

Jetty Workers' House #2 Historic Structure Report

Cape Lookout National Seashore
Harker's Island, North Carolina



Cultural Resources Division
Southeast Region
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LCS#: 546279

The historic structure report presented here exists in two formats. A traditional, printed version is available for study at the park, the Southeast Regional Office of the NPS and at a variety of other repositories. For more widespread access, the historic structure report also exists in a web-based format through ParkNet, the website of the National Park Service. Please visit www.cr.nps.gov/ for more information.

Contents

Management Summary	1
Administrative Data	2
Locational Data	2
Related Studies:	2
Cultural Resource Data	2
Historical Background and Context	3
Cape Lookout Bight	3
Diamond City	4
A Harbor of Refuge	5
Cape Lookout Village	7
The Coast Guard	9
National Seashore	9
Chronology of Development and Use	11
Original Construction	12
Early Alterations	12
Modern Additions	15
Physical Description	17
Site	17
Foundation	17
Structure	20
Exterior Finishes	21
Windows	22
Doors	24
Roof Covering	26

Porches	27	
Floor Plan of Existing House	30	
Interior	32	
Treatment and Use		37
Requirements for Treatment and Use	38	
Recommendations	38	

Management Summary

Built by a private contractor for the Army Corps of Engineers around 1915, Jetty Workers' House #2 was built to house workers constructing the jetty at Cape Lookout Bight. The present structure, which is a contributing structure in the National Register listed Cape Lookout Village Historic District, is the result of a series of alterations and additions, some of which occurred during the historic period. Although it has a relatively new, metal roof, the house is in poor condition, with the some of the latest additions being in the poorest condition.

Vernacular design and construction broadly define the character of the house. Like most of the other buildings at Cape Lookout Village, the house is a simple, utilitarian structure that was built in response to specific needs and circumstances, with little consideration of architectural style or refinement of detail.

The history of Jetty Workers' House #2 closely parallels that of Cape Lookout Village itself. It is among the earliest purely residential buildings in the historic district and the structures' evolution over time is similar to that of most of the other private residences in the district. As with those structures and the district as a whole, the period of significance for Jetty Workers' House #2 should be carried forward to around 1950. Alterations to the house that occurred in the second quarter of the twentieth century should be preserved.

Termites and a leaking roof threaten the building's continued preservation and significant structural repairs may be necessary, especially as modern finishes can be removed and the condition of the framing and underlying finish materials assessed. In addition, the modifications to the building in the last twenty-five years have compromised its historic integrity. Removal of the late twentieth century bathroom and west and east porches along with restoration of the historic roof line would restore that integrity.

Continued residential use is the most appropriate use for the building. Treatment should preserve historic features and materials wherever possible.

As a practical matter and as a matter of interpretation, the most recent additions to the building should be removed. By and large, simple removal of those additions would leave most of the historic structure intact.

Treatment of the building must, at a minimum, adhere to the Secretary's Standards if the historic character of the individual buildings is to be maintained. Of immediate concern is the present condition of the building, where termites, poorly-maintained windows and exterior finishes, as well as a variety of haphazard repairs threaten the building's continued preservation. In addition, the modifications to the building in the last twenty-five years have significantly compromised the house's historic integrity. Removal of the added roof and cement-asbestos siding, and relatively simple, straightforward repairs of the building's other historic features could restore its integrity. Rehabilitation of the building's interior and its plumbing and electrical systems would help insure the building's continued usefulness.

Administrative Data

Locational Data

Building Name: Jetty Workers' House #2

Building Address: Cape Lookout National Seashore

Location: Cape Lookout Village

LCS #: 546279

Related Studies:

Historic structure reports have been completed on the Cape Lookout Lighthouse, the 1907 Lighthouse Keeper's Dwelling, the 1887 Cape Lookout Life-Saving Station, and several of the smaller residences in Cape Lookout Village.

Cultural Resource Data

National Register of Historic Places: Contributing structure in Cape Lookout Village Historic District

Period of Significance for Jetty Workers' House #2: 1915 - 1950.

Proposed Treatment: Repair and rehabilitation.

Historical Background and Context

Marked by a lighthouse since 1812, Cape Lookout is one of three capes on North Carolina's Outer Banks. Lying at the southern tip of Core Banks, which stretch in a southwesterly direction from near Cedar Island to about four miles south of Harker's Island in eastern Carteret County, North Carolina, the area is part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore. Accessible only by boat, the cape is in constant flux from the harsh action of wind and ocean currents. As a result, since the late nineteenth century, the entire cape has migrated as much as a quarter mile to the west, and partly due to construction of a breakwater in the early twentieth century, the land area in the vicinity of the cape has nearly doubled in size. It is predominantly a sand environment whose native vegetation is limited to low stands of myrtle, live oak, cedar, and marsh grasses, along with non-native stands of slash pine that were planted in the 1960s.

Cape Lookout Bight

Cape Lookout Bight began to attract some shipping activities in the mid-eighteenth century; but the low, sparsely vegetated land of Core and Shackelford banks did not attract any permanent settlement until the late eighteenth century. Even then, settlement was apparently limited to temporary camps erected by fishermen and whalers, who had begun operations along the Cape by 1755. Sighting the whales from the "Cape Hills," a series of sand dunes up to sixty feet high that were located east and south of the present light house, the whalers operated in small open boats, dragging their catch back to the beach where they rendered the whale blubber into oil.

A lighthouse at Cape Lookout was authorized by Congress in 1804, but one was not actually completed until 1812. Too low to be effective, it was replaced by the present structure in 1857-1859. With a first-order Fresnel lens, the new lighthouse was the first of several similar lighthouses that were subsequently erected on the Outer Banks.

The harsh conditions around the cape discouraged

permanent settlement, and when Edmund Ruffin visited the area shortly before the Civil War, he described it as uninhabited except at Portsmouth on the south side of Ocracoke Inlet and at "a similar but smaller enlargement of the reef near Cape Lookout (where, about the lighthouse, there are a few inhabitants)."

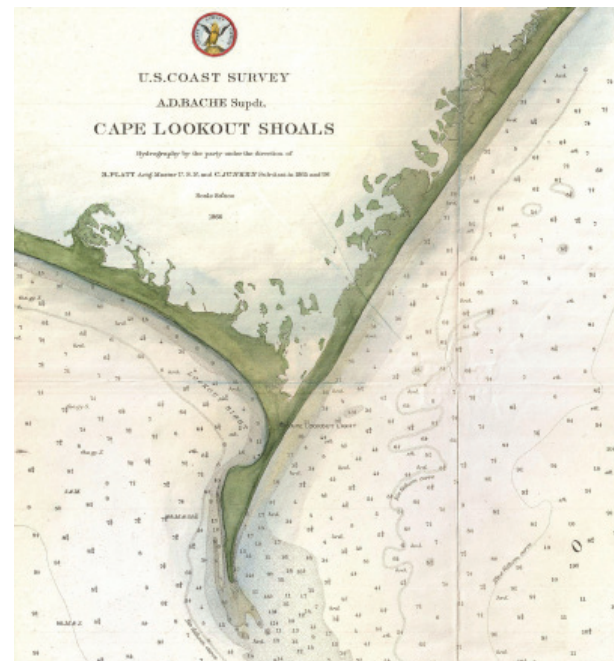


Figure 1. Detail from map of "Cape Lookout Shoals" by the U. S. Coast Survey, 1866. (Wikipedia Commons)

After the Civil War, the full economic potential of fishing at Cape Lookout began to be exploited; and by the late 1880s, Carteret County was the center of commercial mullet fishing in the United States. From May to November, when the mullet were running, scores of fisherman set up camps along the shore, especially on the sound side of the banks. Documented as early as the 1880s and featured in National Geographic in 1908, these mullet camps were apparently quite similar, featuring distinctive, circular, thatched huts with conical or hemispherical roofs. Although some of

these beach camps lasted several years, and one is even said to have survived the terrible hurricane of 1899, they were crudely-constructed, temporary structures, and none of them survives today.

The shoals at Cape Lookout, which stretch nearly twenty miles into the Atlantic, remained a major threat to shipping until the development of better navigational aids in the early twentieth century. As a result, the first life-saving station on Core Banks opened at Cape Lookout in January 1888 a mile and a half southwest of the lighthouse. Under the direction of William Howard Gaskill, who served as station keeper for over twenty years, a crew of “surf men” served at the Cape Lookout station, patrolling the beaches and manning the lookout tower at the station throughout the day and night during the active season which, by 1900, extended from August through May.

Diamond City

By the 1880s, as the fishing industry became more lucrative, settlements developed on the protected sound side of Shackleford Banks west of the lighthouse. Diamond City, named for the distinctive diamond pattern with which the lighthouse

was first painted in 1873, was the most important of these. Lying in the lee of a forty-foot-high dune about a mile and a half northwest of the lighthouse, Diamond City and two smaller settlements further west were home to as many as five hundred people in the 1890s, according to the National Register nomination, giving Shackleford Banks a larger population than Harkers Island.

There are a number of references to “the village” in the journals of the Cape Lookout Life-Saving Station in the 1890s, but these references should not be confused with the present National Register district of Cape Lookout Village, which developed in the early twentieth-century. While the life-saving station journals do not name “the village,” on more than one occasion, they do note the three-mile distance from the life-saving station, which confirms that “the village” at that time was Diamond City on Shackleford Banks.

Prior to World War I, the life-saving service crew was made up almost exclusively of men whose families had lived in Carteret County for generations. The surfmen lived at the station while on duty, but during the inactive season returned to their permanent homes in Morehead City, Harker’s Island, Marshallberg, and elsewhere. Before 1916,



Figure 2. View of Cape Lookout Light Station in 1899. (CALO Coll. D-01)



Figure 3. View to north of Cape Lookout Life-Saving Station, 1893. (CALO Collection G-09)



Figure 4. View of Shackleford Banks after the Great Hurricane of August 1899. (CALO Collection F-184)

the station keeper was the only one of the life-saving station crew who lived year-round at the Cape. He had separate quarters in the life-saving station, but since his family could not be accommodated, he appears to have had a house near the station by 1893. It was not a full-time residence, however, and in the early twentieth century as motor boats began to make Cape Lookout more accessible, few if any chose to live there year-round.

By the 1890s, some fishermen began constructing more-permanent “fish houses,” as they are referred to locally, or “shanties,” as they were designated on the Life-Saving Service’s earliest known map of the cape (see Figure 5). Seven of these structures appear to be indicated on that map, with five in the protective “hook” of Wreck Point and two others across the Bight near where the 1907 Keeper’s Dwelling or Barden House is now located. Almost certainly, all of these were occupied seasonally and not year-round.

Even with something more than thatched huts for shelter, the cape fishermen often sought shelter in the life-saving station when their camps and fish houses were threatened by high winds and

tides. On more than one occasion, as many as fifty fishermen somehow crammed their way into the life-saving station to ride out a storm. The fact that there are only two references in the journals to women or children taking shelter in the station in the 1890s, suggests that the men did not usually expose their families to the harsh living conditions associated with fishing the waters around Cape Lookout.

Cape Lookout has always suffered from storm damage, but the hurricane that struck on August 18-19, 1899, was one of the deadliest ever recorded on the Outer Banks. Believed to be a Category 4 storm, the so-called San Ciriaco or “Great” hurricane decimated the Outer Banks. Winds at Hatteras reached 140 mph. before the anemometer blew away, and the Outer Banks were submerged under as much as ten feet of water. The surge swept completely across Shackleford Bank, heavily damaging Diamond City and the other communities to the west of the Cape. Another hurricane at Halloween, though not as strong as the first, produced a greater storm surge and completed the destruction of the Shackleford Bank communities. So great were the damage and accompanying changes to the landscape that over the next year or two, the entire population abandoned Shackleford Bank, with most of them moving to Harker’s Island and the mainland.

After the hurricane, a few residents relocated to Core Banks in the vicinity of the lighthouse and the Cape Hills, but even before 1899 these sheltering hills were fast disappearing. Nevertheless, there were, according to one writer who visited the cape in the early 1900s, as many as eighty residents at Cape Lookout, enough to warrant establishment of a one-room school house. A post office was also established in April 1910, with Amy Clifton, wife of the lighthouse keeper, as post master. Post office records locate the post office “two miles north of the cape, near the light house landing,” most likely in the 1907 Keeper’s Dwelling. However, the widespread use of gasoline-powered boats after about 1905 made travel to Harkers Island, Beaufort, and elsewhere far more convenient, and it was soon apparent that the post office was not worth maintaining. It was discontinued in June 1911, barely fourteen months after its inception.

A Harbor of Refuge

In the late 1890s, amid the build-up to the Spanish-American, the U.S. Army began planning for a



Figure 5. View of Cape Lookout Bight in 1941, showing the dramatic changes precipitated by construction of the breakwater just before World War II. (CALO Collection)

coaling station and “a harbor of refuge” along the notoriously dangerous Outer Banks of North Carolina. A number of potential sites were surveyed that might provide “coastwise and deep-draft vessels” shelter from storms, but the choice of sites was soon narrowed to Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout. The National Register nomination for the Cape Lookout Village Historic District states that “more than 225 potential users of the harbor” were canvassed along with “scores of other interested parties such as maritime exchanges and insurance companies” before the Army Corps finally settled on Cape Lookout, “despite the fact that the harbor of Lookout Bight would be smaller than a Cape Hatteras harbor.” The National Register nomination also provides details on planning and construction of the breakwater:

In a report transmitted to Congress by Secretary of War H. L. Stimson on 7 February 1912, U.S. Army Chief of Engineers W. H. Bixby recommended construction of a breakwater to create a harbor of refuge at Cape Lookout at an estimated cost of \$3,526,600 with a target completion date in 1916. Attachments to the report indicate that cost was an important factor in the selection: due to sea floor contours, shifting sands, prevailing winds, and greater exposure to seas, in order to achieve the desired effect at Cape Hatteras, the breakwater would have to be nearly three times

as large as one at Cape Lookout and would cost more than twice as much. It was projected that the Cape Lookout structure would require 1.6 million tons of stone to build a structure with a length of 6,250 feet.

Cape Lookout was, according to one visitor “a bustling place” in the years before World War I, especially after the Army Corps of Engineers announced construction of the breakwater. Sand fences were installed in 1913 and 1914 to stabilize some of the dunes even before construction on the breakwater had begun. The breakwater project’s most-ardent supporter was local Congressman John H. Small, who envisioned a railroad from the mainland that would help make Cape Lookout a significant port. To house the crew working on the jetty, at least two houses were built by a private contractor along the shore of the bight, Jetty Workers House #1 and Jetty Workers House #2. Construction of the breakwater began at Wreck Point in 1914 with an Italian-born stonemason named Dominick Asdenti (1892-1956) as foreman of the construction crew.¹ According to the National Register nomination:

The large granite boulders [for the breakwater] were delivered by barge to Shackleford Banks near the lighthouse and then carried in rail cars along a track laid across the sand to the project site. Progress reports to Congress were sketchy in comparison to the detailed proposal of 1912, perhaps due to security concerns generated by World War I. A 1916 report to Congress states that the project was forty-four percent completed with 4,800 feet of breakwater showing at low tide, and in June 1918, the Army Corps of Engineers reported to Congress that the breakwater contract had been completed.

The harbor at Cape Lookout was never used as much as anticipated. According to the National Register nomination, “[t]he Bight’s role as a harbor of refuge eventually was marginalized with shifting sand that enlarged the harbor but reduced water depth, a process that accelerated following creation of Barden’s Inlet in [1939].” By then, the entire project had been abandoned.

¹ The only mention of the jetty workers in the logs of the nearby Cape Lookout Life-Saving and Coast Guard stations, which have been thoroughly searched, is on April 10, 1917, when the logs record simply that the crew constructing the “brake water” was there.

Cape Lookout Village

Intending to capitalize on those plans, private developers organized the Cape Lookout Development Company in 1913 and laid out a hundred residential building lots and planned a hotel and club house to serve what they were sure would be a successful resort community. Unfortunately for all of those plans, there was less demand for a harbor of refuge than supporters had anticipated, and funding for the breakwater was suspended before it was completed. When plans for a railroad from Morehead City also failed to materialize, the resort development scheme was abandoned as well.

In 1915, the Life-Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service were combined into the U. S. Coast Guard, and in 1916 construction began on a new Coast Guard Station to replace the old 1887 life-saving station. At the same time, pay scales were improved and a more-rigorous system of testing and training was instituted in an effort to produce a more professional staff. These measures and the availability of power boats, which lessened the crew's isolation, combined to greatly reduce the rapid turnover in personnel that had plagued the station since the 1890s.

The use of gasoline-powered boats around Cape Lookout was first recorded by the life-saving station keeper in 1905, and this new mode of transportation rapidly transformed life at the cape. So many "power boats" were in use by 1911 that the station keeper began recording their appearance in the waters around the cape, with as many as thirty-five of them recorded in a single day. Even before the life-saving service got its first power boat in 1912, many if not most of the crew had their own boats and were using them to commute from homes in Morehead City, Beaufort, Marshallberg, and elsewhere.

The convenience of motor boats no doubt contributed to what the National Register nomination calls "a general exodus" of year-round residents from the Cape in 1919 and 1920. The one-room school closed at the end of the 1919 school year, and some thirty or forty houses are reported to have been moved from the Cape to Harkers Island around the same time.

Fred A. Olds had visited Cape Lookout in the early 1900s and had been instrumental in getting a schoolhouse built on the island. When he returned for a visit in 1921, however, he found Cape Lookout to be "one of the 'loneliest' places in the country." Only two or three families were liv-



Figure 6. View southeast of Cape Lookout Coast Guard Station in 1917. (CALO Collection D-57)

ing there by that time, he wrote, and "most of the houses are mere shacks, innocent of paint." He also found the landscape littered with "thousands of rusted tin cans" and "grass or any green thing . . . conspicuous by its rarity." The lighthouse and the Coast Guard station were, he thought, "the only two real places in it all."

Most of the houses left at the Cape were used as "fishing shacks," according to the National Register nomination, and after World War I Cape Lookout became "an isolated haven for seasonal fishermen and hardy vacationers, most of them connected to the place by deep family roots."

In addition, a few of the Coast Guardsmen with long-standing family ties to Cape Lookout maintained private residences that their own families occupied for at least part of the year. The Lewis-Davis House, the Gaskill-Guthrie House, and the Guthrie-Ogilvie House were all built as private residences by Coast Guardsmen in the 1910s and 1920s. Marital ties also kept a few residents on the Cape. In 1917, for example, Dominick Asdenti, who had been the foreman for the jetty workers and who may have still been living in Jetty Worker House #1, married Mary Rose, daughter of John and Drusa Rose, members of an old family of fishermen with ties to the Cape. In the 1920s, Asdenti is believed to have operated a small store at Cape Lookout, but by 1930 he, his wife, and their several children had moved to Norfolk, Virginia.

By the time the map shown in Figure 6 was made in 1934, both Jetty Workers' houses may already have been privately owned. According to the map, Jetty Workers' House #2 was occupied by "G. F. Holder-

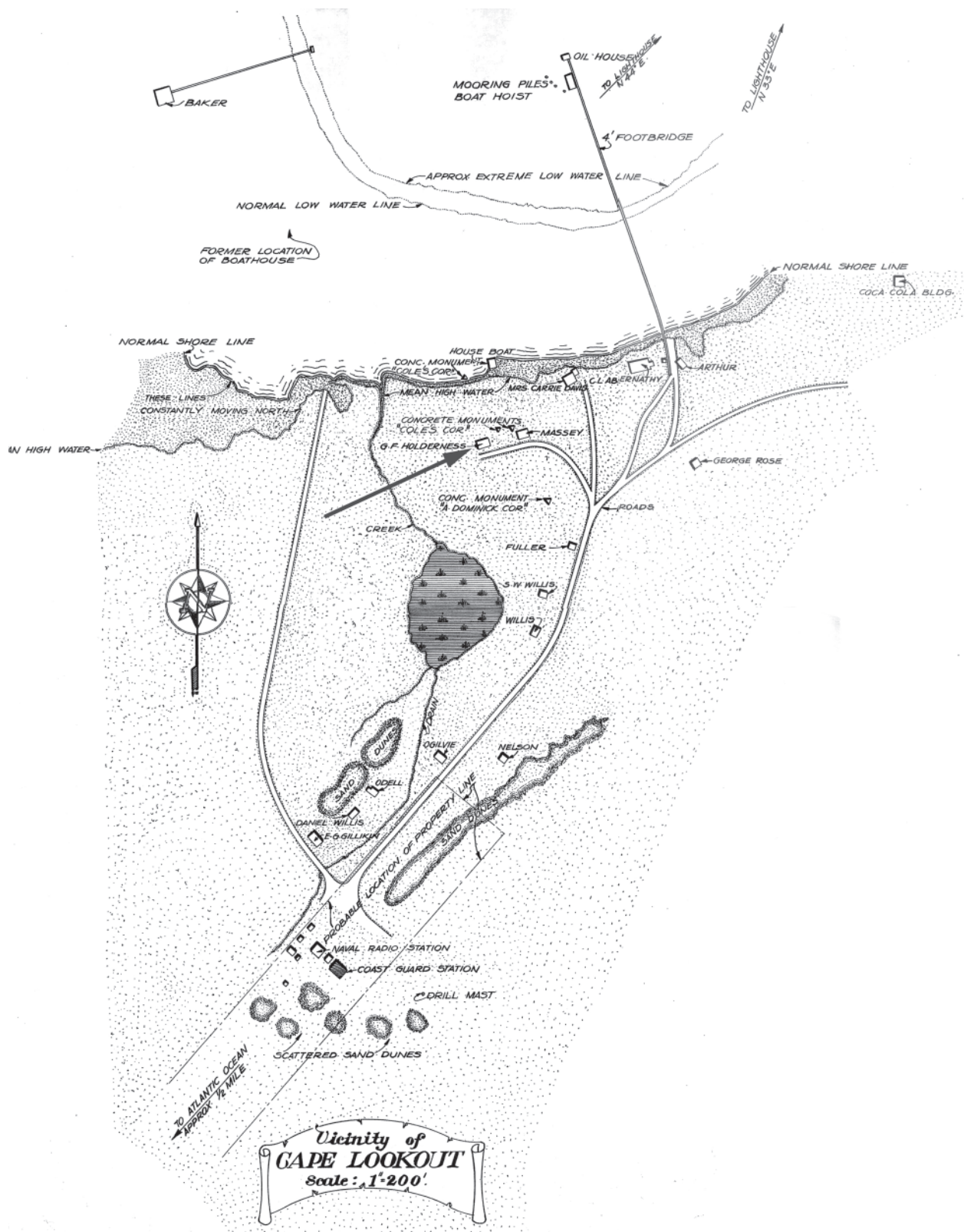


Figure 7. "Vicinity of Cape Lookout," ca. 1934, annotated with an arrow to locate Jetty Workers' House #2.



Figure 8. View south of Cape Lookout, probably in 1969. The jetty workers' houses are near the center of this image. (CALO Collection D-28)

ness" while Jetty Workers' House #1 was occupied by "Massey." The identity of these people has not been established.²

The Coast Guard

The Coast Guard's lifesaving stations on Core Banks (in addition to the one at Cape Lookout, another was located half-way up the Banks and a third at Portsmouth) remained in service after World War I, but power boats and new navigational aids like the radio compass station that the Navy began operating at the Cape Lookout Coast Guard Station in 1919 were rapidly rendering the lifesaving service obsolete as a separate entity. The Portsmouth Life-Saving Station closed in 1937, and the Core Banks Station in 1940. The Coast Guard Station at Cape Lookout remained active until it was decommissioned in 1982.

During World War II, the government expanded its military presence at Cape Lookout significantly. In April 1942, Cape Lookout Bight became an an-

chorage for convoys traveling between Charleston and the Chesapeake Bay. The 193rd Field Artillery was sent to the Cape to provide protection for the Bight, replaced that summer by heavier guns that remained in place throughout the war. Some, if not all, of the residences near the Coast Guard Station, probably including the jetty worker's houses, were occupied by Army personnel during the war years.

After World War II, the Army base was conveyed to the Coast Guard, which retained only ninety-five of the original 400+ acres that made up the base. Land speculation also increased, and several of the old residences were acquired by people without family ties to the cape. No chain of title has been established for Jetty Workers' House #2, and it is unclear when the property left Federal ownership. If it was not already privately owned, the house was no doubt sold when the Coast Guard declared most of its holdings at the cape as "surplus property. By the time the seashore was established in the 1970s, it was being used by Wiley Long Jr., a large cotton producer who lived in Roanoke Rapids.

National Seashore

The State of North Carolina began efforts to establish a state park on Core Banks in the 1950s, but by the early 1960s, it was apparent that the undertak-

² The only "G. F. Holderness" identified in the 1930 census was a postal clerk living in Orlando, Florida, who was born in 1898 in Tennessee. Any relation to the "G. A. Holderness" identified in the National Register nomination as having acquired an interest in the nearby Baker-Holderness House in 1940 is not known.



Figure 9. View north at Cape Lookout in 1969, with the Jetty Worker's houses visible just right of center. (CALO Coll. G-37

ing was beyond the capacity of the state alone, and efforts were begun to establish a national seashore, similar to the one that had been established at Cape Hatteras in 1953. In 1966, Congressional legislation was passed that authorized establishment of a national seashore at Cape Lookout that would include a fifty-four-mile stretch of the Outer Banks from Ocracoke Inlet at Portsmouth to Beaufort Inlet at the western end of Shackleford Bank. In September 1976, enough land had been assembled for the Secretary of the Interior to formally declare establishment of the Cape Lookout National Seashore.

In the enabling legislation for the national seashore, "all the lands or interests in lands" between the lighthouse and the Coast Guard Station at Cape Lookout, which included the houses in what is now the Cape Lookout Village historic district, were specifically excluded from the new park. In 1978, however, the Federal government was able to acquire these lands for inclusion in the national seashore. Rights of occupancy under twenty-five year leases or life estates were granted to those "who on January 1, 1966, owned property which on July 1, 1963, was developed and used for non-commercial residential purposes."

Cape Lookout National Seashore was authorized "to preserve for public use and enjoyment an area

in the State of North Carolina possessing outstanding natural and recreation values." That same year, Congress also passed the National Historic Preservation Act, and by the time the park was actually established in 1976, the area's historical significance was being recognized. In 1972 the Cape Lookout Light Station was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the first formal recognition of the value of the park's cultural resources. In 1978 Portsmouth Village was also listed on the National Register, followed by the Cape Lookout Coast Guard Station in 1989.

Most recently, in June 2000, the Cape Lookout Village Historic District was listed on the National Register. According to the National Register report, Cape Lookout is one of the last historic settlements on the Outer Banks to survive relatively intact and has statewide significance in social history, maritime history, and architecture. The district's period of significance encompasses all phases of historic development from 1857, when construction of the present lighthouse commenced, until around 1950 when the lighthouse was automated and the State of North Carolina began acquiring land for a proposed state park. Jetty Workers' House #2 is a contributing structure in the district. The National Park Service now owns all of the property in the district.

Chronology of Development and Use

Historical documentation on the origins and construction of the two jetty worker's houses is limited, but the general evolution of the structure is apparent in the materials and features of the present structure. According to the National Register nomination, the houses were built for the U. S. Army by a private contractor about 1915, a date that is generally supported by the character of the materials used in the original structure. This chronology of the development and use of the Jetty Workers' House #2 is based on a limited investigation of the existing structure and materials. With

out further building investigation and historical research, details of the chronology described here must remain hypothetical.¹ In general, however, the building's physical history appears to parallel that of other buildings at Cape Lookout, particularly those built by the federal government. Evident in the materials of the existing building are possible alterations that occurred at a very early date, a clear set of changes that is reported by the National Register nomination to have occurred around 1940, and a final set of alterations that occurred after the property was acquired as a private residence in the 1950s.

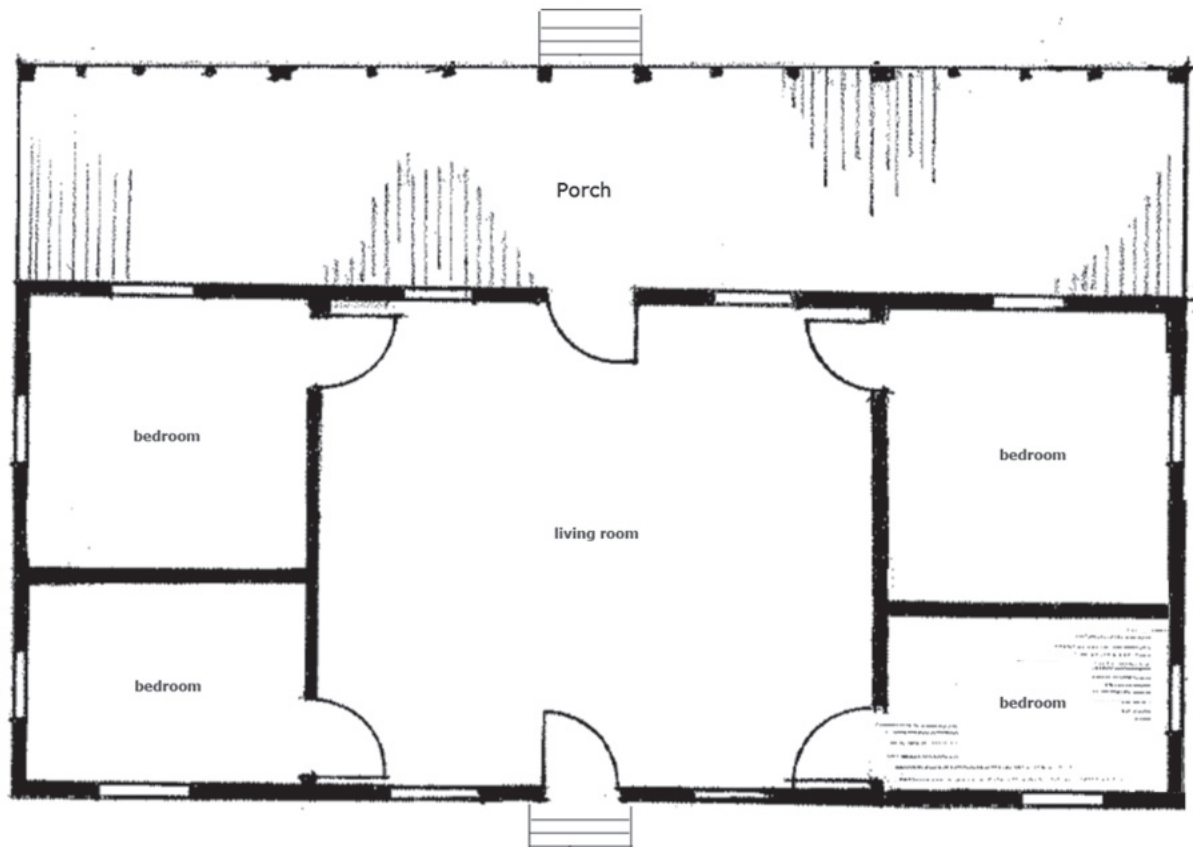


Figure 1. Probable floor plan of house at it was originally constructed.

¹ A chain of title should be established for the property since changes in ownership typically coincide roughly with alterations to the building.

Original Construction

The plan and materials of the original building are mostly apparent in the present structure. As originally constructed, the building was more or less



Figure 2. View of break in original siding where the south half of the present kitchen meets the main block of the house.



Figure 3. Detail view of rafter ends at rear of main block of house.

identical to Jetty Workers' House #1 and appears to have contained a large center room flanked by two smaller rooms on each side. The large room was no doubt used as a sort of living room while the smaller rooms were reported by the National Register as being used as bedrooms. The front porch engaged under the low-pitched, end-gabled roof is also original, but differences in the way the rear porch was framed suggests that it was not. Not only are the trusses used to span between posts on the front porch absent from the rear porch, the rafters for the rear porch are scabbed on to the rafter ends of the main roof of the house. The chamfered corners of the rafter ends is a design detail that also suggests that a porch was not present originally.

The National Register nomination notes the small shed-roofed room that now forms the south half of the kitchen and a similar room on the other jetty workers' house as being part of the original houses. However, there is a distinct break in the original siding where the room joins the main block of the house, suggesting that the room is a later addition. If not original, the room was certainly added at an early date. It features the same horizontal siding; small square windows with two vertical lights; and tongue-and-groove flooring used in the main body of the original house. Whenever it was constructed, it was almost certainly used as a kitchen.

The National Register nomination does not describe a kitchen in the original structure and makes no mention of how the jetty workers were fed. They must not have been eating at the Coast Guard station, however, since the station logs, which have been thoroughly searched, make only one mention of the crew building the "brake water," in April 1917. The station logs routinely note construction workers and other visitors who were fed at the station over the years, "there being no other place," but the jetty workers are never mentioned in that context.²

It seems likely then that, if the shed-roofed room that now forms the south half of the kitchen was not part of the original house, a separate cook house must have been present, perhaps serving both jetty workers' houses.

Early Alterations

Private residential use may have precipitated the first round of alterations to the house. The National Register nomination's description of alterations

² Cape Lookout Coast Guard Station journal, January 23, 1921.

is incomplete but suggests that the two bedrooms and half bath were added around 1940. This assumption is generally supported by the character of the materials in the additions which include six-light window sash, installed as sliding or casement windows; two-panel doors, and tongue-and-groove exterior siding installed vertically. The early changes may have been associated with use of the house by the Army, which established a base

at Cape Lookout to defend Beaufort Inlet in the spring of 1942.

It appears that the rear porch, which was originally enclosed by a knee wall, similar to that used on the front porch, and the half bath may have been the first additions, but that is not certain. The back porch floor was dropped some 16" below the floor level of the main house, apparently to allow for

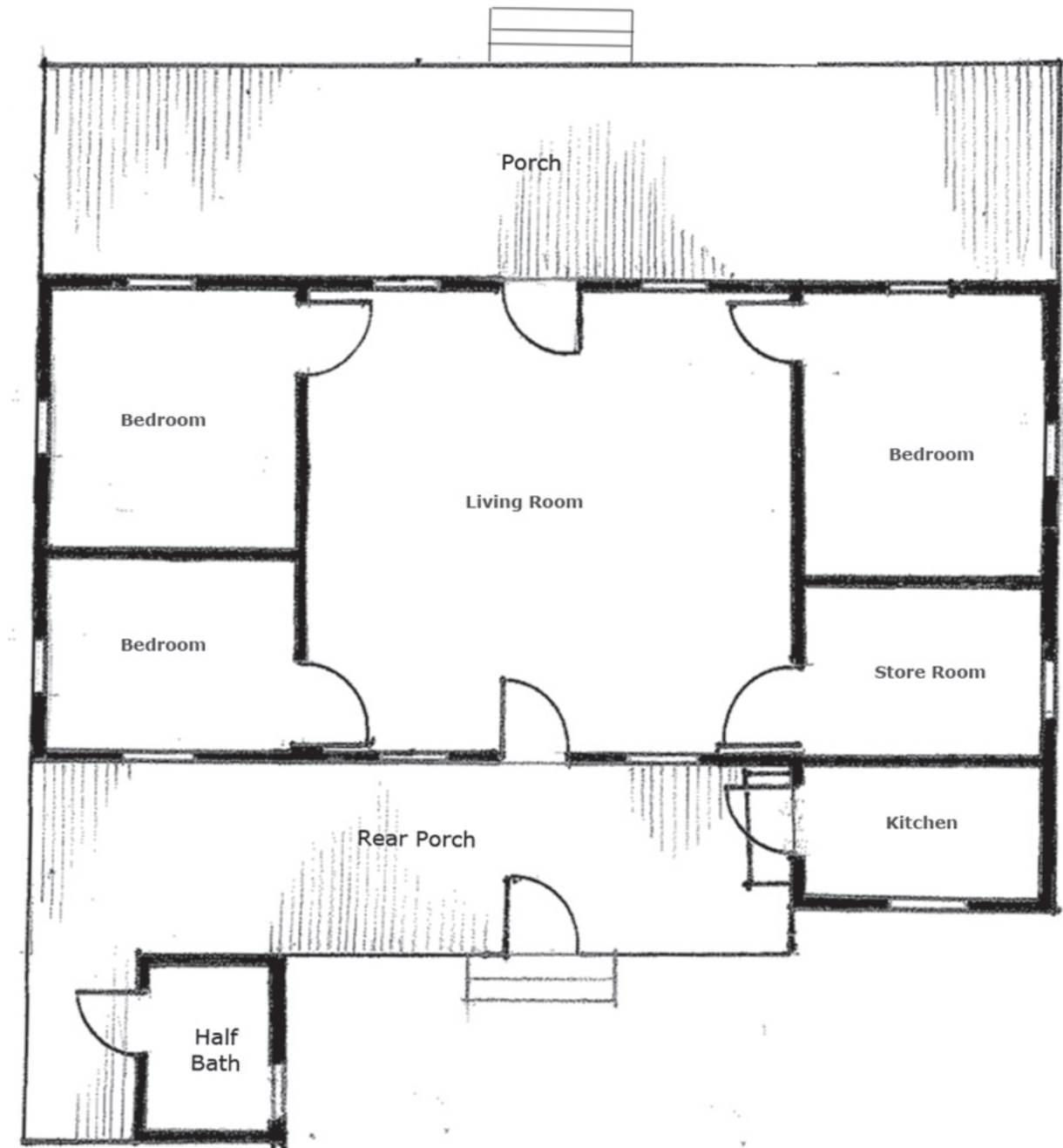


Figure 4. Probably floor plan of house after the first phase of alterations.

more headroom under the rafters at the outside edge of the porch.

Shortly after or contemporaneous with construction of the back porch and half bath, two bedrooms were added to the rear (south) of the half

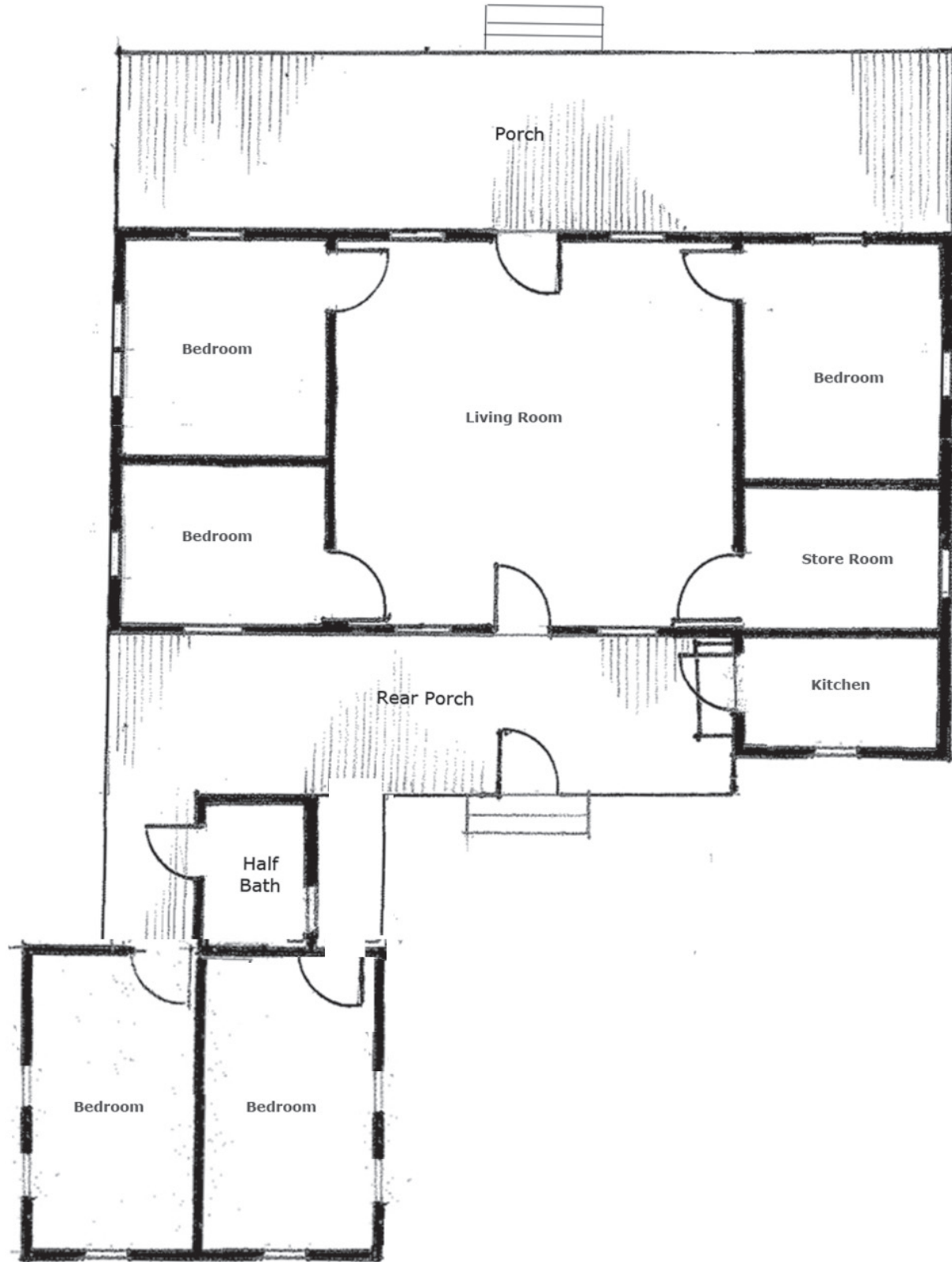


Figure 6. Probable floor plan of house as it existed by the end of World War II.

bath. This apparently necessitated some expansion of the back porch to provide access to the doors to those rooms. In addition, the double, six-light sash on the west wall of the northwest bedroom appears to be contemporaneous with the rear bedroom additions. It is unclear when the cement-asbestos siding was installed, but that may have occurred in the 1940s as well.

Modern Additions

The modern additions and alterations to the building are readily apparent based on the character of the building materials. All of these changes were most likely made in the 1960s or later. These changes included the addition of the west porch, which connected the front and rear porch and was originally screened. That alteration necessitated removal of the knee walls at the west end of both of the earlier porches.

A full bathroom was also installed on the east side of the half bath off the rear porch. The new bath probably included a bath tub that

was later replaced by the present fiberglass shower stall. The addition of this bathroom probably blocked the original front door into what is now Room 105, necessitating creation of a new entrance on the east side of that room. An open deck was also built on the east side of the new bathroom and Room 105, providing direct access on to the back porch.

In addition what had been the kitchen and probable store room at the southeast corner of the house were probably combined around the same time the bathroom was added, although that combination could have occurred at an earlier date. The small open deck off the north side of the front porch is a relatively late addition, perhaps dating to the 1990s.

The house was most likely originally roofed with wooden shingles, but that roofing was replaced by asphalt roofing, perhaps as early as the 1940s. The present metal roofing is relatively new and was the last major alteration to the structure.

Physical Description

One of two structures built around 1915 to house workers constructing a jetty on the west side of the Cape Lookout Bight, Jetty Workers' House #2 is a one-story, wood-framed house five bays wide and set on wooden piers. Facing in a northerly direction,¹ the original block of the house has a low-pitched, end-gabled roof engaging a full-width front porch. A variety of shed-roofed additions on the south and east sides of the original structure comprise the present building.

Site: Located on the south side of the bight approximately a mile and a half south of Cape Lookout Lighthouse, Jetty Workers' House #2 is set a few dozen yards from the marsh and beach that ring the bight. The area is flat with sandy soil that supports a minimum of low, perennial, herbaceous vegetation. The site is poorly drained and after large rain events water often ponds across and under the house. A short distance southeast of the house is a modern, wood-framed, double garage.



Figure 1. Google Earth map of Cape Lookout Bight, annotated with an arrow to locate Jetty Workers' House #2.

1. The house actually faces more or less northwest, but for simplicity in the narrative, the cardinal points will be used in this report.



Figure 2. View of front (north) elevation.



Figure 3. View of east elevation.



Figure 4. View of south elevation, showing rear additions.



Figure 5. View of west elevation.



Figure 6. View of pilings at northeast side of original building.



Figure 7. View of pilings from southeast corner of house.



Figure 8. View of pilings at rear of house.

Foundation: The building is set on a combination of round and square wood pilings that raise the house about two feet above grade under the original structure but as low as six inches in parts of the rear additions. The majority of the wood pilings under the original building, including the front porch, are square or rectangular, but those under the south and east porches and additions are generally round, about 12" in diameter, similar to the utility poles used for pilings in some of the other historic structures in the park. A few of the pilings are deteriorated and need replacement.

Structure: The house is wood-framed using typical dimensional lumber and wire nails. Exterior walls are framed with 2" by 4" studs and plates, with stud spacing ranging between 24" and 36" apart. Window and door openings are also framed with single 2" by 4" studs and headers; 4" by 4" posts are used at room corners. Rafters are also 2" by 4" and widely spaced. Floor joists are apparently 2" by 10". Ceiling joists in the additions are 2" by 6"; the same dimension may be true for ceiling joists in the original house as well. Interior walls in the original



Figure 9. View of framing at north side of Room 101 in the original building. Note the lack of proper headers at the openings.



Figure 10. View of framing of Room 105, one of the modern additions to the house.



Figure 11. View of intersection of typical, unframed, interior curtain wall (left) and exterior wall (right). The horizontal members here are not structural; the vertical, tongue-and-groove paneling of the curtain wall is held in place by nailers at the floor and ceiling.

portion of the house are unframed curtain walls composed of vertical tongue-and-groove boards held in place by nailers at the floor and ceiling.

Exterior Finishes: The original structure was finished on the exterior with plain, tongue-and-groove boards around 5" wide and laid horizontally. These boards remain exposed on the front porch and at the east end of the back porch, but at the west end of the back porch, cedar shingles



Figure 13. View of vertical siding used in the early twentieth century bedroom and half-bath additions.



Figure 12. View of horizontally laid, flush siding (left), typical of original exterior siding, and added cement-asbestos siding that covered the historic house and its early additions.



Figure 14. View of cedar shingles laid over original siding on back porch.

with felt underlayment covers the original horizontal siding. It is not clear why only a portion of the south wall was finished in this manner. On the east and west sides of the original structure, the original boards are covered by the present cement-asbestos siding, which was most likely installed sometime in the mid-twentieth century. Nearly all of the original siding appears to remain in place beneath later finishes.

The half bath and the two bedrooms that were, according to the National Register, added around 1940 were finished with plain 1" by 8" tongue and groove boards, installed vertically. That siding, too, was later covered with the present cement-asbestos siding. The full bath, which was added in the later decades of the twentieth century, is covered with plywood on the exterior.

Windows: There is no casing for original windows and doors, with door and window frames nailed directly to the single studs that form the individual openings. Added windows have plain casing using 1" by 4" and 1" by 6" boards.

It appears that the original structure had two types of windows. On the front of the house, there are



Figure 15. View of exterior finishes at rear of house. Note the plywood siding on the bathroom addition at center.



Figure 16. View of two-over-two windows typical of those used in the original house.



Figure 17. View of two-over-two sash, typical of those installed as casement windows in the original house.

four two-over-two double-hung windows, one for each of the front bedrooms (Rooms 103 and 104) and two for Room 101. Two two-over-two windows are also present on the rear (south) wall of Room 101. The other original windows in the house were single-sash, two-light, casement or sliding windows.

In addition to the windows, a small louvered attic vent is located in the east gable but apparently not in the west. These are the only openings that are trimmed in a regular manner with sill, casing, header, and drip cap.

In the alterations that were made before World War II, a pair of six-over-six, double-hung windows was installed on the west side of Room 103,



Figure 18. View of six-light sash typical used in earliest additions to the house.



Figure 19. View of pair of six-light sash that replaced an earlier window before World War II.

perhaps replacing one of the single, two-light sash that appear to have been used on all but the front of the building. Single, six-light sash hung as case-ment windows were apparently used in the early additions. After World War II, earlier windows on the east side of Room 104 and the south side of Room 105 were replaced by pairs of one-over-one,



Figure 20. View of one-over-one windows that replaced earlier windows in the rear addition and on the east side of Room 104.



Figure 21. View of gable vent on east side of house.

double-hung, aluminum windows. A one-over-one window was also installed on the west side of Room 106, probably replacing a single, six-light sash like that which still remains on that wall.

Doors: There are two main entrances to the main block of the house, one on the northwest side and one on the southeast side, both opening into Room 101. Doors also open from the back porch into the kitchen and from the back porch into both bathrooms and both of the added bedrooms.

The earliest and presumably original doors are the five-panel (four vertical panels and one horizontal panel) wooden doors that are used at both the front and rear door openings into Room 101 as well as at the doors to the four original bedrooms. The door from the kitchen to the back porch has six horizontal panels and is also early, although probably not original.

In the addition, the half bath has a two-panel door, typical of the second quarter of the twentieth century. The door to the full bathroom is a flush door and the door to Room 105, which was apparently a new opening created when the full bath was constructed, has six lights over three horizontal panels. It and the flush door are characteristic of the third



Figure 22. View of front door, typical of the five-panel doors used on the exterior and interior in the original construction.



Figure 23. View of white porcelain door knob and colonial-revival escutcheon for what are presumably original mortise locks at the front and back doors.



Figure 25. View of two-panel door with rim lock and porcelain knob that were part of the alterations and additions before World War II.



Figure 24. View of early twentieth century metal knob and escutcheon for a mortise lock.



Figure 26. View of modern door installed on east side of Room 105.

quarter of the twentieth century.

The front and back doors are fitted with mortise locks and have colonial-revival escutcheons, all presumably original. The interior doors as well as the doors to the half-bath and to the kitchen have rim locks, also presumably original. Original exte-

rior door knobs are porcelain; interior knobs are metal. The modern doors have a variety of modern hardware.

Roof Covering: The existing roof covering is a modern, corrugated, metal roof, which covers remnants of earlier asphalt shingle roofing as well



Figure 26. View of junction of added roofs and the rear shed of the original roof, now covered with modern metal roof covering.



Figure 27. View of early asphalt shingles and rolled asphalt roofing present prior to construction of a new roof structure over the rear additions in the late twentieth century.

as rolled asphalt roofing, the latter apparently used only on the additions. Modern K-style gutters are installed on portions of the rear roof sheds but they are not in good condition. Although the metal roof compromises the building's historic character, it is relatively new and in excellent condition, except perhaps where the roofs of the additions connect to the rear shed of the main roof.

Porches: The front or north porch, which is original to the house, is surrounded by a low knee wall



Figure 28. View west on front porch.



Figure 29. View of trusses and framing on front porch.



Figure 30. View of west end of rear porch.



Figure 31. View east on back (south) porch.

except where the wall was removed in connecting it with the added west porch. Both the north and west porches were originally screened, but all of the screening is now missing. The south porch was probably created along with the half bath. For reasons that are not clear, it was built a foot or so lower than the floor level of the house itself. The south porch also appears to have been originally enclosed by a low knee wall with screening above similar to the front porch. On the east side of Room 105 is an open deck that was apparently created along with construction of the full bathroom,



Figure 31. View of east end of rear porch showing door to kitchen.



Figure 32. View of rear porch and added half bath.

which blocked the original connection between Room 105 and the south porch. There is also a



Figure 33. View of rafters for added south porch and their connection to the original rafter ends at the rear of the original house. Note the chamfered corners on the rafter ends.



Figure 34. View south on added west porch.



Figure 35. View of modern deck on east side of rear addition.



Figure 36. View north on west porch.



Figure 37. View west on front porch.

small modern deck with benches at each end that was built off the front of the north porch.

Porches are decked with 4½"-wide, tongue-and-groove boards like those used on the interior. The front porch ceiling is finished with 4½"-wide, tongue-and-groove, double-V jointed boards, also like those used on the original interior ceilings. The ceilings in the added porches are formed by the



Figure 38. View at west end of front porch.



Figure 39. Detail view showing original-

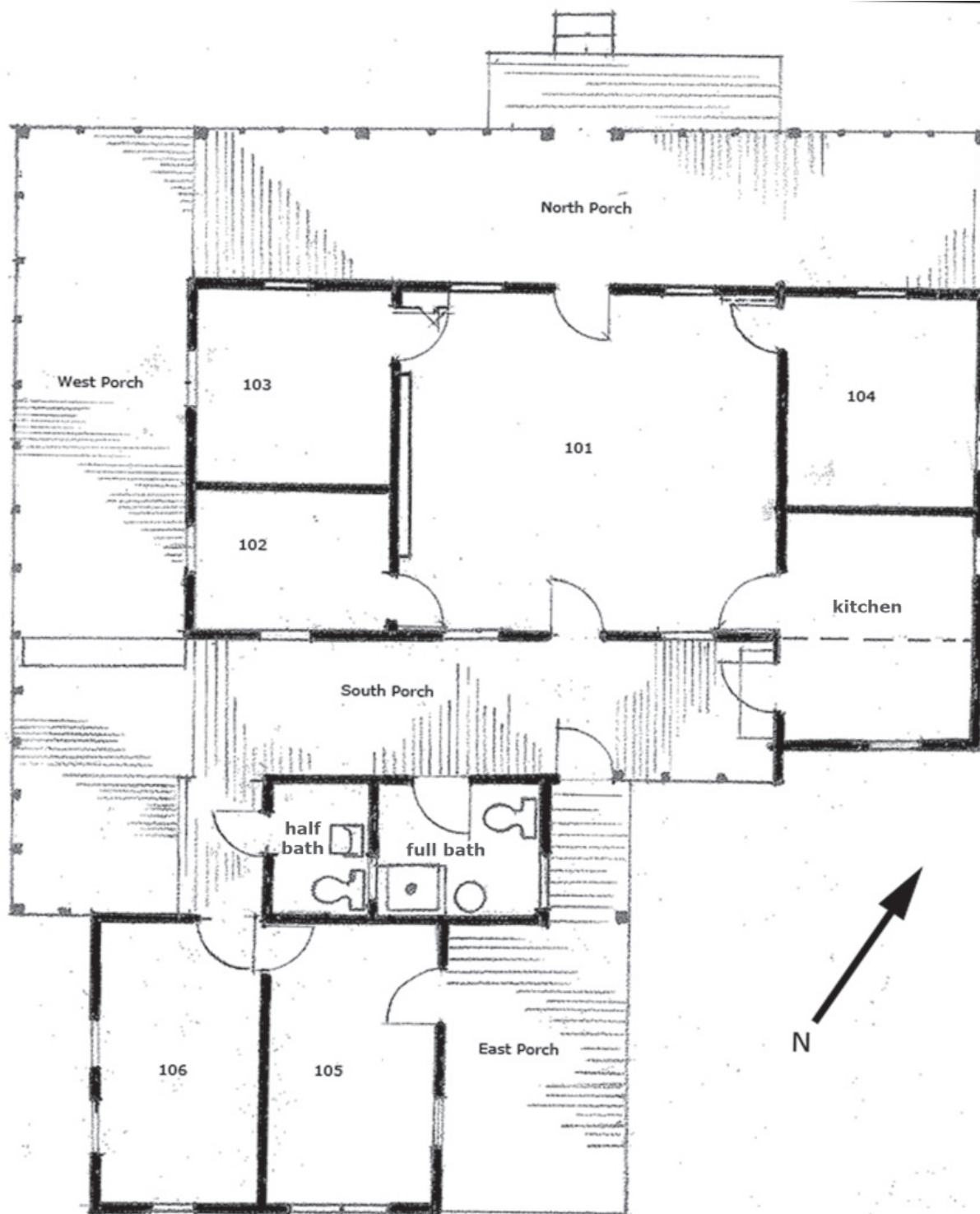


Figure 40. Floor plan of existing building.



Figure 41. View west in Room 101.



Figure 42. View northwest in Room 101.

open rafters and roof decking above.

Interior: The floor plan of the existing structure consists of a large central room (Room 101) with two bedrooms (102 and 103) on the west and one bedroom (104) and a kitchen on the east. There is an addition of two bedrooms, a half bath, and a full bath separated from the main block of the house by the south porch. In addition to the front porch on the north side of the house, porches have also been added to the west side of the house and to the east side of the rooms added at the rear.



Figure 43. Detail view of shelf on west wall of Room 101.

The interior partition walls of the original building are constructed of 4½"-wide, tongue-and-groove, double-V jointed boards installed vertically. The V joints are present on only one side. As noted above, these walls are unframed, with the boards held in



Figure 45. View of shelf unit on north wall of Room 101.



Figure 44. View northeast in Room 101.

place by nailers at the floor and ceiling. The exterior walls of the original rooms and all of the walls in the half bath and the two added bedrooms are open stud walls with no interior finishes.

Ceilings of the four rooms in the main block of the house are also finished with the same double-V jointed, tongue-and-groove boards used for the partition walls. The ceilings in the added rooms, including in the south half of the kitchen, and on the rear and west porches are formed by the open rafters and roof decking above. Flooring throughout the house, including the porches, is tongue-and-groove, 4½" wide.



Figure 46. Typical tongue-and-grooving ceiling boards.



Figure 48. View west in Room 103.



Figure 47. View northeast in Room 103.



Figure 49. View of north wall of Room 103, showing ladder to hatch into attic.



Figure 51. View southeast in Room 104.



Figure 53. View of half bath.



Figure 51. View northwest in Room 104.



Figure 54. View northeast in kitchen.



Figure 56. View southeast in kitchen.



Figure 55. View southwest in kitchen.



Figure 57. View of window on south wall of kitchen.



Figure 58. View northeast in Room 105



Figure 60. View south in Room 106.



Figure 59. View north in Room 105.



Figure 61. View northwest in Room 106.

Treatment and Use

Built by a private contractor for the Army Corps of Engineers around 1915, Jetty Workers' House #2 was built to house workers constructing the jetty at Cape Lookout Bight. The present structure, which is a contributing structure in the National Register listed Cape Lookout Village Historic District, is the result of a series of alterations and additions, some of which occurred during the historic period. Although it has a relatively new, metal roof, the house is in poor condition, with the some of the latest additions being in the poorest condition.

Vernacular design and construction broadly define the character of the house. Like most of the other buildings at Cape Lookout Village, the house is a simple, utilitarian structure that was built in response to specific needs and circumstances, with little consideration of architectural style or refinement of detail.

The history of Jetty Workers' House #2 closely parallels that of Cape Lookout Village itself. It is among the earliest purely residential buildings in the historic district and the structures' evolution over time is similar to that of most of the other private residences in the district. As with those structures and the district as a whole, the period of significance for Jetty Workers' House #2 should be carried forward to around 1950. Alterations to the house that occurred in the second quarter of the twentieth century then should be preserved.

Termites and a leaking roof threaten the building's continued preservation and significant structural repairs may be necessary, especially as modern finishes can be removed and the condition of the framing and underlying finish materials assessed. In addition, the modifications to the building in the last twenty-five years have compromised its historic integrity. Removal of the late twentieth century bathroom and west and east porches along with restoration of the historic roof line would restore that integrity.

Because the Cape Lookout Village Historic District is a relatively new addition to the National Register, the park has not set a program of use for the private

residences in the village, including the Jetty Workers' Houses. The authorizing legislation (Public Law 89-366) for Cape Lookout National Seashore mandated the park's establishment for the purpose of preserving "for public use and enjoyment an area in the State of North Carolina possessing outstanding natural and recreational values."

An amendment to the 1982 GMP was completed in January 2001, but it only addressed improvements in overnight accommodations and transportation services for visitors to Core Banks and not the additional cultural resources that had been identified since 1982. Nevertheless, these additional listings, which like the earlier listings are of statewide significance, do not appear to require any marked departure from the management approach established in 1982 for Portsmouth and the Cape Lookout Light Station.

Three points from the 1982 GMP are particularly relevant to decisions on the buildings in the Cape Lookout Village:

- The 1982 plan "perpetuates the present level of use and development of Core Banks/Portsmouth Island. . . ."
- Pointing out the resources' state level of significance, the 1982 plan intended "to preserve intact, as feasible, the historic resources of the national seashore and to recognize that dynamic natural forces have influenced them through their existence and will continue to influence them."
- "As appropriate, some structures may be perpetuated through adaptive use. Contemporary public and/or administrative rights will be allowed with necessary modifications. The qualities that qualified these resources for listing on the National Register of Historic Places will be perpetuated to the extent practicable."

In keeping with these parameters, the historic (and present) residential use of Jetty Workers' House #2 and the other structures that were historically

private residences should be continued.

Requirements for Treatment and Use

The house has a fragile character that can be easily destroyed by insensitive treatment. This character is embodied not just in the vernacular form of the building but also in its structure and its component materials, including wood flooring, paneling, windows, doors, nails, and hardware. The more these aspects of the building are compromised, especially through replacement or removal of the historic material or feature, the less useful the building becomes as a historical artifact.

Because it is a contributing building in a National Register district, legal mandates and policy directives circumscribe treatment of Jetty Workers' House #2. The NPS' Cultural Resources Management Guideline (DO-28) requires planning for the protection of cultural resources "whether or not they relate to the specific authorizing legislation or interpretive programs of the parks in which they lie." Therefore, the house should be understood in its own cultural context and managed in light of its own values so that it may be preserved unimpaired for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

To help guide compliance with the statutes and regulations noted above, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties have been issued along with guidelines for applying those standards. Standards are included for each of the four separate but interrelated approaches to the treatment of historic buildings: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. These approaches define a hierarchy that implies an increasing amount of intervention into the historic building. Rehabilitation, in particular, allows for a variety of alterations and even additions to accommodate modern use of the structure. However, a key principle embodied in the Standards is that changes be reversible, i.e., that alterations, additions, or other modifications be designed and constructed in such a way that they can be removed or reversed in the future without the loss of existing historic materials, features or characters.

Treatment of the building should be guided by the International Building Code, including that code's statement regarding historic buildings:

3406.1 Historic Buildings. The provisions of this

code related to the construction, repair, alteration, addition, restoration and movement of structures, and change of occupancy shall not be mandatory for historic buildings where such buildings are judged by the building official to not constitute a distinct life safety hazard [emphasis added].

Threats to public health and safety will be eliminated, but because this is an historic building, alternatives to full code compliance are recommended where compliance would needlessly compromise the integrity of the historic building.

Recommendations

Treatment of the house should preserve historic features and materials wherever possible. As a practical matter and as a matter of interpretation, the most recent additions to the building should be removed. By and large, simple removal of those additions would leave most of the historic structure intact.

Treatment of the building must, at a minimum, adhere to the Secretary's Standards if the historic character of the individual buildings is to be maintained. Of immediate concern is the present condition of the building, where termites, poorly-maintained windows and exterior finishes, as well as a variety of haphazard repairs threaten the building's continued preservation. In addition, the modifications to the building in the last twenty-five years have significantly compromised the house's historic integrity. Removal of the added roof and cement-asbestos siding, and relatively simple, straightforward repairs of the building's other historic features would restore its integrity. Rehabilitation of the building's interior and its plumbing and electrical systems would help insure the building's continued usefulness.

Site

The site is poorly drained and water routinely collects beneath the building, especially at the front. The grade should be raised to help ensure that water does not continue to collect under the house.

Porches

The late-twentieth century alterations and additions to the porches are in poor condition. The west porch and the open deck on the east side of the rear additions should be removed completely. The original configuration of the back porch has not been precisely identified but should be ap-

parent when the west porch and east deck are removed. It should be repaired and restored to its configuration after addition of the two bedrooms and half bath. Careful examination of the framing and other features of the porch as demolition occurs should provide evidence for the configuration of the back porch at that time and for placement of an exterior door, if any, to Room 105.

The open deck at the front of the house should be removed and wooden stairs to the front porch reconstructed.

The missing knee wall at the western end of the front porch should be reconstructed to match the original walls on the north and east end of the porch. Knee walls should also be reconstructed on the back porch, with accommodation to allow access to the two rooms and half bath added around 1940. Both porches should be screened.

Foundation

A number of the foundation piles are in poor condition and must be replaced. Placement should replicate the historic arrangement of piers, except where framing conditions necessitate additional support.

The grade within the footprint of the structure must be raised slightly to prevent ponding beneath the house. Consequently, it may be necessary for the house to be raised slightly in order to maintain an adequate level above grade.

Structure

Because the building investigation for this study was non-destructive and because of the structure's close proximity to the ground, the extent of additional structural damage from rot and termites could not be determined; but as with most of the residences at the Cape, some damage is likely to have occurred. Further inspection of and necessary repairs to the framing should be coordinated with pier replacement. If damage is discovered that appears to necessitate repairs to the framing, it should be possible to make those repairs without removing historic finishes.

In some cases, sizing and spacing of historic framing members do not meet modern code requirements, but the historic framing can be augmented without total replacement. Spans can be reduced by additional beams run perpendicular to the joists at mid-span of the original joists.

Improvements to the connection of the wall framing to the perimeter sills will be possible, but augmentation of the wall framing is not recommended since virtually all of the wall framing is an exposed, character-defining feature of the interior.

The modern porch on the west side of the house should be removed along with the open deck on the east side of the rear addition. Knee walls and screening were original features on both the front and back porches and should be reconstructed where missing.

Roofing

When the modern rear shed of the roof is removed, the roof line of the historic roof can be determined. If there are more than two layers of asphalt shingles, that would be an indication that

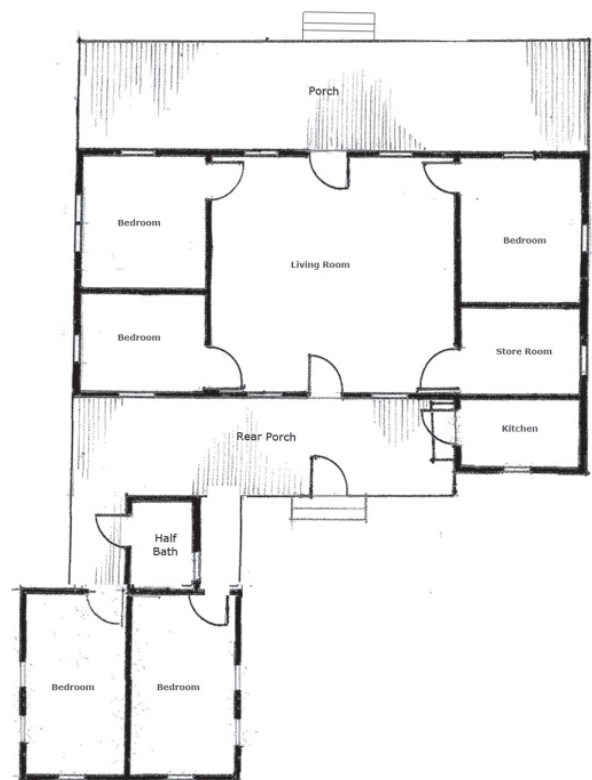


Figure 1. Plan for recommended restoration of house.

asphalt shingles were present near the end of the historic period and asphalt roofing could be used for re-roofing. Otherwise, wood shingles would be appropriate.

Windows and Doors

All historic windows and doors should be repaired and repainted. Modern alterations to window

openings on the east side of Room 104, the south side of Room 105, and the west side of Room 106 should be reversed and the historic window opening restored. If the full bath is removed (see below), the modern door opening on the east side of Room 105 could be removed and the original opening on the north side of the room recreated.

Exterior Finishes

All exposed historic woodwork needs to be repaired and repainted. The gable vents are in poor condition and need significant repairs. Likewise flooring on the two porches recommended for preservation require significant repairs and repainting. Because of the protection it offers and because it may date to late in the historic period, the cement-asbestos siding should be repaired and preserved. If definitive documentation can be located proving it was not added in the historic period, its removal and restoration of the underlying wood siding could be considered.\

Interior Finishes

Historic finish material on the interior include the tongue-and-groove flooring and the tongue-and-groove paneling on the ceilings. Most this material

is intact, with only minor repairs necessary.

Bathrooms

As noted above, the modern full bathroom was not well built, nor is it in good condition. Rather than attempt repairs, it should be removed and the historic configuration and finishing of the back porch should be restored. The historic half bath can be rehabilitated for continued use. If the park's use of the house requires a full bathroom or one that meets accessibility requirements, consideration should be given to adapting the north end of Room 105 for that purpose.

Additional Research

Although there was a significant amount of research done in preparing the National Register nomination for the Cape Lookout Village Historic District, little specific documentation has been compiled on the jetty workers' houses. At a minimum, the park should run a complete chain of title on the property that would outline changes in ownership, since that information is typically an important clue to establishing a precise building chronology. Interviews with the people who last leased the house could also provide significant information as well.



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

