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Section F

Associated Property Types

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- Frame

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- Frame
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Introduction

Property Type 1
Farm Complexes

Introduction

The majority of buildings recorded in Currituck County were originally part of a farm complex. Given the rural and agricultural nature of Currituck County, however, very few intact farm complexes survive. In fact, the most depleted historic architectural resource in the county, in addition to early single-family dwellings, is agricultural buildings. There are no farm complexes in Currituck County that are eligible for the state's National Register Study List. Still, the importance of agriculture in the county and its relation to architectural development are noteworthy subjects of discussion.

Sadly, the days of the small farmstead in Currituck County are coming to an end as growing numbers of farms are sold for development, or smaller acres are being tended. The survival of old farmhouses along county highways, while outbuildings are destroyed, rehabilitated, or moved, is often the only clue that a farm once existed at a particular location. Census and agricultural records also support this change in the landscape. According to the 1860 U.S. Government census, the approximately 520 farms in Currituck County consisted of more than 104,000 acres worth approximately $1,175,485.00. Of these, the majority (approximately 196) were between twenty and fifty acres in size.[1] Large plantations were almost non-existent in Currituck; in 1860 only two properties in the area consisted of 500 or more acres.[2] More than 140 years later, in 2002, the average farm had grown in size to 424 acres. The number of farms in the county, however, totaled only 82, with their value amounting to $1,324,800.00.[3]

[1] 1860 Federal Census, Agriculture Schedule for Currituck County, p. 104., 210.
[2] Ibid.
[3] North Carolina Division of Agriculture, Agricultural Statistics Division, "Agricultural Statistics-Currituck County," located at: http://www.agr.state.nc.us/stats/codata/currituck.htm Accessed January 5, 2008.

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A farm complex contains three distinct components: the main dwelling, the outbuildings, and the landscape. Outbuildings are of two types. Domestic outbuildings included smokehouses, kitchens, privies, wash houses, milk houses, and spring houses. Agricultural dependencies, buildings used in the everyday operations of a farm, include barns and sheds for storing equipment, supplies, crops, and feed and various shelters for livestock, including chicken coops, cow and hog pens, stables, and mule barns. Finally, there is the farm landscape itself that can include fields, pastures, streams, hills, and ravines. In the case of Currituck County, the landscape could also entail Currituck Sound as well as various marshes and rivers. The typical Currituck County farm varied little in design. Surviving properties, old photographs, and oral histories indicate that, in the majority of cases, the farmhouse faced a road.

With farm properties situated along Currituck Sound, the main house usually faced the water. Almost always a detached kitchen was built within walking distance to the rear of the house Outbuildings, which usually included a smokehouse, privy, and various barns and sheds, were also located behind the kitchen. The domestic buildings on these farms could be grouped in various ways: either in a line or a U-shape. Further away from the house and domestic buildings were the agricultural outbuildings; these structures could be grouped close together or scattered about the property, near the fields or pastures. In many cases, a fence separated these outbuildings from one another. Although a sizable slave population lived in Currituck County before the Civil War, no slave dwellings appear to have survived.

The landscape also was an integral component of the farm. Wealthy farmers may have planted formal gardens reminiscent of the great English estates, although no documentation exists to support this contention. Most farmers, however, did plant trees—oaks, cedars, cypress, pecans and pines—nearby their houses. These trees sometimes commemorated a special event, such as a birth, a death, a marriage, or a homecoming. Some trees, known as “marker” trees, are also in evidence, often indicating the number of children in their family. Tree lines also served as visual boundaries for properties. By the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, farmers began to plant small

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groves of fruit and nut (usually pecan) trees to provide food and additional income for a family. In addition, farmers or their wives and children tended small vegetable and flower plots for their personal use.

In general, though, nature determined the landscape of most Currituck farms. On the majority of the farms in the county, fields surrounded the main house and domestic outbuildings on three sides. Given the generally flat terrain, terracing was not necessary. Many farms had small wooded tracts within their boundaries, which often were a source of additional income. Some county farms included saw mills. Fences were used primarily to prevent livestock from roaming in cultivated fields or to separate agricultural outbuildings and pasture from domestic buildings.

Certainly the most significant grouping of early outbuildings of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries are known as the McKnight Outbuildings (CK0061) in Shawboro on the plantation named Belville that Thomas McKmnight owned in the late eighteenth century. The seven outbuildings, consisting of an office, smokehouse, kitchen, shed, and three barns, span approximately seventy-five years of agricultural outbuilding construction, dating from approximately 1775 to 1850. First documented in a 1972 survey, the outbuildings have remained relatively intact, though all have undergone some alterations and deterioration. The only outbuilding that appears to have survived at from the period of McKnight's ownership is the one-story, mortise-and-tenon framed kitchen located to the north of the main house. Clad in beaded board siding, the front-gable roof building rests on a brick foundation with a brick floor. Rosehead nails are still in evidence. The remaining frame outbuildings appear to date from the later ownership of Dr. Gideon Marchant's in the mid-nineteenth century, including huis office, a one-story, frame, front-gable building, sheathed with simple weatherboard. The smokehouse stands to the south of the main house. Towards the north, located side-by-side are three frame barns. Although the original house no longer stands, a c.1893 two-story frame I-house was built on the original site of Dr. Marchant's house. Taken together, the house, along with its collection of domestic dependencies and barns offer an interesting picture of what might have passed for a typical mid-to-large-size farm in the county

during the mid-nineteenth century. Other surviving domestic outbuilding scattered throughout the county include a detached kitchen such at the Twin Houses (CK0003) in Shawboro and the Caleb Bell House (CK0017) in the Snowden area. Both of these buildings appear to have been built in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Constructed of frame and covered with beaded weatherboard, the side-gable roof buildings also had a large exterior brick chimney with single shoulders. Although the kitchen building at the Twin Houses is in ruinous condition, there remains enough of the building to suggest that it was of similar proportions and plan to that at the Caleb Bell property. One earlier kitchen, dating to approximately 1780 is found in the Sligo area. While appearing to retain its original weatherboard siding, vertical board door and hewn sill plate, the original chimney is gone. One unusual domestic outbuilding found in the county was a c. 1870 milkhouse at Indian Ridge Farm (CK0270) in Shawboro. Unlike the traditional milk house that was usually located near the dairy barn, this small one-story, side-gable, frame building, covered with beaded board, sits near the shady, cool area of the kitchen ell. A small hinged door on the west wall opens into a small storage area with galvanized metal trays where the milk was kept.

A symbol of the rapidly deteriorating agrarian landscape is the farm tenant house. An example (CK0148) on Buster Newbern Road near Jarvisburg, stands alone in a field. The small one-story, frame, side-gable roof house is covered with a variety of sidings, including beaded weatherboard, board and batten and vertical board and rests on brick piers. The original building appears to have been a small and simple two-room house with a shed-roof porch addition that was later enclosed. There are two entrances on the front, one of which is an older four-panel door. Surviving window openings contain of 6/6 wood sash.

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Significance The few significant farm complexes found in the county survey are fragmentary at best. Because in many cases, the outbuildings have been altered or the original farmhouse is gone or also significantly altered, none of these properties are eligible for consideration as complexes. However, the farm complexes remain important historically in understanding the role of agriculture and the contributions of Currituck farmers from the small yeoman farmers of the early settlement and nineteenth centuries to the truck and subsistence farmers of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. It is possible that individual outbuildings may be considered for individual eligibility for their architectural significance as are surviving examples of a particular building type and methid of construction. However, in the case of Currituck County, no surviving outbuilding merits individual consideration.**Registration Requirements**

In order for a farm complex or individual component of a farmstead to be eligible for the National Register, it must meet certain registration requirements. First is the basic requirement that the property or majority of buildings, structures and field patterns on the farm should be fifty years or older. The farm and its components should illustrate one or more themes or periods in the region's agricultural development and retain integrity in overall design, materials, and workmanship. Farm complexes should retain integrity of location and setting, as well as an integral arrangement of buildings, structures and landscape features such as ponds, fields, and fences. For an entire farm complex, components making up the entire farmstead--including dwellings, outbuildings, landscape features, and other contributing elements--determine integrity. Individual buildings and structures may have been altered or moved within the complex without affecting the integrity of the entire complex. In fact, such alterations or moves can often reflect changes in agricultural methods and are therefore important for understanding farm techniques. In the case of a collection of outbuildings of number and/or variety, the integrity or presence of a dwelling does not necessarily determine the eligibility of the farm property. If the dwelling's integrity is greatly compromised, the building

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would be considered a non-contributing element of the farm complex.

The integrity of the farmhouse can be somewhat lower than that of a dwelling under consideration for individual eligibility. Exterior remodeling that includes any replacement siding, particularly vinyl, aluminum, or other synthetic siding, should not compromise integral architectural or decorative details, including overall form, fenestration or other noteworthy details Interior integrity is desirable, but not essential in this case.

Property Type Two: Dwellings

Introduction

The majority of residences in Currituck County were neither designed nor built by architects or master craftsmen. Nor were they designed with one particular architectural style in mind. They do, however, fall under the category of "vernacular architecture." This term is used broadly to describe housing forms that imitate academic styles, and houses produced by industrialization and cultural standardization. An even better and more humane description comes from architectural historian Cary Carson who defined vernacular architecture as structures built “according to local custom to meet the requirements of the individuals for whom they were intended.” [4]

Elaborate or "high style" designs of any type required skilled artisans and craftsmen; as a result only the wealthy could afford to hire architects, builders, and craftsmen for their houses. However, with the emergence of pattern books in the early nineteenth century such as those by Asher Benjamin, and later the publication of house designs in magazines and the kit house catalogues, the emerging middle class could build homes that at least echoed the high-style designs of the upper class. Instead of handcrafted elements such as carved brackets, moldings or fireplace surrounds, middle-class houses were constructed using standardized lumber, stamped metal, cast

[4] Quoted in Carl Lounsbury, “The Development of Domestic Architecture in the Albemarle Region,” in Swaim, Doug, ed. *Towards Preservation of Place: In Celebration of the North Carolina Vernacular Landscape*. The Student Publication of the School of Design: Volume 26, North Carolina State University, 1978, p. 46.

plaster molds, or elements chosen from a catalogue of standard millwork. In addition to using design elements that mimicked academic styles, vernacular houses adapted to such regional variations as the local landscape, available building materials, and the skills of local craftsmen or builders.

The houses in Currituck County mirror the distinct and diverse identities and histories of the county in general. As the county still remained divided across political and social lines throughout the historic period, these differences carried over to each area's buildings. Variances in style marked the houses, depending whether they were located in the north including the areas of Moyock, Tulls Creek, Currituck, Coinjock and Sligo, the south which included Powell's Point, Harbinger, Spot, Jarvisburg and Grandy, or the west in the area of Shawboro and Gregory.

The area near the Virginia border tended to reflect the architectural style and taste of the nearby lower Chesapeake area; historically this makes perfect sense given that the first influx of settlers were from that region. One distinct architectural legacy from those early settlers is that of the "Virginia House," a house type developed in the Chesapeake in the latter half of the seventeenth century. This house consisted of a single-story with gable-end chimneys and either a one-room plan or two-room, hall and parlor plan; it is also the first distinctive vernacular house type to emerge in the English colonies.[5] This is not to say that the "Virginia House" did not migrate further south; it did though it was not as popular in the northern end of the county. And given the early settlement of the western part of the county in the area of Shawboro, there is little doubt that the building type was used there too.

Because of the loss of early architectural resources whether by neglect, development or nature, the architectural evolution of the southern region of Currituck County is harder to pinpoint. It is not until the late-nineteenth century with the emergence of the Queen Anne style, that the area acquired a distinctive style still evident today. The southern part of the county also shows a more marked influence from the twentieth-century architecture of the Outer Banks as seen in the lone "flat-top" residence on Churches Island and the small shingle-clad bungalows scattered throughout that area.

[5] Ibid.

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Contributing to an understanding of the evolution of Currituck's architectural history is the 1960 architectural survey, *"Old Homes in Currituck County to 1860*," originally compiled by Alma O. Roberts and Alice Flora of the Currituck County Historical Society. The study showcased approximately 140 single-family dwellings illustrating many of the architectural characteristics of the early national and antebellum periods. Prior to the Civil War, there was an attempt, especially in the northern area of the county to keep up with current national architectural trends as seen in the use of the Federal and Greek Revival elements often as part of regional vernacular stylings from Virginia. While these buildings were, to an extent, present in the southern part of the county, little remains there today in the way of intact structures.

A. Houses Built Before 1861

DescriptionInterior Plans

One Room

Those houses built before 1861 in Currituck County were as diverse as one-room log or frame dwellings to relatively high-style interpretations of the Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival styles. The emergence of these designs suggests that the mainland county's early builders and homeowners were copying or re-inventing prevailing house styles in both Virginia and the other northeastern counties. The result was expressed in conservative, almost austere exteriors with a minimum of exterior ornament; where owners showed their wealth was in the small interior details from hand-crafted moldings to fireplace surrounds, and in some instances with different floor plans.

Even though Currituck County was among the first settled areas in North Carolina, beginning in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, no dwellings from this period have survived. It is probable though, that most of these these early houses were built of log and were one-story, or a

story-and-a-jump in height. The majority were one-room affairs, though depending on the circumstances of the builder may have had a simple hall-parlor plan. What is important to remember about these early buildings was that permanence was not uppermost in most settlers' minds. Many newcomers were restless, staying only long enough to farm until the soil wore out or until better economic opportunities beckoned.

Most one-room structures contained a small loft space above the main room for storage or additional sleeping space, reached by an interior enclosed stair; an entry at the front or side, and one or more windows. The house provided minimum shelter: all activities, including cooking and sleeping, were necessarily confined in a single room. But it had the advantage of being inexpensive and quick to construct, and could easily be enlarged.

A good example of this interior plan is the Alex Dunton House (CK0290) on Narrow Shore Road in Aydlett. Set back from the road and facing the water, the story- and-a-half, two-bay house is sheathed in plain and beaded weatherboard. Dating approximately from the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the original front block of the house consisted of one room with tongue-and-groove pine floors. The 6/6 wood sash windows feature hand-hewn sills. An earlier picture of the house shows the front shed-roof porch as partially enclosed. A small frame breezeway, similarly connects to a frame-and- weatherboard detached kitchen that was built in the mid-nineteenth century.

Hall and Parlor

During the pre-Civil War period, interior house plans represented in the county in addition to the one-room plan, include the hall-parlor plan and the central passage plan. Rectangular in shape, the hall-parlor house was two rooms wide and a single room deep the plan derived from medieval Welsh and English types and was common in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Virginia; given Currituck County's close proximity to the Virginia border, it is not surprising that settlers moving into the area would bring this house plan with them. The entrance into the house almost always

opened into the hall, the "public room." That was the larger of the two rooms and the center of household activity. It always had a fireplace in the gable end, and it provided a circulation space for sitting and eating. Often the head of household slept in the hall. A stair, usually enclosed and often located in one of the corners next to the fireplace, gave access to a loft used for sleeping. A partition often divided the loft into two sleeping areas corresponding to the hall and chamber below. The parlor, or chamber as it was more often called in the eighteenth-century South, was more private and used primarily for sleeping. A typical exterior illustrating a hall-parlor plan in the area was that of three asymmetrical bays in a window-door-window arrangement on the façade, giving the illusion that the interior had a central passage.

Certainly one of the most unique hall and plan interiors is found in the Banks-Tucker House (CK0178) situated near Caratoke Highway in the Currituck vicinity. Perhaps one of two surviving examples of a late Georgian-style interior, the two-story, side-gable, single-pile house features heavy random plank flooring and original dado, which features raised panels and a molded wainscot cap; horsehair plaster covers the walls, which have frame moldings. The focal point for each room, is the floor-to-ceiling, wood, raised paneled fireplace chimneypiece, each topped by a molded wood cornice; the north wall chimney cornice has dentils. Each fireplace mantelshelf consists of a simple molded wood cornice.

Of all the areas in Currituck County, Shawboro is probably the richest and most diverse architecturally with regard to buildings constructed in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, home to many of the county's earliest and wealthiest residents. Culong, the 1812 residence built by wealthy landowner Thomas Cooper Ferebee (CK0006), is noted for its reserved Federal styling. The two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, dwelling rests on an English basement foundation, the only one of its kind in the county and was originally sheathed with cypress weatherboard. Further distinguishing Culong from its neighbors is its front-gable roof orientation, in an area where the side-gable roof form dominated. At one time, two rear exterior end brick chimneys with double shoulders were attached to the rear gable-end wall. The interior of the house also breaks with the more traditional

hall-parlor plan in its long entrance cross-hall, flanked to the rear by two rooms. These two rooms feature paneled wainscoting and simple Federal fireplace mantels. A similar footprint and plan is seen in the John Humphries House (CK 0052), and the Cosey Etheridge House (CK0032), both built in 1820, not far from Culong. The homes were originally part of the larger Ferebee land holdings; according to some sources, the house was one of six built along similar lines as Culong.[6] However, the Humphries House is the lone survivor of the six, and along with Culong, remains one of the few front-gable roof dwellings in the county.

The c.1815 Twin Houses (CK0003) is another example of a hall-parlor plan. Composed of identical, two, two-story, frame, side-gable buildings, exterior end brick chimneys with shoulders with the south side chimneys having smooth tumbled weatherings mark the five-bay-wide, Federal-style houses. Each interior features a hall-parlor plan with reeded chair rails and plaster walls. Simple Federal-styled mantels mark the fireplace openings. Connecting the two dwellings is a one-story, frame and side-gable hall.

The exteriors of houses with hall-parlor plan had variations. The c.1815 J.P. Morgan House (CK0010), and the now-gone Samuel Ferebee House (CK0043) in Shawboro built sometime in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, were built with two side-by-side front single-leaf, wood paneled entrance doors, allowing family members and guests to enter directly into either room on the façade. The Samuel McHorney House in Barco also has two entrance doors. Unlike the Morgan House whose interior has been altered, the interior of the McHorney House has remained virtually unchanged. Though given an 1869 building date, there is evidence that suggests the house had an earlier construction date.

Central Passage

The hall-and-parlor plan generally gave way to the central passage plan during the late eighteenth century, and scholars agree that the introduction of this central passage signaled the

[6] "John Humphries House," North Carolina State Survey, September 7, 1972.

residents' to regulate more closely visitors' access to their domestic spaces. The floor plan of the house consisted of two rooms symmetrically situated on each side of a central hallway with a stair in the hallway leading to the loft space above. The central passage house plan was also more flexible in that the design was used for buildings one or two rooms deep.

Scholars have suggested that the central passage to be a response to the southern climate, where large central spaces running the depth of the house were built to catch cool summer breezes. It has also been suggested that the central passage was introduced as a means of enforcing certain spatial relationships between the family and outsiders. The passage served as a circulation space, creating a buffer between the public and private spaces of the interior and allowing direct access to rooms without having to pass through other rooms. Central passage houses often had a wing, or ell, built perpendicularly to the rear facade giving the entire plan the appearance of an L or T in shape. These wings often contained kitchens and other service rooms, although kitchen usually remained in detached buildings until the late nineteenth century.

The Joshua Baxter House (CK0011), built by Baxter, a local Currituck carpenter, sometime in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, is an early example of a center-hall, double-pile plan, an unusual type found in the county. The one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, side-gable dwelling originally had two gabled dormers on the front slope, which were later removed. Certainly one of the most visually striking features of the dwelling are the two asymmetrically placed exterior end chimneys, laid in common bond, with corbelled caps and stepped shoulders. Other original details include the single-leaf, six-paneled entrance door with its five-light transom and the first floor's 6/6 wood sash windows.

Baxter's house signaled the approaching popularity of a different type of interior arrangement. By the 1830s and 1840s, the center-hall plan, along with the I-House form emerged as a more popular style throughout the county. Not only did it signal for many, a new prosperity with a much larger, spacious floor plan, it also emphasized a more formal and hierarchal society as several Currituck landowners became slaveholders.

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Side Hall

Every so often, local residents broke with prevailing taste and building tradition. Some houses in the northern area of the county rejected the traditional hall-parlor plan and instead opted for a side-passage design that consisted of two rooms. The entrance to the house opened into a side hallway that also featured a staircase leading to the second floor. The side-hall plan is distinctive for a rural county as the design was more often seen in villages and towns.

A two-story porch makes the c.1850 Simmons-Morris (CK0331) House a unique single-family dwelling in Barco. This modest dwelling is sheathed in plain weatherboard, with double cornerboards accentuating the building's walls. The side-gable roof is covered with standing seam metal, has overhanging eaves with heavy cornice returns, a boxed cornice and a simple frieze. Square wood posts support the shed roof façade porch; the second-story has a turned wood balustrade. Unlike many of the houses in the county that favored a central entrance, the Simmons-Morris House has a side-entrance door with its original 4-light transom and two-slight paneled sidelights. Molded wood drip hoods are found over the original pegged 2/2 wood sash windows. The interior side-hall plan is relatively intact and features the original heart of pine floors, four-paneled doors, and parlor fireplace surround with fluting, scrolled brackets and central molded, incised panel.

I-House

The most dominant house form in the county was that of the I-house, whose exterior could express varying degrees of stylistic influences, finishes, and craftsmanship. The house form was especially pervasive in rural areas and dominated from roughly the 1830s well into the first decade of the twentieth. The I-house form is constant: two-stories in height and single room deep, and at least two rooms in width in a hall-parlor or center hall plan. A side-gable roof usually tops the house. Towards the late nineteenth century, some houses in the county had a central gable piercing the lower front roof slope, perhaps a nod to standardized plans of the Gothic revival and its roof

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configurations; this variation is often called a Triple-A roof . In mainland Currituck County, the I-house was primarily frame, almost always sheathed with some type of weatherboard and resting on a brick foundation or brick piers. The house was always oriented lengthwise, usually towards the road. The three- or five-bay facades were usually symmetrical in their fenestration, and often there were one or two gable end chimneys. In Currituck County, particularly in the northern end, chimneys were often shouldered and stepped. A stepped base was also a common chimney construction element throughout the county. Bricks patterns either tumbled, that is a row of sloping bricks laid perpendicular to a gable end, or laid in a stylized herringbone was not an uncommon sight. Embellishments were on the simple side;

Many I-Houses contained Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival embellishments which were contemporary to the house or were later additions undertaken to “update” the dwelling. Porches were not limited to the façade; in the majority of houses, shed roof porches were attached to the side or rear of the house or its additions. Two-story porches attached to the façade, although uncommon, did exist in the county. Porch embellishments tended to be refined with Tuscan columns and a simple frieze supporting a hipped roof. Rooflines also maintained an air of simplicity with molded cornices and returns.

Log construction first appeared in coastal Carolina in the late-seventeenth century. The structures were small and simple, generally consisting of little more than a single room. Log houses took relatively little time to build; within one to two days, a settler could look forward to having some sort of semi-permanent or permanent shelter. Log construction also did not rely on the skills of carpenters or other artisans, thus making the buildings fairly cheap. But by 1800, many considered log buildings to be old-fashioned; by the Civil War, log constructed buildings remained in the realm of the poor. Today, log-constructed houses are difficult to find; what few remain have often been incorporated into larger houses. Some of the earliest dwellings in the region would have been log, but none were documented during the course of the survey.

Frame construction appeared in Currituck County most likely in early-to-mid-eighteenth to early nineteenth centuries. Given the plentiful wood resources throughout the area, frame construction would also remain the most popular and almost exclusive construction type in the county. Until roughly 1861, frame houses were constructed of heavy timber with mortise and tenon framing and heavy wood pegs. In Currituck County, a handful of houses still stand dating from the late-eighteenth to early nineteenth centuries; the majority are found in the northern end of the county in the Shawboro and Moyock areas. The buildings ranged from a story-and-a-jump, (a dwelling with an attic-type, low-ceilinged room on the upper floor,) one-and-half-story, to two-story in height, and were two-or-three bays wide. Almost all were one room deep dwellings.

Architectural Styles

Federal

Of all the areas in Currituck County, Shawboro is probably the richest and most diverse architecturally with regard to buildings constructed in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, home to many of the county's earliest and wealthiest residents. Culong, the 1812 residence built by wealthy landowner Thomas Cooper Ferebee (CK0006), is noted for its reserved Federal styling. The two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, dwelling rests on an English basement foundation, the only one of its kind in the county and was originally sheathed with cypress weatherboard. Further distinguishing Culong from its neighbors is its front-gable roof orientation, in an area where the side-gable roof form dominated. At one time, two rear exterior end brick chimneys with double shoulders were attached to the rear gable-end wall. Culong is one of the few front-gable dwellings in the county, along with the John Humphries House (CK 0052), and the Cosey Etheridge House (CK0032), both built in 1820, not far from Culong. The homes were originally part of the larger Ferebee land holdings; according to some sources, the house was one of six built along similar lines as Culong.[7]

[7] "John Humphries House," North Carolina State Survey, September 7, 1972.

A common building practice during was adding on rooms to the top and sides of an existing dwelling. The Federal style Granberry-Simmons House (CK0039), although greatly altered is situated directly east of the Currituck County Courthouse and is considered the oldest house in Currituck village. The irregular spacing of the windows along the façade suggests that the two-story, six-bay, side-gable house, with its one-story rear wing, was built in stages. Documentation suggests that the east block of the house, which consisted of a two-story, side-hall passage, one room deep, was likely built between 1815 and 1820, and coincides with the construction of the Currituck County Jail, which was built in 1820. According to a survey conducted in 1972, the west addition followed in 1847; a chimney date brick confirms this judgment.

The c.1825 Caleb Bell House (CK0017), located near Snowden. The two-and-a-half-story, three bay pegged, frame house, has retained much of its integrity. The house is sheathed with beaded weatherboard; the side-gable roof has a boxed and raking cornice and a single, exterior end brick chimney with double shoulders and corbelled cap. An unusual six-light transom marks the central entrance door and the house still has its original 9/6 and 6/6 pegged wood sash windows. The interior hall room is notable for its reeded chair rail molding and a fireplace mantel that features a five-panel surround with raised decoration, a denticular cornice, and pilaster columns. The home's original random width plank flooring is also intact. A narrow closed quarter-turn staircase leads to the second floor rooms, one of which features a mantle with a simple wood paneled surround. Attached to the rear of the Bell house is a one-story, side-gable roof frame kitchen addition, sheathed in weatherboard.

The transition from the Federal style to Greek Revival, though slow in coming to the county, was evident by the 1850s. Built in 1852, one of the best surviving examples of the Greek Revival style in Currituck is the two-story, five-bay, Wilson-Broegler House (CK0021) in Moyock. Samuel Wilson, a local farmer in the Moyock area, built the house in 1852. Clad in plain weatherboard with a side-gable roof, features three exterior chimneys: a single exterior chimney on one gable end and paired exterior chimneys on the other. The chimneys are constructed of 5/1 common bond with double shoulders; an intricate tumbled brickwork pattern is found between the shoulders and the stack areas. Projecting from the east façade is a one-story, one-bay porch with a pedimented front-gable roof supported by slightly battered and fluted square columns; one of the strongest expressions of the vernacular Greek Revival style. Similar-styled pilasters flank the double-leaf wood entrance door with two-light wood paneled sidelights and a five-light transom. The house also marks a departure from other I-House forms in the county ; the overall proportions are lower and longer with the fenestration more square than rectangular.

The Greek Revival influence is restrained, but unmistakable as seen in Moyock's Cox House (CK0024) on South Mills Road. The most outstanding example of a vernacular Greek Revival dwelling in Currituck County. The two-and-a-half-story, five-bay dwelling, sheathed in weatherboard is a rare survivor of a pre-Civil War double pile house in the county, and is the only house with paired interior end brick chimneys in the area. Shaded by several large oaks, the side-gable roof features overhanging eaves and a molded cornice; each pedimented gable end feature a single 6/6 pegged wood sash window. The second-story central bay opening consists of a large 6/6 wood sash window flanked by 4-light sidelights, echoiung the arrangement of the original entrance hipped roof porch with its single-leaf paneled door with transom and sidelights still remains. A one-story, side-gable, frame and weatherboard kitchen addition is attached to the rear wall of the house.

The approximately 4500 square-foot interior of the Cox House is almost completely intact. The central hall plan features plaster walls, approximately ten-foot ceilings, random width plank floors and four-paneled single-leaf wood doors. The house's design also incorporates other interior

details not seen anywhere else in Currituck County. Greek Revival, gabled-styled cap trim and molded surrounds adorn all the door and window openings. Four-foot wide paneled pocket doors separate the dining room from the parlor area. The centerpiece of the house is the center-hall, quarter-turn staircase with a Greek-Revival styled round newel post which opens onto a spacious second floor hall. The fireplace surrounds are simple post and lintel designs with flat pilasters. Four bedrooms, each with their own fireplace are located here; another quarter-flight of stairs leads to the half-story with two smaller bedrooms, most likely used by servants. Another Currituck house, the Wilson-Walcott House (CK0086), located near Moyock bears a resemblance in form and plan to the Northern-Cox House. However, the dwelling's interior, now altered was not nearly as spacious or refined. The Northern-Cox House stands one of Currituck County's finest examples of the Greek Revival style as well as one of its most elegant homes.

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National Register and Study List Properties

CK0178 Banks-Tucker House

CK0024 Northern-Cox House

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B. Houses Built After 1861

Introduction

Like other counties throughout the state, the Civil War marks a distinct turning point in Currituck County's architectural development. Given the wholly rural nature of Currituck County, the impact of the war upon its architectural development was not as dramatic as in other more populous counties or in areas with strong urban centers. Still, the lack of newer architectural styles in the county such as that of the Italianate or Queen Anne suggests if not a provincial attitude on the part of county residents, certainly a more conservative approach to the building of new structures. With few exceptions, the general response to new stylistic trends, which by the late-nineteenth century would include the all-encompassing Victorian styles, would be seen in the updating of porches with various stylistic elements of the Italianate, Queen Anne or other Victorian styles and the popular Bungalow style during the early decades of the twentieth century.

By the end of the Civil War, improvements in construction technology that led to better milling techniques and more dressed lumber, light wood-frame building became standard for constructing buildings in the county. Heavy frame building did not fade away entirely, but was used primarily for the construction of outbuildings. Building with brick was still rare, though during the Post-World War II era, a few brick Colonial-Revival dwellings were built. Brick veneer was more common as seen in the ubiquitous ranch-style houses throughout the county. In some cases, older homes, such as the Sanderson House in Tulls Creek, were bricked over in an attempt to "modernize" the house as well as lower maintenance of the building.

It is entirely possible too, that building contractors began working in the county, though the first documented appearance of one is not until 1890, with the listing of a building contractor in Coinjock by the name of Jas. Hall listed in *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory*. There

were also a number of local carpenters who helped build houses; one builder, an African-American by the name of Milton Pugh, who worked during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century was known as the “Blueprint Carpenter” because of his skills in designing plans for houses in the southern part of the county. A number of Queen Anne-styled dwellings have been attributed to Pugh’s skills. Still in many cases, it was not uncommon for the family to build their own house, with the help of other relatives or friends. Weatherboard sheathing was still the most popular covering, though by the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the use of shingles and board-and-batten became popular.

The two-story, single-pile, I-House remained the dominant house type throughout the mid-to-late-nineteenth century and early twentieth century. T-shaped and L-shaped Queen Anne and Colonial Revival dwellings slowly emerged throughout the county as well. The L-shapedform with Queen Anne two-story bay window blocks was especially prominent in the southern part of the county. Colonial Revival houses tended to be built more in the northern end of the county, particularly in the area of Moyock and Tulls Creek, where they tended to resemble the one-and-half-story, side-gable roof with dormered house popularly known as “Cape Cods,” though houses with a Georgian flavor, as seen in elaborate front porches with fluted Classical columns, pilasters and fanlights with tracery were also built. The emergence of the popular bungalow, usually built as a one-or-one-and-half-story dwelling with an irregular interior plan, resulted in the construction of several small houses, many situated near the highway. In some cases, small groups of bungalows, built by a local builder, differing only in porch or window arrangement, were located near the main roads in the county.

One striking development in many of the late-nineteenth-and-early-twentieth century houses was the use of similar ornament both exterior and interior throughout the county. This in part was due to the availability of manufactured milled elements, available from area and regional sources such as the Kramer Lumber Company’s catalogue in Elizabeth City. Chamfered porch posts were seen throughout the county and Knotts Island,as were milled scrolled brackets. Fireplace surrounds

consisting of simple Ionic columns or fluted square pilasters with molded shelves were seen in many houses as were molded and rounded newel posts, some with acorn-shaped tops. Acorn-shaped pendants also were a common element in many staircases as well as rounded and turned balusters. The standardization of such elements allowed many middle-class homeowners to add touches of distinction to their dwellings, yet, also, sadly, demonstrates the loss of a certain degree of the area's vernacular building traditions.

Frame Houses

Italianate

The Italianate style, derived from architectural elements of the Italian Renaissance, offered an interesting alternative to the classical and ordered symmetry of the Federal and Greek Revival styles. Relying more on a more romantic ideal than academic, Italianate architecture was one of many mid-to-late-nineteenth century styles that fell under the umbrella of the Picturesque Movement. Coinciding with rising popularity of architectural pattern books, the style was one of the most derivative styles copied throughout the United States. Highly ornamented, the Italianate style encompassed classical columns, elaborate wood brackets along the rooflines, tall, narrow windows, hood moldings and decorative double-leaf entrance doors. Although the style's appeal was largely in urban areas, it did reach rural areas.

One of three examples of the vernacular Italianate style in the county, and the second oldest dwelling in Currituck village, the Walker-Snowden House (CK0082) was built in c.1875. The T-shaped, two-story, five bay, dwelling stands relatively untouched. The side-gable roof features overhanging eaves with heavy wood cornice returns in the gable ends, a boxed cornice, and two interior end brick chimneys with heavy corbelled caps and curved metal hoods. The house is sheathed in weatherboard, has cornerboards, and 2/2 double-hung wood sash windows with molded wood surrounds and heavy molded drip hoods. The central entrance features double-leaf wood entrance doors with a bracketed transom and paneled sidelights. Although the overall exterior

appearance is restrained, it is the hipped roof front porch that displays the ornament so closely associated with the Italianate style with its molded wood cornice, square wood columns, heavy milled scrolled brackets with decorative scrollwork and bracketed capitals, and sawnwork frieze. An unknown Baltimore carpenter carried out the work and completed the first story interiors, which, in part, explains some of the home's unique ornamentation. Family accounts state that Mr. Walker himself finished the upstairs interior, including the distinctive two-shelf fireplace mantels with stylized columnettes and paneled surrounds.

Two Italianate-influenced dwellings are found in Shawboro. The first, the Shaw House (CK0008) is more high-style in its appearance. The two-story house is sheathed in weatherboard and features scrolled brackets along the hipped roofline and a belvedere. Windows have hood moldings with scrolled brackets. The hipped roof porch has brackets and incised columns leading to a paneled double-leaf entrance door. Situated back from Indiantown Road and enclosed by a white picket fence is the c.1847 Joseph Burgess Morgan House, also known as Indian Ridge Farm (CK0270) in Shawsboro. What began as a small, two-story, one room dwelling became, by the 1880s, a two-story dwelling, five bay, I-house form, with a center-hall plan. The side-gable roof features overhanging eaves, heavy molded cornice and returns and a single interior end brick chimney with corbelled cap. One of the house's most visually dominant features is the one-story, hipped roof Italianate porch supported by square, wood incised columns with heavy sawn and pierced brackets and frieze. The porch risers flanked by wood wing walls are scalloped. The central entrance consists of the original double-leaf wood paneled doors with raised circle-topped arched panels. Surrounding the entrance is a 4-light transom and 2-light paneled sidelight, a common door element throughout the northern end of the county.

Queen Anne

One of the better examples of a late nineteenth-century Victorian dwelling found in Powells Point is the Walter Scott Newburn Jr. House (CK0144). The two-story, five-bay, single-pile frame

building is a ca.1860 weatherboard cottage with later Queen Anne updating. The two side-gable roof ends have heavy cornice returns with small rectangular wood louvered vents. A smaller central gable located on the façade is distinguished by a covering of saw tooth wood shingles with a wood diamond-shaped louvered vent. Decorating all the gable ends are decorative pierced wood bargeboards with spindlework..

The interior of the house has remained mostly untouched. The small entrance hall has a beaded board ceiling with beaded board wainscoting. A half-landing open stairway to the second floor consists of a turned wood balustrade with heavy wood acorn-styled pendants. All of the entrance surrounds in the house feature fluted pilasters with bullseye cornerblocks and molded base blocks; the same type of cornerblocks are also used in the window surrounds. Fireplace surrounds tend toward the elaborate; the dining room fireplace, for instance, has a scalloped cornice, a raised molded wood centerpiece with a bullseye medallion and square pilasters with the same bullseye motif in the center and molded base block. Slightly curved simple wood brackets support the molded wood mantle.

Near the highway and partially obscured by century-old magnolia and pecan trees is the West-Meiggs House (CK0173) in Sligo. The late nineteenth-century house is unusual for its elaborate use of the Queen Anne style. Unlike the dominant front-gable roof, two-story, projecting bay window block seen in many of the Queen Anne houses in the South, the West-Meiggs House is displays bay window blocks on the northwest and southwest corners of the façade as well as the south and north gable ends of the house. What remains of the original Queen Ann ornamentation is seen in the bargeboards with a stylized king post with small drop pendant and semi-circular milled and pierced ornament, the small two-light window openings, the pedimented pent, and the original fish-scale shingles since covered with vinyl on the east, north, and south gable ends. Also notable are the two brick chimneys with corbelled caps and brick round arched hoods; the only other examples of this chimney type is seen in the single interior chimney at the Currituck Jail and a house near the Moyock area. Now covered with vinyl are the original scrolled brackets under the front-gable bay

block eaves and molded drip hoods with scrolled brackets, which have also been covered with vinyl. A late twentieth-century porch shelters the original double-leaf wood paneled entrance doors with raised arched panels, a transom, and sidelights.

In Moyock, four consecutive generations of the Martin J. Poyner family have called this rambling two-story Queen Ann-styled dwelling home (CK0237). Built in 1902, the T-shaped house, covered with novelty siding, is similar in plan and footprint to dwellings seen in the southern part of the county, particularly the slightly projecting two-story front-gable roof bay block on the facade. However, these buildings are comparatively modest, even restrained when compared with the Poyner dwelling with its Eastlake influences. The hipped roof wrap-around porch features a spindle frieze and unusually detailed milled and pierced brackets. Another unusual bracket styling is also seen underneath corner edges of the projecting two-story, front gabled bay block. The north, south and west gable ends of the building are also highly ornate in style. In addition to the molded cornice and returns, the gables feature narrow diagonally cut wood strips arranged in a pattern that simulates a sunburst styling. Anchoring the gable ends are paired, single-light hinged windows with molded drip hoods with saw tooth ornament. The pattern is repeated with the building's 2/2 wood sash windows that also feature heavy scrolled, console-like brackets. The off-center entrance door has a blind transom and two-light paneled sidelights that are typical of many late-nineteenth century dwellings. Along the rear east second-story wall is a portion of the perforated wood balustrade that marked the full-length second-story porch. Providing heat for the home were two brick interior chimneys with heavy corbelled caps. In its earlier days, the landscaped yard was enclosed by a white picket fence.

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Bungalow

One of the more important design concepts of the American bungalow was that it be integrated into its natural setting. A good example of this philosophy can be seen in the c.1915 bungalow and grounds of J. R. Houska (CK0123) at 143 Owens Beach in Harbinger. Although not high-style, the home is a good example of the popular early twentieth-century American bungalow style situated on a well-tended lot filled with trees, native plantings, and seasonal flowers. The house exemplifies the most typical bungalow variation in the county in its overall including the front-gable roof with its overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails, the small 1/1 wood sash window in the front gable end, and its slightly off-center entrance door. Its restrained Craftsman detailing is seen in the the one-story hipped-roof porch with exposed rafter tails supported by the original slightly tapered square columnettes resting on brick piers and two slightly tapered square columns.

Currituck County bungalows often incorporated the characteristic Craftsman double-hung 3/1 sash windows, a roofline with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails, and slightly off-center Craftsman-styled paneled doors with vertical lights as seen in the John Gallop House (CK0125) in Harbinger. An identifying element of the Gallop House is the Palladian window in the front gable end, a Neoclassical element that also distinguishes several other Currituck County bungalows, including the Aubrey Snowden House (CK0) in Currituck. The front gable also occasionally included additional embellishment. For example, the Palladian window at the Gallop House has a small horizontal piece of wood that appears to have once simulated a "King Post" within a decorative bargeboard. The Snowden House Palladian window features diagonal muntins.

Another popular bungalow variety in the county is one and a half stories with a side-gable roof and long shed dormers on the front and rear, as exemplified by the Colin Doxey House (CK0201) on Knotts Island. In Moyock, the Stafford-Pruden House (CK0246) displays the typical Craftsman style elements as seen in the 3/1 Craftsman windows, entrance door and one-story hipped roof porch supported by battered wood columns resting on brick piers, but instead of the usual informal, irregular interior plan, the house features the traditional center hall at the main entrance.

A curving gravel road to the west of busy Knotts Island Road leads to one of three documented Sears kit houses (CK00210) Currituck County. The advent of kit houses, using popular American architectural styles of the period such as the bungalow, was available from popular retailers such as Sears, Montgomery Ward and the kit house manufacturer Aladdin. This kit house, now owned by the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, is the "Madelia" bungalow model featured in the Sears Kit House catalogues from 1918 to 1922. According to the company, the model was one that "industrial concerns like to provide for their manager and foreman. It makes a very classy dwelling with its colonial windows, private side porch and colored Fire-Chief Shingle Roll Roofing." Depending on the design and materials, the approximately 1000 square foot house

The home, built c. 1925 is located at the edge of the Mackey Island Wildlife Refuge, and sits on a nicely landscaped lot with open fields and woods surrounding the dwelling. Certainly one of this building's unique features is its jerkinhead roof, with heavy cornice returns and jerkinhead dormers on the east and west roof slopes, a roof type not seen anywhere else in the county. A hipped roof hood supported by exaggerated three-piece shaped knee braces marks the off-center entrance door. Because Sears kit houses could be customized, it appears that the original owner kept the wood balustrade design but not the brick wing walls seen in the original design and Sears ad. Other distinguishing characteristics include the asymmetrical fenestration that was a "signature" of Sears kit houses.

Colonial Revival

The most dominant domestic architectural style of the twentieth century is the Colonial Revival. Drawing on an idealized colonial past, American architects and builders studied a variety of colonial styles. The Georgian and Federal styles provided the bulk of stylistic elements, though other styles such s the Dutch Colonial were popular too. It is the latter that stands as one of the most striking examples in the county. The Lee-Creekmore House (CK0253) was built in 1870 by Jerome

Bunnill Lee. The house underwent renovations which have given the dwelling its Dutch Colonial look. In 1914, two rooms were added to the south end, changing the initial plan from a hall-parlor to that of a central passage. The original side-gable roof was modified in 1935 when a second floor was added. A gambrel roof with heavy molded cornice returns and a simple frieze board now covers the house. with a long, five bay shed roof dormer located on the east and west slopes. The east-facing entrance door is one of the more unusual ones in Currituck County consisting of a single-leaf, wood with ovulo-molded panels featuring long elliptical-shaped incised panels. Flanking the entrance is a 6-light transom with 4-light paneled sidelights. Two interior end brick chimneys with corbelled caps are found on the roof ridge. A one-story breezeway at the west rear of the house leading to the one-story, frame, side-gable roof kitchen was later enclosed.

American Foursquare

A house form that is considered to be a part of the Colonial Revival movement was the American Foursquare. From the 1890s to the late 1930s, this two-story, square box design was conceived in part as a reaction to the ornate fussiness of Queen Anne architecture. This did not stop builders from incorporating Queen Anne or other late Victorian elements to the form, as well as Colonial Revival, Craftsman or Italianate ornament.

A well-maintained variation of the American Foursquare style is seen in the Tulls Creek area at the J.W. Poyner House (CK0250). The c. 1911, two-story, frame and weatherboard dwelling typifies the box-like shape and hipped roof form of the Foursquare. The house's details are simple and restrained: the dwelling's exterior walls are articulated by double cornerboards; the hipped roof has overhanging eaves, molded cornice and simple frieze; an interior brick flue with a corbelled cap is located on the rear south roof slope. Two-light wood raised paneled sidelights and a three light transom mark the slightly off-center single-leaf wood entrance door. The most unusual feature of the house is its one-story, wrap-around porch with hipped roof and supported by battered wood columns resting on brick piers with a simple wood balustrade.

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Modernism

Adapted from the modern European architectural influences such as the Bauhaus in Germany and French architect Le Courbesier, American architecture looked more to the future than to the past. With the emergence of modernism, particularly the International Style, American architects rejected the use of historical styles and ornament. The emphasis now was on function and utility which expressed itself in buildings that favored pure expression of line, open space, and the use of industrial materials, especially metal and glass. For the majority of Americans, whose taste in housing was still fairly conservative, modernism, at least in domestic architecture, was too abstract, austere, and uncomfortable. As a result, the style made little headway except for places such as California where modernist architecture flourished.

A trip to California in the 1940s provided the inspiration for an International-styled house located on South Albetuck Road in Point Harbor (CK0116). The clean lines of the building are further accentuated by the large, well-tended one-acre lot and groups of plantings. The one-story concrete block house is covered with whitewashed stucco and rests on a wide concrete pad. Concrete coping caps the flat roof, while a projecting hipped pent runs across the front projecting block of the house. A small concrete patio enclosed by low brick planters adorns the southwest corner of the front. Window openings include 1/1 metal casement and metal tripartite casements, which consist of a central fixed light flanked by two 4-light metal casement windows. Attached to the west wall of the house and hidden under a coat of stucco is an old trailer that was converted into three rooms for the current owner's children. Aside from some vinyl replacement casement windows, the house exterior remains intact. One other interesting aspect of the design is a garage that was incorporated into the rear northwest corner of the home so it cannot be seen from the road. The blueprints for the house were drawn up by architect Al W. Smith of Elizabeth City on March 30, 1949; local contractor Ernest Lang was hired to build the house. According to the owner, Lang and his crew at first had difficulty constructing the house because of its unusual design; however, in the end they did succeed in building what is among the more distinctive houses in the area.

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Another International-styled design which proved highly popular were the Flat Top cottages seen at Southern Shores on the Outer Banks designed by North Carolina artist Frank Stick during the late 1940s. The inspiration for the Flat Top design was drawn in part from Stick's observations of resort architecture in other locations of the southeast such as Florida.The only representative example of a Frank Stick-inspired "Flat Top house is seen in the Wayne Twiford house (CK0336) located on Waterlily Road on Church's Island. Next to the International-styled Griggs Tract House on South Albetuck Road (CK0116), the building is perhaps the only other historic contemporary dwelling located in the county. Built during the years 1952-1953, the one-story, concrete block dwelling's features remain relatively intact and include a flat roof with large overhangs, metal window awnings, and paired wood sash 1/1 window openings. The house was designed by, and built for Wayne Twiford, former caretaker at the Monkey Island Hunt Club, and is inspired by the famous and exotic-looking

National Register and Study List Properties

CK0270 Indian Ridge Farm

CK0253 Lee-Creekmore House

CK0116 House, South Albetuck Road, Point Harbor

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Significance

Houses are significant as reflections of the diverse architectural trends over a period of time. In the case of Currituck County, these various stylistics differences illustrate local building traditions and adaptions of regional and national styles. These architectural expressions are more than the embracing of a particular element, material or style; they also define the county's social and economic history too. Buildings constructed before the Civil War, while once plentiful have dwindled in number. Those that do remain provide important clues to understanding settlement patterns, while explaining economic and social diversity within the county. For dwellings built after the Civil War, the problem is not nearly as acute, though many of these houses are also in danger of disappearing. In Currituck's case, of particular interest is the gradual re-orientation of houses towards the new roads and highways being built throughout the county. Not only does this reflect the changing patterns of transportation in the area, region and state; it also marks a dramatic move away from the county's historical "highway" of the waters of Currituck Sound and nearby rivers**.**

Registration Requirements

In order for a dwelling to be eligible for listing on the National Register, it must meet certain registration requirements. Individual houses must retain a high level of integrity in order to be considered eligible under Criterion C for architectural significance. Dwellings that are part of a farm complex or in a district where, in either case, it is the group rather than the individual components that are of primary importance may exhibit changes such as the appearance of modern siding or replacement of windows, yet may be considered contributing elements of the property as long as identifying characteristics have been retained. Due to their rarity, houses dating from the late-eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, however, can sustain more alterations than numerous later dwellings and still be considered individually eligible as long as the design,general plan, important

stylistic features, and most original materials are largely intact. In rare cases, houses with synthetic siding may be eligible under Criterion B as long as the building's original characteristics remain intact and the replacement siding has the appearance of the original.

In very rare cases, a house with synthetic siding may be eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture if all the other original features remain intact and the architectural elements that lend the house its significance express a style that was important in the county's architectural history that is now extremely rare.. Most potentially eligible houses occupy their original sites, although in rare cases, buildings of outstanding or architectural merit have been moved may remain eligible if the architectural integrity is maintained and the new site, as well as the building's placement on it, is similar to the original. In addition, the majority of houses in Currituck County illustrate the progression of stylistic influences as well as different building technologies through various additions or modifications. Houses that have been changed over time may be eligible under Criterion C in the case where alterations made at least fifty years ago retain integrity of design, materials and workmanship.

Property Type 3

Introduction

The institutional buildings of Currituck County—churches, schools and government—provide a fascinating glimpse into the cultural and social history of the area. Because of the county's slow development, the fierce autonomy of its communities, and the lack of a central transportation system of roads, the development of institutional-type architecture was sparse. Few buildings were architect-designed; the majority was often built through the use of existing plans, utilizing local resources and the labor of the community.

Churches were among the most common institutional buildings first built in the county, often beginning as a simple one-room frame structure. All of the earliest churches from the eighteenth century are gone. The earliest extant churches date to the 1850s; all have been altered, but some still display evidence of Greek Revival stylistic influences. By the late nineteenth century, the Gothic Revival style reigned; its influences seen in both white and African-American churches, through variations on gothic-arched art glass windows and entrances. Overall, the footprints of these small country churches were almost identical; a rectangular block with a front-gable roof, dominated by a tower whether placed at the side or in the center. Other churches favored tall central steeples. Stained glass windows were a rarity; most churches favored colored Queen-Anne styled art glass openings or plain glass. By the mid-twentieth century, many churches, in an effort to modernize, began covering their churches with brick veneer laid in a stretcher bond pattern. Others sheathed the buildings with aluminum or vinyl sidings. In many of these cases, the siding was applied in such a manner as to obscure vented openings of a church belfry or vents found in the steeple or tower. Entrances were enclosed with new vestibules and modern glass and steel commercial-style doors replaced the original wood paneled entrances. Church interiors followed a plan with one or two aisles dividing groups of pews; the pulpit was located at the center rear of the church. In terms of additions,

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most every church in Currituck was modified with at least one rear addition that might house a kitchen, classrooms, or offices.

The development of schools in the county began with small, one-room schoolhouses, some of which remained in operation well into the twentieth-century. Often with a front-gable roof, clad in weatherboard, with a front and rear entrance, these tiny buildings were found in most every Currituck community. It would not be until the 1920s with the philanthropic efforts of northern publisher Joseph P. Knapp, that brick school buildings would come into being with prominent flourishes of the then-popular Colonial Revival style. A unique aspect of the county's educational building, underwritten by Knapp was the construction of the distinctive Colonial Revival style teacherages, built in four different areas of the county.

Government buildings in Currituck are few. With the exception of the brick County Courthouse and Jail, the historic buildings used for institutional government functions were simple frame and weatherboard post offices found in most every community. Usually one room with a front-gable roof, these small buildings were a potent symbol of each town or village's identity. Only two of these post offices—in Currituck and Shawboro—although both have long since been empty.

Description

A. Churches

The rural white churches of Currituck County usually were associated with some denomination of either the Baptist or Methodist churches. The buildings were wood frame and covered with some type of weatherboard. Front-gable roofs dominated; the extent of exterior ornament depended usually on the wealth of the congregation. Early historical records show that at least one church building was standing prior to the Revolutionary War in Indiantown, near the present site of Shawboro. Other congregations established their churches throughout the county; some of these sites included Coinjock, Grandy, Moyock and Tulls Creek. Although there are several

church communities that date their beginnings from the early nineteenth century, their churches date predominantly from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. In many cases too, the current church might be the second or third building to be constructed by the congregation as needs or nature, dictated. During the course of this survey, approximately twenty-two churches were documented, divided almost equally between white and African American.

One of the earliest surviving Methodist church buildings is the c.1855, former Moyock Methodist Church, with its imposing temple-front façade. Illustrating elements of both the Greek and Gothic Revival styles, the church was the second Methodist Church built on that site. Based on early photographs, the original frame and weatherboard building was a large one-story square block. The front pedimented pent gable end had overhanging eaves and a molded cornice. Breaking the temple-front roof line was an engaged frame and weatherboard, two-story slightly projecting central tower with steeple. A pent roof articulated the first and second levels of the tower; the steeple and spire was marked by front-gable openings on all elevations, topped by a pyramidal roof. The central double-leaf wood paneled entrance doors featured a gothic-arched art glass window, flanked by gothic-arched 1/1 art glass openings.

The introduction of the Gothic Revival style had a deep impact on American church architecture, particularly in the South. The melding of the new picturesque ideal in religious buildings and their relationship to nature created a romantic and benevolent pastoral ideal, symbolized by the country church. With the incorporation of Gothic Revival stylings such as Gothic arched windows, stained glass, steep gabled roofs, towers and steeples, any small church could aspire to the same plane as the grandest cathedral. In Currituck County, the Gothic Revival emerged as the most dominant architectural style in the county's religious buildings.

Organized in 1893 as the Coinjock Missionary Baptist Church, today's Coinjock Baptist Church stands as one of the more architecturally interesting religious Gothic Revival style churches in Currituck County. Built c.1909, the church design was created by Mr. Henry Welstead, an English émigré and carpenter designed a 40 x 60 foot building, sheathed in weatherboard, keeping in mind

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the building's function and the financial means of the congregation. The influence of the popular Gothic Revival style is seen in the church's gothic arched art glass windows and wood entrance doors. Welstead's skill, not only in carpentry, but also as an engineer figure prominently in the church's interior, particularly in the tray ceiling of beaded board in the sanctuary which today, still provide excellent acoustics. The interior walls are also of beaded board, were finished in hard oil which has never required any refinishing since the finish was first applied over a century ago. Welstead's design also included another unique feature as seen in the sanctuary's sloping wood floor, perhaps the only floor of its kind found in the county's religious architecture.

By 1953, the congregation had grown large enough to warrant additional building space, as seen in the addition of a three-story brick addition that houses classrooms, storage space, restrooms, and the furnace room. Like many churches in the area, Coinjock Baptist covered its original weatherboard siding with brick veneer in 1955, a modification made by many rural churches for both aesthetic and maintenance purposes.. Perhaps more than most rural churches in the county, the Coinjock Baptist Church represents the slow evolution of a small country church that not only changed in terms of the needs of its congregation, but also tried to keep abreast of changing architectural tastes in rural church architecture.

The Knotts Island United Methodist Church (CK0211) is unique among churches in the county in its interpretation of the Victorian or Late Gothic Revival style. Unlike other churches in the area which borrow from the Gothic style as seen most typically in Gothic-arched windows and entrances, the Knotts Island Church illustrates some of the style's basic characteristics with its large massing, its emphasis on verticality with the church's ornate steeple, the broad cross-gables of the roofline, the heavy moldings used on the exterior and even the simple collar beam in each gable.

Built in 1911, the large one-story, frame and beaded weatherboard building rests on a foundation of cast concrete block, a feature not seen anywhere else on the island or in the county. Directly above is a wide molded wood water table that wraps around the church. The double cornerboards of the church are channeled and capped with small molded wood capitals that join the

fascia. The interior is no less impressive with walls and the tray ceiling is of dark tongue and groove beaded board laid in diagonal panels. One of the church's unique features is the dado panels that are combed and fingered on the church walls. The elegant French gothic arched stained glass windows for the church were given by one of its benefactors, J. P. Knapp.

Like other institutional buildings, church architecture also found expression through the Colonial Revival style. The Pilmoor Memorial United Methodist Church (CK0186) in the village of Currituck was built in 1928, as a memorial to Joseph Pilmoor, one of two English missionaries sent to North Carolina, and is the brick-built church in the county. Facing east towards the sound, the one-story, Colonial Revival-styled, front-gable block was laid with three rows of stretcher bond brick alternating with a single row of Flemish bond. The slate roof features molded cornice returns and cornice with a circular louvered vent opening in the front gable. Brick "buttresses" line the north and south walls of the building; articulating each bay is a brick circle-top arched stained glass windows. A lightly projecting, one bay, front-gable vestibule with double-leaf wood paneled doors marks the central entrance to the church. Two, slightly projecting, side-gable roof blocks, each with a stained glass opening are located near the front entrance of the church. In 2006, a massive addition which included a one-story brick arcade connecting to a two-story brick classroom and office building was built on the south wall of the church.

In 1937, the Moyock Methodist Church (CK0244) moved to a newly-built Classical Revival church on Caratoke Highway. The one-story brick building is laid in stretcher bond; dominating the front façade is a large, one-story, projecting front-gable portico. The pedimented pent roof is trabeated, with full entablature including dentils and a Doric frieze. Supporting the roof are oversized Tuscan columns. The central entrance to the church consists of modern double-leaf metal commercial one-light doors which replaced the original double leaf wood paneled entrances. Surmounting the entrance is a molded frieze similar to those seen at the Cox and Walcott Houses, also located in the Moyock area. Distinguishing this frieze is the inclusion of small raised wood crosses as part of the surround. Modern triple sash art glass windows are located along the north and

south walls of the church. Attached to the west rear is a one-story hipped roof addition. At one time, a large steeple and spire topped the church.

African American churches are well represented in the county. Like their white counterparts, these religious buildings tended to be influenced by the Gothic or Colonial Revival styles. In most cases, the church design originated with the congregation; carpenters or artisans who belonged to a congregation generally built their churches. Overall, these churches have a simplicity and dignity that go far beyond their basic materials. One unusual trait of some of the African-American churches documented was the use of a cornerstone on the wood framed buildings.

Five churches in particular have an interesting shared history. In the early years of Reconstruction, a former slave turned minister, Reverend Andrew Cartwright made his way to Currituck County. Between the years 1866 and 1867, Cartwright founded five churches in the northern end of the county, among them, the Good Hope A.M.E. Zion (CK0281) near Coinjock, Weeping Mary Disciples (CK0219) and Pilgrims Journey (CK0227) in the Moyock and Tulls Creek areas.

Typical of the Gothic-styled small country churches found throughout the county is the Center Chapel A.M.E.(CK0190) located directly south of the Coinjock Colored School on Caratoke Highway. This small one-story frame church was most likely covered with weatherboard, which has since been replaced with vinyl siding. Still, enough of the church's exterior features remain to compare this church with other African-American churches in the county. At first glance, the Center Chapel is remarkably similar to the style and form of Weeping Mary Disciples Church in Tulls Creek; both feature front-gable roofs with overhanging eaves and heavy cornice returns; even the location of its interior brick flue on the lower roof slope is identical. However, instead of Weeping Mary's gothic arched window in the front-gable end, the Center Chapel features a lunette window. Double-leaf wood four- paneled doors flanked by Gothic-arched art glass windows set in rectangular molded wood surrounds mark the central entrance. Another interesting feature of the church is its windows; in addition to the windows mentioned above, the church also has pointed arch 1/1 wood

sash, art glass windows with wood pointed arch molded surrounds. Attached to the northeast corner of the façade is a two-story tower with a pyramidal roof; a shed pent articulates each story. The belfry openings have been covered over. The Center Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church conveys particularly through its windows, the signature elements of the Gothic Revival style as well as the quiet dignity and simplicity of the small African-American rural church.

Two other churches, Weeping Mary and Pilgrims Journey, both built in the first decade of the twentieth century, bear striking similarities in design, materials and style and illustrate a much larger stylistic pattern of a vernacular Gothic Revival interpretation among African-American churches in the county. The one-story building demonstrates many characteristics of a small country church in that it combines high-style elements interpreted in a vernacular form. To illustrate, Weeping Mary has a one-and-a-half-story tower with a pyramidal roof located on the northeast corner of the facade, Gothic peak-head Queen Anne–style stained glass windows surrounded by slightly projecting molded surrounds, and a peak-head louvered vent on the east front elevation. Of particular interest are the rear west elevation windows found on the one-story rear addition; the sliding 6/6 lights have stylized brick lintels constructed of header and soldier bricks, molded wood surrounds and a lower brick sill constructed of sailor brick. The windows, along with the building's shaped rafter tails on the roofline, are a good example of a local builder's work and also demonstrate the incorporating of high-style design elements within a vernacular form.

Pilgrims Journey, built in 1907, is a one-story, front-gable block, was originally covered with weatherboard and with double cornerboards. The building is now vinyl sided; this covering may have obscured a central window opening such as those seen on Good Hope A.M.E. and Weeping Mary. However, the roof retains its overhanging eaves with beaded board soffit and shaped curved rafter tails along the north and south slopes. Attached to the northeast wall of the façade is a two-story tower with a pyramidal roof; a pointed arch Gothic window is located in the top east wall. The church still retains the original two entrance openings; in between each is a large pointed arch Gothic art glass window. The same motif repeats itself in the north and south wall 1/1 wood sash openings..

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The c.1906 Good Hope A.M.E. Zion Church breaks with the early twentieth-century rural country church form seen in Currituck County. While still an expression of the vernacular Gothic Revival style seen in the county's African-American churches, Good Hope's focal point is not the two-story side tower, but a central two-story steeple. A flared pent articulates the ground floor and lantern; the steeple is comprised of small pedimented pent gablets with a conical spire topping the steeple block. Like other churches, Good Hope underwent modern updating with a 1943 rear addition. Vinyl siding over the original weatherboard and the construction of a one-story, frame and vinyl vestibule that obscures the first story of the church's steeple appear to later-twentieth century renovations. However, it has retained its gothic arched art glass wood sash windows on the north and south walls.

The sole survivor of the small community of Bertha is the Christian Advocate Baptist Church. Located at the intersection of Macedonia Church Road and Caratoke Highway, the c.1910, T-shaped block differs from other rural African-American churches in the county in its turning away from the prevalent rural Gothic-Revival stylings seen in the majority of the county's churches. Though marked with a pyramidal-roofed, side tower similar to that of Weeping Mary Disciples Church, this frame church retains a more restrained Colonial-Revival-style as seen in the front-gable temple façade, the molded and boxed cornice, and heavy molded cornice returns. The art-glass windows, unlike the gothic-arched openings seen in other county churches, are rectangular, wood, double-hung sash with simple surrounds. The church also features a nave and transept plan instead of the simple one room plan favored by most churches. A one-story, shed roof, rear addition of concrete block is attached to the east wall of the church.

Study List Properties

Coinjock Baptist Church CK0175

Knotts Island Methodist Church CK0211

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B. Schools

Description

Though schoolhouses existed in Currituck County before the Civil War, none have survived. What remains are a handful of one-room schoolhouses that were once commonplace throughout the county. A few surviving schools built for African-American students are also still standing in the Moyock, Sligo and Coinjock areas. The favored architectural influence for the majority of these buildings was the Colonial Revival style, then in vogue throughout the nation during the period 1890-1930. The style was particularly popular in institutional buildings such as schools and courthouses in the early twentieth century, for its symbolic references to the history of America. The overall form emphasized symmetry, classical details such as grouped columns, pedimented roofs, and strong cornice lines.

Built just around the turn of the century, the Coinjock School (CK0238) represents a typical one-room schoolhouse found in the late-nineteenth-early-twentieth centuries' in Currituck County. Located on Dozier Road in the Tulls Creek area, the wood frame schoolhouse once stood in the village of Coinjock. This building's Colonial Revival influence is seen its smallest details from the front-gable roof and original weatherboard siding, to the overhanging eaves, boxed cornice, and single corner boards that embellish this simple building and its façade. The building has a pair of 6/6 double hung sash with working hinged vertical board shutters on each side. Wood vertical board single-leaf doors mark the gabled entrances.

A more direct interpretation of the Colonial Revival style is the Churches Island Schoolhouse (CK0334), built sometime between 1900-1910. Residents built the structure from wood milled on the island, as evidenced by the rough-cut joists in the framing. The one-story, three-bay, frame-and-beveled weatherboard building was originally located toward the marsh, which lies west of the community.. The building has retained much of its vernacular Colonial Revival character, as seen in

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its overall symmetry of the front block and the front-gable roof with molded and boxed cornice and heavy cornice returns. Wood surrounds with small hoods mark the windows and door of the school.

Designed from a 1903 book of plans developed by the Raleigh architectural firm of Barrett and Thomson for the North Carolina State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Grandy School (CK0040) is a deviation from the brick school buildings constructed in the county. Combining late Victorian and Colonial Revival elements, the one-story, four bay, frame and beaded weatherboard, two-room, schoolhouse has a side-gable roof with overhanging eaves and molded cornice. The distinctive façade is accentuated by a large central pedimented gable covered with imbricated wood shingles laid in alternating rows; a sunburst-styled ornament tops the gable eave. A square bell tower with louvered side panels and pyramidal roof with wood finial sits atop the roof's central ridge. The two entrance doors are sheltered by a one-story, one-bay, front-gable, pedimented porch roof supported by turned wood posts.

The Knotts Island Elementary (CK0204) School is tone of the few high-style examples of Colonial Revival architecture seen in Currituck County. Built in 1925 with money donated by Joseph P. Knapp, the H-shaped schoolhouse was constructed of brick laid in 7/1 common bond with the single row consisting of Flemish bond brick. Underneath each window is a small slightly projecting course of brick that appears to be a drip mold. The windows feature a lintel course of soldier bricks; the window sills are a course of header bricks. The hipped roof is covered with slate shingles; a bell tower with a conical copper roof, finial, and octagonal base houses the original school bell. Located on the north and south slopes of the original roof are three shed roof dormers. The central entrance to the original school is marked by a projecting front-gable pedimented pent roof portico with full entablature supported by paired columns. The double-leaf wood entrance doors have raised panels with a six-light fixed window topped by a five-light transom. Two hipped roof masonry-projecting blocks have slate roofs; attached to the rear west block roof is a small vented eyebrow dormer. The interior of the original school still retains a good deal of its building fabric including the oversized and shaped wood rafters and king posts which are said to resemble

those used in J.P. Knapp's hunting lodge on Mackey's Island.

One of Knapp's most ambitious projects is seen near Currituck village with the J.P. Knapp Junior High School (CK0058) and teacherage (CK0012). The one-story, Georgian-revival school was built in 1924. Constructed of common bond brick, the building features a steep, hipped roof covered with slate tiles and a molded wood cornice; two slightly projecting hipped roof wings flank the main school block. A small belltower consisting of a molded wood base and cornice with circle-top arched openings and a flared pyramidal slate roof is located atop the center roof ridge. A one-story, one-bay, pedimented, front-gable roof porch with full entablature, supported by Tuscan columns, marks the central double-leaf entrance with a 10-light transom. The school's original paired 9/9 wood sash windows with brick sills have been replaced. The interior remains relatively unchanged.

Of the three teacherages, built by Knapp, the Currituck Teacherage is the sole surviving building. Built in 1923, the two-and-a-half-story, five bay, slightly flared side-gable roof building was originally covered with weatherboard, and was notable for its two-story porch supported by oversized square columns. Located on the northeast corner of the north wall is an exterior end chimney laid in 5/1 common bond with parapeted shoulders. The most decorative element on the exterior is a heavily stylized Colonial Revival entrance with its molded wood sunburst patterned lunette, topped by a molded pediment with modillions, cornice returns, and square columned pilasters with raised wood ornament near the top.

The Moyock Elementary School (CK0229), located on the outskirts of the village of Moyock is a good example of the Classical Revival influence, a style rarely seen in the county. The c.1921 two-and-half-story was constructed of brick, laid in Flemish bond. The building consists of a central side-gable block with a large pedimented central gable with molded cornice and a lunette window with molded surround and tracery. The central recessed entrance is marked by a Classical-styled wood surround featuring a full entablature, square fluted pilasters and molded wood triglyphs. The original windows have been replaced but the stone lintels and sills remain. A parapeted firewall on

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either side of the gable end walls separate the main block from two side-gable brick additions; the front slope of each addition is accented by two front-gable dormers, now filled in.

Situated close to Caratoke Highway near Coinjock on an overgrown and weedy lot is the one-story weatherboard Coinjock Colored School (CK0165). Built c.1919, the one-story, frame and weatherboard, side-gable roof building is marked by a slightly projecting front-gable with its curve-shaped rafter ends. Two inset entrance porches flank the central front-gable block. Although funds from a Rosenthal School account were used, the building does not follow easily under a Rosenwald design. According to one record, the school was built according to a “North Carolina-Louisiana” plan which suggests that at least two states were using standardized designs for their school buildings. However, the presence of the cream buff and earth red paint colors on the interior walls and the walnut-stained wainscoting suggest some Rosenwald influences as well as the use of a moving partition between the two classrooms to create a larger space for meetings. At some time, a north addition was attached to the north wall of the second classroom; many of the school's original windows have also been replaced over time.

Study List Properties

Coinjock Colored School (CK0165)

J.P. Knapp High School (CK0058) and Teacherage (CK0012)

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C. Government

Description

Government buildings are often the crown jewels of rural counties. But because of the sparsely settled nature of Currituck County, there are few government buildings. Despite the lack of more formal government buildings, there remain a number of vernacular government structures that exhibit not only the illustrate the enduring and almost rigid adherence to the Colonial Revival style, but which also adopted more picturesque designs too.

The county's most significant building is Currituck County Courthouse and Jail (CK0096) located in the village of Currituck. The older of the two buildings is the jail, a small, one-story brick building with a side-gable roof with strong Jacobean influences. Believed to have been built around 1820, the jail is laid in 3/1 common bond, with an occasional 4/1 row, measuring thirty-two inches thick. A brick corbel cornice surrounds the building; the parapetted, pedimented gable ends have corner buttresses and brick coping. The window openings have granite lintels and sills with the exception of the first floor openings that were modified with concrete sills. An iron grille marks each window. The central entrance door is replacement cast-iron.

Dating from approximately 1869, the courthouse was built in three stages. From its original two-story brick core, three bays wide with slightly recessed, flanking wings and a granite foundation. In 1897, a second-story was added and a hipped roof with a molded brick cornice, brick modillions, and granite frieze; articulating the slightly projecting central block is a pedimented front gable roof with molded wood cornice which articulated the slightly projecting central block. A brick stringcourse delineates the first and second stories. The 9/9 sash windows have granite lintels on the first story and segmental brick arches on the second story; all the windows have granite sills. A one-story three bay brick portico with segmental arched openings and granite keystone mark the double-leaf wood paneled entrance doors with a multi-paned art-glass transom. In 1952, a Colonial-Revival styled rear addition was built.

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One interesting aspect of the county was its numerous post offices. Each community, no matter how small at one time had its own post office. One such example is the former Currituck Post Office (CK0168). Built sometime around 1950, the small, vacant, one-story, one bay, two room deep building is clad in asbestos shingle with a front-gable roof with exposed rafter tails and an interior brick flue with a metal cap. A Craftsman-styled paneled door with three vertical lights marks the off-center entrance with window openings consisting of wood 2/2 double-hung sash.

Built by E.R. Johnson, a local merchant, is the former Currituck County Social Services Building (CK0051), a small, frame, one-story, three bay wide building originally sited across the street from the County Courthouse. The side-gable roof is covered with standing seam metal and has exposed rafter tails. Window openings consist of 2/2 wood sash with simple wood surrounds and sills; located in the southeast corner of the south wall is a four raised panel single-leaf door. The interior is typical of many of Currituck buildings, featuring beaded board walls and ceilings. The ceiling is notable for its tray-shape, similar to that of the Coinjock Baptist Church and the former Coinjock Home Demonstration Club.

A reminder of the vast highway construction project in the county during the 1920s is a small, one-story, frame and weatherboard building, now used as a barbershop (CK0159). Originally an administrative building for a state road construction, this sturdily built Colonial Revival-styled building is covered with weatherboard; double cornerboards articulate the walls of the building. A front-gable roof has exposed rafter tails and a rear concrete block flue. Square columns support the hipped roof porch. The building is a good illustration of the craftsmanship and attention to stylistic conventions by local builders and quite possibly based on a standardized state plan for structures of this type.

In the village of Coinjock is a distinctive building that formally served as a lighthouse keeper’s dwelling (CK0185) for the United States Government at Long Point, North Carolina. Like

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the Colonial Revival-styled buildings used by the United States Army to build its stately forts, the use of the Gothic Revival style by the federal government for its lighthouse stations and related buildings, created a striking and memorable style combining rural picturesque elements through the use of modern mass-production. Built sometime during the period 1879-1880, the prefabricated two-story, seven bay frame house was assembled on location. By articulating each story with different materials, the building's otherwise stern and formal plan is toned down a bit. The first-story is covered with novelty siding; double cornerboards and a molded exterior baseboard. Sawtooth batten siding mark the second story. The side-gable roof has exposed rafters on the north and south slopes; almost obscuring the circular wood louvered vents in the gable ends are decorative pedimented bargeboards with beaded board and pierced block trim. Two central brick flues with corbelled caps pierce the roof ridge. In relation to the exterior walls, the full-length shed roof porch is quite simple with its square wood posts and simple wood braces. Many of the building's original 6/6 wood sash windows remain with its simple wood surrounds and molded drip hoods.

Significance

Churches, schools and government buildings were vital to the growth and development of both Currituck's communities and the county as a whole. Some of these buildings reflect architectural trends and styles seen throughout the state, the region and the nation. Therefore, commercial buildings may be eligible under the National Register's Criterion A as representing Currituck County's community, commercial and transportation growth and/or under Criterion C in that some buildings are representative or exceptional examples of local educational, government, or religious architecture.

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Registration Requirements

To be eligible for the National Register, an institutional property in Currituck County must be fifty years or older and retain integrity of location, setting, materials, design and workmanship. Commercial buildings may be eligible for listing under Criterion A for their association with the county's educational, governmental, or religious development or under Criterion C, for their architectural merit. These buildings should retain their original interior and exterior features, and their integrity of setting, association and workmanship. Under ordinary circumstances, structures that have been moved from their original locations shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, in the case where a building was moved in order to save it from destruction as in the case of highway widening, special considerations under Criteria Consideration B, in which a building or structure was removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value should be taken into consideration. The addition of brick veneer or vinyl siding on top of original materials should not automatically exclude the building from consideration, but its integrity to be determined on an individual basis.

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Property Type 4: Commercial Buildings

Next to community post offices, commercial buildings abounded throughout Currituck County. With the exception of a "Main Street" business district in Moyock, the majority of stores were scattered throughout the small villages and rural areas of the county. According to many residents, it was not uncommon to find not only one store, but also two or three, often on opposite corners in a community. To stay in business, these commercial undertakings in addition to offering basic food staples and supplies might have a "specialty." For instance, at one store, a customer could order shoes, while at another, certain types of equipment. Small stores, located near the water, catered to hunters and fishermen. The majority of these stores were small, one-story, frame buildings. Many owners built their stores on the same piece of land where their house was sited. These late-nineteenth rural commercial buildings drew on a of variety architectural inspirations. Italianate and Queen Anne elements were popular.

Three late-nineteenth century stores still stand in Currituck, two in Moyock, both owned by the Poyner family, one in Currituck village. Formerly a prominent store within the Moyock Village, the deteriorating one-and-a-half-story, three bay wide, Poyner Store #1 (CK0073) was built in 1895. Settled near the railroad tracks on the north side of Shingle Landing Road, this front-gable frame building is covered with the original lap and weatherboard siding and single corner boards. Remnants of the roof's cornice returns remain. On the first story of the south-facing gable end, there are two 2/2 double hung sash windows with a loft-type opening directly above the central entrance. Still visible within the interior are the bead board walls and vertical board on the west wall. A tongue and grove floor and ceiling lead to a flight of stairs to the half-story in the back of the building. When first built, the Martin and J. W. Poyner store had an extending addition off of the east wall flush with the south wall. A hipped roof porch with square columns connected the standing building and the former addition. As well as a store, the building served as a post office with J. W. Poyner as the postmaster.

Poyner Store #2 (CK0074), located across the street from the first Poyer Store, fronts Oak

Street and railroad tracks. The two-story, three bay, frame and beaded weatherboard building was built in 1903, and is one of two surviving two-story commercial buildings in the county. The flat roof is partially obscured by the stepped and arched parapet on the façade. Other roof details include heavily molded cornices and eave brackets and a pierced wood frieze. A hipped roof porch that is supported by turned wood posts marks the central recessed entrance door whose original transom and sidelights have been covered over. Flanking the entrance on either side are large 4-light fixed windows. The store retains its original 2/2 wood sash windows with molded wood drip hoods and surrounds. One unique detail of the store are the three diamond-shaped lights on the north and south first floor area walls.

One of a small complex of buildings owned by the Walker Family is the former E.R. Johnson-Snowden General Store (CK0084), located directly west of the Walker House. Constructed c. 1897, the building retains much of its original character both inside and out, and provides a glimpse into what was once a fixture in small communities across the South: the general store. This one-story commercial building features the original false-front parapeted storefront and two recessed entrances which are marked by double-leaf wood doors flanked by large four-light display windows. The east entrance has a simple stoop; the west has a small wood porch deck with a railing. Beneath the windows are molded wood panels with a small inset covered in diagonal board sheathing. A shed-roof front porch supported by battered wood posts on brick pedestals was an early twentieth-century addition. At one time, gas pumps were located outside the store entrance. The interior also remains comparatively unchanged, with many of the original shelves, which feature bracketed cornices with its zigzag sawn ornament, still in evidence. The counters are no less impressive, with paneled and bracketed bases and diagonal beaded board countertops. The store has two rear additions; the first built directly behind the original block with similar shelves and counters that increased the retail space of the store. Attached to the rear west wall of this addition is another one-room addition known as the “Exchange Room,” a large open room with freight doors on the west

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wall where goods were stored.

A good example of an early twentieth-century front-gable commercial building is found at Coinjock's B.C. Kinsey Store (CK0097), located at the southern end of Worth Guard Road directly north of the canal. Built in 1925 on the site of an earlier store, the two-and-a-half-story building is covered with its original beaded weatherboard siding; each end of the building is articulated by double cornerboards. Although larger in scale than many of the general stores in the county, the B.C. Kinsey Store is comparable in massing and size to the Walker-Johnson-Snowden Store in Currituck village and the former Poyner and Creekmore Stores in the village of Moyock. Like the Moyock general stores, the Kinsey Store with its relatively steep front gable façade emphasizes the building's verticality, with its overhanging eaves and three-piece wood brackets. Also adding to this vertical emphasis on the façade are the symmetrically placed 2/2 wood sash windows on the second and half-story above. Despite its covered openings, the first story front is typical of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings in the state and region. The central recessed double-leaf wood paneled doors with transom was flanked by one-light display windows with a two-light transom.

The Munden Store (CK0194) on Knotts Island is occupies the corner lot at the southwest corner of South End and Brumley Roads is a one-and-a-half-story, five-bay front-gable store. The building, which most likely dates from the first quarter of the twentieth-century, is, in form and function, comparable to some of the front-gable general stores found on the Currituck mainland. Although not as large as its mainland counterparts and despite the fact that many of the openings are boarded over, the store still retains some key elements closely associated with this commercial form. Overall, the building is simple and relatively unadorned; its most noticeable elements are its six-inch wide German siding and the single cornerboards delineating the building's corners. The recessed central entrance is aligned with the apex of the gable, and consists of a single-leaf wood paneled door. Although partially boarded over, it appears that the entrance had some kind of a transom and either single or two-light sidelights, all of which have been covered by plywood. Flanking either side

of the entrance are two large openings, also covered with plywood that served as modest display windows with molded wood surrounds. On either side of the main block are shed roof additions on the north and south walls.

Located roughly northeast of the Edmund Gallop property is a one-and-a-half-story frame building that has served as a commercial, social, and agricultural structure for the community of Harbinger. The Gallop Store (CK0131) is covered with board-and-batten siding resting on brick piers. The front-gable roof has exposed rafter tails; located in the front gable end is a small loft opening that has been boarded up; on the rear gable end is a 6/6 wood sash window. Marking the entrance is an oversized shed-roof hood supported by heavy wood braces. The 2/2 wood sash openings are pegged; the central entrance consists of double-leaf wood vertical-board doors. Located on either side of the store's main block are two shed-roof, open-bay additions.

With the coming of the automobile and better roads, during the first decades of the twentieth-century, there began to appear a few gasoline stations/stores throughout the county. These commercial buildings served a dual purpose, not only offering groceries and supplies, but also selling gasoline, oil, tires and other auto supplies. Some of these businesses also offered auto repair. Surviving examples of these gas stations are examples of what has been called "domestic" or "house and canopy" gas stations. The style was developed in 1916 by Standard Oil of Ohio and consisted of a small house-like building with an attached canopy which protected the gas pumps and the customer from the weather. The style was meant to evoke feelings of home and comfort in travelers and, in turn, to make people more at ease buying goods from the station. In some instances, a small dwelling was attached to the building; in others a separate residence, usually an older residence stood nearby.

Two good examples of Depression-era stores and gas stations that once dotted Highway 168 are the H. Etheridge-Dzwonek Gas Station and Store (CK0134) in Spot and the C.W Wright Store (CK0315) in Jarvisburg. The former, a one-story gas station and general store was built sometime around 1930. A photograph taken in 1954 shows the building was originally clad in weatherboard.

The hipped roof had exposed rafter tails; square brick posts resting on square brick piers with concrete caps supported the roof's front slope. nine-light commercial windows flanked the central entrance door. Attached to the rear of the commercial block is a one-story, frame and weatherboard, hipped-roof Bungalow-styled residence with an interior corbelled brick chimney, Craftsman-styled 3/1 wood sash openings, and a hipped-roof porch supported by square wood columns resting on brick piers. The interior of the one-room store is relatively intact; the original shelves and one original counter remain, as do the cash registers.

Located in the Jarvisburg vicinity, the C. W. Wright Store (CK0315), is part of a small complex of buildings including the c.1880 main house (CK0314) owned by the Wright family. The one-story, four bay, frame and weatherboard commercial building is typical of the rural mid-twentieth century general store and gas station. The front-gable roof has a raking and boxed cornice and a beaded board soffit; an interior brick flue is located on the roof ridge.. The store's walls are defined by molded wood double cornerboards and still has its original paired 2/2 wood sash windows with simple wood surrounds. The off-center entrance consists of a single-leaf wood paneled door with a single light. A modified hipped roof porch with boxed rafter tails, supported by square wood posts, marks the rather unique roofline, somewhat reminiscent of the H. Etheridge-Dwzonek Store in Spot. Two of the store's original gas pumps stand in front of the entrance.

The interior of the store remains unchanged. The large main room and small office area, located in the front southeast corner are covered with beaded board. Simple wood shelving lines the north and rear west walls with the original glass and wood paneled counters lined in front. A small kitchen area that served food was set up in the rear southwest corner of the store, and a large stove on the south wall generated heat for the building. The store also had its own Delco system.

National Register Study List Properties

C. W. Wright Store (CK0315)

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Significance

As bustling centers of commerce and trade and important social centers, commercial buildings were vital to the economic and social growth of Currituck County. Commercial buildings also symbolized the growth of small downtown business districts as seen in the villages of Moyock or Currituck. The growth of various transportation industries such as the railroad and the emergence of the automobile also signaled an important development of commercial architecture in the county. Some of these buildings reflect architectural trends and styles seen throughout the state, the region and the nation. Therefore, commercial buildings may be eligible under the National Register's Criterion A as representing Currituck County's community, commercial and transportation growth and/or under Criterion C in that some buildings are representative or exceptional examples of local commercial architecture and construction.

Registration Requirements

To be eligible for the National Register, a commercial property in Currituck County must be fifty years or older and retain integrity of location, setting, materials, design and workmanship. Commercial buildings may be eligible for listing under Criterion A for their association with the county's rural commercial development or under Criterion C, for their architectural merit. These buildings should retain their original interior and exterior features, and their integrity of setting, association and workmanship. Under ordinary circumstance, structures that have been moved from their original locations shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, in the case where a building was moved in order to save it from destruction as in the case of highway widening, special considerations under Criteria Consideration B, in which a building or structure was removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value should be taken into consideration.

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Property Type 5: Recreational Buildings

A. Hunting Lodges

Description

Some of the most distinctive architecture found in Currituck County is found in its many hunt clubs. From the mid-nineteenth century on, Currituck Sound became a sportsman's paradise, drawing hunters, particularly from the Northeast. Many of these men were wealthy captains-of-industry, having made their fortunes in everything from publishing to iron and steel. By the late nineteenth century, a number of private hunting and shooting clubs had been established from the Currituck Mainland to the Outer Banks and Knotts Island. The prevailing architectural style for most of these clubs was the Shingle Style. The design, which rose to prominence following the 1876 Centennial celebrated early American colonial houses of the Northeast with their plain, shingled surfaces as well as their massing. And even though, the majority of these private clubs were the products of sophisticated designs, their roughhewn siding and rambling shape suggest that buildings that were thrown together without fuss or fanfare. Architectural historian Vincent Scully's description of the Shingle Style seems particularly apt in discussing the hunt club architecture of Currituck County:

> [The style]it can have a wonderful darkness in it, a rough animal presence and something wild of the mountains and the sea. Yet it is in the end an architecture of suburban relaxation and country joys. It reflects an American middle class grown rich after the Civil War, prepared to enjoy itself, and, despite the nostalgic yearning

toward Colonial simplicity and a smaller, cleaner America which helped give the style birth.[8]

One example of the Shingle Style in the county as seen in the current complex of buildings at the Swan Island Club, constructed during the years 1913-1914. The property remains among Currituck County's most intact grouping of hunt club buildings, consisting of five frame and shingle-covered buildings. The main clubhouse, a two-story, five bay, square-shaped building has a hipped roof, four brick chimneys; the roof is topped by a large glass-enclosed cupola with a hipped roof. The complex also includes a two-story, side-gable roof "long house" which may have served as the decoy and equipment building, a two-story, three bay, side-gable roof, known as the "long house" which housed the guides, a duck house, and a small one-bay boat house.

The Dews Island Hunt Club, located on Dews Island, is another example of the styleEncircled by a cypress picket fence, the lodge, built in 1923, for J.W. Barom and Raymond Peel, and renovated in 1929, is a modest-looking two-story frame building with cedar shingle siding and a central entrance marked by a one-story, one bay, slightly projecting front-gable enclosed porch. The hipped roof has a boxed cornice with a blind front-gable dormer on the west slope. On the east side wall of the house is an engaged brick exterior chimney with a single shoulder; an engaged brick flue pierces the rear south slope edge. The asymmetrical fenestration on the façade consists of replacement 1/1 sash windows. The interior consists of eighteen rooms including the large formal reception hall, dining room, living room and kitchen on the first floor and bedrooms and baths on the second. Beginning in the 1950s, a number of additions were constructed. On the south rear of the house is a one-story, side-gable, frame and shingle addition that houses a gun room; on the rear south wall of this addition is a brick chimney with corbelled cap that resembles the original chimney on the main block. Located on the west side of the main block is a one-and-a-half-story

[8] Stern, Robert A.M. ed. *The Architecture of the American Summer, The Flowering of the Shingle Style*. New York: Rizzoli International Publications, 1989.p. 3.

frame and shingle-covered addition with a side-gable roof. A shed dormer with five windows sits on the rear south slope of this addition. Attached to the south wall of this addition is a one-story, frame and shingle addition with a shed roof. The property also includes a number of outbuildings including an equipment shed, a duck shed where live decoys are raised, a garage and a secondary dwelling used as a guest house. The club is still used as a private hunting lodge for members of the Chatham and Hanes families.

Located on the east side of busy Woodleigh Road on Knotts Island are two stone gate posts bordered by woods and a vineyard. Each post is marked by a marble plaque bearing the words "Currituck Gunning and Fishing Club," (CK0198) one of Currituck County's most architecturally significant hunting lodges. A long gravel drive that curves gently near the waters of Currituck Sound leads to its beautifully landscaped grounds and buildings, situated on one of the higher pieces of ground on the island. The two-story, five bay, frame and cedar shingle building, was constructed in 1905 on the same site where an earlier lodge once stood. The hipped roof has a molded wood boxed cornice and simple frieze; three brick chimneys with corbelled caps are seen on the south roof ridge and on the rear west slope. Marking the dwelling's central entrance is a two-story slightly projecting front-gable roof block with wide overhanging eaves and a large lunette window in the gable end. The central single-leaf wood paneled door has an unusual graduated wood surround with two sidelights that give the entrance a slightly art deco look. Window openings in the building consist of 4/4, 6/6, wood sash; a tripartite window has 6/6 wood sash windows flanking a single light. Attached to the north wall of the dwelling is a small one-story breezeway that leads to a c. 1884, one-and-a-half story frame and shingle addition that once housed the caretakers. This building was moved to the property from the Outer Banks. The gambrel roof has a single interior brick chimney with a corbelled cap; three front-gable dormers with 6/6 wood sash windows are seen on the east front slope.

The interior of the lodge is no less impressive. All of the floors are heart pine; the original

single-leaf four-paneled wood doors have molded wood surrounds and retain their porcelain knobs and hardware. The first floor features a free-flowing plan with rooms loosely arranged around an open hall and a quarter-turn staircase with a paneled newel post and turned wood balustrade. To the south of the main hall is the men's den which has two large brick fireplaces, a cross-beam ceiling of dark wood, and beaded board wainscoting along the south wall. One of the more interesting rooms in the house is that of the gun room, located just to the right of the hall staircase..

The Grover Cleveland Sawyer Lodge (CK0135) in Spot, a vernacular Shingle-styled building, stands as an excellent example of a local Currituck hunting lodge that served as both a full-time residence and a part-time lodging house during the hunting season. This lodge, owned by Grover Cleveland Sawyer, operated from 1928 until 1962 and was one of three popular hunting lodges in the village of Spot. Sawyer's lodge was also the largest and only public hunting lodge in that area. The lodge, constructed in 1928 was a simple but sturdy two-and-a-half-story building resting on brick piers. The lodge was constructed of wood frame, covered with weatherboard and later, wood shingles. The roof has shaped rafter tails with two interior brick corbeled chimney flues. The west wall of the house has two single-leaf wood four-paneled entrance doors located at the northwest and southwest corners; simple wood steps led to each entrance. Craftsmen-styled paired and triple wood square columns resting on brick piers supported the hipped roof porch..

Stirred by memories of trips to English estates and of his own English ancestry led New York newspaper publisher Ogden Reid to build his hunting sanctuary, the 350-acre compound known as The Flyaway (CK0300), on Knotts Island. The original lodge house was built in 1920; unlike the popular Shingle style favored by most hunting clubs or the decided Colonial Revival influences of Joseph P. Knapp's hunting estate, the Reid's house was designed more as a Jacobean Revival residence. The original house burned in 1959 and was rebuilt the following year.

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By far, one of the most striking and distinctive buildings in Currituck County is Reid's "Farm Building" for his hunting estate. Built during the period 1928 to 1930, the building is unique both as hunt club architecture in Currituck, as well as a high-style example of a domestic outbuilding. The building's construction is also English-influenced and was possibly designed by New York architect Lafayette Goldstone. The two-story, U-shaped frame and brick building housed everything from the servants to carriages, cars and farm animals to the estate's heating system. The building's gambrel roof is pierced on the front slopes by a number of inset front-gable dormers, each with a 6/6 wood sash window. Located on the top of the roof ridge are circular wood and metal ventilators that provided fresh air to the building residents; three interior brick flue chimneys with corbelled caps and square ceramic chimney pots are found within each block of the building. Still adorning one of the chimneys is a metal silhouette of a hunter with his gun. Window openings throughout the building consist of single and paired 6/6 wood sash. The first floor of the west main block is dominated by the garage and equipment storage area, marked by four sets of segmental arched, double-leaf wood garage doors, each door with 8 lights. Topping each set of doors is a stylized "sunburst" panel. Flanking each side of these doors is another double-leaf wood set of garage doors, partially obscured by a segmental shaped porch roof.

Servants employed by the Reid family lived on the second floor of the west and north wings of the building. Interior details of the living quarters include plaster walls and heart pine flooring. The main entrance door, a wood, single-leaf paneled door flanked by narrow 4/4 windows is located at the far northwest corner of the west block. A quarter-turn flight of stairs leads to large landing. On either side of a long hall covered by pine flooring, were sixteen rooms of varying sizes that housed anywhere from 3 to 4 people, or a small family to one or two persons. While not spacious, each room featured a four-paneled, single-leaf wood entrance door, plaster walls, a molded baseboard, at least one small closet area to hang clothing and at least one window. Two bathrooms, a kitchen and a small dining room completed the living quarters.

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Study List Properties

CK0198 Currituck Hunting and Fishing Club

CK0332 Swan Island Hunt Club

CK0300 Flyaway Farm Building

Significance

The role of hunt clubs cannot be emphasized enough in Currituck County history. Not only did the clubs provide an economic boost to the county, through the employment of local residents as guides, hired hands, cooks, guards and the like, the presence of the clubs and their members opened up even further the horizons of the county, making it less isolated and more accessible to others. The economic impact of the hunt clubs was also significant helping the county establish itself as a tourism and recreation spot. The architecture of many of the hunt clubs offered its members luxurious surroundings while enjoying hunting activities. While not exactly resorts, the hunt clubs had a distinctive compound setting, with each building constructed for a specific function. The use of the Shingle style in particular also instilled a sense of a rustic aesthetic while also drawing on prevailing architectural tastes of the many Northerners who organized the clubs.

Registration Requirements

To be eligible for the National Register, a recreational property in Currituck County must be associated with hunting, fifty years or , and retain integrity of location, setting, materials, design and workmanship. These buildings may be eligible for listing under Criterion A for their association with recreation with the county's rural commercial and economic development, or under Criterion C for their architectural merit. These buildings should retain their original interior and exterior features, and their integrity of location and setting , association, design and workmanship.

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Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

In 2004, the Currituck County Board of Commissioners appropriated funds for conducting and preparing an architectural survey of the historic resources in Currituck County, to include the county seat of Currituck and the mainland only. In addition, several islands in the Currituck Sound with known historic resources, including Knotts Island, Monkey Island and Swan Island would be surveyed. The architectural survey would be used to support county planning efforts as well as laying the groundwork for future National Register nomination efforts. The survey would also be the basis of a manuscript for a future book on the historic architecture of the county. A local committee including Rodney Sawyer, County Extension Director for Currituck County and county historian Barbara Snowden chose Meg Greene Malvasi, an architectural historian from Midlothian, Virginia to carry out the survey. Supervising the project at the state level were Scott Power and Claudia Brown.

The Currituck County survey is noteworthy also in that it marked a transition in architectural survey methods for the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. Information gathered during field work was entered into a new database created by Michael Southern, Senior Architectural Historian for the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. Instead of traditional black and white photography, digital photographs were used. Hard copies of each file including contact sheets containing approximately 4-6 photographs will be placed in labeled envelopes provided by the HPO. In addition, traditional mapping was replaced by the use of GIS, working in conjuction with Harry Lee, GIS coordinator for Currituck County.

In preparation for this survey, the consultant conducted a review of the primary and secondary resources of county history located at the Currituck County Library, the State Archives,

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and the State Library. In 2005 Marshall Dunlap and Juliana Strieff of the School of Architecture at North Carolina State University completed a windshield survey documenting approximately 370 of Currituck County's historic resources. In addition, this survey contained preliminary background research on the majority of the buildings surveyed. The Dunlap-Strieff survey was used as an initial foundation for this survey effort. The surveyor understands that the survey is by no means definitive; however, the survey's true value lies in its broad overview that has provided the surveyor with an overall understanding of Currituck County's architectural resources and their locations. In addition, files of previously documented properties recorded during the 1970s and 1980s in the county were consulted, as were various DOT reports in order to gain a better sense of approximately how many buildings are to be included in the current survey. In addition, the consultant traveled every public and when possible, every private road in the county to assess existing historic resources.

The fieldwork was conducted during a period beginning in the summer of 2006 and concluding in the fall of 2007. The survey was conducted according to the Department of Cultural Resources, Office of Archives and History, State Historic Preservation Office standards and guidelines. During that period, approximately 325 sites, and structures including dwellings, farm complexes, outbuildings, churches, schools, bridges, commercial buildings and hunting lodges were documented with written descriptions, photographs, and oral histories when available. The overall integrity of the house and property determined the level of field recording. For properties that exhibited a high level of structural integrity, a more detailed description was done. Houses that hade been heavily altered were recorded, though the level of documentation was not as intense. Every effort was made to contact property owners for information about properties. When possible, the surveyor sought access to the interiors of properties in order to document interior plans, elements, or ornamentation that is noteworthy. Other types of historical research were also done including deed research when possible and a review of available literature including books, magazine articles and

primary documents relating to the county's history. Information on these resources is contained in individual files compiled by the consultant and submitted to the Department of Cultural Resources, Office of Archives and History.

The survey and inventory of Currituck County's historic resources was designed to encourage Currituck County residents to preserve historic and representative examples of their architectural legacy. An increased awareness of Currituck's building history and the importance of historic preservation will go far in future efforts to protect and safeguard the county's historic buildings.