scholars maintain varying parameters to classify and date architecture. For some architectural historians, the colonial period extended from 1600 until 1820, whereas for others it ended in 1785. Within these larger periods they assign stylistic sub-periods, such as Georgian and Federal, which ran from 1700 until 1780 and 1780 till 1820, respectively. Scholars acknowledge the fact that these periods are not well defined and depending on the region can last several decades longer, but this often complicates a more straightforward organization. Georgian- and Federal-style architecture could therefore exist side-by-side, or Georgian-style architecture could still be built after the Federal style was introduced. A similar dilemma occurs when looking at house plans and shapes. Smaller, more primitive houses are not necessarily older. Factors such as the availability of building materials, climate and soil conditions, and the economy, for instance, play a role in shaping the built environment. Another consideration that needs to be made is that architectural typologies are based on high-style architecture, with buildings at the top end of the scale often designed by known architects and following strict design guidelines. In contrast, most architecture is often described as vernacular,

⁷² This survey neither included the existing National Register Historic Districts in Harrellsville and Murfreesboro, nor the proposed district for Ahoskie, and the following analysis, therefore, does not take into account numerous important buildings in those districts, which would have provided a more complete picture of the county's architectural development.

based on local traditions passed on from one generation to the next and often less susceptible to contemporary mainstream trends. This is not to say that vernacular architecture could not be influenced by high-style architecture, but it would often have a watered-down appearance based on the skills of the local craftsman or the desires of the patron.

So far, little research has been published on the architecture of Hertford County. Because of its proximity to the Chesapeake Bay area and the initial origin of most of its settlers from Virginia, it shares certain commonalities with that region. Despite the fact that none of the earliest architecture appears to have survived, some general statements can be made based on the relationship of Hertford County to the Tidewater regions of Maryland and Virginia in the early colonial period.

Relying on predominantly English framing traditions, the early settlers adapted to the new environment of the Chesapeake region and the demands of everyday life. Scholars determined that the housing for the early European settlers developed in three stages from primitive shelters to temporary, impermanent buildings, to the “fayre houses” that many yeoman and even husbandmen were used to from England.⁷³ Initial dwellings would not have lasted much longer than it took the owner to accumulate enough wealth to build a more substantial dwelling.⁷⁴ Even at the second stage, scholars have referred to

⁷³ Cary Carson, Norman F. Barka, William M. Kelso, Garry Wheeler Stone, and Dell Upton, “Impermanent Architecture in the Southern American Colonies.” *Winterthur Portfolio*, 16, no. 2/3 (Summer – Autumn 1981): p. 140.

⁷⁴ Despite the persistent vernacular-architecture/early-settlers myth, log houses were not the first form of dwelling for the region and did not gain widespread popularity. The construction method was often used only for inferior outbuildings. See Carl Lounsbury, “The Development of Domestic Architecture in the Albemarle Region,” in *Carolina Dwelling: Towards Preservation of Place*, ed. Doug Swain (Raleigh: North Carolina State University, 1978), p. 49.

this type of architecture as impermanent, or earthfast.⁷⁵ Derived from the so-called English box frame, the joined timber frame of the house consisted of a sill with principal posts and studs making up the walls, and a (false) plate at the top of the wall to carry the rafters of the roof. The lumber was hewn or pit sawn, and diagonal braces at the corner posts – up- or down-braces – provided rigidity for the frame. Builders fastened the siding and roofing materials with hand-headed wrought nails. Because of the warm climate there is little evidence to suggest the spaces between the wall studs were filled for insulation. Builders would place the sill or principal posts directly onto or in the ground, or upon wooden blocks placed into the ground. To avoid complicated joinery and to speed construction, they also simplified the frame, relying on simple mortise-and-tenon joints, light roof construction, and a so-called false plate to carry the roof rafters.⁷⁶ The early tobacco economy in the southern American colonies left its mark on settlement patterns and the architecture, and it was not until settlers began to diversify their crops that they were able to stabilize their income and standard of living and thereby improve their dwelling circumstances.⁷⁷ The influence of economics and geography led to a dispersal of settlers across the southern colonies instead of a clustering as seen in New England. This is still reflected in much of the settlement pattern of Hertford County today.⁷⁸

There are no known buildings that survive from the early colonial period in Hertford County. Having started out as a part of the Bertie Precinct, it did not become its

⁷⁵ Carson, et al., p. 140.

⁷⁶ Ibid., pp. 158-59.

⁷⁷ Ibid., pp. 170-71.

⁷⁸ Leland Roth, *A Concise History of American Architecture*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1979 (Reprint 1980), p. 24.

own independent political entity until 1759. It never established any of the grand plantation houses seen elsewhere in the South during the eighteenth century, such as for instance Westover (1730-34), Stratford Hall (1725-30), and Mount Airy (1758-62) in Virginia, or even Tryon Palace (1767-70) in New Bern and Hope Plantation (1796-1803) near Windsor.

Revolutionary Period to Civil War, 1759-1861

Houses

Because of the background of the early settlers, the initial building practices – in both form and construction – were based on English traditions influenced by the new environment of emerging plantation society. Initial dwellings would have consisted of small frame structures with only one room, often referred to as a hall plan. The hall and later hall-parlor plan are also known as open plans, where access from the outside was directly into the heated living space. These differed from the later so-called closed plans, which are characterized by access into the living areas of the house through an unheated stair passage or entry hall.⁷⁹ Closed plan houses developed as changing sensibilities increased the need for privacy. None of these types of dwellings seem to have survived in their original condition, although two examples have been documented. One dated to the late eighteenth century and was located behind the Snipes-Vinson House (HF22), east of Menola on SR 1144, where it functioned as a service wing to a nineteenth-century dwelling. The buildings were destroyed by fire caused by lightening. The original dwelling was a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, side-gabled frame structure with a one-

⁷⁹ Gabriel M. Lanier and Bernard L. Herman. *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 199, p. 11.

room plan with raised-panel wainscot, a partially enclosed quarter-turn closed-string stair leading to a finished attic space, and a single exterior chimney against one of the gable ends. A second example survives in an incomplete state, encapsulated by a barn located behind the Gatlin-Liverman Farm (HF16), south of Murfreesboro on SR 1160, and dates to the early nineteenth century. Its original configuration was similar to the original dwelling at the Snipes-Vinson House: a one-and-a-half story, side-gabled frame dwelling. Based on the surviving fenestration, it was smaller than the dwelling at the Snipes-Vinson House, but does retain its quarter-turn closed-string stair, with raised paneling, leading to the upper floor. A large hearth was located against one of the gable ends, and the exposed framing suggests a hybrid framing tradition. Combining English braced framing with Netherlandic H-bent framing, there are down braces at the corner post, but the wall posts extend the height of the building and the second-floor joists are mortis-and-tenon into the posts, giving each individual bent the appearance of truncated goalposts.⁸⁰ A second small outbuilding on the Gatlin-Liverman Farm relies on a similar framing system, but dates to a later period. Additional research needs to be done on one-and-a-half-story structures in Hertford County to determine whether these also rely on a Netherlandic H-bent and if this type of framing is part of a regional tradition.

Another example of an open plan was the two-room plan, often referred to as a hall-parlor plan. Owners would increase the size of their houses to accommodate the need for specialized functions or the conscious desire for privacy.⁸¹ Everyday life took place in the hall, while the parlor functioned as a more private and refined space, often

⁸⁰ This type of framing is sometimes erroneously referred to as an anchor-bent frame, which survives in examples of the so-called Dutch barns in the Hudson Valley. In order to be a true anchor-bent the tenon needs to extend through the post creating a tongue, but there the extending section was cut so as not to interfere with the exterior siding.

⁸¹ Lounsbury, p. 49.

used only for special occasions or important guests. Sometimes there is a clear hierarchy in interior finishes between the hall and the parlor, with the parlor receiving the more elaborate trim and mantel than the hall. This hall-parlor plan and future developments in house forms were not restricted to the early colonial period or specific architectural styles, but existed side by side with earlier and later types.

Several houses survive in Hertford County with a hall-parlor plan; these date mostly from the middle of the eighteenth to the middle of the nineteenth century and a few were built as late as the early twentieth century. The Worrell House (HF869), west of Como on SR 1317, is an example of a hall-parlor plan and reportedly dates to ca. 1760, making it the oldest recorded surviving dwelling in Hertford County. It is a modest one-and-half-story, three-bay, side-gabled frame dwelling, with two double-shouldered brick chimneys on the gable ends and an integral lean-to, a shed-like wing, built against the back of the house. The HL hinges on the doors confirm its early date and the use of paneled wainscot and beaded ceiling joists indicate that this dwelling was at the high end of the scale when it was built. Another early example of a hall-parlor plan is the ca. 1760 Francis Parker House (NP6), originally located west of Murfreesboro on NC 158 and moved to Northampton County in the 1970s. It is a one-and-a-half-story gambrel-roofed house with a hall-parlor-plan and rear shed rooms. A late eighteenth-century example of a hall-parlor plan is the oldest section of the Brown House (HF17), in Menola, which dates to around 1797. Building evidence suggests that in its original configuration it was a one-story, or perhaps one-and-a-half-story, four-bay frame dwelling with a gambrel roof and a central chimney. Both the hall and the parlor have exterior doors, and a boxed-in stair in the parlor gives access to the upper floor. Beaded ceiling joists support

the upper floor and the floorboards, which show signs of being hand planed, are undercut in certain places to create a level floor surface. Before the widespread use of sawmills, framing members, siding, and floorboards were hewn or pit sawn, requiring planing to create a better fit.⁸² Several other late eighteenth-century dwellings survive in Hertford County, but subsequent additions and alterations make it more difficult to determine their original configuration.

The Vann House (HF602), northeast of Ahoskie on SR 1425, dating to the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, is another example of hall-parlor plan with an integral lean-to, similar to that seen at the Worrell House (HF869). Retaining much of its original fabric or the evidence thereof, the Vann House is an excellent example of a coastal cottage, a type characterized by an integrated front porch that gives it its distinct appearance. The small one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, side-gabled frame dwelling sits on a raised foundation and has a steeply pitched roof and integral shed rooms on the rear elevation. An original single-shouldered brick chimney survives on the west gable end although it has lost much of its stack. The chimney is both wider and deeper (four-and-a-half stretchers) than later nineteenth-century chimneys and is laid in Flemish bond; its steep shoulders are paved. Robbed mortise holes in some of the beams supporting the porch roof on the front elevation indicate that it too had a shed room at some point at the southwest corner – a distinctive feature of many of the coastal cottages. The parlor is located on the west side of the house and retains its unpainted interior consisting of flush and beaded boards similar to the ones used on the front elevation. HL hinges secure the door in the partition wall between the parlor and the hall, and on the hall side the ghost of a thumb latch remains visible on the door.

⁸² Brooke Hindle, ed. *Material Culture of the Wooden Age*, Tarrytown, N. Y.: Sleepy Hollow Press, 1981

Changes in household space usually signaled larger transformations in lifestyle and social organization and can help us understand how people used their houses and the options that were available in a given community at a given time.⁸³ One of these changes was the transition from an open plan to a closed plan in which the absence of direct access from the outside to the heated dwelling spaces signaled the creation of a social distance within the dwelling plan.⁸⁴ Closely associated with Georgian-style houses and characterized by symmetrical elevations with a central formal entry, the plan contained a central passage, which often held the principal stair. This plan is sometimes referred to as a center-passage or stair-passage plan.

The initial popularity of the Georgian style was from around 1700 until the War of Independence, although in rural areas such as Hertford County elements of the style would have persisted much longer. Based on Renaissance ideals, the Georgian style was known for its symmetry and restrained appearance. The style not only marked a transformation in taste and fashion, but also a shift away from a collective world view to a growing emphasis on the individual.⁸⁵

The most recognizable example of the Georgian type in Hertford County is the so-called I-house, which was popular from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century. The term I-house, perhaps a misnomer, is used to describe a two-story, one-room deep dwelling often with a symmetrical three- or five-bay-wide front elevation.⁸⁶

⁸³ Lanier & Herman, pp. 10-11.

⁸⁴ Ibid., p. 25.

⁸⁵ Ibid., pp. 124-127.

⁸⁶ The term was coined in the 1930s to describe a type of building first identified in Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa. See Fred Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 55, No. 4 (Dec., 1965), p. 553.

The one-room-deep, or single-pile, plan was ideal for the North Carolina climate, allowing for better cross ventilation. The oldest example is the once-stately Myrick Plantation House (HF563), west of Como on SR 1310, which dates to ca. 1790. A double entry door divides the five-bay front elevation and gives access a wide center passage with paneled wainscot. A two-story wing off the rear elevation of the house provided the necessary additional room for domestic functions and additional dwelling space. With its basic shape remaining the same for more than one-hundred years, the I-house could take on the external appearance of the latest architectural trends. Houses such as the Myrick Plantation House and Deane House (HF28), between Cofield and Harrellsville on SR 1446, dated to around 1820, were reflective of the more modest Georgian style. Whereas the Myrick Plantation House, with its simple modillions supporting a boxed cornice on the front elevation, has a modicum of flair on the exterior, only the molded weatherboards enliven the extremely plain front elevation of the Deane House. The Deane House's *pièce de résistance*, however, is its stair passage with elaborate raised-panel wainscot and a majestic and richly paneled half-turn open-string stair with turned balusters leading to the second floor.

In the chronology of architectural design in America, the Federal style succeeded the Georgian style and became popular shortly after the American Revolution. The new style essentially developed from the Georgian style but rejected the Baroque-Rococo forms in architecture. For designers such as Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) and Benjamin Henry Latrobe (1764-1820), greatly inspired by the French architect Claude-Nicolas Ledoux (1736-1806), architecture became an instrument of social reform.⁸⁷

⁸⁷ Roth, p. 53.

Architecture lost its provincial character and became associated with a period in history in which its image was instructive or enlightening. It was also an eclectic period when designers applied historic styles to modern functions. Thomas Jefferson's Virginia State Capitol, 1785-89, for instance, was based on the Maison Carrée in Nîmes in the south of France, a Roman temple dating to around 16 BC. The introduction of pattern books, or builders guides, at the end of the eighteenth century such as Asher Benjamin's *The Country Builder's Assistant*, first published in 1797, was not only driven by an effort to disseminate current architectural trends across all levels of American society, but also by the belief that proper public taste could be fostered.⁸⁸

Whereas symmetry and horizontal lines defined the Georgian style, the Federal style retained the classical desire for symmetry but was more refined and focused on vertical lines extending the viewer's gaze upward, with the emphasis being on the central entry bay, often highlighted by a door with an elaborate fanlight. In some areas the style is also marked by larger windows, which became possible due to the increased availability of larger panes of glass. However, there are few high-style examples of the Federal style in Hertford County (and North Carolina generally) where the architecture consists predominantly of vernacular interpretations of architectural styles. Builders often only applied a small number of elements, and the dividing line between Georgian and Federal is much harder to detect. The ca. 1810 John Wheeler House in Murfreesboro is not only one of the few surviving early brick houses in Hertford County, it is also one of the few with an elegant fanlight over the entry door, typical of the Federal style. The Cedars (HF14), ca. 1843, south of Murfreesboro on SR 1167, combines Federal- and

⁸⁸ Asher Benjamin was the first American to publish a pattern book. Dell Upton, "Pattern Books and Professionalism: Aspects of the Transformation of Domestic Architecture in America, 1800-1860," *Winterthur Portfolio*, Vol. 19, No. 2/3. (Summer-Autumn, 1984), pp. 107-150.

Greek Revival-style elements. A rectangular transom, with muntins in a sunburst-motif, tops the double entry doors on the front elevation and is repeated in a smaller version above the door giving access to the second-floor porch. Other examples are less bold, such as the Edmund Jones House (HF539), southeast of Harrellsville on SR 1441, which dates to around 1840 and exhibits delicately fluted door surrounds. In some cases the Federal style only manifested itself on the interior, especially in classically inspired and richly ornamented mantels.

With its emphasis on Greek, Roman, and Renaissance forms, smooth surfaces, and harmonious proportions, the Federal style paved the way for the broadly popular Greek Revival style, which not only proved to be exceedingly popular nationwide but was also extremely long lasting in Hertford County. Ongoing archaeological investigations of monumental Greek architecture inspired the classical ornamentation and proportions of the style and decorative features.⁸⁹ Hallmark features of the style were symmetrical front elevations, low-pitched roofs, pedimented gables, and porches supported by heavy classical columns. Some of the Greek Revival buildings feature miniaturized classical Greek temple fronts as one- or two-story temple-form porticoes. Other key features were the rectangular transom over the entry door, often ornamented with flanking sidelights, and the molded door and window surrounds with plain or decorated corner blocks.

In Hertford County, the Greek Revival style not only manifested itself at the top end of the scale, but all the way along it. A high-style example of the Greek Revival is the house at the Taylor Farm (HF594), south of Menola on SR 1123, which dates to ca. 1850. A two-story tetrastyle portico with octagonal columns defines the central bay on

⁸⁹ Lanier & Herman, 138.

the front elevation of the dwelling and paneled corner boards mimicking classical pilasters support a frieze board, which combined with the boxed cornice gives the appearance of a classical entablature. The window and door surrounds on the exterior are relatively Spartan with their simple molding and plain corner blocks. On the interior, however, the surrounds are much more embellished and are fluted with small circular disk, or patera, on the corner blocks. As with the hierarchy of different finishes in the parlor and the hall, discussed above, similar distinctions were manifested between the first floor and the second floor. The interior door and window surrounds on the second floor of the Taylor Farm are still reflective of the Greek Revival style, but are more restrained and similar to those seen at the nearby ca. 1837 Pleasant Grove Baptist Church (HF574), on SR 1118.

The tripartite window was another design element popular in the Greek Revival idiom. Three examples survive in Hertford County. One is found at the Shepherd House (HF589), near Como on SR 1316. The oldest part of the house dates to ca. 1777 and consisted of a hall-parlor plan with an integral lean-to, but when the building was enlarged during the first half of the nineteenth century, the two-story addition received an elaborate Greek Revival treatment. The tripartite window has a simple crown, or lintel, with a slightly raised central section and patera on the corner blocks. To create a balanced appearance, the original fenestration on the oldest section of the dwelling was replaced with a similar tripartite Greek Revival window. Bynum Place (a.k.a. Hunting Wild) (HF536), also located near Como on SR 1310, was built around 1842, and is probably the most high-style example of the Greek Revival style in Hertford County. Whereas at the Shepherd House only the first floor windows on the front elevation were

tripartite Greek Revival windows, on Bynum Place all windows are tripartite, not only on the first and second floor of the front elevation, but also on rear and side elevations. The molding on the window surrounds is very similar to that seen at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church (HF574) and on the interior of the Taylor House (HF594). Perhaps even more impressive is the full-height tetrastyle portico, with four colossal fluted columns supporting a full entablature and pediment. The third example is the Morgan-Beaman-Winborne House (HF526) in Murfreesboro. Originally located on Main Street, its oldest section was built around 1818, and consisted of a two-story, three-bay, side-passage plan. Around 1850 the dwelling was enlarged by the local builder Albert Gamaliel Jones and received a high-end Greek Revival treatment. Jones added tripartite Greek Revival windows with fluted surrounds and paterae on the corner blocks, an elaborate Greek Revival entry door with a geometrically divided transom and sidelights, as well as molded corner boards mimicking classical pilasters with his signature rope-like detailing at the corners. Jones also carried the classical detailing into the interior where in the newly created parlor classical pilasters, carrying a full entablature, flank the doors and windows.

A more modest example of the Greek Revival style is the original section of the Liverman House (HF524), east of St. John's on NC 561, which dates to around 1850. Originally a one-story dwelling with an L-shaped footprint, the building was enlarged towards the end of the nineteenth century to reflect more Victorian sensibilities, but the original Greek Revival molded window surrounds with plain corner blocks survive on the oldest section of the dwelling. Other examples of Greek Revival detailing can be found in low-pitched gable roofs with cornice returns giving the gable ends the appearance of a

classical Greek temple front and in pedimented porticos, both one and two-stories tall. Supported by four classically inspired columns, the pedimented portico was the most obvious comparison with a Greek tetrastyle temple and often was added to an existing dwelling to give it a more contemporary appearance.

Examples of one-story pedimented porticoes can be seen at the ca. 1832 William Mitchell House (HF5), west of Ahoskie on NC 42, the ca. 1850 Wiley and Jane Vann-Brown House (HF470), south of Union on SR 1108, and the ca. 1860 John Sharp House (HF587), east of Harrellsville on SR 1441, although the latter received a Victorian decorative treatment at the end of the nineteenth century. Examples of two-story porticoes with colossal columns can be seen at the ca. 1842 Bynum Place (HF536) and the ca. 1850 Dr. Henry Thomas Brett House (HF459), northwest of Como near the Virginia border on SR 1310. Perhaps one of the most academically correct renderings of a portico can be found at the Cedars (HF14). In an attempt at following classical protocol, the builder made an effort to create a hierarchy by using different classical orders for the different levels. According to the classical protocol, the plainest order, either Doric or Tuscan, would be at the bottom, with more elaborate orders above, usually Ionic, followed by Corinthian in the case of a three-story structure, or at the second story if the designer used Ionic at the lowest level. In the case of the Cedars, the craftsman attempted to create a correct example of the Doric order, including the triglyphs and metopes in the frieze of the entablature carried by the four columns. However, his incomplete understanding of the classical order becomes evident in the incorrect proportions and the fact that even though the placement of the triglyphs is correct, they lack their characteristic three vertical bands – hence the term triglyphs.

There is also no clear hierarchy, since the craftsman repeated the Doric order on the second level of the porch as well. The craftsman's lack of full understanding of the classical orders also becomes apparent in his use of simple modillions supporting the overhang of the box cornice, which are technically part of the Corinthian or Composite cornice. An interesting decorative detail is the band of reeded blocks in the tympanum, which may have been an attempt by the craftsman to mimic triglyphs. Efforts such as this underscore the vernacular nature of much of the architecture in Hertford County. Builders may have worked on other commissions where similar features were used, or patrons may have owned pattern books and shared some of the information with the craftsman. The correct interpretation of these features, however, would have depended on both the knowledge and skill level of the individual craftsman.

Despite the fact that the hall-parlor and center-passage plans were most prevalent before the Civil War, other plans survive as well, such as the side-passage plan. Because of the loss of resources, it is difficult to determine whether these were considered anomalies when they were built. According to the research Carl Lounsbury did on the Albemarle region of northeastern Northern Carolina in the 1970s, the side-passage plan suited the domestic requirements of the small planter.⁹⁰ While most often found in combination with a two-room-deep, or double-pile, plan, Hertford County examples are more modest and often only one-room deep. The ca. 1790 Weston House (HF861), built east of Murfreesboro near NC 158 and now located in Murfreesboro, is an early example of a single-pile side-passage plan. The two-story, three-bay, side-gabled dwelling has a one-story shed across the entire rear elevation and chimney stacks against the south gable end of the main block and the shed section. The double-shouldered brick chimney

⁹⁰ Lounsbury (1978), p. 55.

against the gable end is laid in Flemish bond and approximately five-and-a-half stretchers deep, indicative of its eighteenth-century date. The asymmetrical three-bay configuration of the front elevation, more typical of a Germanic three-room plan, and the presence of brick noggin between the studs, a feature often associated with Moravian settlers in North Carolina, suggest that the builder may have been German. In some cases in Hertford County, the side-passage plan is the result of the expansion of a single-room plan, or hall plan, as is the case with the house at the Everett-Faison-Capeheart-Tyler-Cooke Plantation (or simply Cooke Plantation, HF476), west of St. John's on NC 561, which dates to around 1815. Exposed principal posts suggest that the building started out as a one-room dwelling. The side passage could have been added to create a greater sense of privacy, but also as an enclosed breezeway, since it received doors at both ends.⁹¹ A two-story wing extending off the rear elevation would have provided additional dwelling space or room for domestic services. The Cooke Plantation also is exceptional as one of the few buildings in the county to have a full-size brick cellar underneath the original section of the house. Cellars are rare in Hertford County due to the sandy soil and high groundwater table that made the construction of cellars difficult and impractical, although a number of smaller examples survive as brick root cellars, such as the one underneath the Deane House (HF28). Not only were the soil and water table adverse circumstances for the construction of a cellar, but the open space created beneath a house by a raised pier foundation, which would have been negated by the presence of a cellar, provided added ventilation.

Evidence also indicates that owners would enlarge side-passage-plan houses to take on the more formal appearance of a center-passage plan. One example is Maple

⁹¹ Carl Lounsbury questions the exact purpose of the wide side passages. See Lounsbury (1978), note 15.

Lawn (HF547), southeast of Ahoskie just north of the Bertie County line, which dates to around 1840. In its current appearance it is a two-story, five-bay, side-gabled frame dwelling with Greek Revival door and window surrounds. However, the asymmetrical fenestration and the location of the stair suggest the original dwelling had a single-pile side-passage plan. Another example is the Edmund Jones House (HF539), also of around 1840. The spacing of the bays is much more symmetrical here, with five bays on the first floor and four bays on the second floor. The framing, however, indicates distinct building phases. Heavy timbers were used on the right side of the dwelling – three first-floor bays including the door – whereas the left side of the building was constructed with lighter, mass-produced framing members. The Morgan-Beaman-Winborne House (HF526) also started out as a side-passage plan. The so-called guttering of the corner posts – one of which is partially left exposed in the original exterior rear corner of the center passage – confirms the earlier plan of the house. It also sheds light on early building practices in North Carolina. Initially frames would be left exposed, but by the eighteenth century the frame would be covered with lath and plaster based on aesthetic preferences. Large corner posts were often cut back to conceal them within the thickness of the wall.⁹² A more careful examination is needed of these buildings to properly understand their development. Not only could a side-passage plan be converted into a center-passage plan by adding a room, but a hall-parlor plan could also become a center-passage plan by adding a partition wall to create a center passage. In this latter instance the dwelling itself would not increase in size, but it would take on a more formal atmosphere for the visitor, conforming to trends of sociability and decorum.

⁹² Carl Lounsbury, ed. *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Landscape and Architecture*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1994.p. 172.

As spatial needs increased and the requirements for specific room uses became greater, so did the footprint of houses. The construction of shed rooms, or lean-tos, increased the footprint of an existing house, turning a single-pile, or single-room deep, plan into a double-pile, or two-room deep, plan. To increase accessibility to each of the four rooms, and following the established requirement for privacy, a center passage was part of the design. As with the development of most house plans the double-pile center-passage plan could evolve, or be conceived as a complete unit. More imposing than the single-pile I-houses, two-room-deep houses were less suitable for the eastern North Carolina climate as they lacked the same level of natural ventilation.

A few examples of double-pile center-passage plans survive in Hertford County. The Riddick House (HF9), just south of the Virginia border on SR 1319, was built by Abram Riddick as a two-story, five-bay, double-pile Federal-style frame dwelling around 1825. Shortly after, Riddick had two large shed dormers added to the roof, practically raising the building to a full three stories. During the Greek Revival period a two-story wing was added to the rear elevation.⁹³ The ca. 1860 Brown House (HF17) near Menola is another example of a center-passage double-pile plan. Probably built to accommodate increased spatial needs and changing social sensibilities, the dwelling is typical of the Greek Revival period with a few minor Victorian period additions. A one-story example of the center-passage double-pile plan is the W. W. Sessoms House (HF604) just north of the line with Bertie County on SR 1425. The Sessoms House is almost identical to the James Riddick House (HF38, which was located near Fraziers Crossroads, northwest of Ahoskie, but no longer survives), which was identified as a Greek Revival Cottage dated

⁹³ John B. Wells and Sherry Penney, National Register Nomination for the Riddick House, 1970

to between 1840 and 1863 and, according to tradition, built by Drew Holloman, a free black carpenter. The Sessoms House has an almost pyramidal hipped roof and a wide center passage dividing the four rooms. Each room is heated, but service functions were probably relegated to small shed rooms against the rear elevation of the dwelling or to ancillary structures, none of which survives. Its most unusual features are the enormous, almost floor-to-ceiling, six-over-six sash windows, two of which lit each of the front rooms and one of which lit the rear rooms. The overall one-story double-pile form of the Sessoms House, with its hipped or pyramidal roof, remained popular in Hertford County for the next one-hundred years, and most surviving example actually date to the first half of the twentieth century.

Besides the more common house plans discussed above, a few types survive that may have been more common when they were originally built but now form exceptions to the rules. The floor plan of the Askew House (HF452) of ca. 1800-10, near Pitch Landing on NC 561, consists of a rectangular footprint with four rooms and a small vestibule. The front elevation is two stories high and five bays wide and originally had a two-story pedimented portico emphasizing the central entrance bay, a typical configuration seen on numerous nineteenth-century dwellings across Hertford County. Instead of the expected center-passage plan, the entry door opens directly into the largest room on the first floor, presumably the hall. A fireplace against the east gable wall heats the room, and three doors lead to other parts of the dwelling. Two doors in the west wall of the hall give access to two almost equal-sized rooms against the west gable wall – a northwest room and a southwest room. Fireplaces on the west gable wall heat each of the rooms, connected by a door in the partition wall between them. A door in the north wall

of the hall gives access to a small vestibule at the back of the house, which provides access to a small unheated room in the northeast corner of the building and an enclosed winding stair leading to the second floor. The stair is physically located in the northwest room. A smaller version of the plan was documented by Carl Lounsbury in the Albertson House in Perquimans County, which dates to the late eighteenth century.⁹⁴ Only the front rooms were heated in the Albertson House, and a partition wall was added at some date to create a more formal center-passage plan. The plan is also somewhat reminiscent of the 1758 Cupola House in Edenton, in Chowan County.⁹⁵ It too has three heated rooms, and one smaller unheated room at the back. The main difference between the Cupola House and the Askew House, however, is the presence of the center-passage at the Cupola House. There are remnants of a continuous brick foundation laid in English bond underneath the west part of the Askew House, perhaps suggesting the presence of a root cellar. Another unusual feature is the brick relieving arch underneath the single chimney against the east gable end. The chimneys against the west gable end appear to have had solid bases.

Another floor plan rarely built in Hertford County is known as the transverse-passage plan. An example of this type is the ca. 1848 W. Winborn House (HF611), south of Harrellsville on SR 1437, in the eastern part of the county. The two-story dwelling has an L-shaped footprint, with a four-bay configuration on the front elevation. Two equally sized rooms divide the first floor, each with its own entry door in the front elevation. A door in the rear wall of the east room leads to the rear wing, which contains a small transverse passage with a dogleg stair leading to the second floor. A door in the east wall

⁹⁴ Lounsbury (1978), pp. 53 & 60.

⁹⁵ I would like to thank Carl Lounsbury for pointing out that fact. Personal communications March 2011.

of the passage originally led outside, and the door in the north wall gives access to a single room at the back of the wing. The three upstairs and downstairs rooms are all heated. A variation of this plan can still be seen at the ca. 1840 Copeland Farm (HF46) just north of Ahoskie on US 13. The two-story dwelling has a T-shaped footprint with a three-bay configuration on the front elevation. Double entry doors lead into a fairly narrow center passage, separating the two rooms in the front of the dwelling, which connects to the rear wing, where the stair is located in a transverse passage.

Whereas the plans of the W. Winborn House and the house at the Copeland Farm seem to follow some logic in separating formal and household function, the plan of a house (HF1188) on US 158 just west of Murfreesboro seems to lack any rationality. It is a relatively small one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, side-gabled frame dwelling that could possibly date to the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century based on the presence of HL hinges with leather washers in the rear section of the dwelling. The exterior appearance would suggest a hall-parlor plan, similar to that of a coastal cottage. However, the entry door opens into a front passage, sometimes referred to as a salon, which not only connects to the principal rooms on the first floor but also to two enclosed winding stairs on opposite gable ends that lead to the second floor.⁹⁶ Each of the two rooms on the second floor is heated and has a simple post-and-lintel mantel. A wide six-panel door with butt hinges connects the two rooms.

Whereas several eighteenth-century brick dwellings survive in Murfreesboro, none is known to have survived in the rural areas of Hertford County. Because of the difficulty of transporting bricks over any distance, they were often produced on or near

⁹⁶ Lanier & Herman, 138

the actual building site, together with the necessary mortar needed for construction. Craftsmen would construct temporary brick and lime kilns for a specific job and disassemble them once they were done. The colonial records mention a Chowan bricklayer by the name of George Chambers as early as the 1690s, who worked at William Duckenfield's plantation on Salmon Creek in Bertie County where he fired "three kilns of Bricks" and burned "300 bushells of oaster shells."⁹⁷ A brick dwelling which survived in Hertford County well into the twentieth century was Mulberry Grove (HF19), with stood west of St. John's on NC 561. Begun by Arthur Cotton in 1758, it was located approximately four miles west of St. John's. The dwelling originally was one-and-a-half stories on a foundation laid in English bond up to a molded water table and in Flemish bond above. When the dwelling was raised to a full two stories in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the builders used five-over-one common, or American, bond to finish it. The building had a T-shaped footprint with a frame two-story wing off the rear elevation and a full basement accessible only from the exterior underneath the brick section. Brick pilasters with wooden Doric capitals, added during the nineteenth-century renovations, divided the front elevation into three bays and gave the building its Greek Revival appearance. The brick section of the house had a side-passage double-pile plan.⁹⁸ Another brick dwelling located nearby, known as the Brick House (HF462), was reportedly built around 1750. Only a single photograph survives on file, showing us a two-story, three-bay, side-gabled brick dwelling with an interior chimney and one-story, hip-roofed brick wing off each gable end. The location of the

⁹⁷ Catherine W. Bishir, Charlotte V. Brown, Carl R. Lounsbury, and Ernest H. Wood III, *Architects and Builders in North Carolina: A History of the Practice of Building*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990): 32-33.

⁹⁸ Margaret Long Stephenson and Bruce S. Cheeseman, National Register Nomination for Mulberry Grove, 1980.

door suggests a side-passage plan. Modillions support the box cornice, and flat arches top the windows. Narrow openings in the foundation suggest the presence of a basement underneath the entire building, and the walls appear to be laid in three- or four-over-one common, or American, bond.

Despite the lack of surviving brick buildings in rural areas of Hertford County, there is plenty of evidence for the use of brick on a smaller scale in chimneys and foundations. The most common type of chimney is the exterior single- or double-shouldered gable-end chimney. Based on the correlation between the purpose and depth of the fireplace, the older chimneys are deeper. Fireplaces used to heat a space and for cooking needed to be bigger, and therefore the chimney would be bigger. Bigger fireplaces, however, also consumed more fuel, and with changing domestic functions and the construction of service wings or separate kitchens came a change to smaller, more fuel efficient fireplaces. An example of an early chimney can still be seen at the Vann House (HF602), where the chimney is four-and-a-half stretchers deep. A revolutionary change in the design of fireplaces was actually brought about by an American born inventor Benjamin Thompson, better known as Count Rumford.⁹⁹ Thompson designed a smaller, more fuel-efficient fireplace that would radiate heat better, and in some cases we can see that fireplaces were retrofitted to meet the new standards. Chimneys therefore gradually were slimmed down, until eventually their only purpose was that of a flue for a stove. Examples of three-and-a-half-stretcher-deep chimneys can be found at Maple Lawn (HF547) and the Miles Mitchell House (HF559), west of Harrellsville at the end of SR 1430, both from the first half of the nineteenth century. Not only are they the same

⁹⁹ John Meurig Thomas, "Rumford's Remarkable Creation," *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, Vol. 142, No. 4 (Dec., 1998), pp. 597-613

depth, they also are both double shouldered and share the feature of brick tumbling and paving at the shoulders. Double-shouldered chimneys also usually indicate the presence of fireplaces on the second floor. Most chimneys encountered in Hertford County are only three stretchers deep and most have stepped shoulders. In some cases there is a noticeable difference in the size of the upper and lower shoulders that correlates with the building's location. In the western part of the county the lower shoulders are often much more pronounced than in the eastern part of the county. This distinction may be attributed to local traditions being passed on from one generation to the next and craftsman working in relatively small geographic areas. Another feature seen on chimneys across the county is the application of a red wash, often in combination with the scoring of the mortar joints. Builders applied the red wash to provide an extra layer of protection from the elements. Early bricks and bricks fired in field kilns were not as hard as more modern bricks and thus were more susceptible to weathering, as can be clearly seen in some cases. The red wash could also be applied to lend uniformity to different colored bricks, which was also a side effect from early firing methods, or irregular mortar joints. In a technique known as penciling, the builder would score the mortar joints using a ruler and a sharp instrument and subsequently add a white line to give the finished chimney the appearance of brick masonry with tight joints.¹⁰⁰

Domestic & Agricultural Outbuildings

Few domestic or agricultural outbuildings survive from the period before the Civil War. Similar to the development of the dwelling, the house yard and the barnyard

¹⁰⁰ Lounsbury (1994), p. 266

evolved to reflect advances in domestic sensibilities as well as technological advances and changes in agriculture.

Domestic outbuildings can usually be divided into three categories based on their function: food preparation and storage, transportation, and domestic craftwork.¹⁰¹ The most common domestic outbuildings in Hertford County were kitchens, smoke- or meat-houses, and small storage buildings, followed by dairies and separate root cellars. For convenience, they were often located close to each other near the house, sometimes neatly aligned to reflect the organized manner of the house yard. Changes made in food processing and preservation over the centuries made some of them obsolete sooner than others. The most common surviving types are the kitchens and meat- or smokehouses, which often ended up being used for additional storage space. A rare surviving ensemble of domestic outbuildings is located behind the Joyner House (HF851), located on NC 561 at the Northampton County line. The current house dates to ca. 1922, but the domestic outbuildings predate the house and belong to a dwelling (HF850) that was moved to a different location nearby. Aligned in a neat row behind the current dwelling stand a one-story, side-gabled kitchen with a loft, a small front-gabled outbuilding presumably used for some form of storage, and a front-gabled smokehouse with two sheds off the side elevations. A similar grouping of buildings survives at the Harris House (HF826), northwest of Como on SR 1310. The house itself dates to around 1880, but the kitchen, meat- or smokehouse, and dairy were built for an earlier house, no longer extant, and date to the antebellum period.

¹⁰¹ Lanier & Herman, p. 52.

To avoid the dangers of fire consuming the main dwelling, and the smells associated with cooking, food preparation and cooking were often done in a separate kitchen, located in the yard near the main house. Kitchens were often small, one-story, one-room, structures. Despite the fact that kitchens were located in separate structures for the reasons mentioned above, over time they were literally pulled back to the house, either connected by an open breezeway or attached to an existing wing or the main block of the dwelling. An example of this can be seen at the Mitchell House (HF559), east of Ahoskie at the end of SR 1430, which dates to around 1839, where a semi-detached kitchen was incorporated into an enclosed rear wing. Changes in domestic engineering that took place during the twentieth century often led to the abandonment of the remaining freestanding kitchens and therefore few examples survive. Perhaps the oldest surviving freestanding kitchen is located behind Gray Gables (HF29) in Winton. This building reportedly dates to 1830, which possibly also makes it one of few buildings to survive the Union attack on Winton in 1862. It is a small rectangular, front-gabled building with an overhanging roof on the front gable end supported by plain braces providing a narrow sheltered outdoor workspace. Six-over-six sash windows pierce the side elevations and a large chimney with a decorative corbelled stack is located against the rear gable end. Similar to the development of the main dwelling's chimneys, over time the size of the chimney and the hearth in the kitchen were decreased in size. Initially cooking took place in a large open hearth, but by the middle of the nineteenth century iron cook stoves or ranges began to replace them, requiring only a brick flue to vent them.¹⁰²

¹⁰² Ibid.

After the kitchen itself, the smoke- or meat-house was an indispensable part of any household. Used to smoke or cure meats, smoke- or meat-houses were small structures open on the interior to the roof. Various forms of smoke- or meat-houses survive in Hertford County. The front-gabled type with two shed wings seen at the Joyner House (HF851) is one of the more common types. A second type that appears to have been more common in the eastern half of the county is a side-gabled structure with two doors in the front elevation. An example of this type can be seen at the ca. 1860 John Sharp House (HF587) east of Harrellsville. Sometimes located near the kitchen and the meat- or smokehouse was a dairy used to store milk, butter, and cheese. However, the South as a whole was not a big dairy producing region, and to have a dairy therefore represented the privilege of having dairy cows and their dairy products.¹⁰³ Dairies in this part of North Carolina were therefore very small and at times resembled the smokehouses. An example of an early dairy survives at the Powell-Horton House (HF673), located west of Ahoskie near Rt. 11. It is a small square structure with a pyramidal roof. A door with a three-light transom is located in the front elevation and louvered vents are located in the side elevations, just below the cornice. Two similar structures with pyramidal roofs once stood near the Askew House (HF452) and were identified as a smokehouse and a dairy. A third example of a dairy survives at the Harris House (HF826). It is a small rectangular frame structure with a hipped-roof, which extends over the front elevation creating a covered workspace. A larger example is found at Maple Lawn (HF547). Currently heavily overgrown, it is a shed-roofed brick structure which originally had a complete lath and plaster interior. An example of a so-called stilted dairy survives at the Britt House

¹⁰³ John Michael Vlach, *Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1993), p. 79.

(HF461), close to the Virginia border. The house dates to around 1860, but the stilted dairy itself may date to the late nineteenth century or even the turn of the twentieth century. At the Britt House, it is a small shed-roofed structure, not much bigger than a doghouse, raised off the ground by its own corner posts, which extend down past the sill. Because of their small size they could be moved around the house-yard.

Another domestic storage outbuilding was the root cellar. Some root cellars were located beneath the main dwelling, such as is the case with the Deane House (HF28), but in other circumstances they could be separate structures, either partly submerged or entirely above ground. An example of a root cellar, in this case identified as a sweet-potato cellar, is located behind the Newsome-Hall House (HF623). It is a small front-gabled brick structure, laid in common bond, with a small batten door in the front gable end and a stuccoed interior.

Since indoor plumbing did not become a standard feature until the early twentieth century a latrine was often housed in a separate structure, known as a privy or necessary house. Consisting of not much more than a small frame structure containing a bench with holes, they were placed away from the house.¹⁰⁴ Because of their rudimentary construction, they tended to deteriorate quickly when they became obsolete and no early examples are known to have survived.

Also located in the house yard was a well. Often located in an accessible spot, they could in some cases be found in the kitchen or under a porch.¹⁰⁵ Wells could be lined with wood, or even barrels to make their construction quicker or more economical. A brick-lined well survives next to the earliest dwelling at the Brown House (HF17),

¹⁰⁴ Lounsbury (1994), pp. 241 & 292.

¹⁰⁵ Lanier and Herman, p. 58.

which may date to as early as 1797. Water was drawn from a well with a so-called well sweep, a lifting device consisting of a long timber pivoted on a tall post. One of these posts survives at the Vann House (HF602), as does the original well lined with modern glazed terra cotta well curb.

Another example of a domestic outbuilding is the so-called bunkhouse, of which only two known examples survive in Hertford County. Bunkhouses were used as additional sleeping quarters for the male members of the household. One example is located at the James Newsome House (HF33), just west of Ahoskie on Rt. 11.¹⁰⁶ It is a one-story, three-bay, side-gabled frame dwelling with a single exterior chimney against one of the gable ends. A larger example of a bunkhouse survives at the Cedars (HF14). It is a one-story, side-gabled frame dwelling with a porch running along the front elevation. Building evidence suggests that it probably more than doubled its size at some point.

Other domestic outbuildings such as workshops for blacksmiths, coopers, cordwainers (i.e., shoemakers), wagon builders, and furniture makers do not seem to have survived from the early period. In some cases these functions could have been housed in lean-tos constructed against other outbuildings. This may also be the case for transportation-related outbuildings, of which no individual examples seem to have survived. Sometimes referred to as a chair house, carriage house was a place to shelter a carriage or buggy and may have incorporated stable functions and storage for riding gear.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁶ Marshall Bullock, National Register Nomination for the James Newsome House, 1984

¹⁰⁷ Lounsbury (1994), p. 68.

There were also outbuildings that would have connected the domain of the house yard with the barnyard and the world beyond, such as offices, commissaries, and slave quarters. Public or private business transactions would take place in offices, and a few survive from the period before the Civil War, such as the one at Maple Lawn (HF547) located in line with the kitchen. It is a one-story, side-gabled frame structure, about the same size as the kitchen, and has an exterior chimney against the south gable end and lath and plaster on the interior. Another possible example of an office, although less refined than the one at Maple Lawn, is a small outbuilding at the Gatlin-Liverman Farm (HF16). This small story-and-half building was left unfinished on the interior, and there is no evidence of a heat source, but the presence of two windows in one of the long elevations suggests it could have been a workshop or office. An example of a commissary survives at the Deane House (HF28). The term commissary originated in the army, where it was a store or storehouse handling food and merchandise at a military post, camp, or station or the title of the officer in charge of such a store.¹⁰⁸ At the Deane House it is a small, side-gabled frame structure with flush board siding on the interior and gridiron straps over the windows. A small fixed writing desk is located in the corner next to the entry door. At some point the building was doubled in size and a larger counter was added. Similar to a military commissary, it probably sold food and merchandise to farmhands or people living nearby.

Slave quarters were sometimes divided into two separate types, one for house slaves and one for field slaves. The percentage of slaves employed as domestic servants compared to those working in the fields was small. House slaves would typically be

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.nps.gov/goga/historyculture/glossary.htm>, accessed February, 2011

located closer to the house. Depending on the size of the house or the wealth (or lack thereof) of the owner, they would be housed in the main dwelling or the loft of the kitchen. Field slaves on the other hand would be located closer to the fields.¹⁰⁹ According to the 1860 Slave Schedule for Hertford County, there were 2,282 males slaves and 2,163 female slaves representing almost 47% of the total population of the county; they were distributed among 432 slaveholders and housed in approximately 953 slave houses. The number of slave houses seems extremely large when compared to the number of dwellings for both white and free colored persons listed in the 1850 census, which was only 831 for a total population of 8,142.¹¹⁰ The second largest slaveholder in the county in 1860 was Abram Riddick, who owned sixty-four male and thirty-four female slaves housed in fifteen slave houses. Campbell's 1863 map of Hertford County shows a large grouping of buildings and the name A. Riddick, but does not identify them as quarters. There are, however, several references on the map referring to quarters – "Qrs" – with an owner's name in front of it, although none of these particular buildings seem to have survived. The distribution of slaves and slave houses is not perfectly clear from the census data. For instance, Benjamin Hare owned one female slave and had one slave house, whereas for John O. Askew who was the largest slaveholder in Hertford County, owning one-hundred slaves (forty-four male and fifty-six female), no slave houses are mentioned in the census data.

Only two extant slave houses, or likely slave houses, were recorded during the 2010-11 survey. One is now part of the James Newsome House (HF33), as a wing that

¹⁰⁹ For an in depth study of the architecture of plantation slavery see John Michael Vlach, *Back of the Big House*.

¹¹⁰ There are no census records for the numbers of houses in 1860.

has been attached to the main dwelling. Its original central interior chimney was replaced with a gable-end chimney.

Agricultural outbuildings tell the history of the agricultural landscape just as dwelling houses tell the social history of a place. They remind us of the kinds of crops farmers may have grown and how they stored their harvests and organized their work.¹¹¹ They also track advances made in agriculture sciences and regional differences in constructing specific types of agricultural outbuildings. The earliest surviving census records dealing with agriculture date to 1820 and they list only the number of people engaged in agriculture in Hertford County: 2,350, which was approximately 30.5% of the total population.¹¹² Thirty-five people were engaged in commerce and 144 in manufacturing at that time. Early settlers would have been subsistence farmers often growing just enough of a variety of crops to provide for themselves and perhaps barter. Crops such as corn, wheat, flax, and tobacco were important early on. In some cases farmers started orchards to grow apples, pears, cherries, or peaches. Besides growing crops on improved lands, farmers could utilize woodlands to produce materials for naval stores, such as tar, pitch, and turpentine, or staves for the production of barrels. The primary cash crops during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were corn, wheat, and tobacco.¹¹³ The invention of the cotton gin, by Eli Whitney in 1793, brought about a change in the profitability of cotton, which then quickly surpassed tobacco as the leading cash crop.¹¹⁴ By 1850, there were 55,222 acres of improved farmland in Hertford County

¹¹¹ Lanier and Herman, p. 177

¹¹² <http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/index.html>, accessed March, 2010.

¹¹³ Catherine W. Bishir and Michael I. Southern. *A Guide to the Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996, pp. 10-11.

distributed among 378 farms. By 1860, the number of improved acres and farms had gone up to 73,270 and 456 respectively. Roughly 44%, or 202 farms, contained between 100 and 499 acres. One-hundred-and-nine farms contained between 20 and 49 acres, 91 between 50 and 99 acres, and 21 between 500 and 999 acres. Perhaps surprising, there were eight farms containing 1,000 acres or more of farmland.¹¹⁵ The importance of the railroad in getting crops to market would not play a role in Hertford County until after the Civil War.

Like slave quarters, few agricultural outbuildings predating the Civil War seem to survive in Hertford County. Since farms were relatively small and crops so diversified, large barns such as seen in parts of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania or to the west towards the Piedmont were uncommon in Hertford County. Farmers could have utilized smaller outbuildings in various ways, such as to store hay and feed, to shelter horses or other farm animals, as granaries or corncribs, or to protect wagons from the weather. Three potentially pre-Civil War barns survive: one at the Vann House (HF603), one at the James Newsome House (HF33), and one at the Parker House (HF810), southeast of Murfreesboro on SR 1167. Because of subsequent additions, the original configurations of the barns are difficult to determine. All three barns have open sheds, which could be part of the original design or later additions, that could be used as additional work or storage areas or places for people or livestock to take shelter in inclement weather. A ca. 1850 cider barn survives behind the Brown House (HF470).¹¹⁶ In its original

¹¹⁴ Angela Lakwete, *Inventing the Cotton Gin: Machine and Myth in Antebellum America*, Baltimore Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003

¹¹⁵ More research is needed to determine who these landowners were.

¹¹⁶ Nancy Van Dolsen National Register for the Wiley and Jane Vann Brown House, 2006

configuration it was a one-and-a-half-story, front-gabled frame structure. Shed additions built in the twentieth century give the building the appearance of a large smokehouse. Because similar looking structures could be utilized in various ways, and because most of them lost their function over time – now most are being used to storage – it has become extremely difficult to determine the original functions of the surviving outbuildings.

Religious Buildings

The establishment of Hertford County in 1759 coincided with the formation of the Anglican parish of St. Barnabas within its bounds. However, the Baptist Church gained prominence before the end of the eighteenth century and remains the most popular denomination within the county to the present. Church architecture was as susceptible to architectural trends as domestic architecture and was similarly driven by demands for the need for space or specified room functions. Rather than add on to an existing building to meet the demands of a growing congregation, churches would often rebuild. Therefore, although numerous churches survive in name from the 1863 map of Hertford County, only two are known to predate the Civil War, namely Pleasant Grove Baptist Church (HF574) of 1837, south of Menola on SR 1118, and Mt. Tabor Baptist Church (HF562) of 1859, between Murfreesboro and Winton on US 158, both of which are of frame construction and were expanded in the twentieth century.

Godwin Cotton Moore (1806-1880) donated the land for Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in 1837. Moore was born at nearby Mulberry Grove (HF19) and was a devout Baptist. He was educated at Hertford Academy, the University of North Carolina, and

the University of Pennsylvania. He received his medical degree at the latter in 1828.¹¹⁷ The original church had a simple rectangular footprint with a Doric tetrastyle temple front sheltering the entry doors and a small one-story wing off the back. The recent addition of vinyl siding has obscured many of the original details, but the fluted blocks on the entablature – undoubtedly intended to represent triglyphs – remain visible and are even extended to mimic the guttae, or drops, below as would be required of academically correct Doric triglyphs. Originally, single-panel double doors flanked a large twelve-over-twelve sash window in the front gable end and four identical windows pierced each of the long elevations, lighting the sanctuary. The doors and windows had molded surrounds and simple decorative crowns, imitating an interrupted entablature on the long elevation. The elongated windows also had simple panels below, making them appear even longer. In 1952, the twelve-over-twelve sashes were replaced with nine-over-nine sashes with a round-arched or compass window above. The Greek Revival detailing was carried over into the interior with molded door and window surrounds with diamond-patterned corner blocks similar to that seen on the exterior door and window surrounds at Bynum Place (HF536) and on the interior second floor door and window surrounds at the nearby Taylor Farm (HF594).

The congregation of Mt. Tabor Baptist Church (HF562) was organized in 1839, but the church itself was built about twenty years later. A photograph published in Frank Stephenson's *Renaissance in Carolina, 1971-1976* shows the church in a slightly different configuration than the current.¹¹⁸ The main body of the church consists of a rectangular front-gabled sanctuary, with a large but slightly lower, front-gabled narthex, which is

¹¹⁷ *The Moore Family*, p.8 – <http://www.stanford.edu/~moore/Moore.pdf>, accessed March, 2010

¹¹⁸ Frank E. Stephenson, *Renaissance in North Carolina, 1970-1976*, p. 156

almost as wide as the sanctuary; this could have been added later. Short square towers with hipped roofs are located on the east and west slopes of the narthex. The windows in the front gable end of the church are six-over-six sash, and in the wings (and likely the sanctuary as well) large nine-over-nine sash. At some point during the twentieth century, the two small towers were removed and in their place a narrow two-tiered steeple was placed on the roof ridge of the sanctuary at the front end and all the sash windows were replaced with opaque leaded-glass windows.

Educational Buildings

Initially education was a privilege of the elite, and Hertford County followed the model of most southern communities where only families with the means to hire a tutor or pay for a private school could educate their children. Because of its location on the Meherrin River, Murfreesboro profited from the triangular trade between North Carolina, the West Indies, and New England that attracted businessmen from outside the state who were interested in education.¹¹⁹ By the early nineteenth century, Murfreesboro was home to what a visitor describes as “a very large and elegant Brick Academy,” perhaps a reference to the Hertford Academy built in 1810 where Rev. Jonathan Otis Freeman taught reading, spelling, arithmetic, Latin, Greek, geography, English grammar, natural philosophy, and logic.¹²⁰ Around 1825, Harriet Sketchley purchased the building as a school for young ladies, and in 1848 it was acquired for the Chowan Female Institute which later became Chowan College. In 1855, the college sold it to Albert Gamaliel

¹¹⁹ Bishir and Southern, p. 272

¹²⁰ Ibid., and <http://www.murfreesboronc.org/hertford.htm>, accessed May, 2011.

Jones, who remodeled it into a residence.¹²¹ A two-story, five-bay, hip-roofed brick structure inspired by the late Georgian and early Federal styles, it was, like many early educational buildings, technically no more than a large house.

Despite the fact that the economy sagged after the War of 1812, education blossomed and two denominational schools were built in the early 1850s: the Wesleyan Female College and the Chowan Baptist Female Institute. Their buildings would have been among the biggest construction projects in the state at the time. The building for the Wesleyan Female College was erected in 1853; it was designed by Thomas L. Fentress and built by Albert Gamaliel Jones. It was a four-story, nine-bay, hip-roofed brick building with a pedimented portico supported by four colossal classical column covering the three central bays and a large octagonal cupola on the roof. Unfortunately, it burned down in 1893, and only its commemorative cornerstone survives. Albert Gamaliel Jones was also involved with the construction of the main building at the Chowan Baptist Female Institute in 1851-52, which does survive till this day and is known as The Columns. Now the centerpiece of Chowan University, the three-story brick building, with its full-height and full-width portico, was one of the largest Greek Revival-style buildings built in the state at the time.¹²²

Industrial Buildings

Grist, flour, and lumber mills were part of the early industrial landscape of Hertford County. Since none of the early mills have survived, little is known about them. Often the only reminder on the landscape is a millpond. Campbell's 1863 map of

¹²¹ <http://www.albemarle-nc.com/murfreesboro/history/academy.htm>, accessed March, 2010

¹²² Bishir and Southern, p. 273

Hertford County does identify eight mills.¹²³ *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory* for 1867 also lists eight mills and their owners. Branson identifies one grist mill, four grist and flour mills, and three saw mills.¹²⁴ Only a post-Civil War reconstruction of a gristmill survives: Hare's Mill (HF494) located southeast of Winton. Another important early industry in Hertford County, which has left no tangible reminders, is the fishing industry. Campbell's map identifies seven fisheries on the Chowan, Meherrin, and Wiccacon Rivers.¹²⁵ The fishing industry remained an important part of Hertford County's economy until well into the twentieth century.

Civil War to World War I, 1861-1910

Shortly before and after the Civil War, building activity slowed down nationally, but the period between 1865 and 1885 became "The Age of Energy," according to Howard Mumford Jones.¹²⁶ The growing industrialization led to changes in building traditions. The introduction of commercially sawn lumber and machine-made nails during the nineteenth century led to the eventual disappearance of the traditional joined

¹²³ Vaughn's Mill north of Murfreesboro, Carter's Mill south of Murfreesboro, Liverman's Mill – identified as Leveret's on the Gilmer Map – southeast of Benthall Bridge, White's Mill northeast of Aulander, Sharp's Mill north of Harrellsville, Fort Bridge Mill southeast of Bethlehem, Montgomery's Mill northwest of Bethlehem, and Big Mill on the Chowan, east of Harrellsville. The Gilmer Map also identifies a Jenkins' Mill just north of Mount Tabor Church between Winton and Murfreesboro, and Hare's Mill southeast of Winton.

¹²⁴ Some of the names in Branson's directory correspond with those on the map, whereas others are different. It is not clear whether these mills would have changed hands after 1863. Jenkins & Darden own a grist mill; John H. Jenniger a grist and flour mill; Wm. G. Gatling a flour and grist mill; Jordan & Overby a saw mill; McBlair & Sharp a saw mill; James S. Stevenson a saw mill; Lawrence Askew a grist and flour mill; and Jackson B. Hare a grist and flour mill.

¹²⁵ Five of the fisheries are located on the Chowan River; Mount Pleasant's, Liberty Hill's, Askew's, Jordan's, and Bryan's – identified as Brennan's on the Gilmer Map – fisheries, Hay's fishery on the Wiccacon, and one on the Meherrin River only identified as "Fishery" between Murfreesboro and Hill's Ferry.

¹²⁶ Roth, p. 126. Howard Mumford Jones, was a professor of English at Harvard University, and published *The Age of Energy Varieties of American Experience 1865-1915*, in 1971

timber frame. This change was gradual, and preceded by combination frames: a hybrid of heavy timber framing and lighter construction techniques.¹²⁷ Like traditional joined timber frames, these combination frames utilized heavy hewn or sawn sills, diagonal braces, and principal corner posts, but they also incorporated multiple vertical studs, made of dimension-sawn lumber and nailed joints. The so-called balloon frame revolutionized timber construction practices even more. Introduced in the Midwest in the 1830s, balloon framing represented a major departure from the traditional ways of building in wood. Carpenters no longer needed to work with large heavy timbers or know how to cut and fit complex mortise-and-tenon joints. Instead the balloon frame utilized light, dimension-cut studs set closely together, extending up to two floors in height, and nailed instead of joined together with mortises, tenons, and pegs. The widespread availability of machine-cut nails helped the spread of balloon-frame construction. Balloon framing was also less labor intensive than traditional timber construction, economized on materials, and accelerated the building process.¹²⁸ Balloon framing eventually evolved into platform framing, a method of construction still used today.

Growing industrialization also contributed to a proliferation of new styles. A multiplicity of modes was available, including the Gothic Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne. At the same time, the Centennial in 1876, furthermore, inspired a return to colonial forms such as purer Georgian or Federal-style houses, especially in the design of country houses, or simply the application of classically inspired elements such as door surrounds

¹²⁷ Ibid., p. 92.

¹²⁸ Ibid., p. 93.

to existing dwellings or to newly built houses with an indistinct overall style. Despite the material losses suffered during the Civil War, such as the burning of much of Winton by Union troops on February 20, 1862, Hertford County began to rebuild and like its neighboring counties initially relied on familiar forms and technologies. Some of these architectural traditions persisted until around World War I. We therefore encounter similar house types for a long period, which at times makes it difficult to place them accurately on a timeline. The Greek Revival style remained popular after the Civil War, supported by more accurate archaeological findings and publications. More architectural handbooks and builder's manuals were published, disseminating existing and new trends more quickly, and improvements in transportation, agriculture, and the beginning of an industrialized system led to great expansion, including the creation a broad middle class able to patronize the arts and architecture.¹²⁹ There was a small decrease in the population of Hertford County between 1860 and 1870, when it dropped by roughly 2.4 percent from 9,504 to 9,273, but by 1880 the population had increased approximately 21.7 percent to 11,843.¹³⁰ The earliest census records for housing date to 1890 and list the number of houses in Hertford County at 2,389. The records show a steady 8% increase over the following four decades.

Houses

A style that never fully took hold in Hertford County for domestic buildings was the Gothic Revival, popular throughout the United States from around 1840 through the late 1880s. No high-style examples of Gothic Revival survive in Hertford County, but its

¹²⁹ Ibid., p. 85.

¹³⁰ Both Bertie and Gates County saw a decrease in population between 1860 and 1870, 9.5% and 8.5% respectively, whereas Northampton County saw a 9.3% increase.

influence occasionally appears in certain elements, such as steeply pitched gables, lancet windows, and mantelpieces. An early example of the latter can be seen at the Shepherd House (HF589) near Como. The oldest section of the house dates to ca. 1777 and there is a Greek Revival addition dated to the 1850s. The mantel in the Greek Revival addition combines a classically inspired reeded frieze and reeded pilasters with rudimentary capitals with three recessed lancet shapes evocative of the Gothic Revival. A similar treatment was used on one of the mantelpieces at the Riddick House (HF9) on SR 1319 just south of the Virginia state line. At the Shepherd House, the lancet theme is continued on the four square paneled posts which carry the pedimented portico. A minimalist approach to the Gothic Revival style can also be seen at the ca. 1880 Powell-Myers Farm (HF42), southwest of Ahoskie just south of Rt. 42, where panels with recessed molded lancet shapes are located below the sidelights flanking the entry door. Individual examples also survive of the use of lancet, or pointed-arch, windows at the Askew House (HF919) in St. Johns, ca. 1890, and at a house south of Ahoskie on SR 1101 near the Bertie County border (HF774) dated to around 1880. Combined with a so-called triple-A roof (side-gabled with a third gable centered above the façade), the shape of these dwellings is often reminiscent of examples offered by Andrew Jackson Downing in his design or pattern books, such as *Cottage Residences* (1847). Downing's designs were even heralded as the way of the future by some, such as William H. Owen, a professor at Wake Forest College, who in 1853 lamented the shortcomings of traditional domestic architecture and suggested that people scale down:

The cottage style of building is becoming fashionable, and deservedly so, as it combines more of the requirements of comfort, taste, beauty and variety than any other. It is also in less danger from storms, lightning and

fires, particularly the last, which frequently breaks out in the second story. The cottage style, however, does not always reject the second story.¹³¹

Whether or not Owen's words had a direct impact on the domestic architecture in Hertford County remains to be answered, but there is a clear increase in the number of smaller dwellings after the Civil War. A change undoubtedly also fueled by decreased landownership and the development of the tenant farming system. Despite the fact that the Gothic Revival had little direct effect on domestic architecture it was of course extremely popular for religious architecture as will be discussed below.

Even with the increase in the number of smaller cottages, the I-house remained ubiquitous. Because of its generic form, it lent itself well to vernacular expressions of most architectural styles. Whereas the Greek Revival style remained in vogue, other styles gained popularity and dwellings were often updated to reflect current trends. Certain elements of the Italianate style proved to be very popular in Hertford County after the Civil War. Originating in England as part of the Picturesque movement, alongside the Gothic Revival, the Italianate style usually features a decorative, bracketed cornice under a wide overhanging roof. There are no high-style examples of the Italianate style in Hertford County, but the bracketed cornice became a popular design element here during the second half of the nineteenth century.

The popularity of the work of Jacob W. Holt, a builder originally from Virginia, undoubtedly left its mark on the architecture of Hertford County.¹³² Born in Prince Edward County, Virginia, Holt's career spanned almost half a century, from the 1830s until his death in 1880. During that time he not only worked in Virginia and North

¹³¹ As quoted in Lounsbury (1978), p. 59.

¹³² Catherine W. Bishir, "Jacob W. Holt: An American Builder," in *Southern Built: American Architecture, Regional Practice*, Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2006, pp. 11-52

Carolina, but was also influenced by the Greek Revival and Italianate styles and some of the more eclectic styles during the post-Civil War period. Like other builders during the period he would have drawn inspiration from the various pattern books that were available and would have interpreted these in his own specific manner. In Hertford County his name is directly associated with two houses in Murfreesboro, the ca. 1870 Vinson House (HF665) and the David Alexander Barnes House (HF31) of 1875. The Vinson and Barnes Houses share several of Holt's design elements, such as the paired windows on the front elevation, the decorative trim along the porch, the ornate horseshoe trusses on the gables, the quatrefoil windows in the gable peaks, the molded corner boards with delicately sawn capitals, and the paneled frieze with brackets supporting the wide overhang of the roof.

Whether or not Holt can be seen as the originator of these elements, numerous houses across Hertford County follow their examples. A more modest interpretation of the style is seen on a house (HF917) in St. John's, which dates to around 1880. It is a traditional three-bay I-house with a triple-A roof, and it is clad in plain weatherboard siding with paneled corner boards divided by patera, or disks, with sawn bracket capitals. The corner boards support a flat-paneled frieze, and curved brackets with decorative pendants carry the wide overhang of the roof. The cross gable on the northeast (front) elevation has a decorative horseshoe-like truss with delicate saw work, and a quatrefoil vent similar to the ones Holt used at the Vinson and Barnes Houses pierces the gable peak. The newer section of the Brown House (HF17) in Menola, built in 1861, is an example of combining more traditional Greek Revival elements with post-Civil War Victorian elements. Whereas the door and window surrounds are emblematic of the

Greek Revival style, with the molded trim and patera on the corner blocks, the molded corner boards and the original treatment of the front porch are typical of the Victorian period. In fact, the decorative porch brackets visible in a photograph of the Brown House from around 1897 are identical to those on the Vinson and Barnes houses, suggesting they were added later in an effort of the owner to “keep up with the Joneses.” This newfound love for the Victorian style was carried through to the interior, where the mantelpieces are reflective of the period.

Another example of the eclecticism of the post-Civil War period is the ca. 1870 Mitchell Farm (HF558) on SR 1112, just north of the Bertie County line. The house, which exhibits at least two building periods in three primary building units, is not only indicative of the various architectural styles that were popular in Hertford County during the nineteenth century, but also illustrates how owners expanded their dwellings to both accommodate growing domestic needs and display their sensibilities towards new architectural trends. The newest section is the Victorian three-bay I-house with a triple-A roof and single-shouldered gable-end chimneys. Clad in beaded weatherboard siding, which is unusual for this late date, it has elaborately paneled corner boards with large diamond motifs at the center and four smaller diamond shapes at the top below the sawn capitals emulating Jacob W. Holt’s style. Plain square posts with Chinese Chippendale-style brackets support the hip-roofed porch on the east (front) elevation.¹³³ A wide center passage divides the house into almost three equal spaces. The rooms, both upstairs and down, have lath-and-plaster walls with molded baseboards and panels below the

¹³³ Europeans had been fascinated with eastern design motifs for a long time, but it was not until the eighteenth century that they spread across the decorative arts, and in a limited fashion, to architecture. The English cabinet-maker and furniture designer Thomas Chippendale offered numerous Chinese inspired designs in *The Gentleman and Cabinet Maker’s Director* (1754, 1755, and 1762) that were very popular in the American Colonies and remained so well into the nineteenth century. See Lounsbury (1994), p. 76.

windows. The downstairs mantels are very opulent. Both mantels have chamfered pilasters supporting a wide frieze; the more elaborate of the two has three fluted blocks supporting a heavy molded shelf. The section off the rear elevation of the main block of the house originated as a smaller freestanding, side-gabled frame I-house, probably built at the beginning of the nineteenth century. It is slightly shorter and narrower than the Victorian structure and was built with a two-story porch on the east elevation and two double-shoulder gable end chimneys. The interior features plastered walls, mantelpieces with reeded elements beaded baseboards, and a chair rail doubling as a windowsill. A boxed-in winding stair accessed from the center passage is clad in wide flush beaded boards. When the Victorian I-house was built, the gable roof of the earlier dwelling was replaced with a low pitched shed roof springing from the cornice of the new unit. The 1976 photographs of the exterior show that the south gable-end wall of the rear section was altered to rise above the shed roof as a flat parapet with a bracketed and molded box cornice with serrated trim that lined up with the box cornice of the front section, supported by brackets.

A fascination with more exotic forms can also be seen on the porch of a house (HF798) southeast of Murfreesboro on SR 1188. Dated to around 1870, the form of the house itself is an archetypal I-house, with a low-pitched gable roof and a box cornice with gable-end returns typical of a Greek Revival style dwelling. However, the treatment of the two-story porch on the front elevation borders on the bizarre, and was undoubtedly derived from a pattern book. The railings on the first and second floor are more common and reminiscent of the geometrical Chinese patterns introduced by Thomas Chippendale. The pillars supporting each level of the porch and the brackets, though, are uncommon.

The pillars are square up to the railing, after which they not only taper but also receive an increasing chamfer, making them octagonal at the top. Raised blocks, with a recessed and stylized hourglass motif, emphasize the location on the pillars where they start to taper. The capitals have an arrowhead motif, which is repeated as an interrupted jagged-edge along the cornice, and the sawn brackets have small pendants and are purely decorative.

After the Civil War, American architecture became increasingly eclectic, combining decorative elements of the Italianate or Queen Anne styles, and even the Gothic Revival style. This eclecticism is evident across Hertford County in the application of elaborately sawn trim and spindlework detailing, usually on traditional forms. The Dukes House (HF912) in Union, ca. 1880, is a good example. The overall massing of the house is still that of a traditional I-house with a triple-A roof and the treatment of the corner boards is reminiscent of the work of Jacob W. Holt. However, the ornate bargeboards and the curved brackets and acorn shaped pendants, which support the deep eaves of the roof, are much more frivolous and typical of the late Victorian period. Another decorative feature of the Dukes House that occurs at various levels of ornamentation across Hertford County is the keyhole motif of the sawn porch supports. In this case, the supports are almost identical to the ones on the Gatlin-Liverman Farm (HF16), which dates to around 1875. Perhaps the most unusual example of sawn porch supports is found on the 1877 Worrell House, in Murfreesboro, known locally as the Gingerbread House. The posts have cut-outs depicting standing figures in a gesturing orator's pose and stylized star motifs.

Smaller but still elaborate examples of the late Victorian style are found on the ca. 1880 Snipes House (HF21) just east of Menola on SR 1141. The Snipes House is typical of the more elaborate small late nineteenth-century rural dwellings found in Hertford County. It also is characteristic of a fair number of houses in Hertford County in that it encompasses multiple construction phases, with the older section of the house serving as a wing to a newer, more stylistically advanced, front part. The front part in this case is a one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled frame dwelling with a triple-A roof and ornate sawn woodwork and spindle decorations. A hip-roofed porch wraps around the front elevation and north gable end. Plain square posts on brick pedestals, with small sawn brackets and connected by a delicate spindle frieze, support the porch roof. The brackets extend along the bottom of the frieze and meet at the center of each bay to form a decorative scroll pattern. The spindle frieze is repeated in the gable peak of the cross gable on the front elevation. Perhaps an even more elaborate example of the style is found on the north side of Evans Town Road (SR 1434), just north of the Bertie County line in the eastern part of the county. This small, one-story frame dwelling (HF872) with a triple-A roof also dates to around 1880. Elaborately sawn ornamental tracing decorates the cross gable and two types of decoratively sawn edges trim the rake of the cross gable and the cornice and frieze along the front elevation and gable ends.

That these styles remained current for an extended period becomes evident from the Parker House (HF891) in Menola on SR 1146, which dates to the beginning of the twentieth century. It is a traditional small, one-story, three-bay, side-gabled frame dwelling with a triple-A roof and notable trim on the porch and the gable ends. A hip-roofed porch wraps around the front elevation and the east and west gable ends. Turned

posts with delicately sawn brackets, which look like menorahs, support the roof. A decorative dart trim connects the posts at the top while a more elaborate dart trim edges the front and side gable ends. Highly ornate horseshoe-shaped gable ornaments, perhaps inspired by the work of Jacob W. Holt or derived from pattern books, are located in the gable peaks. The most embellished example is located on the front gable sheathed in half-cove shingles and features a diamond-shaped blind window with a rectangular pinwheel pattern.

Spindlework and patterned shingles were distinctive features of the Queen Anne style, which was popular during roughly the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth. Popularized by a group of English architects, the style is characterized by contrasts of forms, materials, and textures.¹³⁴ Plain walls were seldom seen in this style; instead, walls often were decorated with varied textures and their surface planes frequently were broken by bay windows and overhangs and sometimes even towers. The Queen Anne style would also utilize contrasting forms of complex rooflines and projecting bays. Chimneys were often large and inspired by medieval designs with the masonry surfaces enlivened with patterns of projecting and receding brickwork.

The Queen Anne style proved to be popular across much of the country, and about a dozen examples survive in Hertford County. An early example, illustrating the gradual acceptance of new trends, is located at 201 North Main Street in Winton (HF1145). The house dates to around 1880 and combines the traditional I-house form with the typical Queen Anne-style two-story cutaway bay and wrap-around porch.

Chimneys are placed against the rear elevation, as opposed to the gable ends, a trend that

¹³⁴ Lanier and Herman, pp. 159-162

became popular following the Civil War and exhibited by houses across the county, especially in Union. Decorative brackets with a ball pendant support the overhanging roof on the east corner of the cutaway bay; the turned posts supporting the porch roof and the top rail with pendants that connects the posts are very similar to those seen on another Queen Anne style dwelling (HF1094), located at 800 North Main Street. Whereas the house at 201 North Main Street (HF1145) retained a more traditional shape, the house at 800 North Main Street (HF1094), which dates to around 1890, displays more features of the Queen Anne style, such as the steeply pitched roof with an irregular shape, the patterned shingles, the cutaway bay windows, the full width porch that wraps around the side elevations, and the paneled chimneys with decorative corbelling. The windows are one-over-one sash, and square Queen Anne-style windows, consisting of a large central pane surrounded by smaller colored panes of glass, are located in the gable peaks, which include diamond-shaped patterned shingles on the two front gables on the front elevation and square shingles in an irregular pattern on the side gables. Slender turned posts with elaborate turned capitals support the porch roof and are connected at the top by a simple rail with sawn pendants and at the bottom by molded handrail and square bottom rail with single chamfered balusters at the center. A small polygonal section of the porch projects off the west corner of the porch and has a decorative finial on top.

Several of these features are also seen on other houses in Winton in more or less full-scale renditions of the Queen Anne style. Probably the most high-style example of a Queen Anne-style dwelling, not only in Winton but also in all of Hertford County, is Gray Gables (HF29), which dates to around 1898 and has been on the National Register since 1982. The three-story frame structure features an octagonal corner tower shingled

on its third story and topped by a conical roof supported by pendant brackets. A porch with turned posts is supported by turned balusters and a delicate spindle frieze carries across the top of the porch.

Numerous rural examples of the Queen Anne style survive in Hertford County. Perhaps the most elaborate is the ca. 1889 Burbage House (HF512), north of Como on US 258, which exemplifies how national architectural trends and changes in household needs shaped the county's architecture during the nineteenth century. The house is part of the Winborne Estate, and the oldest section of the house reportedly dates to 1778. The dwelling is a two-story frame building in an L-shaped plan with several additions. The most striking architectural elements of the house are the wraparound porch and the cutaway second-floor bay window on the front gable end. Turned posts with sawn scrolled brackets support the porch roof and a decorative sawn frieze with a circular pattern extends between the brackets. An ornamental sawn balustrade with stylized vase shapes, also seen on other houses in Hertford County, connects the posts at the bottom. The architectural highlight is perhaps the cutaway bay window. Two tiers of panels – a set of longer panels topped by four almost-square panels – form the base for each of the three windows. Patterned wood shingles in an elongated honeycomb pattern surround the windows, which are topped by a blank frieze. A single four-light casement window that pierces the gable is framed by short pilasters with stylized capitals and patterned shingles with an inverted spear design surround it. A stylized sunburst motif in relief fills the gable peak above the window. The decorative shingle pattern and panels, as well as one cutaway corner of the bay window, are repeated on the southeast elevation of a one-story addition.

Located about three miles south of the Burbage House, in Como, also on US 258, is another house (HF780) influenced by the Queen Anne style. Built around 1890, the house has an asymmetrical cruciform plan with the front wing shorter than the rear. A cutaway bay dominates the end of the front wing, similar to the Burbage House. Except for three courses of weatherboard above the second-story windows, the entire wall surface of the front gable end, as well as that of the full-height bay, displays a pattern of recessed panels, perhaps also suggesting influences of the Stick style, which was popular around the same time. The gables on the front and sides of the house each feature returns and decorative bargeboards with punchwork and spindlework. Above the front bay, the gable peak is entirely paneled like the walls below, and the four-pane window is segmental-arched, recessed, and topped by a pierced, scalloped triangular head to create the appearance of a Gothic arch. Decorative wooden shingles and a four-light Gothic-style window are located in each of the side gables.

Domestic & Agricultural Outbuildings

Predictably, the Civil War also left its impact on Hertford County's agricultural landscape. There was the transition from slave to free labor and the development of the tenant farming system, both of which redefined agriculture and transformed the landscape.¹³⁵ The number of acres of improved land dropped by about 20,000, from 73,270 in 1860 to 53,499 in 1870, whereas the number of farms increased from 456 to 810. Farms of 1,000 acres or more no longer survived, and even the number of farms with between 100 to 499 acres dropped to 185, from 202. The largest numbers of farms,

¹³⁵ Bishir and Southern, p. 33.

256, contained between 20 and 49 acres of improved land. These changes are clearly reflected in the types of buildings on the landscape.

The range of domestic outbuildings, such as separate kitchens and meat- and smokehouses, remained part of the landscape around the main dwelling. With advances in domestic engineering, however, kitchens moved closer to the house, incorporated in attached or semi-detached wings, often with a separate dining room. An example of a semi-detached kitchen/dining-room wing can be seen at the Edward Brown House (HF927) on SR 1431 near Bethlehem Church, which dates to around 1870-75. The house itself is a modest one-story, three-bay, side-gabled frame dwelling with a center-passage, single-pile plan. It is a “poorer man’s” version of the larger I-houses, which would remain equally popular throughout the county well into the twentieth century. Located several feet behind the dwelling, off the west corner, stands the one-story, side-gabled frame kitchen wing. A porch or breezeway runs along the southeast elevation and connects with the central door on the rear elevation of the dwelling. Two doors on the southeast elevation of the wing give access to the kitchen and the dining room.

Whereas no known privies survive from before the Civil War, several examples survive from afterwards, including some that may date to the late twentieth century.¹³⁶ Notions of hygiene and privacy were much different during the nineteenth century, and it is not uncommon to encounter multiple-seat privies. Usually they had no more than two seats, but an elaborate five-seat privy was built for the Barnes House (HF31), in Murfreesboro, around 1875. It is a hipped-roofed structure with small cross gables on all four elevations. A door is located in the west (front) elevation, and four-over-four sash

¹³⁶ At least one of the later examples of a privy – or outside bathroom – comes with modern plumbing.

windows are on the north and east sides. The interior was originally covered with lath and plaster.

A building located near the house that not only tells the story of diversified farming, but also of the self-sustaining practices of small farmers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, is the chicken coop. The coop is often a small shed-roofed frame structure with a bank of openings in the front elevation filled with chicken wire or old sash windows to let light and air in and small openings near the ground to let the chickens roam in and out freely.

The early impact of the automobile is witnessed during the first decade of the twentieth century by the construction of simple frame garages, which became a more common sight in the 1920s and 1930s. They are plain front-gabled frame structures, often with exposed rafter tails. Some are open on the front gable end, whereas others have large double doors.

As the crops that farmers grew did not change radically after the Civil War, the production of tobacco and cotton remained important. Out of the two, tobacco left its biggest mark on the county, evident in the status of the tobacco barn and the pack house as the most prevalent agricultural outbuildings on the landscape. Many cotton farmers in eastern North Carolina shifted to tobacco when cotton prices dropped disastrously in the late 1880s.¹³⁷ Unlike the larger tobacco barns seen in Kentucky, Maryland, and Virginia, the typical shape of the North Carolina barn is derived both from the particular curing process associated with the type of tobacco grown in this region's soil and the traditional

¹³⁷ John Fraser Hart and Ennis L. Chestang. "Rural Revolution in East Carolina," *Geographical Review*, Vol. 68, No. 4 (Oct., 1978), pp. 435-458

sixteen-foot square building unit employed by early English settlers for the construction of their initial homes.¹³⁸

Curing bright leaf tobacco required a particular type of barn where a steady warm temperature could be maintained around the hanging leaves. Furnaces fed by various fuels gradually replaced natural warm air and heat from the sun, producing steady heat inside the barns and circulating it through a flue. The barns are therefore known as flue-cured tobacco barns. The cured leaves have a bright yellow-orange color, whence the name "bright," which is commonly applied to flue-cured tobacco. Many barns have attached shelters. Some sheltered the furnace and the fuel supply.¹³⁹ Others, known as grading sheds, provided shade for the workers tying up the tobacco and removing it after the completion of the curing process. Log and frame were the two popular methods of constructing tobacco barns, though several concrete block examples survive. A prototypical example of a late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century log tobacco barn survives at Maple Lawn (HF547). It is constructed out of plain logs, squared only at the ends and square notched at the corners, and the cracks between the logs are chinked with mortar. The remnants of the original brick furnace remain in the west gable end and four twentieth-century tobacco-drying furnaces remain inside.¹⁴⁰ An interesting example of a one-and-a-half-story plank building, dating to the late nineteenth century, which served either as a tobacco barn or a pack house, is found at the Powell-Meyers Farm (HF42) just

¹³⁸ Laura Scism, "Carolina Tobacco Barns: History and Function," in *Carolina Dwelling: Towards Preservation of Place*, ed. Doug Swain (Raleigh: North Carolina State University, 1978), pp. 118-127

¹³⁹ John Fraser Hart and Eugene Cotton Mather. "The Character of Tobacco Barns and Their Role in the Tobacco Economy of the United States," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 51, No. 3 (Sep., 1961), pp. 274-293

¹⁴⁰ They are thought to be Florence-Mayo furnaces developed in the 1950s and produced in Farmville, North Carolina. Personal communications with Melody Johnson, curator, Tobacco Farm Life Museum, Kenly, NC, October 2010.

west of Ahoskie. The planks are half-notched at the corners and a hip-roofed shed addition wraps around three of its sides.

Often located near the tobacco barns would be one or more pack houses. The actual curing of the tobacco in a single barn took place in three-and-a-half to five days, after which it was moved to a pack house to be graded and sorted into groups according to quality before being taken to market. Pack houses are usually two-story, front-gabled buildings, with doors on both floors on the gable end and shed additions off the long elevations. They come in varying sizes, and one of the larger examples is located at the Minton House (HF557), northeast of Ahoskie on SR 1424, and probably dates to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. In the case of the pack house at the Minton House, one of the shed additions functions as an open wagon bay, whereas the other is enclosed and has a large eight-over-eight sash window in one end.

As agricultural practices improved during the nineteenth century so did the farm buildings. Depending on the size of the farming operation and the variety of the crops grown by the farmer, Hertford County farmsteads could have many other agricultural structures, often expanded with lean-tos providing both additional work and storage spaces. Two examples of a large multipurpose barn survive from the late nineteenth century or beginning of the twentieth century, both in Menola. One is at the Brown House (HF17), which dates to around 1900, and the other at the Harvey G. Snipes House (HF591), which dates to around 1903. Both combine several storage functions. The barn at the Brown House is a large two-story, drive-through frame barn, with two one-story shed sections along the long elevations. Stables and enclosed storage areas are located off the drive-through, and the south shed is open, presumably used as a machine shed,

whereas the north shed is enclosed with a wide opening in the front gable end. A flight of stairs off the drive-through gives access to the second floor or loft which could be used for additional storage of hay or crops. In the large two-story, five-bay, front-gabled frame multipurpose barn at the Snipes House, stables flank the central drive-through to the east and raised storage spaces flank it to the west. A five-bay open machine shed flanks the stable area and a large enclosed, raised storage section flanks the smaller storage areas. A small tack storage space on the west side of the drive-through has an open flight of stairs leading to the barn's second floor, or loft, which is a single open space with loading doors on the opposite gable ends.

After the Civil War, the traditional tenancy system remained in place and was expanded with a growing number of sharecroppers. Tenant farming, which replaced the slave-based agricultural system in the South, enabled farm laborers to rent ground from landowners for a percentage of crops, called crop rent, or cash payments, called cash rent. The terms of contracts varied, depending on whether the laborer owned any equipment or purchased his own seed and supplies. Sharecroppers were at the lowest rung of tenancy system since they lacked equipment and capital, which had to be provided by property owners. Sharecropping eliminated the pain and humiliation of gang labor and allowed families to move out of the direction supervision of white supervisors, but the property owners still profited more.¹⁴¹ Numerous tenant or sharecropper houses survive across the county from the second half of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth. These houses are modest, one-story buildings and sometimes hard to distinguish from the houses built by small land-owning farmers around the same time. A good example is the

¹⁴¹ William S. Powell, ed. *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006. pp. 1024-1025

Downs Tenant House (HF953) built around 1900 just west of Cofield on US 45. It is a small one-story, side-gabled, hall-parlor frame dwelling with a rear wing. Stoves heated the hall and parlor, and the brick flues were located against the back of the rear wall. A porch runs along one side of the wing and terminates in a pantry shed at the rear gable end. The wing has a two-room plan, with a third brick flue located in the northeast room. All of the rooms have beaded-board wainscot and ceilings and lath-and-plaster walls. In plan it is similar to the kind of houses that people built across Hertford County for the previous one-hundred years or so, but the simple finishes and the presence of stoves tell both their more recent date and more modest pedigree.

Religious Buildings

In 1837, the Rev. Livingston Johnston at the North Carolina Baptist State Convention had already urged the committee on the religious instruction of slaves “that places be provided for them in the houses of worship, and that their religious instruction receive special attention.”¹⁴² African Americans either would attend church with their white masters or hold religious meetings in so-called brush, or bush, arbors. It was not until after emancipation that African Americans were able to establish their own churches. In most cases these churches not only served religious purposes, but were centers of community life and also functioned as places of education, a role they retained well into the twentieth century. One of the oldest African American congregations in Hertford County is that of Elm Grove Baptist Church (HF678) on US 11 southwest of Ahoskie, which dates back to 1830. The current church dates to 1896, but has since been

¹⁴² Quoted in J. A. Whitted, *A History of the Negro Baptists of North Carolina*, Raleigh: Presses of Edwards & Broughton Printing Co. 1908, p. 7.

substantially altered. When built, it was probably similar to many of the nineteenth- and twentieth-century churches built across the county, often consisting of plain front-gabled buildings clad in weatherboard, with one or two towers. The entire building was brick veneered and the fellowship hall expanded during the 1960s, both of which were typical mid-twentieth-century changes. It was probably also during this construction phase that the new glassed-in entrance was constructed between the towers on the front gable end.

An African American congregation established the Newsome Grove Baptist Church (HF125) in 1892 on SR 1419 north east of Ahoskie. Isaac Newsome gave the congregation an acre of land and the Reverend J. A. Vann laid the cornerstone for the church in 1898. Since then the church has been heavily altered, but the style of the church and its building history are typical for Hertford County. Originally a projecting one-bay vestibule emphasized the west (front) gable end of the church. Double glazed doors with a triangular window above, with frosted glass trimmed by rectangular colored panes, gave access to the church. A small tower with a short spire topped the vestibule. An inlaid cross decorates the west elevation of the tower, and two small triangular, pointed-arched windows pierce the north and south elevations. Triangular pointed-arched windows with frosted glass and rectangular colored glass trim flank the projecting vestibule. The glass treatment is similar to the former Second Union Baptist Church (HF600), south of Union on SR 1108. Six similar windows pierce the sanctuary of this church on the north and south elevation. When the church was brick veneered, both keystones and spring stones were added in a contrasting material.

Pastor C. B Sharp rebuilt the Menola First Baptist Church (HF550), in 1900 on SR 1160. It was a simple frame country church with drop, or German, siding; pointed-

arch, six-light windows; a T-shaped plan; and a small bell tower towards the entrance of the church on the south gable end. In 1980, the congregation had the exterior of the church bricked and the standing-seam metal roof replaced with asphalt shingles. The original fenestration was maintained but the six-light windows were replaced with opaque leaded glass. An as-of-yet unexplained feature on several African American churches in Hertford County, and elsewhere in North Carolina, are towers of uneven height flanking the entrance on the gable end. Such an example can be seen at Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church (HF840), which was built around 1909, on SR 1174. Despite the fact that it was bricked over in the 1960s or 1970s, it retains much of its original appearance. The ghosts of openings on the east (front) walls of the towers may suggest that they were originally entrance towers and the current entrance is of later date. It was not uncommon for early churches to have separate entrances for men and women. A simplified rosette window with colored glass pierces the gable peak above the portico. In almost all of these cases, the church designs borrowed from the Gothic Revival, which was the obvious style of choice, but they often did so at a vernacular level.

White Baptist congregations also continued to build churches, and perhaps one of the most intact examples is Bethlehem Baptist Church (HF458) located east of Ahoskie at Bethlehem Crossroads. Organized in 1835, the congregation built their first church before 1848 and lengthened it in 1849. In 1858, the congregation built a new church on the same site.¹⁴³ Willis Hofler of Gates County built the current church at the site in 1902 for \$375. The church was to be “a nice, handsome, workmanlike building,” and was

¹⁴³ Helen P. Bazemore, “Bethlehem Baptist Church, Route 4, Ahoskie, North Carolina,” typescript, May 19, 1985.

modeled after the nearby Connaritsa Baptist Church in Bertie County.¹⁴⁴ Bethlehem Baptist occupies a triangular lot created by the intersection of NC561 and South Moore Town Road (SR1427) and faces northeast towards the historic crossroads, adding to its commanding appearance. The church shares a few features with the Connaritsa Baptist Church near Aulander, Bertie County, such as the tripartite entrance vestibule with its tall triangular pointed-arch windows, transom, and triangular pointed-arch window over the double entry doors; the tall triangular pointed-arch windows piercing the walls of the sanctuary; and the brackets supporting the deep cornice. However, the appearance of the Bethlehem Baptist Church is much more remarkable. Here a striking two-tiered tower surmounts the vestibule, and instead of a more traditional simple gabled roof, the slopes of the gable roof over the vestibule are slightly flared at the eaves. The flared gable roof is repeated on the first tier of the tower in a more pronounced manner, and its peak reaches to just below the cornice of the second tier. A small cross-gabled roof tops the second tier. Sawn brackets support the overhanging cornice on the vestibule, the sanctuary, and both tiers of the tower. Five tall triangular pointed-arch windows pierce the northwest and southeast elevations of the sanctuary. The windows have two four-light sashes with frosted glass surrounded by narrow strips of clear glass and two triangular panes at the top trimmed by narrow strips of colored glass along the two top edges. The interior of the church retains much of its 1902 finishes. Sheathing consists entirely of narrow beaded tongue-in-groove boards that cover both the walls above the wainscot and the ceiling and is divided into large panels by narrow raised trim. The beaded boards are placed at alternating 45-degree angles, creating a decorative V-shaped pattern. The sanctuary has a coved ceiling, and a polygonal apse is located at the

¹⁴⁴ Ibid., p. 5

southwest end behind the altar. The four stained-glass windows in the apse are in memory of members of the congregation and feature pebbled-glass in rich colors, including a radiant turquoise, which can only be truly admired from behind the apse.

An atypical church design for Hertford County is found in the Menola Baptist Church (HF551) on SR 1141, which was organized on October 14, 1908. A builder from Rocky Mount, with the last name Stanford, was in charge of construction of the new church. According to church history the building was modeled after the original Meherrin Church in Murfreesboro.¹⁴⁵ Mr. Stanford received his final settlement in 1911, and the total cost of the church was \$6,500.¹⁴⁶ Its plan is modeled on a Greek cross with an entrance tower located in the corner of the north and west arms. The plan was inspired by the so-called “Akron Plan.” Developed by Akron, Ohio native George Washington Kramer (1847-1938) in the nineteenth century for the Methodist Church, the sanctuary of an Akron Plan church is treated more like a theater than the traditional rectangular nave with the pews often placed in segmental rows facing the altar.¹⁴⁷ On the interior, the sanctuary and Sunday School are balanced in the amount of space they command. Essential to the plan were the folding doors separating the two spaces, enabling them to joined together to accommodate larger crowds.

Whereas the Menola Baptist Church did not follow the Akron Plan in every detail, it clearly marked a departure from the traditional church forms seen across Hertford County up to then. The sanctuary is a rectangular space stretching across the north and

¹⁴⁵ For an early photograph of the church, see J. M. Duncan. *A Brief History of the Meherrin Church, 1729-1929*. Raleigh, Bynum Printing, 1929, p. 1.

¹⁴⁶ *Menola Baptist Church, 1908-2008*, commemorative publication

¹⁴⁷ http://www.livingplaces.com/CT/New_Haven_County/Derby_City/Birmingham_Green_Historic_District.html, accessed March, 2011

south arms of the plan. The walls are plaster with narrow vertical-board wainscot at the bottom. Molding strips divide the ceiling of the sanctuary into squares. Narrow strips of wood make up the actual ceiling and run diagonally through the squares, in alternating directions, creating a decorative pattern. A set of four-leaf seven-panel folding doors, with narrow rectangular paneled sections at the corners, separate the sanctuary from the two Sunday School rooms in the west arm of the church. The rooms are raised one-step above the floor level of the sanctuary. A third set of folding doors can divide or join the two spaces. A lectern is located in an alcove centered on the east side of the sanctuary behind the altar. The alcove is enclosed on two sides by large double panes of mille-fleurs-type pebbled glass—the same glass that is used in the pointed-arch windows in the gable ends of the north, west, and south arms of the church. Large seven-panel pocket doors flanking the alcove separate the sanctuary from two ancillary rooms in the east arm of the church. Each room has an irregular pentagonal shape and receives natural light from the large pointed-arch window in the north and south wall. The walls are plastered and have the same narrow wainscot as seen in the vestibule and sanctuary. One of the walls facing the sanctuary consists of the panes of pebbled glass, which creates a secondary source of light for the alcove in the sanctuary.

Similar to developments in Bertie County, Episcopalian and Methodist congregations were greatly in the minority compared to the Baptists. Perhaps because of their smaller numbers they never had the need to expand or replace their churches, and the ones that survive appear more or less the same as when they were built. The Oak Grove Methodist Church (HF474), on SR 1311 just south of the Virginia State line, for instance, was built around 1900 for an African American congregation but never received

a brick veneer, unlike most of its Baptist counterparts. It is a one-story, front-gabled building with a single entrance in a triple-tiered tower at the southwest corner of the front gable end. The slender double, five-panel doors, the horizontal two-over-two sash windows, and the pressed tin roof on the steeple all point towards a late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century date.

Also noted for its high degree of integrity is the Union United Methodist Church (HF915), in Union built around 1877, and expanded in 1955. The front gable end is accentuated by a projecting narthex topped by a square two-tier tower extending through a truncated gable roof, a design feature formerly shared with the Union Baptist Church (HF909, now altered). Small round-arched, opaque leaded-glass sash windows flank the double entrance door with a round-arched, opaque leaded-glass transom on the front gable end. The transom has a Canterbury cross or cross pattée motif at the center. A tall, double louvered vent rises from the narthex gable into the lower tier of tower. A small pent roof separates the lower tier from the upper tier of the tower. Louvered openings are located on all four sides of the upper tier. Two larger round-arched windows pierce the northwest and southeast elevations of the sanctuary. A low, one-story, hip-roofed wing wraps around the sanctuary at the northeast (rear) gable end. Its windows are large six-over-six sash and there are entrance doors in the southwest walls flanking the sanctuary. The middle of the rear section of the wing marks the apse with its taller elevation and three narrow, round-arched, opaque leaded-glass windows. The central window is the largest of the three and has a stained-glass medallion at the center with the figure of Christ.

Despite no longer functioning as a church, St. John's Episcopal Church (HF490) in Winton, built around 1884, retains much of its original fabric on the exterior and remains the epitome a modest Gothic Revival frame church. A medallion with a stylized Canterbury cross decorates the front gable peak of the sanctuary, and a small rectangular belfry with a pyramidal roof and louvered openings accentuates the sanctuary at the front gable end. Elongated six-over-six pointed-arch sash windows pierce the side walls of the sanctuary. Covering the last bay on the northwest side, flush with the rear gable end, is a small one-story, gable-roofed wing with a pointed-arch door in the southwest (front) elevation and a pointed-arch window in the northeast (rear) elevation. The church is currently used as a Masonic Lodge – Winton Lodge 723 A. F. & A. M. The Diocese of East Carolina sold the building and the land in 1973 to the Masons for \$300.¹⁴⁸ The Masons added the vinyl-sided front-gabled vestibule, or narthex, and brought the interior up to the standards required by the Grand Lodge.¹⁴⁹

Educational and Civic Buildings

While churches continued to play an important role in education after the Civil War and well into the twentieth century, Levi Branson listed five schools in Hertford County in his 1867 *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory*. In Murfreesboro there were the Chowan Female Institute, a Female and a Male Academy, and the Wesleyan Female College; in Buckhorn there was a Male Academy.¹⁵⁰ By 1890, this number had

¹⁴⁸ Personal communication Mamré Marsh Wilson, historiographer of the Diocese of East Carolina, April 2011

¹⁴⁹ Personal communication Curtis Eure, The Master 2010, Winton Lodge No, 723, February, 2011.

¹⁵⁰ Levi Branson, *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1867-69* (1867), p. 58. The male academy in Buckhorn was probably Buckhorn Academy, established in 1820 by Samuel Nicholson.

multiplied exponentially to include an academy in Winton for African American students run by C. S. Brown, an academy in Union, the Brownsville Academy in Menola, the Buckhorn Academy in Como, the Chowan Baptist Female Institute in Murfreesboro, a high school for boys in Mapleton, home schools in Union and Como, the Murfreesboro Male Academy, four primary schools (one each in Murfreesboro and Harrellsville and two in Winton), a private school in Riddicksville, and the Wesleyan Female College in Murfreesboro.¹⁵¹ Branson also listed twenty-nine public schools for white students, twenty-seven for African American students, and the names of forty-six white teachers and thirty-two African American teachers. None of these schools built after the Civil War have survived. The second Wesleyan Female College building was erected in 1881 but destroyed by fire in 1893. Smaller schools were often consolidated in the twentieth century and their original buildings gradually abandoned.

A single survivor of the turn of the twentieth century may be the Signboard School (HF849), a small country school built around 1900 at the corner of Jim Hardy Road and NC561. It is a one-story, frame building with a T-shaped plan. The building is clad in plain weatherboard with a simple box cornice. Three bays divide the front gable end where triple-hung six-light sash windows flank a glazed door. All of the original windows were probably the triple-hung sash type. Evidence suggests that some of the windows were reduced in size by removing the bottom sash. Washington Slade, a former school attendee, purchased the school in 1952 and extensively altered the interior of the school, turning it into a country store and eventually a bar/pool hall.¹⁵² The original

¹⁵¹ Levi Branson, *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1890* (1890), pp. 368-69.

¹⁵² Personal communication with the current owner and son of Mr. Slade, June 2010.

wooden floors remain in sections of the building and shelves, counters, and cold storage units survive from when the building functioned as a store, as does a large butcher block.¹⁵³

Fraternal organizations such as the Masons played, and still play, an important role in Hertford County's social history. The Royal William Lodge No. 6 was founded in Winton in 1774. After the Revolutionary War, most of its members transferred to the newer American George Lodge No. 17 (HF654) in Murfreesboro which was chartered in 1789. It was named in honor of George Washington and certainly would have appealed to the recent veterans of the Revolution. Built around 1870, the current American George Lodge is a two-story frame building with a rectangular footprint and a hipped-roof. A small louvered cupola, with a pyramidal roof with the emblem of the Masons –the compass the square and the capital letter “G” which stands for Geometry – sits on top of the building. Two double-leaf glazed-entry doors with molded panels are located on the front elevation of the building. Four slender Tuscan columns support the hip-roofed front porch and are connected by a matchstick balustrade.

Industrial and Commercial Buildings

A rare survivor of the early industrial period is Hare's Mill (HF494), east of Winton at the end of SR 1451, built sometime around 1865. According to local history a mill was located on this site since 1736, making it one of the oldest mill sites in the colony of North Carolina. Originally known as the Deep Creek Mill it was acquired by

¹⁵³ Mr. Washington may have recycled the shelving from an older store.

Benjamin Wynn in 1745.¹⁵⁴ The Wynns owned the mill for almost 100 years and may have converted it into a sawmill at some point. John Griffith purchased the property from the Wynns in 1835, and after his death in 1850, Lemuel Jernigan and Jackson B. Hare, who happened to be the Sheriff for Hertford County, bought it. During the Civil War, Confederate forces built earthworks near the mill to defend the Chowan River, and when Union troops discovered that Hare was not only grinding corn for regular clients but also for the Confederacy, they burned his mill to the ground on March 4, 1863. Hare eventually rebuilt his mill and resumed operations until his death in 1899. The mill was then sold to H. W. Gatling and became the property of Lyman Jones in 1926. Jones operated the mill until 1960, when Hurricane Dora washed out the dam.

The turbine wheel installed by Jones no longer survives, but despite the fact that the mill has not been used for almost 50 years, its interior remains surprisingly intact and representative of gristmills built during the nineteenth century, as Jackson B. Hare rebuilt it. The mill building is a simple one-story, three-bay, side-gabled frame structure with a shed addition off the north gable end. The shed addition is located several feet below the main section of the mill and was used to collect the flour into bags and temporarily store them. The window openings on the side elevation of the mill do not have glazed sashes, but rather single sliding panels. The large batten doors have wooden sliding latches and the initials “C. W. H.” and “M. C. H.” written on the door in the west wall. Two grinding stones and hoppers are still in place on the upper level, as are the cranes to lift the stones, the grain chutes, and part of the conveyor system in the attic.

¹⁵⁴ Tom Parramore, “Hare’s Mill Stands In Tribute To Times Past,” Murfreesboro, *Roanoke-Chowan New Herald*, September 11, 1969, Progress Edition, p. 6.

In contrast to the survival of only one industrial building predating the twentieth century, several commercial buildings survive from the late nineteenth century and the turn of the twentieth. The oldest are two small one-story, three-bay, gable-fronted frame structures (HF1143) in Winton which date to around 1880 and are typical of late nineteenth-century commercial architecture. Six-over-six sash windows flank the entry door on the front gable end of the smaller building. The larger store has two large four-light store windows and angled vertical six-over-six sash windows, both with metal bars, flanking a recessed entry door on the front gable end. A stepped parapet wall conceals the gable roof on the front of the store. The style of the larger store is similar to that of later commercial buildings such as the Parker Store (HF569) in Menola, which dates to around 1900. The Parker Store is a narrow, two-story, front-gabled frame building with a parapet on the front gable end hiding the roof. A simple shed roof supported by plain diagonal braces and with a decorative scalloped edge shelters the storefront on the first floor. Large display windows with four fixed panes flank the recessed entrance of double doors beneath a three-light transom. A one-story, shed-roofed, frame addition runs along the entire west elevation of the store, with a flat parapet on the front elevation.

Two masonry commercial buildings were recorded in Winton. Standing side by side on N. Main St., they are both distinctive, one for its materials and the other for its refined detailing. The two-story building (HF679) is clad in rusticated concrete block and brick segmental arches accentuate the window openings on the second floor. Two storefronts, one narrower than the other, occupy the lower front elevation. Immediately above, a steel I-beam with a floral pattern, probably indicating the position of tie rods, spans the width of the front elevation and carries the weight of the second floor. A

course of very small modillions topped by an egg-and-dart motif runs just above the I-beam. The same modillion course is repeated at the cornice with a saw-tooth motif above. The one-story brick building next door (HF1128) features brick pilasters with capitals consisting of three narrow tiers of molded brick or concrete with an egg-and-dart motif flanking the storefront. The bottom tier originally extended across the entire elevation to trim an unusual molded spindle frieze with a separate string in the egg-and-dart motif below, creating the appearance of a classical entablature. Large store windows flank the recessed entry door on the front elevation and a steel I-beam with three decorative flower-shaped wall anchors functions as a lintel above the door and windows and supports the load of the rest of the front elevation.

An uncommon survivor of a turn of the twentieth-century country store complex is the pack/warehouse (HF886) located at the northwest corner of NC 561 and SR 1141 in St. John's that was once part of the Benthall or Roundtree Store.¹⁵⁵ The associated two-story frame store collapsed in the 1970s, but the one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, front-gabled frame storage building which stood behind it survives. Clad in plain weatherboard siding, the framing system is a hybrid, with a traditional heavy sill and the wall framing consisting of machine produced studs extending all the way up to the sill and a ledger board supporting the ceiling joists. Shuttered window openings flank the double entry door on the front gable end. The original latch and escutcheon survive. The up-side-down escutcheon is the most decorative element on the building and is reminiscent of the Arts and Crafts style or the late Victorian style of Charles Eastlake. Some shelving units survive on the first floor. A ladder against the rear gable wall gives access to the attic.

¹⁵⁵ Personal communication with Joseph Askew, October 2010

Twentieth-Century Architecture, 1910-1965

The gradual changes that began during the nineteenth century left their mark on the built environment of twentieth-century Hertford County. Changes in taste had opened the door for more exotic styles, and despite the fact that hardly any high-style examples of the Victorian styles were built in Hertford County, there was a slow move away from the tried and true traditions of the previous 150 years. Changes in construction methods and the production of building materials led to a speeding up of the actual construction process and the quicker dissemination of new forms. The introduction of “foreign” styles had also made Americans more aware of their indigenous architecture, which was a prominent feature of the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876. It was not only the first World’s Fair to be held in the United States, exposing Americans to global advances in science and industry as well as decorative arts and culture, but it also became a showpiece for the nation’s own recent history.

Whereas the Victorian period had opened the door to styles from abroad and eclecticism, the Philadelphia Centennial led to finding inspiration closer to home in the Colonial Revival, which appropriated features from the earlier Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival styles to create interpretations rather than exact copies. Early twentieth-century restoration architects fueled this process by restoring, remodeling, and in some cases completely reworking earlier dwellings. One particular stimulus came from the restoration and recreation events taking place at Colonial Williamsburg, patronized by John D. Rockefeller Jr. during the 1930s. Since the Colonial Revival was popular from around 1880 until 1950, some late nineteenth-century examples based on local traditions may be mistaken for originals. However, most twentieth-century examples in Hertford

County were based on non-local styles and are easily identifiable. They appear mainly in urban areas, either as complete interpretations of colonial buildings or in the form of classically inspired door surrounds to existing dwellings or to newly built houses with an indistinct overall style.

Houses

An example of the Colonial Revival style in Hertford County is the house (HF1039) of a Murfreesboro mayor, W. W. Hill, located on University Drive and built around 1936. The architect combined elements of the Georgian and Federal styles, such as the use of brick, the paneled corner boards, the frieze board with dentils, and a box cornice with gable end returns and modillions. Popular features of several Colonial Revival houses in Hertford County are the large eight-over-eight sash double-hung windows. An even more overt copy of a colonial building is the house (HF1045) Dr. L. M. Futrell had built for himself around 1937. With its use of brick and white trim, including white keystones, stylized modillions supporting the overhang of the box cornice, and pedimented dormers, it, too, combined Georgian and Federal elements. The addition of a small pedimented portico supported by two Tuscan columns adds to the overall academic correctness of the house and links it with the grand Colonial houses of Virginia. Less derivative components are the porte-cochere on the east gable end, supported by a grouping of three Tuscan columns on a brick pedestal at the corners and a simple balustrade on top, and the one-story wing extending from the west gable end, which has six-over-six windows above double molded panels. A more modest example of the Colonial Revival is the Cape Cod house (HF992) on West High Street in Murfreesboro, built around 1930. Distinctive of the Cape Cod house type are the

compact rectangular massing, the steeply pitched side-gabled roof, and the gable-roofed dormers. The type derived its name from small cottages built in New England from the late seventeenth century and throughout the eighteenth century. Their popularity was revived in the twentieth century because of their simple construction and efficient use of space.

Another distinct early American style revived at the beginning of the twentieth century was Dutch Colonial Revival. Despite the short existence of the colony of New Netherland in the seventeenth century (1624-1664), the architecture of the initial settlers of New Jersey and New York had left a lasting impact on the region. At the beginning of the twentieth century, Dutch Colonial architecture, and for that matter Dutch Colonial culture, was an accepted alternative to the predominantly English derived architecture and history of the United States. Architects also considered the Dutch Colonial form ideally suited for modern needs. As was the case with other Colonial Revival variations, architects often exaggerated certain features. With the Dutch Colonial Revival it was the gambrel roof.

In Murfreesboro, two typical examples at 508 East High Street and 411 West High Street (HF1069 and HF1014) of the style were built around 1937 and 1948, respectively. Despite sharing certain characteristics, they also emphasize the options available within the Dutch Colonial Revival style. Both have a gambrel roof with large shed dormers on the front and back slopes, but the roof of 508 East High Street is more steeply pitched and breaks nearer the peak, whereas the slopes of the roof at 411 West High Street are more even. The gambrel roof at 411 West High Street also has a distinct flare, or kick, at the eaves, characteristic of some Colonial houses in northern New Jersey

and southern New York. More modest, 508 East High Street was clad in weatherboard. The windows are six-overs-six sash and a small gabled Colonial Revival portico with a curved ceiling shelters the main entrance. The house at 411 West High Street is clad in brick and has eight-over-eight sash windows above simple rectangular panels and a Federal-style entry door with narrow single-light sidelights and a simple divided four-light fanlight. Fluted pilasters support the incised surround above the fanlight, and small brackets support an elaborate arched door hood with dentil molding, typical of the Dutch Colonial Revival style.

Despite a renewed interest in indigenous colonial style, the historic architecture of the Old World remained of interest well into the twentieth century. A style that was popular in Murfreesboro during the first half of the twentieth century is Tudor Revival. Twelve examples were documented in the proposed High Street Historic District. Inspired by English manor houses of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, adaptations of these dwellings became extremely popular after World War I. The style's main following was among successful upper-middle- and upper-income families for whom the style of the English country house was more comfortable than the classical forms of the Italian or French Renaissance.¹⁵⁶ Three examples of the Tudor Revival style merit description. A one-of-a-kind example was built around 1940 at 105 West High Street for E. W. Parker (HF1044), co-director of Riverside Manufacturing in Murfreesboro. Emphasizing the picturesque qualities of the style, the as-yet-unidentified designer of the house combined brick, fieldstone, and half-timbering as well as the flared, or crooked, roof ridges and various window styles. The main body of the building is clad in

¹⁵⁶ Gerald Foster, *American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home*, New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2004, 320.

stretcher-bond brick, and a projecting half-timbered and front-gabled bay with a shed-roofed entrance pavilion, or bay, dominates the west half of the front elevation. Located against the east gable end is a large chimney clad in coursed fieldstone up to the attic level, after which two separate brick flues continue until they unite again at the corbelled top marked by simple terracotta chimney pots. A more modest example was built across the street from the Parker House, at 106 West High Street (HF1030) around the same period. A projecting entrance bay with a slanting, or battered, right wall and a decorative half-timbered gable peak, as well as two gable-roofed dormers with half-timbered peaks, define the front elevation. Eight-over-eight sash windows flank the projecting entry, which has a batten door with three fixed panes, decorative strap hinges, a Tudor-arch surround, and a narrow window with diamond panes to the right. Another characteristic example of the Tudor Revival is found in 400 block of West High Street. Defined by the multiple front gables and the steep roof, this dwelling (HF1016) further exemplifies the style with the low sweeping roof on the projecting entrance and the tapered brick chimney placed against the front elevation.

The Tudor Revival house E. W. Parker built may have been in response to the French Eclectic-style house (HF1084) built in 1935 at 809 East High Street for E. P. Brown. (Both men were co-directors of the Riverside Manufacturing Company in Murfreesboro.) The house has a sprawling footprint with two flat-roofed, one-story wings extending off the east and west elevations of the main block, which has a mansard roof. Three gable-roofed dormers sit on the lower front slope of the roof, and both the roof and the dormers are clad in slate. Eight-over-eight sash windows above double molded panels flank the glazed main entry with leaded-glass sidelights and a brick belt

course runs below the second floor windows and returns on the side elevations. Metal posts with a vine motif support the bell-cast roof with a dentil mold that shelters the main door. Two large three-part, multi-paned bowed windows pierce the front elevation of each wing.

Another mode that became extremely popular during the first half of the twentieth century, not only in urban areas but also in rural sections of Hertford County, was the Craftsman style, sometimes called the Bungalow style because it is most often applied to this house type. The bungalow derived its name from the deep-roofed, informal cottage or *bangla* in India and is characterized by low silhouettes with low-pitched, overhanging roofs and encircling porches.¹⁵⁷ The shape of the one-and-a-half-story side-gabled version recalls the indigenous coastal cottage. The term Craftsman was derived from the English Arts and Crafts Movement, which was popular during the late nineteenth century. Gustav Stickley, a New York furniture maker who published the magazine *Craftsman*, introduced the ideology behind the Arts and Crafts Movement to the United States.¹⁵⁸ The Craftsman philosophy valued efficiency and modern conveniences and saw the modest bungalow as its practical expression of this. The most common type is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, side-gabled frame house such as the dwelling (HF1026) built around 1924 on the 200 block of West High Street in Murfreesboro. Typical of the Craftsman style are the depth of the side-gabled roof, the exposed rafter tails, the gallows brackets supporting the overhang of the roof on the gable ends and dormer, the roof extended on the front elevation to create an integral porch, and the projecting rectangular shed-roofed bay against the west gable end. Paired and triple

¹⁵⁷ Bishir (2005), p. 499.

¹⁵⁸ Foster, p. 346.

tapered, or battered, box posts on brick pedestals support the porch roof. A large gable-roofed dormer with a triple window sits on the front slope of the roof, and an equally sized gable-roofed dormer with a single window sits on the rear slope.

Bungalows could be constructed of frame, brick, stone, concrete block, or any combination of these materials, but most examples in Hertford County are frame. Two interesting brick examples survive, however, both in rural areas. One is located north of Ahoskie on SR 1413 and was built around 1926 (HF956). It incorporates most of the typical Craftsman-style detailing such as the one-and-a-half-story side-gabled shape with an integral porch, the exposed rafter tails, the large dormer, the gallows brackets, and the projecting bay against the gable end. The windows are somewhat unusual in that they combine a more typical Craftsman-style vertical four-light sash above a late nineteenth-century two-light sash. Not only does the use of brick set it apart, the brickwork itself is also rather unusual, incorporating headers that have a marbled appearance and featuring a soldier-course water table and a belt course of headers set on end that forms a flat arch above the windows. The other brick example is the Carl Vaughan House (HF907), northwest of St. John's on SR 1142, built in 1926 to replace a farmhouse that had burned down. The brick walls are load-bearing and have a unique bond consisting of alternating grey headers and red closers creating a Flemish bond-type checkerboard pattern. A deep integral porch on heavy tapered, or battered, box posts on brick pedestals spans the front elevation of the house. Two interior brick chimneys laid in the same pattern as the walls flank a front-gabled dormer just below the ridge of the roof. Green asphalt shingles cover the top halves of the gable ends, creating an interesting color contrast with the red and grey bricks below.

Whereas most bungalows are side-gabled, a number of front-gabled bungalows survive, including a house (HF1028) built in the 200 block of West High Street in Murfreesboro around 1920. Sometimes referred to as a box-style Craftsman bungalow, with its front-facing gable that often integrated the porch, this was considered this the “true” bungalow form in contemporary popular literature.¹⁵⁹ Typical of the Craftsman style are the exposed rafter tails and the gallows brackets supporting the roof overhang as well as the vertical four-over-one windows and the tapered, or battered, box posts on brick pedestals supporting the hip-roofed porch. A small decorative king-post truss accentuates the front gable peak, and tin shingles cover the roof with stylized tin wave, or scroll, ridge finials at the north and south gable ends, features introduced in the late nineteenth century. A more modest version (HF965) was built in Cofield around 1940. It has the same box-like massing with exposed rafter tails and vertical three-over-one Craftsman-style windows, as well as a hip-roofed porch supported by tapered, or battered, box posts on brick pedestals. Numerous plain one-story, front-gabled houses survive across the county, sometimes exhibiting just a hint of Craftsman detailing.¹⁶⁰

Bungalows suited North Carolina’s needs and habits and were cheaply and easily built.¹⁶¹ Their broad eaves and deep porches fit the climate and the open plans lacking formal hallways may have reminded owners of the traditional hall-parlor plans. Many of the bungalows built in North Carolina were precut manufactured houses sent to the buyer by rail by such companies as Aladdin Company of Bay City, Michigan, which

¹⁵⁹ Bishir (2005), pp. 500-1.

¹⁶⁰ HF980 in Murfreesboro on 204 Spring Avenue, which dates to around 1920, and HF936 on SR 1423, built around 1940, are two examples documented during the survey.

¹⁶¹ *Ibid.*, p. 500.

manufactured Aladdin Read-Cut houses and had a mill in Wilmington, North Carolina, and Sears, Roebuck and Company.¹⁶² Whether or not any of the bungalows in Hertford County were ordered by mail requires additional research to determine, but what is clear is that the style was extremely popular. An interesting side effect of the popularity of the Craftsman bungalow in Hertford County was a virtual explosion of Craftsman-style porch additions on existing dwellings. In some cases these porches may have been completely new additions, and in some cases they may have replaced more traditional porches with turned or sawn posts, or they may have been added to newly built local forms such as the traditional I-house and one-story one-room deep dwellings.

Developed contemporaneously with the revival of Colonial and Old World styles, the Foursquare emphasized the virtues of simplicity, modesty, and efficiency.¹⁶³ Typified by its two-story cube-shaped massing with hipped roof, the Foursquare often has a front facing hipped dormer and a floor plan consisting of roughly four equal-sized rooms on each floor.¹⁶⁴ Some Foursquares have dormers on multiple roof slopes. Another common feature is a one-story porch extending the full width of the front elevation. Foursquare houses usually incorporated architectural detailing from Colonial Revival architecture or the Craftsman style. Despite the popularity of the Foursquare in other parts of the country, less than half a dozen were documented in Hertford County, where they were built in both urban and rural areas. A more rural example of the style in Hertford County is the Sears House (HF902) in Union, built around 1927. The brick

¹⁶² Ibid., p. 502.

¹⁶³ Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005 (Portable edition), p. 498.

¹⁶⁴ Thomas W. Hanchett. "The Four Square House Type in the United States," in *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, Vol. 1 (1982), pp. 51-53.

building has a low-pitched, hipped roof with wide eaves. Partially engaged brick chimneys are located against the north and east elevations. The original windows were six-over-one sash with a soldier arch, or flat arch, topping the windows on the first floor. A one-story, hip-roofed porch across the entire front elevation has three asymmetrically placed brick pillars supporting the roof and a low brick wall connecting the pillars on the south and east sides. A string or belt course of vertically placed brick headers, with concrete accents at the corners, encircles the building, doubling as windows sills on the second floor. Another Hertford County example of a Foursquare was built in 1928 by Ed Worrell to serve as the parsonage for the United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro (HF1000).¹⁶⁵ Clad in plain weatherboard siding with simple corner boards and one-over-one sash windows, the main block of the dwelling has an almost square footprint, with a hip-roofed dormer with a triple window on the front slope of the roof and a single-shouldered brick chimney against the south elevation. One-story, polygonal bay windows are located on the south and east elevations and a one-story, hip-roofed porch supported by large tapered, or battered, columns runs across the front elevation and extends into an enclosed section that partially wraps around the south elevation.

The Modern movement and the International style emerged in the United States in the decades leading up to World War II and eventually influenced the everyday architecture of the average homeowner by leading to two styles that gained popularity in Hertford County and the rest of the state: Minimal Traditional and Ranch, both of which gradually abandoned adherence to historical precedents. In the earliest renderings of the Minimal Traditional style there is still a clear connection with the Tudor Revival style, as

¹⁶⁵ Personal communications with William Lawrence, current owner, and W. Arthur Warren, pastor of the United Methodist Church, December 2010

seen in a house (HF1073) in the 600 block of East High Street in Murfreesboro. Built around 1940, this one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled frame dwelling has a dominant front gable on the front elevation inspired by the Tudor Revival style. The Tudor Revival aspect is further enhanced by the minimalist front-gabled portico that shelters the entry door on the projecting front gable. The roof pitches are lower, however, and the forms more simplified than that of Tudor Revival-style houses, and the traditional Tudor detailing is lacking. Another example nearby (HF1075) shares some of the same features. Here a projecting gable-roofed bay with a double, or paired, six-over-six sash window dominates the north (front) elevation of the dwelling, and located to its left is a slightly projecting shed-roofed entrance with a glazed door. Minimal Traditional dwellings were built in great numbers across the country in the years immediately preceding and following World War II and often dominate large tract-housing developments. In Hertford County, they were not only built in urban settings such as Murfreesboro, Winton, and Ahoskie, but also in rural areas.

The Ranch style originated in the mid-1930s in California, gained popularity in the 1940s, and became dominant in the 1950s and 1960s. Seven examples of Ranch-style dwellings were documented in Murfreesboro, but later examples also survive in rural parts of the county. An early example is located on the 900 block of East High Street in Murfreesboro. Built (HF1086) around 1949, this one-story, hip-roofed dwelling with a truncated cruciform plan is a prototypical example of a Ranch-style dwelling.

Constructed out of concrete block and veneered in brick, the dwelling displays the typical features of the Ranch style with its horizontal lines, low-pitched roof, single story, large windows, patio, and built-in garage—all of which mark a clear departure from the more

compact forms of the Minimal Traditional style. Another example was built on the 400 block of East High Street in Murfreesboro around 1952 (HF1059). In addition to the typical identifying features, this example incorporates a recessed entry and various types of windows, including a large projecting window with three large horizontal panes in the middle and three smaller louver windows on each side on the front elevation. A screened-in gable-roofed porch and a two-car carport extend off the east gable end of the main block and a short gable-roofed wing extends off the rear elevation.

Whereas building materials such as wood and brick had dominated for more than two centuries, the commercial use of concrete block started to provide steady competition during the first two decades of the twentieth century, so much so that a writer in 1906 proclaimed that “Concrete blocks were practically unknown in 1900, but it is probably safe to say that at the present moment more than a thousand companies and individuals are engaged in their manufacture in the United States.”¹⁶⁶ Early manufacturers did not produce the actual concrete blocks, but made block machines. To produce a block, a mixture of Portland cement, water, sand, and stone or gravel aggregate was shoveled into the machine and tamped down to compress the mix and eliminate voids.¹⁶⁷ Hollow concrete blocks could be made with a variety of faces ranging from simple options such as standard plain face, standard rock face, and panel face, to more elaborate alternatives such as tooled edge rock face, cobblestone face, broken ashlar face, pressed brick face, or even a decorative scroll face.¹⁶⁸ By using a special facing mixture, blocks could receive a

¹⁶⁶ Pamela H. Simpson, *Cheap, Quick, & Easy: Imitative Materials, 1870-1930*, Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1999. Quoted in Simpson, p. 11.

¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 13

¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 22.

different surface texture, and even color could be added. Large general retail companies such as Sears, Roebuck & Company started selling concrete building block machines through their catalogues; Sears offered one for \$42.50 in 1908.

Christopher Kemper Harvey, a builder from Murfreesboro, owned a block machine and reportedly constructed over sixty rusticated concrete-block buildings in North Carolina and Virginia at the beginning of the twentieth century, including Stone Hall (1913-14) on the campus of Chowan College.¹⁶⁹ The concrete block house at 205 Liberty Street (HF1009) in Murfreesboro is said to have been Harvey's own home. The use of rusticated concrete block is similar to other houses on Liberty Street and elsewhere in the vicinity. Unlike other examples of concrete block buildings, the walls have never been painted. A front-gabled porch sheltering the three bays uses contrasting materials of shingles in the gable and rusticated concrete block for the pedestals beneath the supporting columns. An even grander example of a rusticated concrete block house is located at 208 University Drive (HF1037). Built around 1914, it is a one-and-half-story, three-bay, side-gabled dwelling with a triple-A roof. Unlike the other examples, the rusticated concrete block extends into all three gables.

Domestic & Agricultural Outbuildings

The twentieth century brought change to both domestic and agricultural outbuildings. Advances in the preservation and refrigeration of foodstuffs began negating the need for traditional domestic outbuildings in the late nineteenth century and continued into the twentieth. As more house types became popular, the kitchen was moved into the main block of the house, no longer relegated to a subsidiary wing. A shift

¹⁶⁹ Frank Stephenson, *Images of America: Hertford County*, Arcadia Publishing, 2003, p. 30.

in farming practices led to demand for different agricultural outbuildings. Tobacco had overtaken cotton in its importance by the end of the nineteenth century and continued to be an important crop. Flue-cured tobacco barns remained characteristic features on the landscape until the introduction of metal bulk-curing barn in the 1950s. The modern bulk barns were fully automated and therefore required a smaller labor force and could also be used to dry peanuts, dry and store small grains, or even cure sweet potatoes when not needed for curing tobacco.¹⁷⁰ Peanuts became another significant crop in Hertford County, surpassing cotton as well as tobacco in importance.

Just as they did with tobacco, farmers would store peanuts before taking them to market, but no historic peanut houses were identified in the survey. Several traditional peanut warehouses where farmers would bring their crops from across the county do survive, however. One such complex is the Early & Winborne Peanut Storage Company (HF883), just south of Harrellsville on SR 1002, which was started in the late 1950s and exhibits the development of storage sheds over time. Two of the complex's three large sheds are older front-gabled frame structures and the third is a modern front-gabled metal building. These are characteristic peanut warehouses: a front-gabled frame structure with a monitor roof with louvered openings and an open plan interior with the basic framing supporting the monitor roof exposed. A shed-roofed, and partially enclosed, dumping/loading area extends off the front elevation of the warehouse. Two conveyor chutes extend through the shed roof, meet at the top, and then separate again, with one connecting to the top of the monitor roof and the other hanging free. Farmers supply the peanuts from Hertford and Bertie County, after which they receive their government grades and are dried and stored at the facility.

¹⁷⁰ Hart and Chestang, p. 447.

Dairying never played a substantial role in Hertford County's agricultural economy, and only one example of an early twentieth-century dairy operation survives, just west of Ahoskie on NC 42 at the former Indian Springs Dairy Farm (HF778). The farm was operated by Robert Abner Holloman (born 1874) until he was killed in a farm accident in 1951.¹⁷¹ Two dairy buildings survive: a small well-lit, side-gabled, one-story brick dairy with three large six-over-six sash windows in the northwest and southeast gable ends, two squat doors in the northeast elevation, and one door in the southwest elevation; and connected via a breezeway, a front-gabled concrete and brick milking barn with large six-light steel-casement windows flanking the double doors in both gable ends.

Religious Buildings

Hertford County's religious landscape did not change much during the first three quarters of the twentieth century. Architectural traditions established during the previous centuries persisted. Distinctive changes that did occur included the brick-veneering of numerous churches, in the 1960s and 1970s, especially those of African American congregations.

One of the most distinctive churches built in Hertford County is Buckhorn Baptist Church (HF471), which dates to ca. 1913 and is considered a cornerstone of the Como community. It replaced an 1846 timber frame building that was destroyed sometime around the turn of the twentieth century. The tall one-story weatherboard-clad structure on a full raised basement features the ornate décor of the Gothic Revival style, which is evident in its steeply pitched roof, Gothic windows, and the large square tower with multiple pinnacles topped with round finials. A 1920s photograph shows that the church

¹⁷¹ <http://www.sallysfamilyplace.com/Neighbors/Holloman0.htm> accessed October 2010

originally had a much smaller entrance tower against the front gable end.¹⁷² It was a plain two-story tower with double entry doors, with a pointed-arch window above, a pent roof at the middle, and elongated louvered openings on the second tier with an open belfry under a pyramidal roof. Sometimes prior to 1976, the tower was enlarged to its current size. It is now twice as wide and one-and-a-half times as high, divided into three distinct tiers. The bottom tier is approximately the height of the original tower. Two flights of stairs lead up to the double entry doors. The pointed arch window above the doors was removed, but slender pointed-arch windows with stained glass now flank the door. The same windows appear at the middle of the first tier and on the southwest and northeast elevations of the tower. Similar windows were added to the front of the sanctuary. The short middle section takes on an unusual form, resting above a pent roof with two canted sides covered in roofing shingles that create trapezoidal front and rear elevations, with a centered, eye-shaped stained-glass window. The top tier is the most elaborate, with a paneled frieze encircling the bottom and two louvered pointed-arch openings piercing each of the four elevations. A compound pyramidal and cross-gable roof with a pinnacle at each corner tops the composition. On each side of the sanctuary, one-over-one wooden double-hung, stained-glass lancet windows flank a triple lancet window in a tall Gothic arch that rises into a small cross gable. The stained glass was added to the windows after the 1920s. Inside the church is a wealth of original material that reflects the styles of the Victorian era; gleaming beaded boards cover the vaulted ceiling, fluted trim with paterae on the corner blocks surround the windows, and beaded board wainscoting is present in the main sanctuary.

¹⁷² Stephenson, *Images of America, Hertford County*, p. 125.

An example of a traditional African American church that was subsequently brick veneered is Philippi Baptist Church (HF572) in Cofield, which was built in 1914. In many ways the church is comparable to Harrellsville Chapel Baptist Church (HF880), located approximately 6 miles to the east on NC 46 at a similar fork in the road. Both churches were built in the second decade of the twentieth century, and at some point their weatherboard exteriors were covered with brick. The main difference between the two churches is that the Harrellsville Chapel Baptist Church has only one tower flanking the entrance, whereas the Philippi Baptist Church has two. Typical of many African American churches, one of the towers is taller than the other. In this case, the taller tower contains the belfry and projects slightly from gable end of the sanctuary while the shorter tower is flush with the front of the sanctuary and its upper portion sits back so that it rises through the sanctuary roof. Both churches have similar pointed-arch windows consisting of panes of pebbled glass surrounded by smaller rectangular panes of colored glass. In addition, when the brick veneer was added, the window surrounds received a similar treatment with contrasting materials used for the keystone and springer stones. The Philippi Church surrounds are distinctive in that the brick stretcher surround is continuous all the way down from the springer stones to the windowsill.

Less common church forms in Hertford County are found in Christian Harbor Baptist Church (HF473) in the southeastern part of the county on SR 1441, and Brantley's Grove Baptist Church (HF951) north of Ahoskie on SR 1403. At Christian Harbor Baptist Church, two towers with pyramidal roofs flank the pair of recessed entrances on the front gable end. The lower-floor levels of the towers flanking the entrance originally served as coat/storage closets, and two single, raised four-panel doors

give access to the sanctuary. The sanctuary has a coved ceiling, and a raised altar is placed in front of an arched alcove at the northwest end. Six separate rooms of almost identical size divide the ancillary space beyond the sanctuary. Four-leaf folding doors are located at opposite ends of the altar on the northeast and southwest walls and provide access to two of the additional spaces. Brantley's Grove Baptist Church (HF951) built in 1926 is distinguished by its cruciform plan. A pedimented portico supported by paired Tuscan columns accentuates the front gable end of the church. Green octagonal shingles decorate each of the pedimented gable ends of the four wings of the building and rectangular louvered openings pierce each of the gable peaks. A steeple with an octagonal belfry and a tall spire on the front arm of the church appears to be a later addition. As at Christian Harbor Baptist Church, doors (in this case modern accordion doors, which probably replaced hinged wooden folding doors) separate ancillary sanctuary and/or Sunday School spaces in the wings from the main sanctuary. The multipurpose Akron Plan, discussed above, may have influenced this plan.

A church inspired by the Colonial Revival movement is the former Methodist Episcopal Church, South in Winton, built in 1930 (HF1130). The brick church resembles, for instance, Bruton Parish (ca. 1715) in Williamsburg, Virginia, and combines Georgian and Federal features. Windows with nine-over-nine sashes, compass-head fanlights, brick arches, and keystones in contrasting materials pierce the walls of the sanctuary; double entry doors with a large Federal-style fanlight give access to the square entrance tower on the front gable end of the church. A nine-over-nine sash window and a circular window, with a keystone at each cardinal compass point of the surround, pierce the front of the tower and an octagonal belfry with round-arched louvered openings and a

small shingle-clad cupola with a bell-shaped roof and a short spire sit on top. Located against the rear gable end is a polygonal apse with two compass-head windows.

Pleasant Plains Baptist Church (HF947) exemplifies the lasting influence of the Gothic Revival on church architecture. Built around 1949, it clearly draws inspiration from the New Ahoskie Baptist Church that was built around 1903. Unlike many of the other churches in Hertford County, Pleasant Plains Baptist clearly followed English Gothic Revival examples. This appears so not only because of its use of brick, but also the use of the two square crenelated towers, the Tudor-arched entry doors, the buttresses, and the capped parapet walls on the short wings. In other aspects the church adheres to the typical design elements found on other historic churches in Hertford county, such as the T-shaped plan and the two towers of unequal height. The south tower is substantially larger than the north tower and contains the belfry; buttresses accentuate both towers. The towers flank two double-entry doors with Tudor-arched surrounds, and a large rose window pierces the front gable. The contrasting material used for the numerous details enliven the otherwise austere façade. The windows on the towers are rectangular opaque leaded glass while four pointed-arch windows with opaque leaded glass, separated by buttresses, pierce the north and south elevations of the sanctuary.

Of all the churches in Hertford County, the First Christian Church of God (HF488) in Tunis is probably the most unusual. It was built in the early 1960s by James Otto McDaniel, a carpenter, minister, and faith healer from Tunis.¹⁷³ McDaniel built the now abandoned concrete block church with his own money. The building is a low one-story, front-gabled structure with a rectangular footprint. Two short, crenelated, towers

¹⁷³ Frank Stephenson, *Tunis, North Carolina*, Murfreesboro: Meherrin River Press, 2009, no page numbers.

emphasize the entrances at the corners of the northwest (front) gable end. McDaniel obtained the twelve opaque leaded-glass windows from D. N. Evans of nearby Harrellsville. Apparently, the windows had been removed from a Baptist church. A pointed-arch window with a cross above pierces the façade between the two entrances, which are only six feet tall. Four large pointed-arch windows pierce each of the side walls of the sanctuary, which has a very low ceiling. A stuccoed pulpit sits on the first tier of a two-tier platform. The church originally had a dirt floor, and a small concrete block space McDaniel apparently used for a healing room is located behind the altar.

Educational, Civic, and Institutional Buildings

An important development on the educational landscape of Hertford County was the funding of at least ten schools by the Rosenwald Fund during the 1920s. Created by Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Company, the fund promoted the education of African Americans in the South through a program that distributed matching grants for the construction of public schools. These required local school system tax dollars as well as local community dollars, a substantial amount of which was raised by African Americans in the county.¹⁷⁴ The Rosenwald Fund developed architectural plans and specifications for its schools, which were firmly grounded in progressive ideas of school design in their attention to sturdy construction, adequate lighting and ventilation, ample size and proportions of classrooms, and to provide space for playgrounds and gardens. The Fund published a set of *Community*

¹⁷⁴ Marvin A. Brown. *Research Report: Tools for Assessing the Significance and Integrity of North Carolina's Rosenwald Schools*, December 2007

School Plans in 1924, which it revised and republished in 1926, 1927, 1928, and 1931.¹⁷⁵ Altogether, the Fund assisted more than 5,000 schools for African Americans, including approximately 800 in North Carolina, more than any other state. The desegregation of schools in the late 1960s led to the abandonment of most Rosenwald schools, including those in Hertford County. Some were renovated and became community centers, whereas others fell into disrepair and have since been lost.¹⁷⁶ The ones that survive not only illustrate the importance of the Rosenwald Fund in Hertford County, but also that of school building generally in the early twentieth century.

The Pleasant Plains Rosenwald School (HF575) built around 1920 is one of the first Rosenwald-sponsored schools in Hertford County. Soon after the Civil War, a school closely associated with the nearby Pleasant Plains Baptist Church was built for African American children in the Pleasant Plains community. The replacement school built with Rosenwald funds was a three-teacher school, but unlike most Rosenwald Fund-assisted schools did not follow any of the Fund's plans.¹⁷⁷ Instead of a simple rectangular gabled form, Pleasant Plains Rosenwald School has two sections: a front-gabled wing that features a small pyramidal-roofed belfry with a spire and a wider, hip-roofed rear

¹⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 30.

¹⁷⁶ Ten Rosenwald schools were funded in Hertford County; Catherine Hayner originally built as a two-teacher school in 1923-24, and enlarged to a four-teacher school in 1928-29; Cotton School built as a two-teacher school in 1923-24; Mill Neck School (HF680) originally built as a two-teacher school in 1926-27, and at some point enlarged to a three-teacher school; Mt. Sinai School built as a two-teacher school in 1925-26; Murfreesboro School built as a four-teacher school in 1920-21; Pleasant Plains School (HF575) built as a three-teacher school in 1920-21; Union School built as a three-teacher school in 1923-24; Vaughantown School (HF1186) built as a two-teacher school in 1920-21; Waters Training School (a.k.a. C. S. Brown School Auditorium (HF386) built as an eight-teacher school in 1926-27; and White Oak School built as a one-teacher school in 1925-26. Two other schools in Hertford County appear to follow a Rosenwald design, one is the Mapletown School (HF792), which was built as a two-teacher school (Plan No. 20) and which was destroyed in the spring of 2010, the other is the Menola School (HF889) which is a two-teacher school.

¹⁷⁷ <http://www.rosenwaldplans.org/SchoolPlans.html>, accessed November 2010

wing that gives the building a T-shaped form. A bank of four windows lights each classroom. Single-light rectangular, casement windows provide additional light.

Another early Rosenwald School that does not follow a standard Rosenwald plan is the two-teacher Vaughantown School (HF1186), built between 1920 and 1921. Typical of a Rosenwald school are the light and airy classrooms with banks of large windows, as well as the separate cloakrooms and the industrial room. The rectangular plan is what sets it apart, with the industrial room and enclosed vestibule placed between the two classrooms. (In the known two-teacher plans the classrooms adjoin one another and the industrial room is built as a slightly projecting appendage of one of the elevations, still be able to be accessed from both classrooms.) Slightly raised, four-leaf paneled folding doors separate the classrooms from the kitchen area, and a stage is located against the east wall of the east classroom. An unusual structural feature of the building is the “double” floor: the floor resting directly on the brick pier foundation is separate from the actual floor of the classrooms. The reason for this construction creating an enclosed two-foot-tall crawl space between the two floors has not been determined.

Mill Neck School (HF680), located across from Mill Neck Baptist Church, followed the exact plans as outlined by the Rosenwald Fund for a “Two Teacher Community School to Face North or South Only,” also listed as floor plan No. 20-A.¹⁷⁸ The two classrooms are located in the larger rectangular side-gabled section of the building and are separated by a moveable partition, with the so-called industrial room

¹⁷⁸ The school was budgeted in 1926-27 for \$3375, with the Rosenwald Fund covering \$700 of the total amount, the public \$2475, and the African-American community the remaining \$200. See http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/index.php?module=search.details&set_v=aWQ9MjY4NA==&school_county=Hertford&school_state=NC&button=Search&o=0, accessed July 8, 2010. See also <http://www.rosenwaldplans.org/SchoolPlans.html>, accessed July 8, 2010

located in the hipped-roof addition on the southwest elevation. A small rectangular covered porch on the addition shelters the doors, giving access to the northern classrooms and the industrial room. At some point, the Mill Neck School was extended by adding a classroom to the northwest gable end.

Whether or not the Menola School (HF889) was built with assistance from the Rosenwald Fund, its design clearly follows the Fund's design guidelines. Built around 1920, it is a one-story, side-gabled frame structure with a partially enclosed cross-gabled porch on the south (front) elevation. Two storage closets, or cloakrooms, are integrated within the porch and flank the recessed entry door. The school had two classrooms and a smaller space that probably was an industrial room, and folding or sliding doors, now gone, enabled the classrooms to be united for assemblies.

The most stylish of the county's Rosenwald-assisted education buildings is the C. S. Brown School Auditorium (HF386) completed in 1926 on the grounds of what was then Waters Training School in Winton.¹⁷⁹ Identified in Rosenwald school literature as an eight-teacher type, it is a one-story stuccoed tile block building consisting of classrooms flanking the hip-roofed core containing the auditorium. The building's Colonial Revival styling is most evident at the front of the hip-roofed unit. Here, three bays of paired windows capped by fanlights alternate with two double-door entries, also topped by fanlights, and a pedimented portico with Doric columns shelters the center three bays. Banks of four windows lining the side elevations mark the classrooms. Around 1943, when the school was renamed C. S. Brown High School (HF1172), a new

¹⁷⁹ Drucilla G.Haley and Jim Sumner. National Register Nomination for the Calvin Scott Brown School Auditorium, 1985

one-story brick classroom building was added to the campus with a very restrained neoclassical design. It is typical of schools of this period in its long rectangular, symmetrical footprint with three entrances on the front elevation, two of them in a projecting bay at either end. The walls are laid in seven-over-one common bond, with brick flat arches over the windows and brick sills and a projecting row of vertically placed headers demarcating the first floor level. A parapet wall with glazed terracotta ridge tiles conceals the roof on the northwest, southwest, and southeast elevations, and a raised gabled section defines the central entrance bay on the front elevation. Here, tall brick pilasters with paneled concrete caps flank the recessed six-light glazed double entry doors, which have a twelve-light transom, and there is evidence of a medallion in the gabled parapet.

Typical of the larger early twentieth-century schools in its use of brick and pairs of large nine-over-nine windows lighting the classrooms is the old Murfreesboro High School (HF1029), built around 1922. The main block of the school is two stories on a tall raised basement, with a water table consisting of vertically placed headers demarcating the first-floor level on the front elevation of the main block. Four large double nine-over-nine sash windows flank the central entrance bay, which consists of two large nine-over-nine sash windows flanking recessed double entry doors with a twelve-light transom. A pedimented portico supported by tall Tuscan columns and pilasters carrying a full entablature shelters the entry. Slightly lower and somewhat recessed stairwell wings flank the main block, and full height classroom wings, against the rear half of the east and west elevations of the main block, give the building a truncated U-shaped footprint. To the rear, a two-story hyphen connects the main block to the

auditorium, which is divided into six bays by pilasters. A concrete water table, concrete caps on the pilasters with a decorative band of vertically placed stretchers connecting the caps, and concrete springer and key stones and brick arches trimming round-arched windows provide decorative detailing for the east and west elevations of the auditorium.

Towards the middle of the twentieth century there was a change in school design principles. Whereas previously schools were designed primarily to impress the adult, the new schools exhibited a Modernist aesthetic and were designed more with the pupil in mind. Children needed “pleasant and non-confining surroundings, inspiring environment, friendly, restful, and secure atmosphere, and colorful spaces.”¹⁸⁰ Schools were designed at a more child appropriate scale, with an emphasis on friendliness and social spaces, such as hallways, entrances, and courtyards, where students could gather and interact. New designs focused on one-story buildings and emphasized the site, incorporating the landscaping into the design to avoid the impersonal, institutional-like coldness of earlier schools. The use of new technology allowed for the creation of large multi-use spaces unobstructed by pillars and posts.

An example of a Modernist school building is the former Amanda S. Cherry School (HF881), just west of Harrellsville, which was built in 1950 and consists of a classroom building and a separate gymnasium/auditorium. Both structures are concrete block buildings with brick veneer and lack most of the traditional applied ornament of traditional architecture. The classroom building is a one-story rectangular structure bisected by a hallway with four classrooms on either side. The roof over the hallway and part of the classrooms, is slightly taller than the shallow shed roofs covering most of the

¹⁸⁰ From William Wayne Caudill’s *Toward Better School Design* (1954) as quoted on http://www.coloradopreservation.org/crsurvey/schools/hs_midcenturyschools.html, accessed May 2011.

classrooms, giving the appearance of a monitor roof and adding to the industrial look of the school. The classrooms receive light from banks of windows separated by wooden panel that run almost the entire length of the long side elevations. Each bank consists of six fixed wooden-framed lights, with three wooden hopper windows at the bottom. A covered walkway extends off the west end of the door shelter and leads to the separate gymnasium/auditorium, which is lit by banks of twenty-seven-light steel casement and fixed windows that extend to the top of the wall from low aprons of exposed concrete block. The school closed its doors in the late 1970s, after which is served as a rehabilitation center. It ceased this function in 1999, and currently there is an ongoing effort to turn the former school into a community resource center.

A two-story, three-bay concrete block building, built around 1958 as Chapter Lodge No. 496 (HF1190) for the Free and Accepted Masons, is a modest example of the influences of Modernist architecture in Murfreesboro.¹⁸¹ Despite its austere appearance, there is a certain level of sophistication in the rounded corners of the window reveals and the double eight-light steel-casement windows. A parapet wall with terra cotta ridge tiles conceals the shallow-pitched shed roof, which slopes down to the rear elevation of the building. A slightly older and even plainer African American Masonic Hall (HF910) was built in Union around 1950. It is a two-story, two-bay, front-gabled frame building. A 1976 photograph indicates that a hip-roofed porch supported by three plain studs formerly sheltered the two first floor bays, and the windows were originally tall six-over-six sash windows.

¹⁸¹ Identified as the Murfreesboro Colored Masonic Lodge on the tax card, this lodge is not affiliated with the American George Lodge No. 17 (HF654) on University Drive, which is part of the Grand Lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina.

At least two community buildings were constructed in the county during the first half of the twentieth century. A one-story, three-bay, front-gabled frame building on a raised foundation was erected in Menola (HF854) around 1936. The building faces west and a one-story front-gabled porch covers the central entrance bay on the front elevation. Five nine-over-nine windows divide the south elevation. Large double-hung multi-pane sash windows mark both side elevations. The other community building (HF1102), built in Winton around 1950, also is a one-story, three-bay, front-gabled frame structure. On the front gable end, large six-over-six sash windows flank the glazed double entry doors sheltered by a gabled portico on square columns with basic capitals. Paired and single six-over-six sash windows line the side walls.

Winton is also home to two twentieth-century modernist civic buildings, the Hertford County Office Building (HF1100), built between 1950 and 1951, and the Hertford County Courthouse (HF496), built in 1956, both designed by John J. Rowland and James M. Simpson of Kinston. Identifying features of the conservative Modernist design of both buildings are their horizontality, subtle changes in the height of the one-story flat-roofed buildings, clearly incised openings, and the use of flat rectilinear concrete trim to delineate the windows and doors along the two street elevations. A square section of the Hertford County Office Building at the north corner has slightly raised roof and projects away from the rest of the building creating a prominent pavilion. A band of five tall windows with concrete surrounds above plain concrete panels emphasizes the northwest elevation of this projecting section, and a bronze commemorative plaque is located in the panel below the central window. The main entrance is located on King Street and additional entrances are located on the West Cross

Street and the rear southeast elevations. All of the entrances are recessed and the entrances facing the two streets have steps leading up to them with metal handrails with small decorative urns. Concrete bands trim the window and door openings on the northeast and northwest elevations; the single, double, and quadruple windows have steel frames. The current Hertford County Courthouse is at least the fourth courthouse since the county was established in 1759. It is a concrete block and brick masonry building with brick veneer and an irregular footprint. The main entrance flanks a slightly higher central section with seven large fixed windows that cover most of the elevation and reach from a couple of feet above grade to a couple of feet below the parapet surrounding the flat roof.

Industrial and Commercial Buildings

None of the buildings associated with early twentieth-century fishing industry in Hertford County survive, but the importance of the grain and peanut crops remain visible on the landscape. Two early rural examples are the R. O. Whitley Inc. Complex (HF825), northwest of Como on SR 1310, and the Early & Winborne Peanut Storage (HF883), just south of Harrellsville on SR 1003, both of which date to the 1950s. The R. O. Whitley, Inc., Complex (HF825) is currently abandoned and rapidly deteriorating, but consists of three warehouses and one large, metal storage silo, as well as a number of smaller metal silos, an office, a weigh station, sheds, and other support buildings. Richard Whitley, the former owner and operator, also ran a livestock buying operation from this address and there is evidence of livestock pens behind one of the warehouses. The Early & Winborne Peanut Storage Company (HF883) was started in the late

1950s.¹⁸² The complex has three large peanut storage buildings. Two of the buildings are front-gabled frame structures and the third is a front-gabled metal building. According to one of the employees, the two frame structures were brought up from Powellsville and reused when the company was established.¹⁸³ The oldest building is a large, front-gabled frame structure with an integral loading dock on the front gable end, and large sliding door at the center of the side elevations. Several yards to the north stands the second frame storage building, which is front-gabled and has a monitor roof with louvered openings. The building is about one-quarter longer than the first shed and its interior has an open plan with basic framing supporting the monitor roof. A shed-roofed, and partially enclosed, dumping/loading area extends off the east (front) elevation of the shed. A weigh station is located directly in front of the loading area to the east. The third storage building, located farthest to the north, is a front-gabled, steel-frame structure clad in rib-panel metal with a single large sliding door in the front gable end. The framing consists of large steel crucks, or curved bents, creating an open plan. Corrugated plastic skylights light the interior. A front-gabled dumping/loading area is located just to the east of the front gable end.

An urban example of the importance of peanuts and cotton in the county's economy is the Charles L. Revelle & Son Complex (HF1189) in Murfreesboro, begun around 1948, which encompasses both the Chas. L. Revelle and Sons, Inc., cotton gin ("Day or Night, we gin it right") as well as the Revelle Grain Company, Inc., grain

¹⁸² Peanuts are supplied from Hertford and Bertie County, after which they receive their government grades and are dried and stored at the facility.

¹⁸³ Personal communication, August 2010

elevators ("Roanoke-Chowan's leading Grain Maker").¹⁸⁴ The cotton gin is no longer in operation, but several of the structures survive. The office and weighbridge shown in a 1961 aerial photograph of the complex, on the east side of S. West Street, are extant, but the original cotton gin was replaced by the current building after 1961. The gable-roofed structures connected to the gin by means of overhead pipes no longer survive, but the bale-storage warehouses along W. Broad Street do. A brick gable end, with parapet and terra cotta ridge tiles, at the east end of the first warehouse and a similar brick partition wall in the second unit prevented the spread of a possible fire from one frame section to the next. The buildings also were outfitted with a sprinkler system at some point. The furnace associated with the cotton gin, used to burn off waste material, was located on the west side of S. West Street, north of the grain elevators, but no longer survives. After the boll weevil destroyed the cotton crops in Hertford County, the processing of cotton was abandoned. The grain company is still in operation, but has undergone several changes as well. The receiving building survives as do the grain bins and grain elevators to the west of the receiving building; however, large grain bins manufactured by the Butler Manufacturing Company replaced a storage building to the north of the receiving building. Butler first introduced its galvanized-steel grain bins in 1907, and by 1938 research had proven the superiority of these bins over traditional wooden ones.¹⁸⁵ A second office building is located southwest of the receiving building. Sections of the building are constructed with concrete block, whereas others are frame covered with metal siding. The 1961 aerial shows it had a loading dock along the east elevation, which no longer survives; the building currently is largely gutted. Located northwest of the

¹⁸⁴ Quotes taken from an advertisement in *The Chowanoka* of 1965, the yearbook of Chowan College.

¹⁸⁵ <http://www.butlermfg.com/about/history.asp>, accessed February, 2010.

grain elevators is a large peanut storage building. The building shown in the 1961 aerial was destroyed by arson and replaced in 1965 by a smaller peanut storage building. An office and weighbridge were built to the north of it along W. Broad Street, and bin-storage pole sheds and a smaller, front-gabled storage barn (visible in the 1961 photograph) are located to the south and southwest of the peanut storage building.

A rare surviving twentieth-century mill is the Chowan Milling Company (HF836) near Como on US 258. It was begun in 1943 and most of its buildings were erected by the mid-1960s. The company had a dog food division that manufactured Red Cap Dog Food in the 1950s. The complex is composed of a concrete block building, an auxiliary warehouse building, a weigh station, and at least ten granary silos. The complex is in poor condition, but it still exemplifies milling properties scattered across rural Hertford County.

Numerous twentieth-century commercial buildings survive in the county, some of which follow more traditional forms such as the store (HF475) built around 1923 at the intersection of SR 1167 and 1169. Similar to the Parker Store (HF569), it is a two-story front-gabled frame building with a flat false parapet. The building also has a one-story shed section along each side elevation. The intact storefront has large four-pane display windows and a recessed entrance flanked by tall two-pane windows, also for display, occupying the angled walls. The single door is glazed in the upper portion, and a single-light transom is above.

An early example of the use of concrete block for a commercial building is the Bank of Winton (HF1106), which was built around 1910. Typical of other commercial buildings of the first half of the twentieth century, it conforms to its deep and narrow lot.

The main body of the bank is constructed out of panel-faced concrete block with standard rock-face or rusticated concrete block quoins at the corners and a molded concrete cornice along the top of the parapet wall. The use of exposed concrete block was not yet fully embraced at the beginning of the twentieth century, and two other commercial buildings constructed in Winton relied on the more traditional use of brick, namely the Merchants and Farmers Bank (HF1129), built in 1913, and former Post Office, or Taylor Building (HF527), built in 1915. The one-story Merchants and Farmers Bank (HF1129) is one of the most classically inspired buildings in Hertford County. The façade consists of a tetrastyle temple front with four brick pilasters (now painted white) dividing three bays and supporting a full-size entablature and a classical pediment with dentils. A medallion with an inverted flower and floral garlands decorates the grey stuccoed tympanum. The pilasters rest on small brick pedestals consisting of vertically placed stretchers and have simple concrete bases and capitals. Six-over-one windows with flat arches with keystones flank the central recessed entry door with a small open vestibule. A round arch with a keystone and a fanlight window embellish the entrance, and the vestibule floor is inlaid with a mosaic consisting of a geometrical border surrounding stylized flowers. Along the side elevations and rear gable end are six-over-one sash windows in segmental brick arches. Inlaid at the front end of the southwest side is a terra cotta or cast concrete plaque that reads, below *1913*: “This brickwork made by Fanfaroni Bros. & Traversa Co. 917 Mariner st. Norfolk Va.”¹⁸⁶ The former Post Office, or Taylor

¹⁸⁶Little is known about the Fanfaroni brothers or the Traversa Company. Giovanni (later John) Fanfaroni was born in Italy on April 7, 1881, and arrived by steamer ship in New York from France on June 19, 1909, with his wife, and listed his profession as mason. A World War I draft registration card, from 1917-18, for John Fanfaroni, identifies him as a bricklayer working for Porter Brothers at the Army Base Terminal, living at 214 North Street. Ancestry.com accessed March 2011. The Fanfaroni name first appears in the 1912 Norfolk City Directory. Augustine Fanfaroni, a bricklayer, is listed as residing at 163 Brewer Street. The 1913 directory lists John (Giovanni) and Powell Fanfaroni, both sculptors, living at 917 Mariner Street.

Building (HF527), also is typical of other early twentieth-century commercial buildings, with its narrow and long footprint and shallow-pitched shed roof concealed by a parapet wall. The attention to detail exhibited in the front elevation is in keeping with the building's original public function. In contrast to the soft orange brick of most of the exterior, four grey brick pilasters rise to a grey brick corbelled cornice to enframe the three bays consisting of the main entrance and flanking windows. The walls immediately above and to the sides of the three front openings also are grey brick. A two-light transom tops the double-door entry. All windows are two-over-two sash with concrete sills and all openings are segmental-arched, with the arches consisting of two rows of brick headers.

The use of concrete block found its way into various auto-related commercial structures across Hertford County. One such example is a service station (HF1126) in Winton built during the 1950s. Here the concrete block construction is concealed on the front and the side by cladding of metal panels. A small restroom wing is also clad in metal panels. Another example is the motel complex located on the Ahoskie-Cofield Road, just west of SR 1413, which was built around 1955 and consists of an interesting mix of ten small cottages (HF720), a larger building, and a large U-shaped structure identified as a motel in the county tax records (HF732). Associated with the V.I.P. Club

Their home was a two-story frame dwelling located in a predominantly Irish and Italian neighborhood, about two blocks from St. Mary's Catholic Church. This house, as well as the entire neighborhood with the exception of the church, was razed in the early 1950s for an urban renewal project. The 1914 directory lists a Giovanni Fanfaroni, also a bricklayer, and Powell Fanfaroni, the sculptor, still at 917. The 1915 through 1918 directories only list John Fanfaroni. The 1915 directory still lists him as a bricklayer living on Mariner Street, but by 1916 he is listed as a laborer. By 1917, John Fanfaroni had moved to 214 North Street in Norfolk, and no occupation is listed for him in that year, but in 1918, his occupation is listed once again as a bricklayer. Information on the whereabouts of the Fanfaroni Brothers in Norfolk provided by Bill Inge, assistant in the Sargeant Memorial Room at Norfolk Public Library, February 2011.

(HF731) built in 1942 across the road, they were probably owned and operated by Sam Pillmon, a respected African American businessman in Ahoskie.¹⁸⁷

¹⁸⁷ Frank E. Stephenson, *Chowan Beach: Remembering an African American Resort*, Charleston: The History Press, 2006, p. 95.

Conclusion

By 1960, the population of Hertford County had increased to 22,718. As is the case with surrounding counties, population began declining in the 1960s due to social and economic changes and hurricanes Floyd (1999) and Isabel (2003) caused considerable suffering. However, as of the census of 2010, the population was up to 24,669.¹⁸⁸ There are four elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, three private or parochial schools, and three universities in the county; the thirty-two churches include thirty-one Protestant and one Catholic.¹⁸⁹ Whereas the original settlers were drawn to the area because of its rich soil and abundant natural resources, and while over twenty-two percent of the county's land is still devoted to crops and over sixty-five percent of the county is forested, only 5.2% of the total work force is still employed in farming, fishing, or forestry. Agriculture and forestry-related industry remain important to Hertford County's economy, but manufacturing is becoming an important part of the area's economic stability, with pursuits ranging from aluminum to steel and from plastics to printing.¹⁹⁰ Farmers still grow traditional crops such as tobacco, peanuts, and cotton, and they are also producing soybeans, and poultry farming has become a growth industry.

Hurricanes have damaged and destroyed numerous buildings, and a combination of economic hardship and abandonment has often led to their further decline. The economy has also led to numerous historic properties being abandoned as descendants of the original owners move out of the county in search of better opportunities, often leading

¹⁸⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hertford_County,_North_Carolina, accessed March, 2010.

¹⁸⁹ <http://www.hertfordcounty.com/>, accessed March, 2010

¹⁹⁰ NUCOR Steel, near Cofield, established in 1999, is the largest employer in the manufacturing branch with 402 employees.

to demolition by neglect. Part of a similar trend is farmland being leased or sold off to large-scale farming operations, with historic farmhouses often discarded in the process. Changes in agricultural production, specifically that of tobacco, has led to the abandonment of tobacco barns since they cannot easily be adapted, and fewer and fewer of them remain on the landscape. These changes have also led to the loss of other traditional agricultural outbuildings. Owners often alter their historic properties by applying vinyl siding and installing replacement windows in an effort to save on paint and heating and cooling costs. A comparable trend is the brick veneering, primarily of African American churches, and the replacement of their traditional multi-pane sash windows with opaque leaded glass windows.

Despite these changes, Hertford County retains a large part of its historic fabric, both in the built environment, the landscape, and the county's families, many of which can trace their ancestry back to the initial settlers. Some of these descendants, as well as the occasional outsider, make every effort to preserve this heritage to the best of their ability, by steadfastly painting the original weatherboards, keeping the roof tight, and fixing old window sashes. Concerted efforts such as these and the involvement of the State Historic Preservation Office in creating awareness and providing assistance will ensure the survival of many of these resources for the enjoyment of future generations.

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