

WAKE COUNTY ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY UPDATE: PHASE V

Long- and Short-Range Urban Service Areas of the Towns of
Knightdale, Rolesville, Wendell, and Zebulon and the contiguous
Little River Water Supply Watershed of Eastern Wake County



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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

In 2018, Wake County received a Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant from the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC HPO) for the completion of a historic resources survey update of resources in the Long- and Short-Range Urban Service Areas of the Towns of Knightdale, Rolesville, Wendell, and Zebulon and the contiguous Little River Water Supply Watershed of Eastern Wake County. This survey is Phase V of a multi-phase project to survey the entire area within the jurisdiction of the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). The Phase V survey update area is shown in Figure 1.

Throughout the months of May to August 2019, Jaime Destefano of JLD Preservation Consulting, LLC conducted all scopes of work toward the completion of the survey update and the preparation of this report. Gary Roth, staff for the HPC; Michelle Patterson-McCabe, Grants Coordinator for NC HPO; and Elizabeth King, Architectural Survey Coordinator for NC HPO supervised the project.

The Phase V survey area was initially documented between 1988 and 1991 as part of a comprehensive, county-wide survey project conducted by Kelly Lally. The 1988-1991 survey resulted in the preparation of approximately 200 individual survey files within the Phase V survey area. Subsequent surveys resulted in the update of existing records, as well as the documentation of approximately 50 additional resources. The primary objective of the Phase V Survey Update was to update and expand the existing survey file records, to add significant or representative properties constructed prior to 1970, and to discuss apparent changes to the historic built environment of the survey area. This report summarizes the findings of the survey update, which documented approximately 245 previously recorded properties and 38 newly surveyed historic resources within the project area. The update will support future planning efforts and identify resources potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or Wake County Landmark designation.

The Long- and Short-Range Urban Service Areas of the Towns of Knightdale, Rolesville, Wendell, and Zebulon and the contiguous Little River Water Supply Watershed include areas of eastern Wake County that lie outside of the immediate extra-territorial jurisdiction of the four municipalities. The municipalities Knightdale, Wendell, and Rolesville were surveyed by hmw Preservation in 2016. Zebulon was surveyed by New South Associates in 2018 as Phase IV of the Wake County Architectural Survey Update. The present Phase V study area completes the survey update of the eastern portion of the county. Figure 1 shows the entirety of the study area with each survey area differentiated by an assigned color-code.

Survey Objectives

The primary objectives of the Phase V survey update are detailed below:

- Resurvey and update records (database entry, mapping, and photography) of all previously surveyed properties within the project area. The update of records includes the full population of database records including typed descriptions taken from the survey file

records. *JLD Consulting updated existing records for a total of 251 previously documented resources.*

- Conduct reconnaissance-level fieldwork to identify approximately 30 Post-World War II and mid-century properties pre-dating 1970 that were not previously surveyed. For each selected property, a new Site ID is to be assigned and a database entry and survey file created. *Based on apparent degree of architectural significance and historic integrity and, JLD Consulting created new survey records for 37 historic properties, including a handful of early-20th-century properties that were not previously surveyed but now after the passage of time warrant documentation.*
- Prepare a brief survey report presenting project methodology, survey results, and historic context.
- Prepare a list of properties recommended for the state Study List and for Wake County Landmark designation.

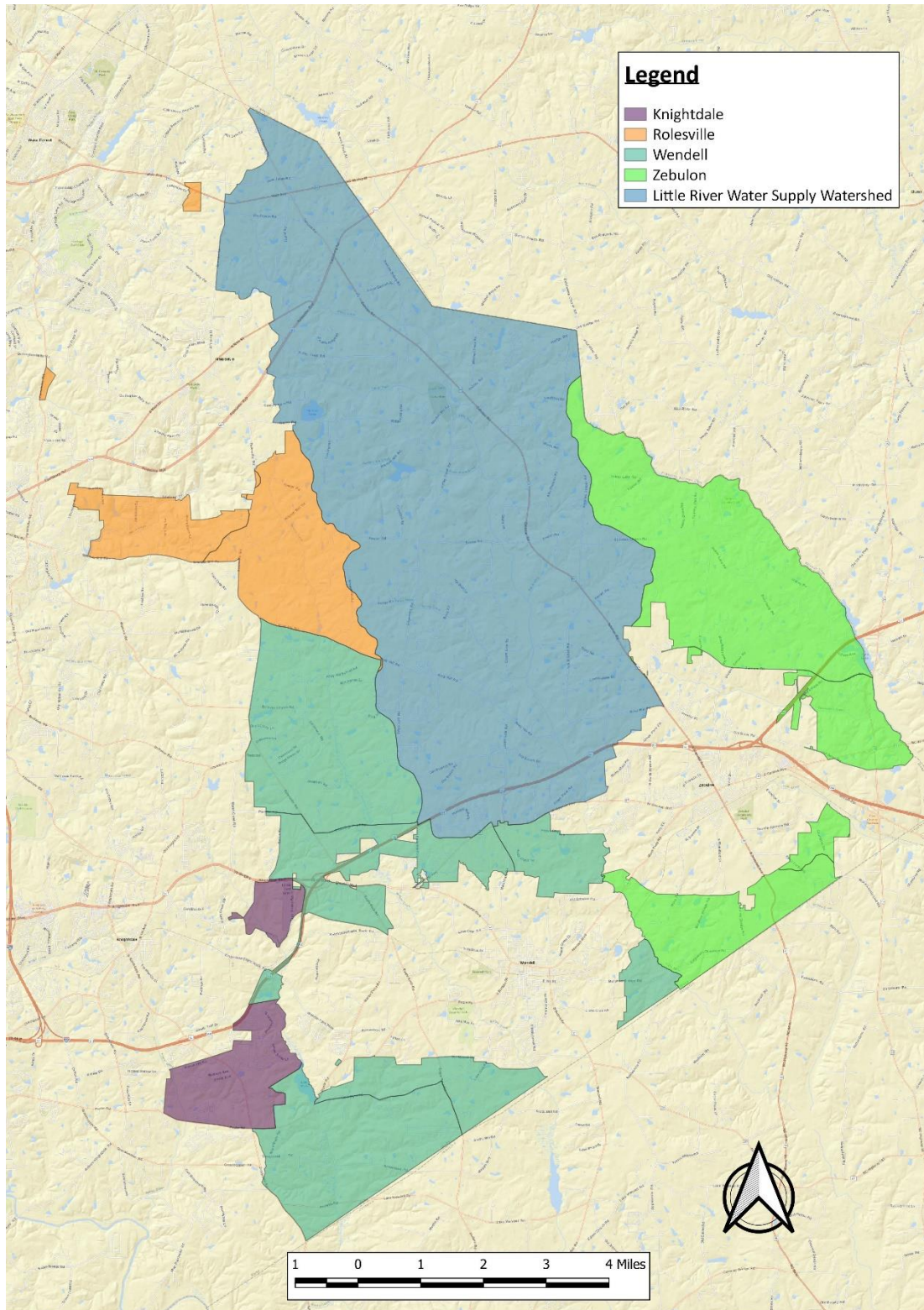


Figure 1. Knightdale, Rolesville, Wendell, and Zebulon Long- and Short-Range Urban Service Areas and the Little River Supply Watershed – Entire Project Area

SECTION 1: METHODOLOGY

Phase V of the Wake County Architectural Survey Update focused on the documentation of historic resources within the boundaries of the Long- and Short-Range Urban Service Areas of Knightdale, Rolesville, Wendell, and Zebulon, as well as the contiguous Little River Water Supply Watershed of Eastern Wake County. Various data layers for the study area were obtained from the Wake County Government Geospatial Information Systems and Science (GIS) data download page and utilized throughout the course of the project.

Previous Survey Documentation

The comprehensive survey of Wake County undertaken between 1988 and 1991 documented approximately 200 properties within the Phase V Survey Area. The results of this early survey led to the preparation of the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) titled “Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, NC: ca.1770-1941)” by Kelly Lally and Todd Johnson.¹ In addition to the MPDF, the survey resulted in the publication of the book, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina* in 1994, written by Lally.²

A reconnaissance-level survey update, conducted by Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. between 2005 and 2007, resulted in the update of properties surveyed in the 1988-1991 survey, and identified resources that had reached 50 years of age since 1991. The survey further identified resources missed during, or omitted from the 1991 survey. The results of the survey included the production of a draft historic context entitled, *Wake County in the Post-World War II Era: Rural Life Transformed (1941-1960)*. The context paid particular attention to World War II and Post-War house types, as well as Post-World War II Farm Complexes from 1946 to 1960.³

In addition to the county-wide surveys conducted from 1988 to 1991 and 2005 to 2007, a handful of additional properties were surveyed as a result of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Background Research

Prior to the field survey, general archival research was conducted, as well as a review of all previous survey documentation and publications on Wake County and its historic architecture. Based on the results of the field survey, additional research was conducted for newly surveyed properties or for those properties exhibiting a high degree of significance and integrity.

¹ Kelly Lally and Todd Johnson, “Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca.1770-1941), National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Park Service, 1994.

² Kelly A. Lally, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina*, North Carolina (Raleigh: Wake County Government, 1994).

³ The draft context was conceived of as an update to Lally and Johnson’s 1994 MPDF but was never completed and submitted to the National Park Service. The text is available within a survey report on file at NC HPO, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc., “Wake County Architectural Survey Update Phases I & II,” 2007.

Identification of Previously Surveyed Resources and Locations

At the onset of the survey project, the NC HPO provided JLD Consulting with a spreadsheet of all previously recorded resources within the survey area that have existing survey files or have been mapped as part of reconnaissance-level survey. The list includes a total of 251 resources, including 24 identified during reconnaissance-level survey.

JLD Consulting reviewed all existing survey files at NC HPO. A total of 227 surveyed properties had files available for review at NC HPO. The remaining 24 had been mapped using temporary Site ID assignments (WA-R###).

Following further research at NC HPO and utilizing Google Earth aerial photography and the North Carolina Geospatial Information System (HPOWEB), it was determined that six of the reconnaissance-level properties were previously surveyed under different Site ID numbers. Sixteen (16) reconnaissance-level properties included on the NC HPO spreadsheet were assigned formal Site ID numbers as shown in Appendix A.

Based on a review of the existing survey records as provided on the NC HPO spreadsheet, it was determined that a total of 251 properties within the survey area were previously documented prior to the Phase V survey update. Utilizing HPOWEB, Wake County GIS data, and the USGS topographic maps from the 1991 survey, JLD Consulting prepared electronic mapping tools for use on smart devices to better assist with the field survey and to more accurately identify the locations of properties and secondary structures when conducting fieldwork.

Field Survey and Update

Equipped with mapping tools and photocopies of all existing survey files, JLD Preservation Consulting conducted the intensive-level field survey during the months of May and June of 2019. Access was restricted to the public right-of-way for a large number of properties. However, in most instances, primary dwellings were sited within close proximity to the street allowing for sufficient photographic coverage and documentation. When feasible, or deemed appropriate, attempts were made to contact property owners, either via telephone or approaching their entry door. Observations recorded during the field survey include noting the loss of outbuildings, apparent alterations since prior surveys, the introduction of new buildings, and any noted architectural elements not previously documented.

During the field survey, numerous properties constructed prior to 1970 were identified throughout the project area. JLD Consulting selected 37 properties not previously surveyed that exhibited a good degree of historic integrity or unique architectural distinction. These 37 properties exhibited unique architectural distinction and/or a good degree of historic integrity. An attempt was made to identify historic districts, or groupings, of post-World War II resources in order to evaluate and survey. Only a handful of such properties, or neighborhoods, constructed prior to 1970 were found within the project area. Among those, only one (WA8167) appeared to convey apparent architectural significance and retain decent integrity.

During the field survey, multiple high-quality digital photographs meeting the requirements of the National Register of Historic Places were taken of each surveyed property when possible. Photographs of both primary and secondary resources, including agricultural outbuildings and fields, were captured. All photographs were labeled according to the NC HPO photograph policy, and contact sheets were printed for inclusion in the paper files. CD-Rs containing all digital photographs are on file with NC HPO and the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission.

NC HPO Database Entries and Paper Files

Throughout the months of May to July of 2019, JLD Consulting updated the existing survey database to include a brief description of each property retrieved from previous survey files. Based on a review existing survey files, current field observations, Google Earth imagery, and online tax records, each record in the database was updated with at least one of the following: No substantial change, Altered, Deteriorated, Demolished, Outbuilding Loss, or Moved (*see Appendix B*). The HPO database was fully populated for previously surveyed properties, as well as the 37 newly surveyed properties. Report forms for each property were generated from the database and included in the individual paper survey files. A digital copy of the database is on file with NC HPO and the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission. The individual paper files include various field notes, property records, contact sheets, printed database records, and additional primary research if available.

SECTION 2: HISTORIC CONTEXT

2.1 WAKE COUNTY AGRICULTURE BETWEEN THE WORLD WARS: 1919 TO 1941

At the outbreak of America's entrance into World War I, Wake County's local economy was thriving. Wartime demand boosted commercial and industrial interests, including cotton textiles. By the close of the War in 1919, much of the County's farming families experienced, for the first time, a new prosperity due to high cotton and tobacco prices. In 1920, the number of Wake County farms peaked at 6,804. Unfortunately, this rural prosperity was short-lived. An agricultural depression during the early-1920s began to transition rural life in Wake County. Many farmers were forced to abandoned agricultural employment and relocated to urban centers for industrially-based opportunities. While large numbers fled to the State capital in nearby Raleigh, the smaller communities of Wake County experienced a similar increase in population and employment. Not all rural residents relocated to the city and small towns, however. Many maintained their rural residence, commuting elsewhere for employment opportunities. Between 1920 and 1940, the percentage of people living in rural areas who were not employed in farming increased by ten (10) percent.⁴

While the economy of Wake County in the 1920s was becoming less reliant on farming as a leading occupation, the number of families involved in the tenant system of farming increased substantially. Small, family-run farmers (20 to 100 acres) were forced to subdivide and sell their land, and were oftentimes forced into tenancy themselves. During this period, over "12,000 acres of farmland were taken out of production."⁵

During the 1920s, farming was solely reliant on cash crops, particularly that of cotton. In 1927, the boll weevil arrived in Wake County devastating the cotton crop that year, and subsequently the financial stability of the farmer. Realizing the importance of agricultural diversification, many farmers transitioned to tobacco farming, dairying, and truck farming. The latter were made possible by an increase in automobile ownership and improved roadways for ease of daily shipment of produce and dairy. In addition, farmers began to increase the production of sweet potatoes, peanuts, soybeans, and a variety of fruits, as well as poultry and egg production. Cotton acreage declined dramatically during the 1930s, resulting in sharecroppers to relocate to the city and farmers to adopt seasonal labor practices. Federally-imposed tobacco crop reduction initiatives throughout the 1930s further displaced farm tenants. By 1940, tobacco surpassed cotton as the leading cash crop in Wake County.⁶

Although the number and breadth of farms was decreasing, Wake County remained predominantly rural, with an agriculturally-based economy through the first half of the 20th century. However, the

⁴ Kelly A. Lally, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina*, Wake County Government, 1994; p. 136-137.

⁵ Lally 1994; 126-128.

⁶ Lally 1994; 142-144.

rural landscape of farm complexes changed dramatically between the two World Wars as farms were continuously subdivided. Emerging hygiene regulations steered the design of outbuildings such as dairies and cattle facilities. Large-scale dairy farms emerged with new modern, specialized farm buildings (silos, milking barns, etc.). Tobacco facilities included both the earlier log structures, as well as simple, square frame curing barns and strip rooms. Indoor plumbing and electricity were introduced to much of rural Wake County resulting in changes to domestic architecture, particularly the reduction of outbuildings such as kitchens, smokehouse, and privies.⁷

2.2. POST-WORLD WAR II GROWTH: 1942-1970

Similar to rural areas nationwide, World War II greatly impacted the agricultural and rural landscape of Wake County. Following the war, Wake County experience renewed economic prosperity and a subsequent surge in population growth. Prior to the outbreak of war in 1940, the county's population stood at 109,544 with 5,255 farms covering 69% of the county's acreage.⁸ These dramatically changed following World War II, a trend that endures today as population continues to grow and the rural, agricultural landscape diminishes. This transformation has been further "hastened by a series of annexations over several decades that have pushed city and town limits farther out into the county consuming former farms and open land."⁹

At the outbreak of World War II, corn, cotton, and tobacco were the major crops produced, and cattle, swine, and chickens the most common farm animals. The county was fourth in the State in 1940 in both tobacco production and the value of livestock. Dairying was another successful agricultural venture in Wake County with 195 dairy farms, including 23 commercial dairies. Despite a slight decline in tenancy in the 1930s, sharecropping and tenant farming remained common amongst Wake County farms, with approximately 50% of farm operators being tenant farmers.¹⁰ Despite a loss of approximately 10,000 men leaving farms to join the war effort, Wake County farmers continued to thrive. By the close of World War II, the number of farms increased by nearly 800 and active agricultural acreage rose to 417,680. According to the Edwards-Pittman draft Multiple Property Documentation Form, this increase is due in part to the thousands of men returning from war. The same document confirms that over 75% of land in Wake County by 1945 was devoted to farming, with 69 acres being the average farm size. Despite this increase in the number of farms, the average farm was somewhat smaller than those of the previous decade.¹¹

By 1950, the number of farms in Wake County peaked at 6,219, with tobacco as the most important cash crop, followed by cotton. However, by 1964, this number was dramatically reduced by more

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Richard L. Forstall, *Population of States and Counties of the United States: 1790-1990*, Washington: US Bureau of the Census, 1996 AND U.S. Bureau of the Census, *United States Census of Agriculture: 1945*, Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1946.

⁹ Edwards-Pittman Environmental, Inc. "Phase II: Wake County MPDF Draft Addendum, 1942-1960," *Wake County Architectural Survey Update Phases I & II*, 2005-2007, 2 (Hereafter referred to as Edwards-Pittman, MPDF).

¹⁰ Edwards-Pittman MPDF, 3

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 3

than 50% to fewer than 3,000 as the county's population shifted into cities and towns, or rural residents began commuting in greater numbers. Industry, technology, higher education, and research replaced farming as the county's dominant economic base. A leading contributing factor in the increased population and transition away from farming was the conception of the "Research Triangle Park."¹² Brought to fruition in the 1950s, the Research Triangle Park, or Research Triangle, is the largest planned research center in the United States. It was formally created in 1959 through the efforts of hundreds of scientists, politicians, and business leaders. Realizing a need for a redirection of economic development, progressive leaders of the 1950s endeavored to combine the strengths of three acclaimed research universities - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, and North Carolina State University – "to become a foundation for economic development."¹³ Located between Raleigh and Durham, the "park" encompassed 7,000 acres in 2006, and employed 38,000 North Carolinians.¹⁴

The formation of Research Triangle Park, coupled with the expansion of universities, brought droves of residents to Wake County, sparking other technology-based enterprises and new businesses. The county's population increased dramatically, with Raleigh doubling its population in the twenty years following the end of World War II. Similarly, populations increased in the historically rural communities, which inevitably arose as "bedroom communities for willing commuters."¹⁵ Rural areas immediately surrounding Raleigh and neighboring municipalities experienced rapid transformations and declining farming operations during the twenty years following World War II.

2.3. TRANSFORMATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE, 1970-2017

While the initial post-World War II-era growth of the county occurred primarily in Raleigh and its surrounding "bedroom communities," large-scale developers soon focused their attention on the largely undeveloped farmland throughout the county. Rural Wake County, particularly that of the eastern half of the county, was not immediately impacted by the population growth and subsequent annexations as areas closer to Raleigh. However, by the 1970s, suburbanization into the heart of the county's farm country was taking shape.

In 1950, fewer than 150,000 residents lived in Wake County. By 1980, the population had doubled, and a large percentage of unincorporated land annexed into Raleigh and other growing communities throughout the county.¹⁶ These annexations furthered the decline of agricultural acreage and farming in the county as urban areas expanded outward. Throughout the second half of the 20th century, farming operations declined at an alarming rate, largely as a result of

¹² Edwards-Pittman Environmental, Inc. *Wake County Architectural Survey Update Phases I & II*, 2005-2007, p. 4.

¹³ Wiley J. Williams, "Research Triangle Park," *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, University of North Carolina Press, 2006 < <https://www.ncpedia.org/research-triangle-park> > accessed July 2019.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Edwards-Pittman Environmental, Inc. *Wake County Architectural Survey Update Phases I & II*, 2005-2007, p. 4.

¹⁶ Edwards-Pittman MPDF, 3

considerable residential expansion. By 1987, only 1,000 farms were in operation in the county and “the abandonment of farms was visible in the deterioration or demolition of outbuildings.”¹⁷

Considerable suburbanization encroached upon Wake County’s rural landscape, a trend that endures today. In many instances, this was made possible by an aging population of farming families. As the county’s older farming families retired or passed away, descendants oftentimes subdivided the former farms into small residential lots or sold to large-scale developers for the construction of planned subdivisions. According to the 1988-1991 county-wide survey, Kelly Lally confirmed that Wake County residents were shifting away from an agrarian-based economy, however, its rural landscape continued to convey vestiges of its early agricultural heritage. When Edwards-Pittman conducted their survey fifteen years later, it was apparent that the family farm was no longer a mainstay of the county. According to Edwards-Pittman, by 2007, the population had “shifted from a combination of rural, small-town, and urban dwellers to a largely suburban population employed in technology-related occupations and service-industry jobs.”¹⁸ This trend continues today, gradually diminishing the county’s farmland and agricultural heritage.

2.4. LONG- AND SHORT-RANGE URBAN SERVICE AREAS OF KNIGHTDALE, ROLESVILLE, WENDELL, AND ZEBULON, AND THE LITTLE RIVER WATER SUPPLY WATERSHED OF EASTERN WAKE COUNTY – A BRIEF HISTORY

This report analyzes the changes to the non-urban areas of eastern Wake County including the long- and short-range urban services areas of the towns of Knightdale, Rolesville, Wendell, and Zebulon and the contiguous Little River Water Supply Watershed. The Phase V survey area encompasses portions of four townships – Little River, Marks Creek, Wake Forest, and St. Matthews. Throughout the early-19th century, land value in the eastern section of the county was notably higher due to its superior soils. Much of eastern Wake County emerged as a leading “plantation” area within the county, and consequently, held a greater concentration of slave labor.¹⁹ Among the many prosperous farmers in Antebellum-era eastern Wake County was Bennett Bunn, who established a large 1,000-acre estate with sixteen slaves by 1850 (WA190 and WA191).²⁰ The Hartsfield family began amassing considerable land holdings along in eastern Wake County by the late-1700s. By the 1800s, Andrew Hartsfield established his home (WA1298) and farmstead along the Little River near Mitchell’s Mill. By the mid-1800s, the plantation exceeded 2,000 acres, of which 730 acres were cultivated. Both the Bennett Bunn plantation and the Hartsfield Plantation are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Although eastern Wake County boasted a number of large plantations prior to the Civil War, a large percentage of farmers were non-slaveowners, with farms averaging 50 acres or less. Many

¹⁷ Heather Wagner Slane, *Wake County Architectural Survey Update Phase III: Historic Resources in the Long- and Short-Range Urban Service Areas of Apex, Holly Springs, and Fuquay-Varina, the Apex Non-Urban Service Area, and the Falls Lake Water Supply Watershed of northwest Wake County*, 2017.

¹⁸ Edwards-Pittman Environmental, Inc. *Wake County Architectural Survey Update Phases I & II*, 2005-2007, p. 5.

¹⁹ Kelly Lally, “Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca.1770-1941),” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1993.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

of these farms have remained under the ownership of a single family since the 18th and 19th centuries.²¹

Following the War and emancipation, slave labor was quickly replaced by tenancy in eastern Wake County. Small frame tenant houses appeared across the agricultural landscape. While tenancy was oftentimes a temporary status for white farmers, it typically became a way of life for African Americans.²² Tenant farming and sharecropping provided little opportunity for advancement and tenants often fell “into a condition of quasi-enslavement when their landlord was also their creditor.”²³ It was not uncommon for landlords to establish small general stores for tenants to purchase supplies. During Reconstruction, a number of such stores emerged across the rural landscape, including the eastern section of Wake County.

Prior to the 20th century, farming in eastern Wake County was relatively diversified, producing corn, wheat, livestock, and, by the mid-19th century, cotton. During the early-20th century, bright leaf tobacco replaced cotton as the primary cash crop. Dairy farming also became popular during the early-20th century.²⁴ As with much of Wake County, farmsteads throughout the early- to mid-20th century in the eastern section of the county continued to be dominated by tenant farming. Tenant houses, tobacco curing barns and strip rooms, and livestock barns were constructed in great numbers throughout the eastern Wake County. The number of such buildings, as well as the size, generally convey the scale of a particular farming operation. Though cotton was historically a leading cash crop in the region, cotton-related outbuildings are generally lacking from the agricultural landscape. This is due, largely in part, to the boll weevil infestations forcing farmers to shift toward bright leaf tobacco and dairying.

By the early-20th century, Raleigh was the only trading center and market for cotton and tobacco. The growth of small towns such as Wendell and Zebulon were a direct result of railroad and tobacco expansion. The expansion of the railroad during the early years of the 20th century through Knightdale north to Wake Forest, and east through Wendell and Zebulon further fueled the large-scale production of cotton and tobacco as access to markets improved. In addition to the railroad, and influenced by the rise in automobile ownership, the state began a county-wide taxation for road improvements. The railroad and roads allowed for efficient and cost-effective means for the transport of farm products. While the rail lines did not extend into much of the interior of the study area, particularly within the Little River watershed, rural country roads are prevalent. Throughout the entire study area, small and mid-sized farms, frame roadside stores, and tenant houses dot the landscape. While the Little River watershed study area remains more remote and rural in nature

²¹ Kelly A. Lally, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina*, Wake County Government, 1994; 193; 216.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ Kelly Lally, “Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca.1770-1941),” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1993.

²⁴ Kelly A. Lally, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina*, Wake County Government, 1994; 193.

than those surrounding the municipalities, it is not uncommon to find larger, more intact farmsteads within this region.

Improved roads during the early-20th century also sparked the development of a handful of small crossroads communities. Most emerged between adjacent farmsteads at the intersection of country roads. They are typically characterized by a small collection of early- to mid-20th century dwellings and frame stores, with the larger communities oftentimes containing a church. Among the most notable crossroads communities within the study area is *Hopkins Crossroads* (formerly Young's Crossroad/WA1878). The small community initially developed around a country store built in 1918, with small businesses serving local area farmers. The unincorporated village of *Lizards Lick* was reportedly settled in the 1800s and initially known as Talton's Crossroads. Two leading explanations for the change in name circulate amongst residents of Lizards Lick. A legal, possibly government-owned, liquor distillery operated here, likely attracting "lizards who hung around the liquor mash," or named simply by the large numbers of lizards sitting on split rail fences "licking out their tongues."²⁵ Throughout the early- to mid-20th century, a small grocery store (WA2027) operated by the Johnson brothers became a popular gathering place for the community and area farmers. By the 1980s, it became the unofficial town hall of Lizard's Lick. Today, it serves as an office for a small automobile dealership.



Photograph 1. Hopkins Crossroads (WA1878)

In addition to the distinct crossroads communities that emerged, particularly during the early-20th century, neighboring farming families customarily established a close-knit community. In some instances, they would build a small schoolhouse or church centrally located amongst the farmsteads. These communities generally consisted of a collection of neighboring farmsteads sharing a single church facility or community store, oftentimes sited at a central crossroad. One such example is *Fowler's Crossroads*, which was surrounded by farmland owned by the Fowler family. The family arrived in Wake County prior to 1762 and quickly became one of the largest landowners in eastern Wake County. The family continues to own and operate considerable acreage within the vicinity of Fowler's Crossroads, including the Fowler Farm (WA1840). Similarly, *Duke's Crossroads*, formerly Watkin's Crossroads, carries the names of families who owned the land nearby. The c.1840 Watkins-Duke homestead (WA1820), though changed through the years, stands at the crossroads of Mitchell Mill Road and Rolesville Road. Surrounding the intersection of Glory Road and Jack Mitchell Road, a small store and two dwellings (WA2066) is reflective of a typical early-20th century rural crossroad amidst surrounding farmsteads.

Additional farming communities that emerged throughout the 19th and early-20th centuries include Mitchell's Mill, Pulleypoint, and Riley Hill. Riley Hill developed as a primarily African American

²⁵ WA2027 Survey Site File.

community centering around Riley Hill Baptist Church (WA8185), which was founded in 1872 by freed slaves. It became recognized as one of the largest rural black communities in Wake County. Constructed in 1928, the impressive Riley Hill School (WA1936) is the fourth largest Rosenwald School in the county and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001.²⁶ The remote rural nature of the study area, particularly that of the Little River watershed, is well-preserved, due largely in part to the low numbers of structured communities. Roads were often constructed by farmers, connecting the many farmsteads within the community to a shared church. Small family plots and larger community cemeteries occur frequently throughout the study area. In most instances, the larger cemeteries are sited adjacent to a rural churchyard.

Most, if not all, of the small crossroads and farming communities declined rapidly during the second half of the 20th-century. General stores closed, post offices relocated, and small community churches merged with larger congregations closer to the established municipalities. This trend is likely attributed to continued road improvements and increase in automobile ownership, as well as the advent of large convenience stores closer to towns rendering the rural country store nearly obsolete.

Mills

While farming was essential to the early settlement and continued growth of eastern Wake County as early as the 1700s, so, too, was the operation of mills throughout the study area. Impressive water-powered gristmills dotted Wake County's early landscape, providing the important service of grinding corn and wheat into meal and flour. Mills often became popular gathering places for neighboring farmers, and the millponds formed by the construction of the dam became "popular spots for such recreation as fishing, swimming, and picknicking."²⁷ The Little River and its tributaries contributed significantly to the early economy of the study area. The construction of mills along the waterways was common, along with impressive stone dams that created smooth millponds. Small, rural communities subsequently developed around these dams as stores, sawmills, and cotton gins sprung up. Three 19th century dams are located within the study area. Each contributed to the local economy and formation of a cohesive community of neighboring farms.



Photograph 2. Hartsfield-Mitchell Mill Dam (WA1807)

Mitchell's Mill Dam (WA1807) is associated with the Andrew Hartsfield plantation (WA1832). Likely built in the early years of the 19th century, the granite block dam is 400 feet long and ten to twelve feet high. The dam initially supported a grist mill. By the early-20th century, the Mitchell Mill community (formerly Hartsfield) emerged around the dam which was then supporting not

²⁶ Nancy Van Dolsen, "Riley Hill School," National Register of Historic Places nomination form, National Park Service, 2001.

²⁷ Kelly A. Lally, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina*, Wake County Government, 1994; 12.

only the grist mill but a saw mill, cotton gin, blacksmith shop, and several stores.²⁸ The 1820s Robertson's Mill Dam (WA1954) on Buffalo Creek was built by Dr. T.H. Avera for the operation of a grist mill. The dam is part earthen and part masonry construction. Unfortunately, the mill building (Photograph 3) was razed in 1976. The dam is a designated historic landmark. The dam and millpond were acquired by the county in 2013 to establish the Robertson Millpond Preserve. Today, it is recognized by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program as one of 47 significant natural areas in Wake County.²⁹



Photograph 3. Former Grist Mill and the Robertson's Mill Dam (WA1954)

Located within the greater Zebulon vicinity, Moore's Mill Dam (WA2084) and grist mill were constructed in the mid-19th century crossing the Little River. By 1867, a sawmill was also operating here and a small farming community established. A post office was operating here by 1874. In the early 1915-1920s, the mill had a "generator powered by a 12-cylinder Cadillac engine, and electricity was provided two days a week, on Fridays and Saturdays, for local people. Eventually, thirty-six (36) streetlights in nearby Zebulon were powered by the mill and an adjacent electric plant on the river."³⁰ The land for the mill was transferred to the town of Zebulon in 1923. Dave Privette was the last to operate Moore's Mill, and by the 1950s, the two-story frame mill was demolished.

²⁸ WA1807 NC HPO Survey File

²⁹ <http://www.wakegov.com/parks/robertsonmillpond/Pages/about.aspx>

³⁰ Marybeth Carpenter, "Moore's Mill and Little River Dam Reflect 150 Years in Zebulon," Preservation Zebulon, nd. < <http://preservationzebulon.org/pdf/files/littleriverdam.pdf> > accessed June 2019.

Rolesville Rock Quarry

As with the impressive dams of the 19th century, the Rolesville Rock Quarry (WA1831) contributed to the 20th century economy of eastern Wake County. The 52-acre quarry reportedly began in the 1800s and stone from the quarry used for the construction of numerous projects, both local and out-of-state. The Raleigh Granite Company acquired the quarry in 1921 and sold paving stones for street work projects in Mebane, North Carolina. The company also sold sand from the quarry for the construction of the Chesapeake Bay Tunnel. The quarry was owned and operated by various companies until c.1970, providing materials for road and construction projects throughout the region. It is recognized as one of a few industrial sites outside of an incorporated town in Wake County. The abandoned quarry was purchased in 1980, allowing a spring to fill the massive, 80-foot deep quarry. Since that time, the quarry has operated as a scuba dive park, with abundant fish and marine life.³¹

Changing Agricultural Landscape and Modern Suburbanization of the Study Area

The rapid growth and expansion of the towns of Knightdale, Rolesville, Wendell, and Zebulon since the 1970s is inevitably linked to the gradual diminishment of the surrounding rural landscape that encompasses the Phase V study area. According to a 2016 study, between 1940 and 2014, the combined population of the municipalities of Knightdale, Rolesville, and Wendell increased from 1,684 to 25,838.³² Similarly, the population of the town of Zebulon, which was chartered in 1907, more than doubled in the past forty years. Ultimately, the post-1970s growth of these four townships fueled expansion into the undeveloped farmland of the Phase V project area.

Following similar patterns in the post-World War II transformation of Wake County agrarian landscape, the project area includes a large number of family-run farms that were subdivided into smaller residential lots by the 1960s. The majority of the early subdivided parcels occur alongside roadways, oftentimes including multiple adjacent parcels of land. Agricultural fields continued to be farmed within the interior of the once larger farmsteads. By the 1970s, however, it is evident that extensive land surveying and the subsequent separation of large-scale tracts of farmland for the development of planned subdivisions was increasing at an alarming rate.

Since the 1988-1991 survey, the most noticeable transformation to the rural landscape is a result of encroaching suburbanization. Previous surveys do not present a thorough analysis of the scale and distribution of post-World War II residential development within the project area, particularly that of the modern planned subdivision. Based on a review of Wake County GIS neighborhood layers and property data, the earliest occurrence of groupings of contemporaneous residential housing dates to the 1960s – the Hartsfield neighborhood located within the Rolesville study area.

³¹ WA1831 HPO Survey file; http://www.fantasyscubapark.com/about_us.htm

³² Hmw Preservation, Architectural Survey Update: *Historic Resources in Knightdale, Rolesville, and Wendell, Wake County*, 2016.

The small neighborhood consists of a single road extending from Jonesville Road lined with modest, compact ranch houses.³³

Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of numerous large-scale subdivisions within the project area, color-coded based on apparent decade of development.³⁴ The earliest neighborhoods tend to occur along existing rural roads or newly built perpendicular residential streets. The later neighborhoods, particularly those from the 1990s to present-day, are much larger with curvilinear street patterns.

Not surprising, planned subdivisions since the 1970s to the present-day occur more frequently in the short- and long-range urban service areas surrounding Knightdale, Rolesville, Wendell, and Zebulon. This pattern is a direct outcome of the expansion outward from the four municipalities. The highest percentage of large-scale residential development throughout the project area occurred during the 1980s and 1990s. The heart of the Little River watershed study area, as well as the southern section of the Zebulon study area, continue to reflect a rural, agricultural landscape with minimal invasive planned neighborhoods.

In addition to the considerable influx of planned subdivisions and neighborhoods, new and improved roads and highways contributed to the continued transformation of the rural landscape since the 1988 survey. Among the most notable highway projects is the construction of an alternate highway of U.S. 64 that began in 2002, crossing the southern end of the project area between Knightdale and Zebulon. In 1993, Kelly Lally eloquently states that the “family and neighborhood networks and economic self-sufficiency are still vital to the social fabric of rural communities, and cash crop production continues to be important to the county’s economy.”³⁵ While much has changed since that time, the study area remains largely agricultural and its built environment continues to convey the importance of farming in eastern Wake County since its 18th century settlement.

³³ The Hartsfield neighborhood was not newly surveyed due to considerable exterior alterations.

³⁴ Subdivision overlays were retrieved from Wake County GIS downloads. Only large-scale subdivisions and neighborhoods are included on the maps. As such, the map does not reflect the full extent of residential development within the five study areas, but demonstrates the general distribution of encroaching development since the 1960s.

³⁵ Kelly Lally, “Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca.1770-1941),” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1993; Section E, Page 78.

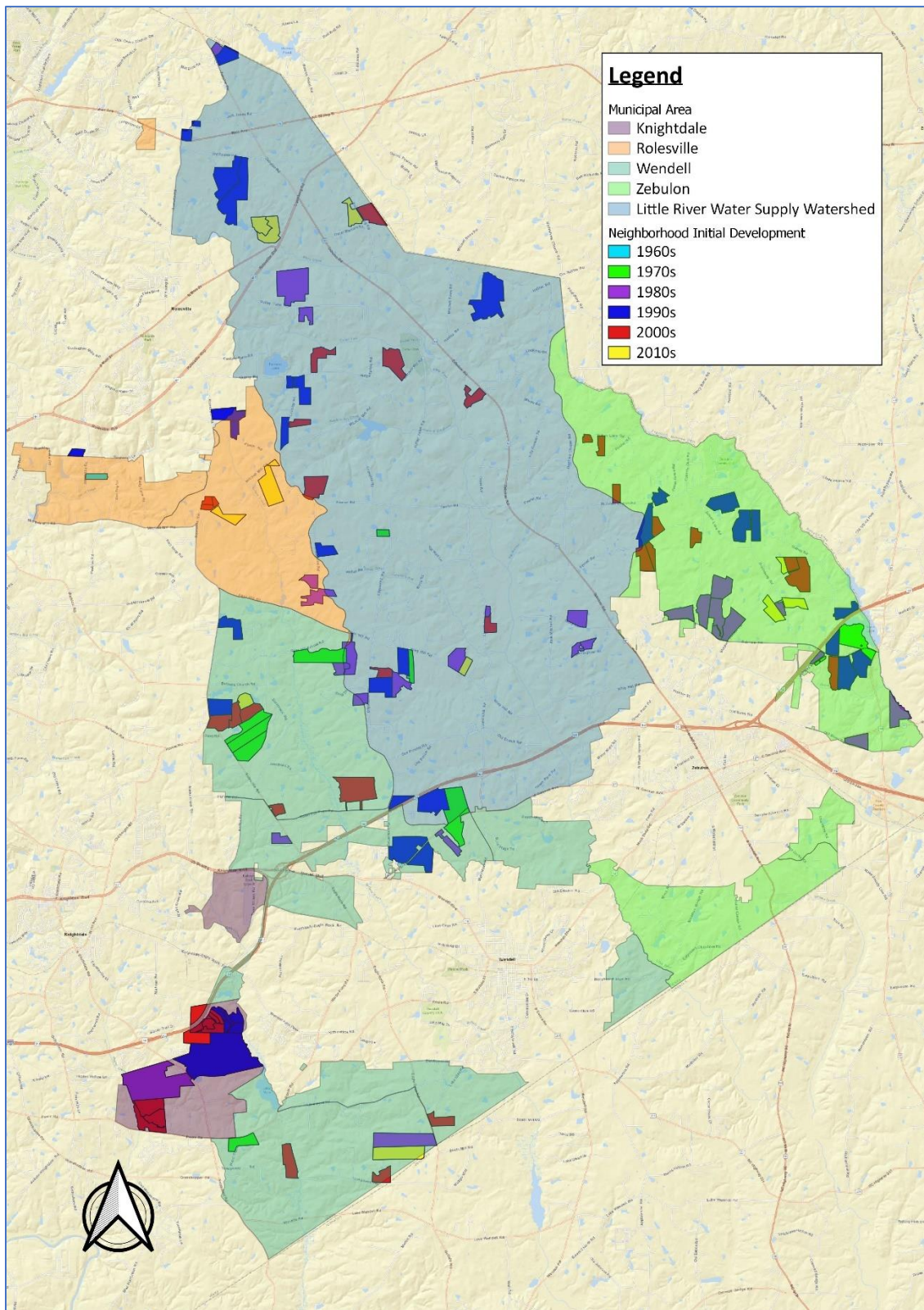


Figure 2. Distribution of Large-Scale Neighborhoods and Subdivisions

SECTION 3: ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The historic architecture of the project area is directly tied to the rural, agricultural heritage of the study areas, including the small- and mid-sized farmsteads and the small communities that emerged across the landscape. Despite the rapid growth of municipalities within Wake County, conventional building patterns endured within the remote, rural areas of the county. Houses, churches, small stores, and agricultural buildings generally reflect traditional building forms and materials well into the mid-20th century. While farming remained essential to eastern Wake County, agricultural buildings adapted to new technologies and diversification of farming practices. It was not until the post-World War II-Era that new construction adopts modern architectural forms and styles, particularly evidenced in the residential architecture.

3.1 AGRICULTURAL ARCHITECTURE

Since its early settlement, eastern Wake County has been largely reliant on agriculture well into the late-20th century. Evidence of the agricultural heritage of the study area is seen across the rural landscape, despite the encroachment of modern suburbanization. Although cotton was the leading cash crop of the mid-19th to early-20th century, few buildings associated with its production and processing survive within the survey area. Since the early-20th century, tobacco emerged as the leading cash crop and a number of frame tobacco curing barns and packhouses constructed through the 1960s survive on both active and abandoned farmsteads. A few examples of mid-century concrete block tobacco barns are found across the rural landscape. Large metal bulk barns are found in greater numbers by the late-20th century. Following World War II, the average farm size declined, yet the number of tobacco farms increased. Tenant farming remained common throughout the study area, with a number of frame and concrete block tenant houses constructed between 1940 and 1970. A number of farms have been abandoned and their domestic and agricultural architecture demolished or heavily deteriorated. Others have been subdivided for later generations of the family to build residences, or for the development of planned subdivisions.



Photograph 4. Martin-Perry Farm (WA1864)

Surviving intact farmsteads, particularly those within the Little River watershed study area, comprise a collection of houses and agricultural buildings constructed over several decades. For example, early log barns and cribs might coexist with later frame tobacco barn constructed throughout the mid-20th century. Small domestic outbuildings such as privies and smokehouses are often located to the rear of an early farmhouse; however, many have been demolished as a result of the introduction of electricity and installation of plumbing rendering these outbuildings unnecessary. In many instances, more than one residence is found within a farmstead such as an original 19th century farmhouse; larger, late-19th to early-20th

century dwellings; tenant houses; and post-World War II houses. Such a collection of resources, along with associated agricultural fields, characterize the many surviving intact farmsteads within the study area. Among the oldest, actively farmed farmsteads is Aspen Grove (WA1951), which has been owned by generations of the Marriott and Proctor families since the late-18th century. Later examples of farms exhibiting buildings from multiple decades are the Jackson Farm (WA8179) and the Martin-Perry Farm (WA1864). Both contain a 19th century farmhouse, as well as a mid-20th century dwelling, and extant agricultural buildings for both tobacco production and livestock. The Montezuma Z. Pearce Farm (WA1799) is an excellent representation of a 19th century farmstead that continues operations and includes resources from the 1800s through the mid-20th century including a tenant house, several tobacco barns, and a 1920s bungalow, among others.



Photograph 5. Montezuma Z. Pearce Farm (WA1799)

Dairy farming within the study area is much less common and evidence of dairying is minimal. Large livestock barns occur throughout, suggesting some degree of cattle production. However, the daily milking of cows was subsistence-based rather than for profit. The Bennett Bunn Plantation features a c.1840s frame dairy, which likely supported the family and farm laborers. In many instances, such as the Bennett Bunn Plantation, it is probable that traditional dairying supplemented tobacco and other crop farming. Technological improvements to dairying facilities throughout the early- to mid-20th century resulted in the construction of long, narrow dairies for clean and efficient milking of cattle. Again, these tended to be built on farms where dairying was more of a for-profit operation. A rare example of a mid-20th century concrete block dairy barn is located on a small farm along Zebulon Road (WA1792) where dairying and tobacco farming occurred concurrently. There is no indication of farms that operated solely as dairies.

The decline of the tobacco industry in the 1990s resulted in many farms ceasing operations altogether and evidence of the former small, abandoned tobacco farms dot the landscape. Despite this loss, the study area includes numerous extant farmsteads that continue to operate. Most of the farms have shifted away from tobacco to other crops and livestock, re-purposing former tobacco buildings for new uses. Among these farms include the Dunn-Frazier Farm (WA1788), the Montezuma Pearce Farm (WA1799), the Proctor Hopkins Farm (WA1867), and the Fowler Farm (WA1840), among numerous others.

3.2 RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE

The earliest surviving residences within the project area date to the Antebellum era and include both log and frame representations. One example of a late-18th century log house is located on Bennett Bunn Plantation (WA0190). Many of the early log houses are indiscernible, as they incrementally were added upon in subsequent building phases. The Hartsfield-Perry House (WA1832, NR-listed 2003) is among the oldest recorded dwellings in the study area. Constructed

ca.1790, the house began as a one-room dwelling that developed into a two-story, central passage plan during the early- to mid-19th century.³⁶ This plan, or form, is referred to as an I-house. The I-house became a common house form throughout the 19th century. Within the study area, several representations of the I-house range in date from the early-19th century through the turn-of-the-20th century. Among the antebellum-era representations include the house at Oaky Grove, constructed c.1818 (WA0267, NR-listed 1993). The house is a local landmark and was undergoing rehabilitation at the time of this study. Additional I-houses dating to the antebellum era include the house at Harmony Plantation (WA1926, NR-listed 2008), the Ferrell-Hinnant House (WA1949), the Pair Dean House (WA8186), and the Watkins-Duke House (WA1820)



Photograph 7. Ferrell-Hinnant House (WA1949)



Photograph 6. Pair-Dean House (WA8186)

The dwelling located at Aspen Grove (WA1951) is a unique illustration of incremental growth patterns commonly occurring among the area's earliest houses. The oldest section of the house dates to the late-18th century and features a hall-parlor, or "coastal cottage," form. Later additions were added to the rear. The front section of the house dates to the mid- or late-19th century and enjoys a central passage plan. Architectural-styles exhibited on the house include a combination of early-Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate.



Photograph 8. Aspen Grove House (WA1951)

³⁶ Beth Keane, *Hearstfield-Perry House*, National Register of Historic Places nomination form, National Park Service, 2003.

Throughout the late-19th and early-20th century, the most common house form occurring within the study area is the triple-A-roofed dwelling. Like the I-house, this house is typically a central-hall plan and one-room deep, but might be one-story, one-and-one-half-story, or two-story. The study area includes an abundance of Triple-A houses. An exemplary two-story illustration of the house type is the Pulley House (WA1808) that dates to the early-20th century.



Photograph 9. Pulley House (WA1808)

The modest vernacular L-shaped cottage dating from the late-19th to early-20th century is another frequently occurring house type within the survey area, and are typically associated with small-sized family farms. The William Broadus Fowler House (WA1829) is a good representation of the simple L-shaped cottage within the study area. A more high-style variation to the traditional L-house is the one-story Moody House (WA1817) that features Victorian-era cutaway bay on the front façade.



Photograph 10. William Broadus Fowler House (WA1829)



Photograph 11. Moody House (WA1817)

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, the bungalow was among the most popular house types in Wake County's municipalities. Although not as prevalent within the county's rural areas, several representations of the bungalow are found throughout the study area. The majority are farmhouses that replaced earlier dwellings, while others are a result of the increase in the subdivision of farmsteads into small residential roadside lots. Bungalows range from modest, unadorned representations to large, one-and-one-half-story Craftsman-inspired interpretations. The side-gabled bungalow on the Fowler Farm (WA1840) is a good representation of a bungalow dwelling that likely replaced an earlier farmhouse.



Photograph 12. J.R. Fowler Farm House (WA1840), bungalow

It features a simple side-gabled form with centered dormer and restrained Craftsman-inspired elements. The Bernie Edwards House (WA1828) is a simple gable-front bungalow with little stylistic influence. It is characteristic of the majority of the bungalows constructed within the study area. Among the most impressive Craftsman-bungalows within the survey area are the B.A. Weathers House (WA1928) and the B.K. Horton House (WA2016). The majority of the bungalows lack stylistic adornment. However, numerous examples exhibit Craftsman-style porches, dormers, windows, and exposed rafter ends.

Similar to the Craftsman style and bungalow house form, the Colonial Revival style was common in urban areas from the 1920s to the 1960s. Though rare in the study area, the style was often a result of remodeling of earlier dwellings such as the house Jesse Bunn House (WA1885) that underwent exterior remodeling in the Colonial Revival-style in 1952. Houses constructed in the Colonial Revival style generally occur in during the 1940s and 1950s.

Post-World War II housing occurring within the project area follows similar trends in popularity as the rest of the county. However, they occur much less frequently than in urban areas. Post-World War II residential architecture from 1945 to 1970 include a variety of Period Cottages, Minimal Traditional houses, and Ranch houses. The application of Colonial Revival elements is common among the latter house types.

Though popular in urban areas during the 1920s, Period Cottages within the rural study area were not particularly popular until the 1940s and 1950s. These houses most often feature brick or masonry exteriors, prominent chimneys, and classical or Colonial details combined with traditional mid-century features such as picture windows and attached carports. Constructed in 1959, the William and Lula McGhee House (WA7838) is an excellent illustration of a Period Cottage in the study area. The side-gabled house features a prominent exterior chimney on the front façade, a front-facing projecting bay, and a picture window.



Photograph 13. B.A. Weathers House
(WA1928)



Photograph 14. B.K. Horton House
(WA2061)



Photograph 15. Jesse Bunn House
(WA1885)



Photograph 16. McGhee House
(WA7838)

Minimal Traditional residences are distinguished by their simple, compact form. They are most often side-gabled and one- to one-and-one-half-stories in height. Minimal Traditional houses have flush eaves with little, if any, stylistic detailing. Minimal Traditional dwellings were designed as efficient house types and are a direct response to the Great Depression and World War II. They were most popular during the years immediately following the war when a tremendous increase in home building occurred nationwide. Within the survey area, examples of these houses generally occur on the residential lots subdivided from larger farmstead and sited alongside existing roads. The Daniel House (WA7842) is an excellent representation of a Minimal Traditional house form enhanced by modest Colonial Revival elements. Constructed c.1940, the Taylor-Donald Fowler House (WA8169) best illustrates a traditional Minimal Traditional house lacking architectural embellishments.

By far the most commonly occurring post-World War II-era dwelling in the study area is the Ranch house. Popular nationwide by the 1950s, large numbers of Ranch houses occur throughout the study area, undoubtedly a response to the early years of suburbanization. The study area includes a diverse assortment of Ranch houses, ranging from small, compact illustrations to sprawling dwellings. The smaller Ranch houses tend to be sited alongside roads within tracts of land separated from adjacent farmsteads. The larger Ranch houses often enjoy a deep setback and grassed yards with agricultural fields to the rear. A number of these replaced earlier farmhouses, or were built to accommodate younger generations within a farming family. One such example is the Shearon House (WA8154) sited at the top of hill with expansive agricultural fields to the rear. The house enjoys a deep setback with a grassed yard. Slight stepping of the front yard suggests the historic terracing of fields in response to soil erosion caused by extensive cotton production.

A typical Ranch house, such as the Shearon House, is long and low, suitable to farms and rural lots with large acreages. Roofs are low-pitched and side-gabled or hipped with overhanging eaves. Most Ranch houses within the study area feature attractive brick veneers, large picture windows, prominent chimneys, and integral carports or garages. The Charlie



Photograph 17. Daniel House
(WA7842)



Photograph 18. Taylor-Donald Fowler
House (WA8169)



Photograph 19. Shearon House
(WA8154)



Photograph 20. Charlie Debham House
(WA8175)

Debham House (WA8175) is a good representation of a typical roadside Ranch house occurring throughout the project area. It is more compact than the Shearon House, but shares a red brick exterior, a picture window, and an emphasis on horizontal lines. The majority of Ranch houses within the study area lack stylistic embellishment. However, a handful of examples feature distinct Colonial Revival-style influences. This is best represented by the Carter House (WA8170), constructed in 1969. This Ranch house, though maintaining a long and low form, adopts a traditional “center-block with wings” appearance common among Colonial Revival houses. The Classical entry door is flanked by fluted pilasters with a broken pediment. A front-gabled entry porch is centered on its façade with round columns.



Photograph 21. Carter House (WA8170)

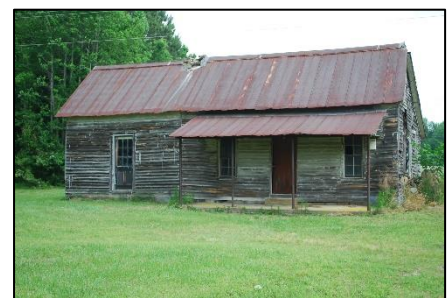
Though growing in popularity throughout North Carolina in the 1940s, Modernism did not take root in the rural areas of eastern Wake County. Modern details include flat and shed roofs with deep overhangs. Exposed roof beams and purlins are common, as well as large banks of windows, recessed entries, and the use of natural materials. The study area generally lacks pure Modernist houses. Likely the closest interpretation of Modern residential design is the Melton House (WA8180). Completed in 1970, this house conforms to a traditional Ranch house form, yet its front entry reflects Modern elements, particularly the contrasting red and black detailing, recessed entry, and exposed beams.



Photograph 22. Melton House (WA8180)

Tenant Houses

Numerous tenant houses throughout the study area survive as reminders of the agrarian revolution following the Civil War through the 1960s. The size and form of tenant houses varies from small, single-pen frame structures, to double-pen saddlebag houses, brick pyramidal cottages, and two-story dwellings, among others. The two-room, side-gabled tenant house on the Montezuma Pearce farm (WA1799) features stone end chimneys and additions along the rear and side elevation. Dating to the mid-19th century, a log saddlebag dwelling on Louisburg Road (WA2252) is believed to have originally been used as a slave cabin.³⁷ It is heavily altered and in a deteriorating condition. The well-preserved, turn-of-the-century frame saddlebag tenant house (WA8202) at 9621



Photograph 23. Montezuma Pearce Farm Tenant House (WA1799)

³⁷ WA2252 Survey Site File

Earpsboro-Chamblee Road includes a later rear ell wing addition. Constructed at the turn-of-the-20th century, the William Fowler Farm Tenant House (WA1841) is a rare example of a two-story tenant house.

Among the most unique tenant houses are five brick pyramidal cottages in the Fowler's Crossroads community. The brick houses are nearly identical and constructed Wendell merchant, R.B. Whitely in the early-20th century. Three of these tenant houses have adjacent brick barns.



Photograph 25. Tenant House (WA8202)



Photograph 24. J.R. Fowler Tenant House (WA1841)



Photograph 26. R.B. Whitley Farm Tenant House (WA1824)

3.3 RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT



Photograph 27. Jonesville Road 1960s Residential Neighborhood (WA8167)

Section 2.4 of this report details patterns in residential development following World War II through the present. The years immediately following the war, and well into the 1960s, saw considerable residential development throughout the study area. However, this development was principally a result of the subdivision of large farmsteads for the creation of smaller residential lots alongside existing roads. In some instances, new houses were erected for younger generations of a farming family. In either case, the majority of these dwellings are sited alongside existing roads or surrounding a rural

crossroad. Groupings of residential lots first appear during this period including one along a small stretch of Jonesville Road (WA8167) that developed during the 1960s. While not a planned neighborhood in the traditional sense, this collection of 1960s Ranch houses and Minimal Traditional dwellings is among the earliest examples of a cohesive mid-century neighborhood to develop within the study area. The neighborhood is characterized by grassed yards with red brick-veneered Ranch houses and modest Minimal Traditional residences. During the following decade,

the neighborhood expanded with the construction of new streets extending from Jonesville Road. While Ranch houses continued to occur along these side streets in the 1970s and 1980s, they are much smaller, compact representations than the earlier dwellings along Jonesville Road. By the 1980s, the development of planned subdivisions with new streets increased dramatically as farmland continued to be sold off. This trend continues today, albeit on a larger scale. While much of the Little River watershed maintains its remote, rural agrarian nature, the continued suburbanization threatens the study area.



Photograph 28. J.R. Fowler Farm Store (WA1840)



Photograph 30. Willie B. Hopkins Store (WA1879)



Photograph 29. Store (WA1873)

3.4 COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE

Surviving historic commercial architecture within the study area is rare. Those constructed in the 19th and early-20th centuries were typically modest frame stores built adjacent to the owner's residence or as part of farmsteads. Some occur at the crossroads of rural country roads. In some cases, the presence of a store, particularly those at a rural crossroad, sparked the development of small communities or villages. Among the few surviving stores erected within a large farmstead is the J.R. Fowler store (WA1840). During the early-20th century, the large farmstead had upwards of 25 tenant farmers and the store undoubtedly provided supplies to the tenants, as well as a social gathering place. Built in 1918, the Willie B. Hopkins Store is the only known example of a two-story general store within the study area. Its construction at a rural crossroad sparked the establishment of the small community of Hopkins Crossroads.

Following World War I, some merchants took advantage of the proliferation of the automobile by modifying existing stores or building new stores altogether to accommodate new needs. Many stores dating from the 1910s to the 1940s in rural area featured canopies above gas pumps.³⁸ Not surprising, in most cases, these stores were erected at intersections of rural roads. Within the study area, the earlier stores with canopies are simple frame buildings with front gable roofs and a symmetrical, three-bay façade (WA1873). Constructed in 1933, Martin's Store (WA0266) is another good example of a country store and filling station that continues to operate within the study area.

Among the finer illustrations of a country store adapting to the rise in automobile ownership is the former Johnson Grocery Store (WA2011) constructed ca.1925. It is comparably larger than other

³⁸ Kelly A. Lally, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina*, Wake County Government, 1994; 170.

contemporaneous store buildings within the study area and is a rare example of a brick commercial building. By the mid-20th century, roadside commercial buildings were generally oriented more towards the automobile. The small country stores with canopy were replaced by larger “gas stations” with multiple pumps and small convenience store. With exception to the larger, modern gas stations constructed at high-trafficked intersections within the study area, the few operating at rural crossroads continue to evoke a sense of the remote, rural character of eastern Wake County.



Photograph 32. Martin's Store (WA0266)



Photograph 31. Johnson's Grocery (WA2011)

3.5 RECREATIONAL ARCHITECTURE

The prolific waterways throughout the study area played important roles in the rural heritage of the farming communities. Most notable are the millponds created by the construction of dams for milling. In addition to agricultural benefits, the millponds provided a place of recreation for farming families. By the 1920s, the improved roadways and rise in automobile ownership rendered grist milling unnecessary. Most of the mills within the study area were abandoned or re-purposed for new uses. The Lake Myra Complex (WA1997) is one of several recreational complexes developed in the early-20th century in Wake County but is a rare example within the study area. Historically known as Hood's Mill, the former mill site included a concrete dam, two-and-one-half-story mill building, a “shucking house”, a 1940s frame store, boat ramps and shed, and “two frame outhouses said to have been built by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s.”³⁹ Unfortunately, all that survives of the former recreational complex is the frame store, dam, and millpond. Established in the 1940s, the Twin Acres Country Club (WA1930) is a small hunting and fishing campground on Perry Pond. The campground includes several cottages and a stone dam.



Photograph 34. Lake Myra Complex (WA1997)



Photograph 33. Lake Myra Complex (WA1997)

³⁹ Kelly A. Lally, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina*, Wake County Government, 1994; 225.

3.6 INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS: CHURCHES, LODGES, AND SCHOOLS

Throughout the study area, neighboring farmsteads and families formed close-knit communities oftentimes establishing a centrally located church for worship and social gatherings. In some instances, these churches spawned the development of small crossroads communities. For example, the small African American known as “Watkins Store” (WA1737) developed around the Corinth Church by the 1920s. The church was initially established in 1907, constructed in 1909, and rebuilt in 1981. Such is the case for many, if not all, of the recorded church buildings in the survey area.

Among the earliest church congregations to form within the study area is Hopkins Chapel Baptist Church (WA8165), established in 1851 and serving the area of Hopkins Crossroads (formerly Young’s Crossroads). The adjacent cemetery (WA1859) speaks towards the early foundations of the congregation and the site of the first church. The present church was constructed in 1957, employing a Classical Revival design. The single-nave, front-gabled brick church features a prominent two-story perpendicular wing along the rear. Blueprints for the design of the church were reportedly taken from Pilot Baptist Church in Franklin County.⁴⁰ Riley Hill Baptist Church (WA8185) was established in 1872 within the predominantly African American community of Riley Hill. The present church building was erected in 1940 and shares a similar form and stylistic elements as the later Hopkins Chapel Baptist Church. Its associated cemetery (WA1938) is located to the rear of the property and includes burials dating from the late-19th century.



Photograph 36. Hopkins Chapel Baptist Church (WA8165)



Photograph 35. Riley Hill Baptist Church (WA8185)

St. Paul #1 Church of Christ (WA7930) was established in the early-20th century and a church built shortly thereafter. The first church was destroyed by a tornado in 1923 and a new church built the following year. Although added onto, this church is a good example of rural Gothic Revival religious architecture and is the oldest known surviving church building within the study area.

⁴⁰ Interview with Pastor Earl Roach, June 2019.



Photograph 37. St. Paul No.1 Church of Christ (WA7930)

In addition to churches, residents of rural farming communities oftentimes established meeting halls or lodges for the betterment of their local society. The Riley Hill Lodge (WA1939), located adjacent to Riley Hill Baptist Church, was built in the 1920s for the black Odd Fellows of the Riley Hill community. The two-story, gable-front frame building is one of only a few extant lodge buildings over 50 years of age in Wake County.⁴¹ Several other fraternal organizations and/or women's club were undoubtedly formed throughout the study area during the 20th century, the Riley Hill Lodge is the only known surviving lodge building.



Photograph 38. Riley Hill Lodge (WA1939)

Schools were also an important institution established throughout the rural communities. The former Clement's Academy (WA1795) was established in the early-20th century by members of the rural community north of Rolesville. The former T-shaped school building was remodeled as a house in the 1920s when the school consolidated with nearby Antioch school (WA1834). According to the property owner, the front wing of the school was removed and is currently used as a screen-enclosed meeting space/dining area. Also on the property is a small frame music room

⁴¹ WA1939 Survey Site File

with a front gable roof. The former Antioch School, constructed in 1907, contained two classrooms and a small bell tower. Unfortunately, the school, which for many years survived as one of Wake County's most intact school buildings, was recently demolished.



Photograph 39. (former) Clement's Academy (WA1795)

The most notable early- to mid-20th century school building within the study area is the Riley Hill School (WA1936), constructed in 1927. The impressive brick Rosenwald school is one-story with an "H"-shaped plan and two, gable-front wings on the front façade. The school features exposed rafter ends and a recessed entry porch with Doric-style columns. Two wing additions were added in 1952. That same year, a prominent brick gymnasium was built west of the original school. The school was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. It is currently threatened by vacancy and neglect and its roof is beginning to collapse.



Photograph 40. Riley Hill School (WA1936)

In response to a rapidly growing population by the 1960s, Whitley High School (WA8159), presently East Wake High School, was built in 1965 employing the popular International Style of architecture. The historic school building is comprised of two separate brick blocks, both single-story with flat roofs. The most distinguishable International Style design elements of the school

are the emphasis on the horizontal and long rows of ribbon windows. The windows are comprised of a single fixed light with a transom above and a horizontal hopper below, further enhanced by a cream-colored stuccoed apron. Continued population growth necessitated large-scale additions to the school. However, the additions are detached from the original school building, maintaining the original design and International style of the school



Photograph 41. East Wake High School (WA8157)



Photograph 42. East Wake High School (WA8157)

SECTION 4: FINDINGS

Despite encroaching suburbanization, the short- and long-range urban service areas of the towns of Knightdale, Wendell, Rolesville, and Zebulon, as well as the Little River Water Supply Watershed of eastern Wake County remain predominantly rural. As noted in Section 2, the most significant changes to the rural landscapes have occurred since the 1970s as a result of increasing suburbanization and the subdivision of farmland. The expansion of state highways, specifically the extension of the US Route 264 Bypass, widening of the US Route 64 Bypass, and the construction of the interchange at their intersection, resulted in some demolition and loss of rural farmland. Since the 1970s, the development of large-scale subdivisions throughout the study area has ensued. While much of the Little River study area retains its remote, rural nature, encroaching development threatens its historic resources and agricultural landscape.

In an attempt to better interpret the overall changes to the historic built environment of each study area, each of the 251 previously surveyed properties was coded as No Change, Altered, Deteriorated, Demolished, Outbuilding Loss, or Moved. The classifications were made based on the photographs present in the 1988-1991 survey files. In most instances, photographs from the 2005-2006 survey are not available for a full comparison. However, survey forms from the latter survey note any changes or alterations since the 1991 survey. The current study particularly focuses on those properties classified as demolished or deteriorated in order to determine the extent of the loss of the historic built environment within each of the five study areas.

4.1 KNIGHTDALE

(Long- and Short-Range Urban Service Area “LSRUSA”)

The long- and short-range urban service area of Knightdale is the smallest of the Phase V study areas. Its southern section is dominated by residential development from the 1980s to the 2000s. This development is characterized by large-scale planned subdivisions with curvilinear streets. The northern section of the Knightdale study area is located at the southwest junction of the Knightdale Bypass (BYP 264) and Knightdale Boulevard (BUS 64). This area maintains much of its rural landscape. A unique mid-century introduction to this area is the construction of the Wendell-Knightdale Airport (also known as Raleigh East) in 1964 (Photograph 44). Today, the airport is maintained by hobby pilots, but continues runway operations.⁴² Parallel to the east of the runway is a modern street flanked on either side by small, modern warehouses and trucking storage facilities.

This study area is the most developed of the five. As such, only four previously surveyed properties are located within the Knightdale study area. While all of the primary resources are extant, outbuilding loss was observed at three of the properties. No properties within this area were newly surveyed as part of the Phase V update.

⁴² Kara Bettis, “Raleigh East Airport still alive with hobby pilots flying for joy, business,” *News & Observer*, 05 May 2015.



Photograph 43. 1993 Google Earth Aerial Photograph, North Section of “Knightdale” Study Area



Photograph 44. 2019 Google Earth Aerial Photograph, North Section of “Knightdale” Study Area shown in purple overlay

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA0263	9209 Poole Road	Robert Knott House	Ca.1890
WA0264	4040 Smithfield Road	Bailey Williamson House	Ca.1840-1860
WA1981	6025 King Farm Lane	Neville Farm	Ca.1900
WA1982	Smithfield Road	Knott Farm	Ca.1900

Table 1. Previously Documented Properties within the Knightdale LSRUSA Study Area

4.2 ROLESVILLE

(Long- and Short-Range Urban Service Area “LSRUSA”)

The long -and short-range urban service area of Rolesville includes the high-trafficked Jonesville Road, which travels in a north-south direction through the study area; and Mitchell Mill and Riley Hill roads, which form the southern boundary. Two historic farming communities are located within this study area – Fowlers Crossroads and Riley Hill. The western section of this study area is characterized by undulating wooded hills and small ponds. Many of the farms in this area appear to have been subdivided into residential lots along Mitchell Mill and Jonesville roads. A concentration of 1960s – 1970s residential architecture is found along Jonesville Road and marks the earliest collection of Post-World War II housing forming a cohesive neighborhood within the study area (WA8167). The eastern half of the Rolesville study area is a combination of woodland and cleared agricultural fields through which Buffalo Creek meanders. Several planned subdivisions from the late-20th century to the present tend to be grouped along Mitchell Mill and Rolesville roads. The only apparent alterations resulting from road projects are new roads built within the planned subdivisions.

Twenty-five (25) historic properties were previously surveyed within the Rolesville study area. Of them, six (6) are no longer extant, two (2) are classified as deteriorated, and seven (7) lost at least one associated outbuilding. Three of the demolished properties are farm complexes in which all previously identified buildings and structures are confirmed demolished. All of the demolished properties appear to be a result of abandonment and deterioration rather than modern residential

development. Figures 3 and 4 show the distribution of demolished and deteriorated properties within the Rolesville LSRUSA study area. The seven properties that retain their primary resources but have experienced outbuilding loss account for 28% of all previously recorded resources within this study area. The total loss of three farms and numerous outbuildings is indicative of the declining agrarian culture of the study area since the late-20th century.

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA1819	1832 Rolesville Road	Whitley-Bratcher House and Farm Complex	Ca.1910s
WA1845	6720 Mitchell Mill Road	Scarboro Farm	Ca.1950s
WA1933	Broughton Road	Merritt-Hodge Farm	Ca.1900
WA1934	3405 Broughton Road	Luther Smith House	Ca.1850
WA3710	Fowler Road	House	No date
WA3711	Mitchell Mill Road	Watkins House	No date

Table 2. Demolished Properties in the Rolesville LSRUSA Study Area

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA1818	1801 Rolesville Road	Whitley-Fowler Farm Tenant House	Ca.1910s
WA1823	4809 Mitchell Mill Road	Harris-Hagwood-Watkins House	Ca.1830-1840s

Table 3. Deteriorated Properties in the Rolesville LSRUSA Study Area

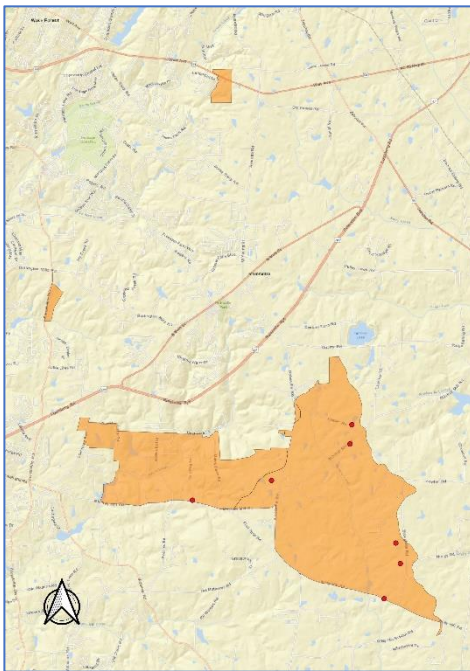


Figure 3. Distribution of Demolished Properties in the Rolesville Study Area

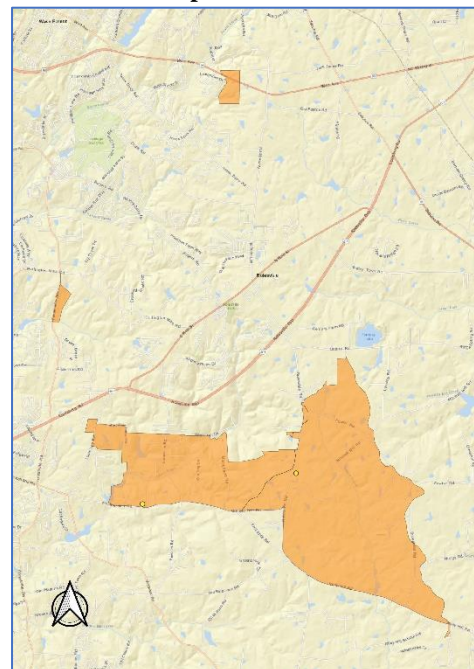


Figure 4. Distribution of Deteriorated Properties in the Rolesville Study Area

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA1729	2033 Wait Avenue	Barham Farm	Ca.1910s
WA1816	1501 Rolesville Road	Duke-Woodlief Farm	Ca.1920s
WA1817	1721 Rolesville Road	Moody House	Ca.1900s
WA1820	2101 Rolesville Road	Watkins-Duke House	Ca.1840-1860
WA1825	6224 Mitchell Mill Road	Whitely-Fowler Farm Tenant House	Ca.1910
WA1925	2617 Rolesville Road	Farm Complex	Ca.1900
WA1932	5637 Riley Hill Road	Perry Farm	1913

Table 4. Properties with Outbuildings Loss in the Rolesville LSRUSA Study Area

Only four (4) properties within the Rolesville study area were newly surveyed. Three date to the mid-20th century, including the earliest distinct grouping of houses resembling a traditional neighborhood. The Watkins House (WA8158) is a modest front-gabled Minimal Traditional-style house with a later porch. Riley Hill Baptist Church (WA8185) is a front-gabled, brick-veneered sanctuary constructed sometime after 1922. In the mid-20th century, a prominent entry portico and rear education wing were added to the original building. Its remodeling is suggestive of the renewed strength of the Riley Hill community following the Great Depression.

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA8156	1700 Rolesville Road	Lyda Sue Moody House	1917
WA8158	6316 Mitchell Mill Road	Watkins House	1953
WA8167	3800 Block of Jonesville Road	Mid-20 th Century Neighborhood	1960s
WA8185	6101 Riley Hill Road	Riley Hill Baptist Church	Early-20 th century, remodeled 1940

Table 5. Newly Surveyed Properties within the Rolesville LSRUSA Study Area

4.3 WENDELL

(Long- and Short-Range Urban Service Area “LSRUSA”)

Among the most notable transformations to the agricultural landscape within the Wendell LSRUSA is the extension of the US Route 264 Bypass (Knightdale Bypass) across the US Route 64 Bypass and the construction of a large interchange. The highway extension and interchange dramatically altered the rural nature of the area. In addition, houses on the north side of US 64 were historically accessed from driveways leading from the highway. Since the construction of the interchange and the widening of the US 64 Bypass, Three Sisters Road has been constructed parallel to the highway to access these residences. Large car dealerships were erected directly east of the interchange beginning in the 1990s. Photographs 45 and 46 are aerial photographs illustrating the alteration to the agrarian landscape surrounding the intersection of the two highways.



Photograph 46. 1993 Aerial Photograph of the US 64 BUS and US 264



Photograph 45. 2019 Aerial Photograph of the US 64 BUS and US 264

Due to the post-World War II growth of the nearby town of Wendell and the subsequent suburbanization into the surrounding rural areas, the county built Vaiden Whitley High School (WA8159), now East Wake High School, on Rolesville Road just north of its intersection with US 64 and west of Robertson's Millpond. Erected in 1965, the school features a contemporaneous stadium, and two later baseball fields and three later tennis courts. The continued encroachment of modern residential development on the historic agricultural landscape, coupled with a growing population, resulted in large-scale additions to the school throughout the 1990s and 2000s. With the exception of the high school additions and the US 264 and US 64 Bypass interchange, much of the agricultural and wooded landscape of the Rolesville study area is intact. Since the 1970s, neighborhoods have sprung up along Rolesville Road, and with the exception of the Great Recession of the late 2000s and early 2010s, have shown no indication of subsiding.

Fifty-one (51) properties within the Wendell LSRUSA study area were previously surveyed. Among them, twelve (12) are demolished. This accounts for 23.5% of the previously surveyed historic properties. Four (4) additional properties are in a deteriorated or ruinous condition, and six (6) exhibit outbuilding loss. As illustrated in Figure 5, demolished resources are generally distributed throughout the study area. About one-third of the demolished properties appear to be a direct result of modern residential development, whereas the others are most likely a result of abandonment. The relatively high number of demolished and deteriorated primary resources, as well as those properties experiencing loss of outbuildings, confirms the decline in farming and the increase in residential development since the late-20th century. Only two properties within the Wendell study area were newly surveyed, including Vaiden Whitley (East Lake) High School.

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA1927	3304 Rolesville Road	George Robertson House	1907
WA1931	5716 Riley Hill Road	Perry House	Ca.1940
WA1937	State route 2320	Robertson House	Ca.1900
WA1957	1621 Davistown Road	B.A. Weathers Farm Complex*	Ca.1900
WA1997	State Route 1007	Lake Myra Complex*	Ca.1900, ca.1935
WA2256	State Route 1003	Harris House	Ca.1850-1900
WA4025	1401 Davistown Road	House	Ca.1900s
WA4026	State Route 1003	House	Not Specified
WA4823	2420 Eagle Rock Road	Johnson-Pair House	ca.1850, ca.1940
WA8204 (WA-R089)	8921 Corbin Road	Barn	ca.1885
WA8206 (WA-R101)	9849 Poole Road	House	Ca.1920
WA8207 (WA-R102)	9909 Poole Road	House	Ca.1900

Table 6. Demolished Properties in the Wendell LSRUSA Study Area

*Denotes a multiple resource property where the primary resource is demolished, but support structures and farm-related buildings survive

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA2009	1005 Lake Glad Road	House	Ca.1880
WA2017	617 Old Tarboro Road	Farm Complex	Ca.1890
WA2018	736 Eagle Rock Road	McGee House	Ca.1900
WA8366	1824 Davistown Road	Pierce Farm	Ca.1918

Table 7. Deteriorated Properties in the Wendell LSRUSA Study Area

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA0267	5800 Turnipseed Road	Oaky Grove	1818, ca.1890
WA1948	1801 Edgemont Road	Farm Complex	Ca.1915
WA1955	2420 Davistown Road	Farm Complex	Ca.1910
WA1996	10625 Poole Road	W.E. Mattox Farm	Ca. 1900
WA1998	10300 Poole Road	C.M. Martin House	Ca.1925
WA2010	State Route 2358	Todd Farm	Ca.1900

Table 8. Properties with Outbuilding Loss in the Wendell LSRUSA Study Area

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA8157 (WA-R111)	2309 Davistown Road	Ray House	Ca.1950
WA8159	5101 Rolesville Road	Vaiden Whitley High School	1965

Table 9. Newly Surveyed Properties within the Wendell LSRUSA Study Area

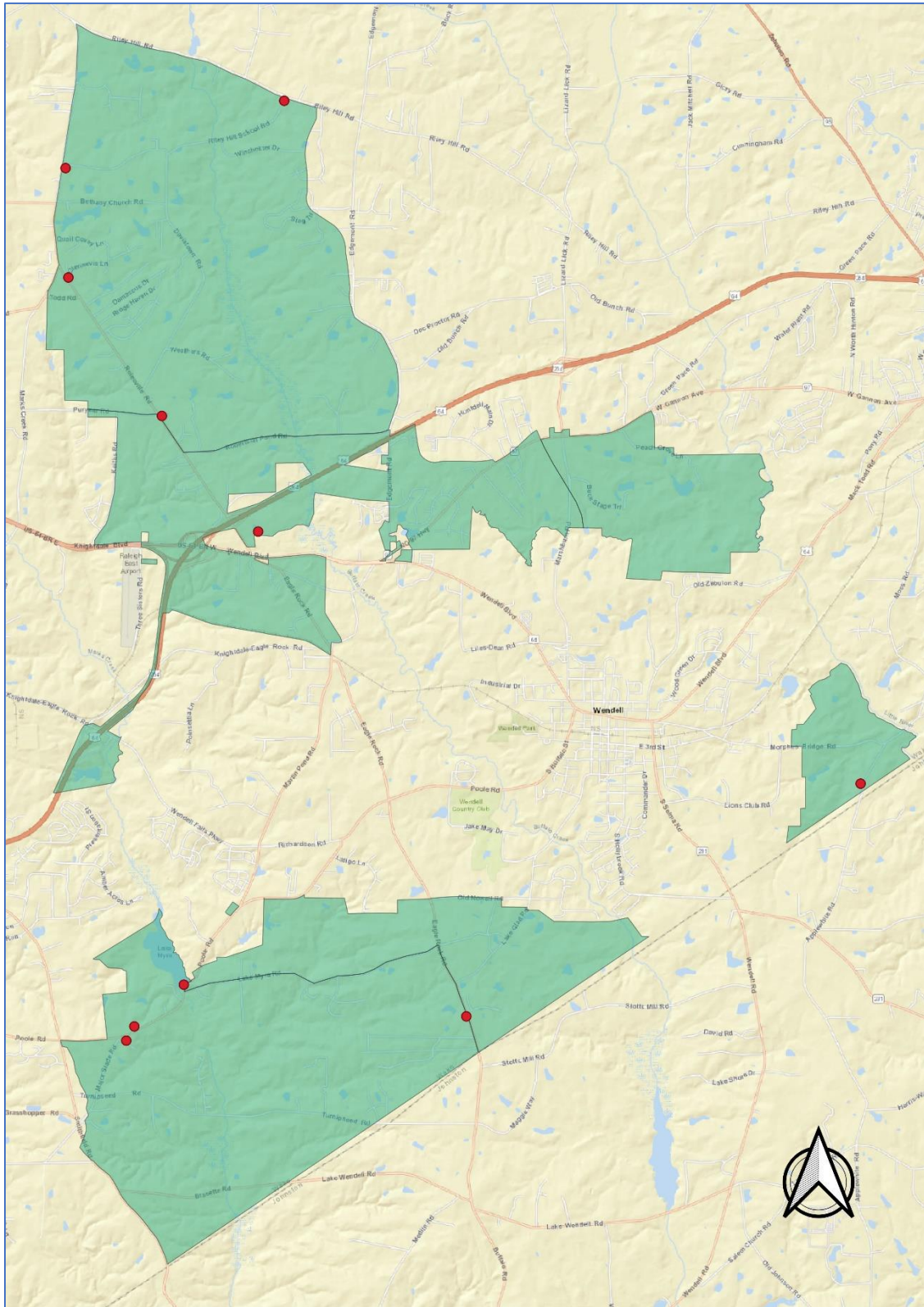


Figure 5. Distribution of Demolished Properties within the Wendell Study Area

4.4 ZEBULON

(Long- and Short-Range Urban Service Area “LSRUSA”)

The Zebulon LSRUSA study area reflects the greatest concentration of modern residential development and expansion into the historically rural farmland. While a handful of the residential subdivisions date to the 1970s, substantial suburbanization took shape by the 1980s, continuing to the 1980s. With the exception of the Great Recession of the late 2000s and early 2010s, this trend has shown no indication of subsiding. Today, the Zebulon study area is principally characterized by this suburbanization amidst the rapidly diminishing farmsteads of the region.

The Zebulon Country Club, located in the northeast section of the Zebulon study area and accessed via Pearces Road, began development by the close of the 1960s. A golf course with small ponds throughout and a clubhouse (not extant) appear to have been constructed by 1968. A handful of mid-century houses are located along Pearces Road but are not directly associated with the country club. By the 1980s, additional ponds were added to the course and a residential street was constructed around one of the holes. Since this time houses were constructed throughout the country club, as well as a new clubhouse and a pool.

Thirty-two properties were previously surveyed within the Zebulon LSRUSA study area. Among those, eight (8), or 25%, are no longer extant. The distribution of demolished resources appears random, with two properties located south of the town of Zebulon and six to the north. Only three of the demolished properties have been replaced by modern residential development. Other losses appear to be a result of abandonment, deterioration, and encroaching vegetation.

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA1890	State Route 2309	Duke’s Lake Crossroads	Ca.1900
WA1892	State Route 2334	House	Not specified
WA2070	State Route 1001	Farm Complex	Ca.1900s
WA2072	State Route 2406	W.H. Chamblee House	Ca.1890, 1920
WA2075	State Route 2337	House	Not Specified
WA2101	State Route 2352	Morphus Bridge	1951
WA3695	Black Dog Lane	Log House	Not Specified
WA8201 (WA-R082)	2716 Shepard School Road	Gas Station	Ca.1920

Table 10. Demolished Properties within the Zebulon LSRUSA Study Area

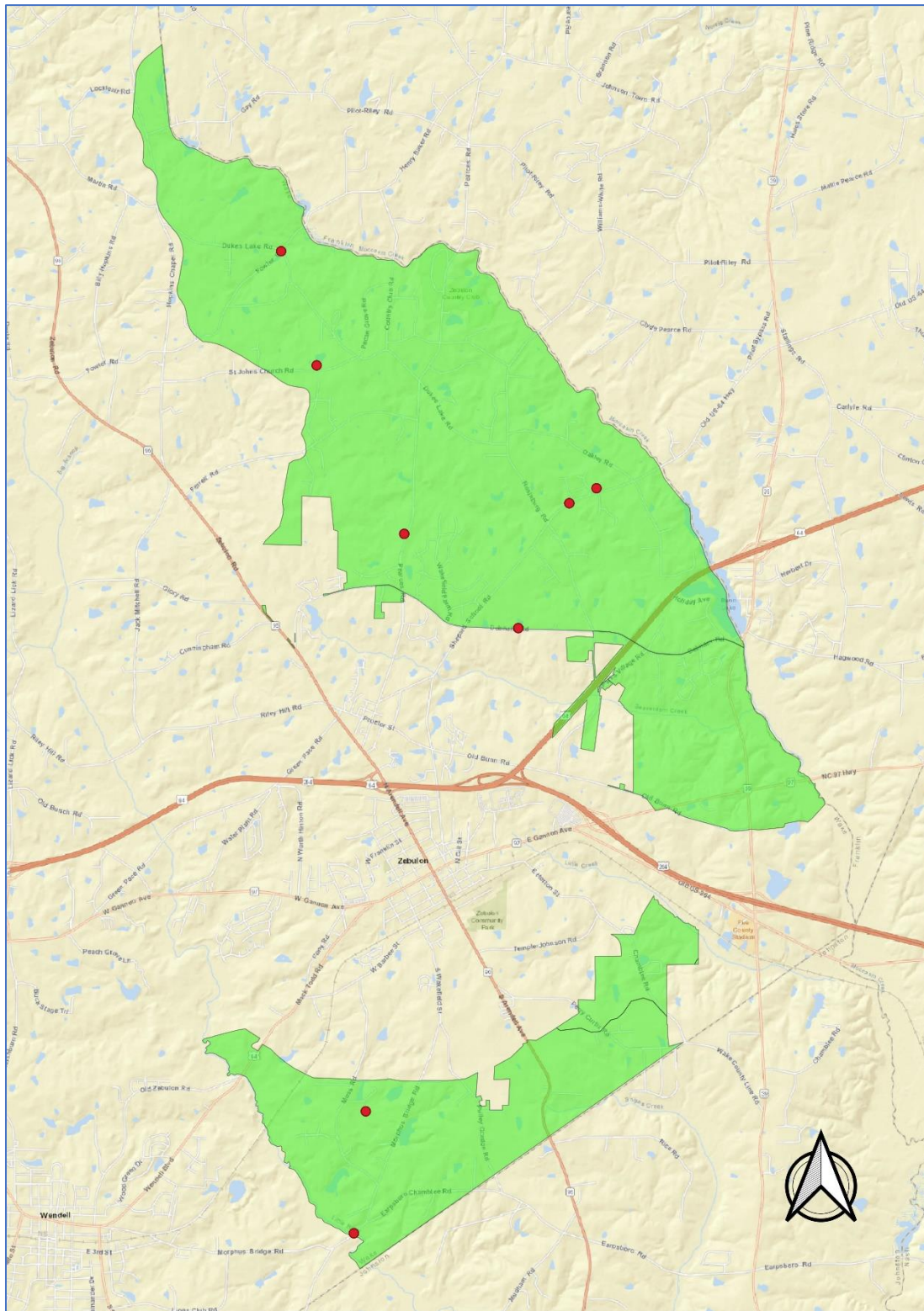


Figure 6. Distribution of Demolished Properties within the Zebulon LSRUSA Study Area

Only four previously surveyed properties are classified as deteriorated. All are located in the northern half of the study area and appear to be abandoned. Though none of the properties are multiple resource properties, three are impressive antebellum-era houses worthy of preservation.

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA1889	8501 Dukes Lake Road	Kearney Phillips House	Ca.1860s
WA1895	3929 Country Club Road	David Gay House	Ca.1830, ca.1900
WA1896	9205 Dukes Lake Road	Stallings House	Ca.1850, ca.1900
WA4828	23131 Shepard School Road	D. Sanford Joyner House	Ca.1910

Table 11. Deteriorated Properties within the Zebulon LSRUSA Study Area

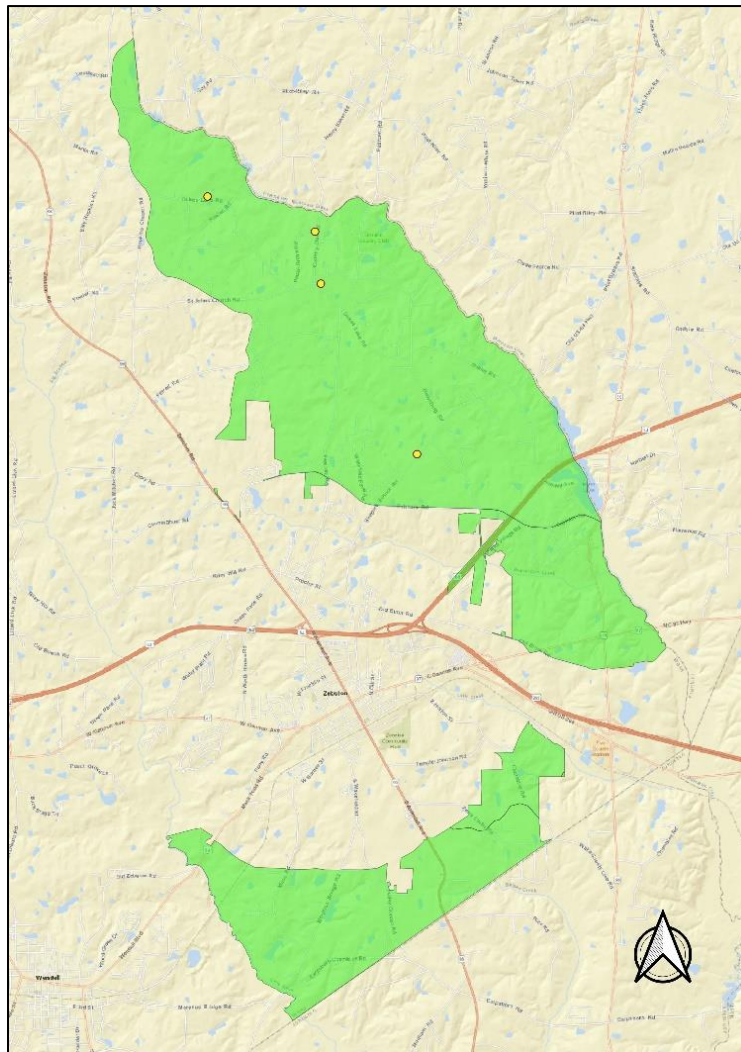


Figure 7. Distribution of Deteriorated Properties within the Zebulon LSRUSA Study Area

Eleven properties within the Zebulon study area were newly surveyed, including the St. Paul No.1 Church of Christ (WA7930), which was constructed in 1924. All others range in date from 1940 to 1970, confirming an increase in residential development within the study area, particularly Minimal Traditional and Ranch houses.

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA7930	1319 Pulley Gordon Road	St. Paul No. 1 Church of Christ	1924
WA8166	4633 Hopkins Chapel Road	Ranch House	1954
WA8170	2045 Pearces Road	Carter House	1969
WA8171	3016 Pearces Road	Eure House	1969
WA8172	10032 Oakley Road	Clark House	1939
WA8173	2952 Shepard School Road	Oakley House	1940
WA8174	2301 Shepard School Road	Mitchell House	1944
WA8175	10124 Debham Road	Charlie Debham House	1952
WA8178	929 Three Sisters Road	Joseph Knott House	1950
WA8180	9449 Ferrell Road	Melton House	1970
WA8181	9325 Ferrell Road	Ferrell House	1958

Table 12. Newly Surveyed Properties within the Zebulon LSRUSA Study Area

4.4 LITTLE RIVER WATER SUPPLY WATERSHED OF EASTERN WAKE COUNTY ("Little River Study Area")

The contiguous Little River Water Supply Watershed is more remote and rural in nature than those study areas surrounding larger municipalities. Remote country roads and expansive farmsteads with intact agricultural buildings continue to characterize this study area. The post-World War II subdivision of farmland into smaller residential lots alongside existing country roads is noticeable throughout the study area. While evidence of suburbanization is found along the edges of the study area, much of its interior continues to convey its early agricultural tradition.

The Little River study area is by far the largest of the five. It includes 138 previously surveyed properties, of which 36, or approximately 25%, have been demolished since the 1988 survey. Seven (7) of the properties classified as demolished are primary resources surveyed as part of multiple resource properties. Although the primary resource is no longer extant, support structures or agricultural buildings survive. The distribution of demolished properties is widespread; however, most tend to be clustered near principal roadways. Only a few are replaced by modern residential development and/or subdivisions. Similar to the study areas within closer proximity to towns, the high percentage of demolished buildings is evidence of abandonment of older residences and a decline in farming. This is especially the case when considering the additional

ten (10) properties are deteriorated, and twenty-six (26) exhibiting the loss of at least one outbuilding since the 1988-1991 survey.

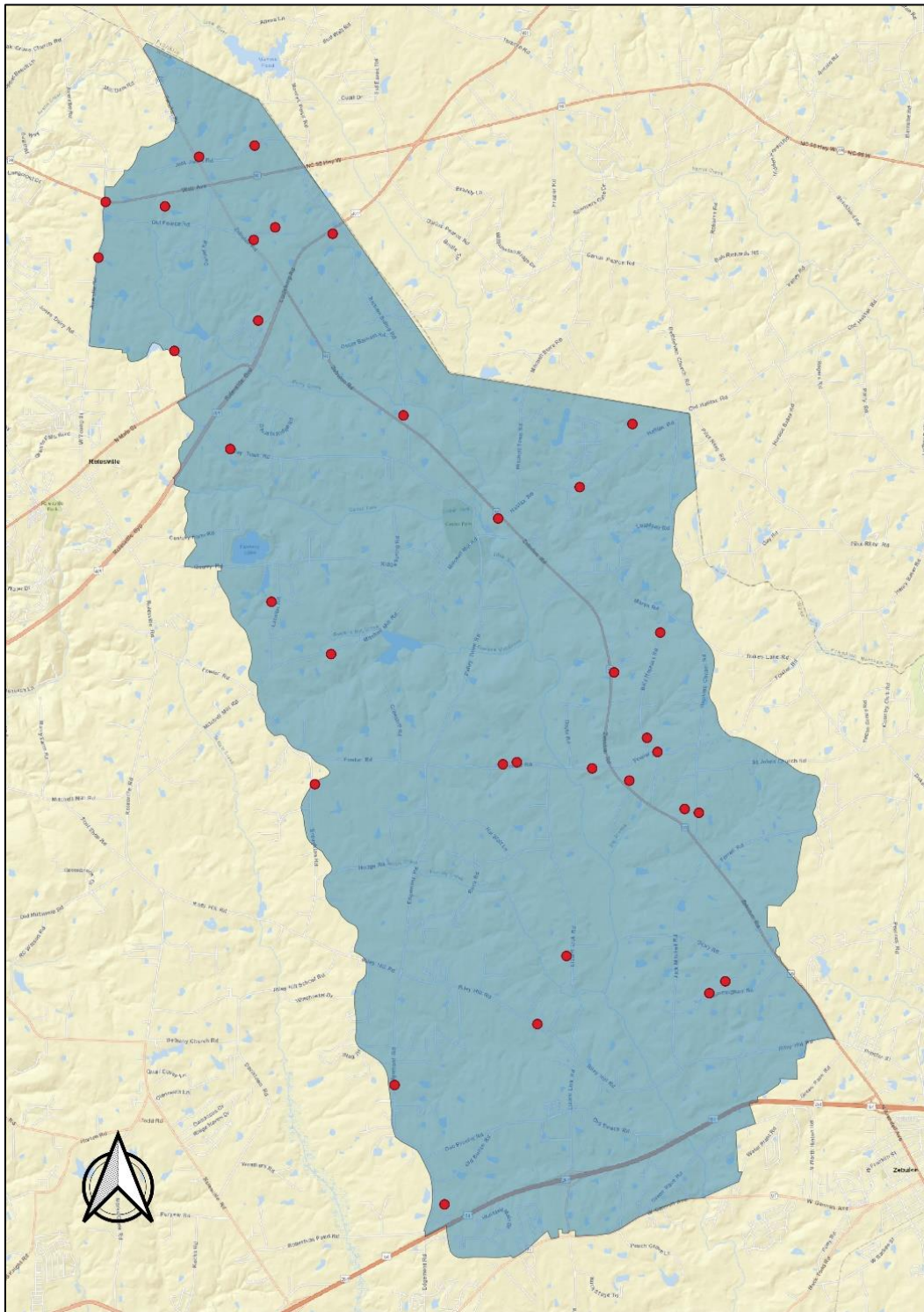


Figure 8. Distribution of Demolished Properties in the Little River Study Area

Demolished Properties

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA1731	2300 Wait Avenue	B.P. Daniels Store	Ca.1920s
WA1733	5501 Old Pearce Road	House	Not specified
WA1735	6008 Jack Jones Road	June Jones Tenant House	Ca.1900
WA1736	7600 Zebulon Road	Daniels-Satterwhite Farm	Ca.1905
WA1748	1012 Averette Street	Williams-Young House*	Ca.1890
WA1787	Off US Highway 41	Williams Tenant House	Ca.1890
WA1789	11633 Louisburg Road	S.H. Scarborough Farm Tenant House*	Not specified
WA1791	12132 Louisburg Road	Jeffreys-Ellington Farm	Ca.1858
WA1793	NC 96	Dick Hunt House	Not specified
WA1794	12103 Louisburg Road	J.T. Shearon Farm Tenant House	Not specified
WA1797	State Route 2055	House	Ca.1890
WA1802	6732 Oscar Barham Road	Barham's Siding Company Building*	1930s
WA1805	State Route 2301	John Robert Perry House	Ca.1900
WA1830	4417 Lassiter Road	Edwards-Robertson House*	1948
WA1843	7300 Broughton Road	Edward Crudup Fowler Sr. House	1872
WA1851	State Route 2303	Pulley-Perry House	Ca.1900
WA1854	State Route 2303	Richards Farm*	Ca.1915
WA1862	4229 Billy Hopkins Road	Perry Farm*	Ca.1900-1915
WA1866	4120 Zebulon Road	House	Ca.1900
WA1869	Fowler Road	Perry House	Ca.1860
WA1870	3520 Zebulon Road	Perry Farm	Ca.1905
WA1876	Fowler Road	Billy Hopkins Store	Ca.1910
WA1880	3436 Hopkins Chapel Road	Fernie Richards Farm*	Ca.1940
WA1881	3200 Zebulon Road	Hubert Becker Farm	Ca.1900
WA1943	7109 Riley Hill Road	John Perry House	Ca.1805
WA1944	2412 Edgemont Road	Raymond Horton Store	Ca.1920
WA2060	Lizard Lick Road	J.L. Perry Farm	Ca.1900-1915
WA2064	Back Track Lane	Griffin-Creech House	Ca.1850s
WA3708	Zebulon Road	Bud Perry House	Ca.1880s
WA7935 (WA-R067)	3728 Billy Hopkins Road	House	Ca.1850
WA8196 (WA-R069)	8301 Cunningham Road	House	Ca.1925
WA8208 (WA-R108)	1612 Edgemont Road	House	Ca.1830
WA8210 (WA-R120)	7032 Pulley Town Road	House	Ca.1900

Table 13. Demolished Properties within the Little River Study Area

*Denotes a multiple resource property where the primary resource is demolished, but some support structures and farm-related buildings may survive. Otherwise, all buildings, including outbuildings, are no longer extant.

Deteriorated Properties

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA1811	6600 Pulley Town Road	Dunn House	1830s
WA1839	7705 Fowler Road	Dr. M. L. Fowler House	Ca.1850-1900
WA1852	Halifax Road	George Duke Farm	Ca.1900
WA1861	7812 Martin Road	House	Ca.1840
WA1865	4209 Zebulon Road	Millard Duke House	Ca.1910
WA1871	8125 Carpenter Road	House	Ca.1850
WA1872	3425 Zebulon Road	House	Ca.1900-1915
WA2252	12108 Louisburg Road	House	Ca.1840-1860
WA4027	2100 Brannan Park Drive	House	Ca.1910
WA8358	3001 E. Wait Avenue	Poole Farm*	Ca.1930

Table 14. Deteriorated Properties within the Little River Study Area

*Denotes a multiple resource property where the primary resource is deteriorated, but some support structures and farm-related buildings may survive. Otherwise, all buildings, including outbuildings, are in a deteriorated condition

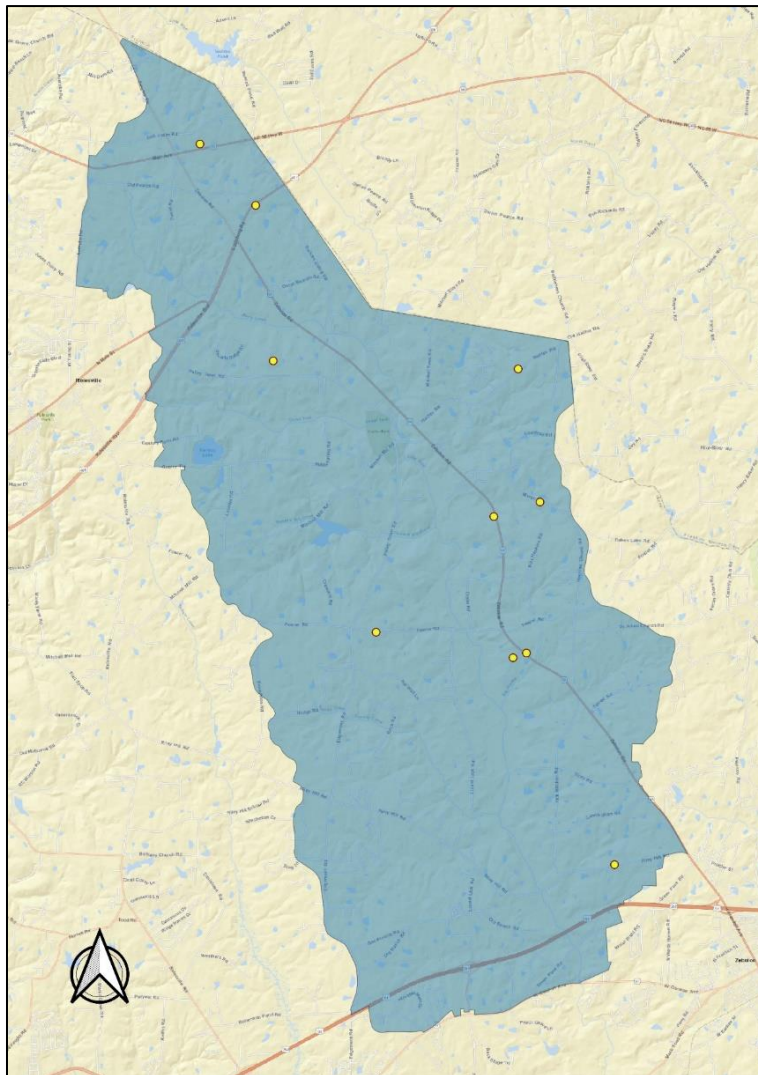


Figure 9. Distribution of Deteriorated Properties in the Little River Study Area

Outbuilding Loss

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA1298	7404 Halifax Road	Green-Hartsfield House	Ca.1810
WA1732	1420 Averette Road	B.P. Daniels Farm	Ca.1930s
WA1734	5933 Jack Jones Road	June Jones Farms	Ca.1900
WA1739	5333 Jack Jones Road	Isa Perry Farm	Ca.1900
WA1788	11624 Louisburg Road	Dunn-Scarborough-Frazier Farm	Ca.1826, ca.1935
WA1790	11916 Louisburg Road	Edwards Farm	Ca.1900
WA1792	68172 Zebulon Road	Farm Complex	Ca.1900
WA1796	5711 Old Pearce Road	Shearon-Pearce House	Ca.1908
WA1803	6700 Oscar Barham Road	Sylvester T. Barham Farm	Ca.1900-1910
WA1804	6501 Oscar Barham Road	Perry House	Ca.1900
WA1808	State Route 2300	Pulley House	Ca.1900
WA1810	6600 Pulley Town Road	Dunn-Young Farm	Ca.1800-1850
WA1832	8401 Mitchell Mill Road	Heartsfield-Perry Farm	Ca.1790; Ca.1840
WA1838	8125 Fowler Road	C.C. Perry Farm (#2)	Ca.1900-1910
WA1840	7400 Fowler Road	J.R. Fowler Farm	Ca.1900-1915
WA1841	Fowler Road	J.R. Fowler Farm Tenant House	Ca.1900-1910
WA1842	7205 Fowler Road	Strickland-Dunn-Broughton Farm	Ca.1890
WA1863	3928 Billy Hopkins Road	Branch Ferrell House	Ca.1840-1860
WA1868	3600-3704 Doyle Road	Mitchell Farm	Ca.1900-1910
WA1877	8836 Fowler Road	Bunn Farm	Ca.1900
WA1878	Hopkins Crossroads	Hopkins Crossroads Historic District	Ca.1900s-1950s
WA1883	4104 Hopkins Chapel Road	Howard Bunn House	Ca.1890
WA1940	6125 Riley Hill Road	Charles Marriott House	Ca.1925
WA1950	6932 Old Bunch Road	Hinnant Farm	Ca.1915
WA2026	7321 Siemens Road	Farm Complex	Ca.1900
WA2067	3201 Zebulon Road	Hopkins-Becker Farm	Ca.1900

Table 15. Properties with Outbuilding Loss in the Little River Study Area

Though largely more remote and rural in nature than the other four study areas, there appears to be a comparable amount of residential development occurring shortly following World War II and into the 1950s. This is likely a result of men returning from war to their family farms rather than early suburbanization. Most of this housing occurs alongside existing roads and is comprised of residential lots subdivided by larger family farmsteads in order to provide housing for younger generations. The development of residential neighborhoods and planned subdivisions did not take off until the 1980s within the Little River study area. The majority of this development occurs along the periphery of the study area, particularly along its western boundary.

Twenty properties were newly surveyed within the Little River study area. This number includes three that were constructed prior to the 1940s but now, with the passage of time, warrant documentation. Newly surveyed properties from the 1940s to 1960s are Period Cottages, Minimal Traditional dwellings, and Ranch houses. The Rhodes House (WA8184) is a representative Period Cottage from the 1940s erected on a five-acre lot on the edge of Zebulon. By far the majority of houses dating to this period are Ranch houses ranging from modest, compact dwellings, to sprawling residences on large agricultural lots. The Kenneth Pearce House (WA8151), though a relatively modest dwelling in respect to its form and style, illustrates a rural Ranch house surrounded by agricultural outbuildings and fields.

The Sherwood's Motorcycle Repair building (WA8183), constructed in 1947, is a rare example within the study area of a mid-20th century automobile repair shop that continues to operate as such. Hopkins Chapel Baptist Church (WA8165), completed in 1957 to replace an earlier church, is reflective of a growing population and strengthening economy following World War II and through the 1950s within the predominantly rural farming communities.

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA8150	604 Averette Road	Sallie D. Averette House	Ca.1930s
WA8151	700 Averette Road	Kenneth Vaughan Pearce House	1952
WA8152	7100 Zebulon Road	Pearce House	1965
WA8153	7617 Zebulon Road	Lee Roy Frazier Farm	1932
WA8154	12101 Louisburg Road	Shearon House	1962
WA8155	5021 Zebulon Road	Mitchell Store	Ca.1950
WA8160	7908 Fowler Road	Perry House	Ca.1910
WA8161	4505 Pulley Town Road	House	Ca.1945
WA8162	7832 Halifax Road	Donald Privette House	1961
WA8163	5636 Hopkins Chapel Road	Privette House	1949
WA8164	7221 Martin Road	Edsel Martin House	Ca.1930

Site ID	Address	Property Name	Date
WA8165	4525 Hopkins Chapel Road	Hopkins Chapel Baptist Church	1957
WA8168	8725 Fowler Road	Billeysville Grocery	Ca.1950
WA8169	3933 Hopkins Chapel Road	Taylor-Donald Fowler House	Ca.1940
WA8176 (WA-R093)	1512 Green Pace Road	Charlie High House	Ca.1935
WA8177	8509 Fowler Road	Perry House	1956
WA8179	8705 Fowler Road	Jackson Farm	Ca.1874-1970s
WA8182	8709 Cunningham Road	Cunningham House	Ca.1930
WA8183	2008 Zebulon Road	Sherwood's Motorcycle Repair	1947
WA8184	1817 Zebulon Road	Rhodes House	1941

Table 16. Newly Surveyed Properties within the Little River Study Area

SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDED NATIONAL REGISTER STUDY LIST

WA1840/WA1841 – J.R. Fowler Farm (Rolesville vicinity)
 WA1859 and WA8165 – Hopkins Chapel Baptist Church and Cemetery (Zebulon vicinity)
 WA8159 – East Wake High School (Wendell vicinity)
 WA8184 – Rhodes House (Zebulon vicinity)
 WA8185 and WA1938 – Riley Hill Baptist Church and Cemetery

A description of each property and its significance under the National Register Criteria for Evaluation is presented in Appendix C.

PROPERTIES PREVIOUSLY STUDY-LISTED OR DETERMINED ELIGIBLE RETAINING GOOD INTEGRITY

Multiple properties within the survey area were previously study-listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register as a result of previous surveys. Several of those properties have not been listed on the National Register yet continue to convey a high degree of historic integrity. Among those include:

WA1926 – Harmony Plantation (Wendell vicinity)
 WA1951 - Aspen Grove Farm (Wendell vicinity)
 WA1855 – George Washington Duke Complex
 WA1878 - Hopkins Crossroads (Zebulon vicinity)
 WA1928 – Weathers Farm (Knightdale vicinity)
 WA4180 – Bowden Hicks Farm (Rolesville vicinity)

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

A number of properties have histories that are complicated or unclear, possess unique architectural forms or details, or are likely to produce archaeological information, and thus require further study. Such properties include:

WA1807 - Mitchell Mill Site

North Side of Mitchell Mill Road (Rolesville vicinity)

The mill site is located within the Mitchell's Millpond Natural Area and includes a stone dam and its resulting millpond. Likely built in the early years of the 19th century, the granite block dam is 400 feet long and ten to twelve feet high. The dam initially supported a grist mill. However, by the early-20th century, the Mitchell Mill community (formerly Hartsfield) emerged around the dam supporting the grist mill, a sawmill, cotton gin, blacksmith shop, and several stores. The surviving dam and mill site are significant for the archaeological potential to reveal information of early construction methods and operations of early mills.

WA1835 – Walter Perry Complex

8309 Fowler Road (Rolesville vicinity)

This intact, early-20th century complex was originally owned by Walter Perry, a tobacco farmer and store owner. The complex includes the most common of Wake County house types - a one-story, triple-A house, as well as a full complement of farm buildings and a gable-front country store. The property, which includes approximately 100 acres, is actively farmed and currently owned by Rachel Perry, daughter of Walter Perry. The store is undergoing restoration and the foundation of a new porch evident. Although the house is clad in vinyl-siding, there are no other apparent alterations. Google Earth aerial photographs confirm that some of the buildings have been relocated throughout the property and others added. Collectively, the house, store, and outbuildings comprise a unique roadside complex reminiscent of rural eastern Wake County in the early-20th century. Interior observations of the house to assess interior integrity is recommended. Additional research, including a full chain-of-title and interviews, may yield valuable information pertaining to the history of the farmstead, the family, and the role the small general store played on the surrounding farming community. It survives as a unique example of a homesite and store sited at a crossroad in the remote, rural area of eastern Wake County.

WA1858 and WA8166 – Duke-Champion Farm Complex

4632 and 4633 Hopkins Chapel Road (Zebulon vicinity)

This small farm complex occupies land on the east and west sides of Hopkins Chapel Road. It consists of a ca.1850 dwelling, a 1954 Ranch house with detached garage, tobacco barns, and three outbuildings of indiscernible use. The 19th century dwelling is a unique example of a single-pile dwelling with a low-pitched hipped roof and c.1920s rear ell addition. The house features a combination of Greek Revival and Craftsman-style elements reflecting traditional incremental growth patterns to accommodate expanding families and early-20th century technologies such as plumbing and electricity. The agricultural buildings to the rear of the house speak towards the tobacco farming operation of a small, family-run farmstead. Across the street, an impressive red brick Ranch house was erected as a larger, modern family dwelling on the farmstead. It is an exemplary illustration of rural Ranch houses that were built following World War II within family farmsteads. Agricultural fields surround the Ranch house. The farm is known to have been associated with the Duke family farmstead and continues to remain in the family. Present owner and descendant, Doris Champion continues to cultivate much of the land on the approximate 90-acre farm. Additional research is recommended to confirm the extent of farming operations of the Duke family. Interior observations of the mid-19th century dwelling is further recommended to better interpret construction methods of the early farmhouse.

WA1864 – Martin-Perry Farm

4341 Zebulon Road

The Martin-Perry Farm is an exemplary representation of a late-19th to mid-20th century tobacco farm complex in eastern Wake County. It includes a ca.1875 single-room log house, several domestic and tobacco-related outbuildings, as well as a 1950s Minimal Traditional dwelling. All surviving buildings are remarkably intact and collectively reflect evolving trends in agriculture and residential housing associated with a small family-run farm. Additional research is recommended to better interpret the extent of farming operations, the families associated with the farmstead, and the contributions it made to the agricultural heritage of eastern Wake County.

WA8176 – Charlie High House

1512 Green Pace Road (Zebulon vicinity)

The Charlie High House is a rare representation of a bungalow dwelling within eastern Wake County, where the majority of the rural bungalows are modest, front-gabled dwellings with little adornment. The Charlie High House is believed to be constructed prior to 1930 by Charlie H. High, an African-American farmer within the community. Unique features to this bungalow include its hipped roof and dormers, Craftsman-style windows, exposed rafter, decorative board shutters, and recessed wrap-around porch. The house appears to retain good integrity. Interior observations are recommended to assess its degree of integrity. Charlie High is believed to be the of James High Sr. According to the 1930 Federal Census, he owned and operated a farm believed to be associated with the house on Green Pace Road. The High family appears to have become a prolific farming family in eastern Wake County during the early-20th century. Interior observations to assess the overall integrity of the house is warranted. A full chain-of-title is recommended, as well as additional research pertaining to the contributions made by the High family to the agricultural heritage of the county.

WA2066 – Bill Hopkins House and Store Crossroad

Intersection of Jack Mitchell Road and Glory Road (Zebulon vicinity)

The Bill Hopkins House and Store Crossroad is significant as a unique surviving representation of a house and store conveniently sited at a rural crossroad in eastern Wake County. Bill Hopkins is believed to have built the house at the turn-of-the-20th century within a small, family-run farm. The siting of the house at the crossroad rather than within the heart of the farmstead suggests the intention of Bill Hopkins to be more accessible to travelers along the two country roads. The surrounding area is historically an agricultural farming community. By 1935, the homesite was part of the W. R. Hopkins farm (Deed Book 902, Page 397). In addition to the house, the homesite includes three small domestic outbuildings. At the northwest corner of the intersection is the ca. frame store and bungalow built by Mr. and Mrs. Otha Brannon, who owned and operated the store through the 1960s. The ca.1900 Hopkins House retains good integrity. Although the bungalow is vinyl-sided, additional research pertaining to the development of the crossroads and its relation to the surrounding farming community is beneficial. Interior observations of the Hopkins House may reveal a high degree of interior integrity. Though many crossroads throughout eastern Wake County share a similar development history, many either evolved into distinct villages, or were abandoned and buildings demolished.

WAKE COUNTY LANDMARKS

All of the properties either currently listed or proposed for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or the North Carolina Study List may be considered for Wake County Landmark designation. In addition, the six (6) properties listed above that were previously study-listed and/or determined eligible for listing in the National Register and retain good integrity may be eligible as Landmarks. Finally, a few properties that have had material alterations that would impede National Register listing may be eligible as Landmarks. These include:

WA1877 – Bunn Farm (House)

8836 Fowler Road (Hopkins Crossroads vicinity)

The Bunn Farm contains a well-preserved turn-of-the-20th-century triple-A, house at the heart of an actively farmed tobacco farm. The house is an I-house with T-shaped rear ell. It features prominent stone and brick end chimneys, original windows, and a full-width entry porch with turned posts. Associated tobacco outbuildings include a tobacco barn, strip room, and barn. Though modern farming-related buildings are sited within the property, the house and surviving historic farm buildings are reflective of traditional small- to mid-sized farms throughout the 20th century. The I-house is a rare, intact example within eastern Wake County where the majority are heavily modified. The larger farm has been subdivided over time; however, the homesite is intact and the house well-preserved. Further, it is associated with the Bunn family, early settlers to the region who amassed considerable landholdings throughout eastern Wake County.

WA1798 and WA1799 – Richard Pearce and Montezuma Z. Pearce Farm

5405 Old Pearce Road (Wake Forest vicinity)

The Montezuma Z. Pearce Farm consists of an early-20th century farmhouse exhibiting a later Craftsman bungalow-style remodeling. The farm features a cohesive homesite comprising the house and multiple domestic outbuildings. A unique frame tenant house, possibly constructed in the 19th century, is sited near the road with a row of tobacco-related buildings to its rear. Although the house features vinyl siding and replacement windows, the distinct arrangement of buildings throughout the farm is indicative of an early- to mid-20th century tobacco farm in eastern Wake County. Unlike the majority of such tobacco farms surviving in the area, the Montezuma Z. Pearce Farm has no modern intrusions – its most recent building phase appears to be the remodeling of the farmhouse in the 1920s. The farm is presently owned by the Jones family, descendants of Montezuma Pearce. Located directly across Old Pearce Road is the mid-19th century Richard Pearce homesite (WA1798). Together, the two farms/homesites survive as an exemplary illustration of evolving eastern Wake County farmsteads from the mid-19th century through the mid-20th century. The two farmhouses are indicative of vernacular residential construction from the mid-19th and early-20th centuries. Further, the 1920s remodeling of the Montezuma Pearce house is reflective upon typical patterns of the growth of rural farmhouses resulting from expanding families and the introduction of modern technologies (ex. electricity and plumbing). The use of the Craftsman style of architecture was highly popular nationwide during this period. The farmstead is located within a section of the survey area, east of Wake Forest, that is experiencing rapid development and encroachment upon the historic agricultural landscape. Together, the Pearce farms survive as reminders of the significant agricultural heritage of eastern Wake County and continue to be farmed.

WA8151 – Kenneth Vaughan Pearce House

700 Averette Road (Wake Forest vicinity)

Constructed in 1952, the Kenneth Vaughan Pearce House is significant as an intact mid-20th century residence and homesite within a small, family-run farmstead. It is significant under Criterion C for Architecture as being a good representation of a post-World War II-era Ranch house with characteristic designed landscaping and deep setback. It is sited at the center of the small 19-acre farmstead and accessed by a large U-shaped paved driveway. Agricultural outbuildings are located to the east and south of the house. The one-story Ranch house is

characterized by its linear form and emphasis on the horizontal. Its low-pitched hipped roof and prominent interior brick chimney further convey traditional Ranch house design elements. Landscaping surrounding the house and the front property is characteristic of Ranch houses in rural settings with ample land use. The house itself is surrounded by graveled beds with foundation shrubs. The front yard is expansive, and the house enjoys a deep setback. Not only is this dwelling a good, intact representation of a modest, mid-20th Ranch house, the farm-related buildings and agricultural fields surrounding the house reflect a common trend of the Post-World War II subdivision of larger farmsteads into smaller farms.

The property is historically associated with the R.A. Averette farmstead. In 1952, the Averette farm was subdivided. Kenneth Vaughan Pearce and wife, Evelyn, purchased Lots 4 and 6 of the subdivision that same year. Together, those lots comprised approximately 48 acres, which have since been reduced to the present 19 acres. It is believed that the Ranch house was constructed when the Pearce's acquired the property in 1952. Kirby Pearce eventually inherited the property and continue to retain ownership.

Eastern Wake County includes numerous contemporaneous Ranch houses across its rural landscape. However, the majority tend to be sited within small, residential lots that were subdivided from larger farmstead and no longer convey an historic agricultural association. The Pearce House is not only located within a small, family-run farm, its hilltop siting and planned landscaping are distinctive elements of traditional Ranch houses within a rural setting.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: NEWLY ASSIGNED SURVEY SITE NUMBERS FOR
PREVIOUS RECONNAISSANCE-LEVEL SURVEY

Reconnaissance-Level ID Number	Newly Assigned Site ID Number
WA-R066	WA7934
WA-R067	WA7935
WA-R068	WA8044
WA-R069	WA8196
WA-R070	WA8197
WA-R071	WA8198
WA-R072	WA8199
WA-R081	WA8200
WA-R082	WA8201
WA-R087	WA8202
WA-R088	WA8203
WA-R089	WA8204
WA-R090	WA8205
WA-R093	WA8176
WA-R101	WA8206
WA-R102	WA8207
WA-R108	WA8208
WA-R109	WA8209
WA-R111	WA8157
WA-R120	WA8210
WA-R121	WA8211
WA-R122	WA8212
WA-R123	WA8213
WA-R124	WA8214

APPENDIX B: CLASSIFICATIONS OF SURVEYED PROPERTIES

No Change: Many properties experienced minor alterations including changes to the porch posts or railings and additions to the rear. These changes, while they frequently involved the removal of historic material, did not significantly change the historic form or interpretation of the historic structure, so were not considered alterations for the purpose of this survey.

Altered: Changes that significantly altered the historic structure include the addition of synthetic siding, windows, and/or doors, changes in the fenestration, the enclosure of porches, changes to the roofline, additions to the façade, or prominently placed side additions.

Deteriorated: While many buildings have suffered from deferred maintenance, these resources were significantly deteriorated. Many of them are abandoned, overgrown, and open to the elements due to missing windows, doors, or roofing material. The classification is specifically meant to note buildings that are likely to be lost in the coming years if action is not taken to stabilize them.

Demolished: These buildings have been removed from their documented locations. While there is the possibility that the buildings were simply moved and not destroyed, the buildings could not be located within the survey area. In addition to the demolition of primary resources, many of the rural resources experienced outbuilding loss. Those with outbuilding loss were calculated for statistical purposes.

Moved: The relocation of resources happens for a variety of reasons. Most of the relocated buildings were rehabilitated after their move, while others may be classified as both moved and deteriorated.

New Survey: Resources constructed prior to 1970, that were newly identified as part of this survey.

APPENDIX C: STUDY LIST INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION

WA1839 to WA1841 - J.R. Fowler Farm (Rolesville vicinity)

7400 Fowler Road

The J.R. Fowler Farm is significant as an intact large family-run farm with resources dating from the late-19th century through the 1950s. It is significant under Criterion A for Agriculture and Criterion C for Architecture as a multi-generational farm that has been in continuous operation for over 100 years and includes buildings reflective of multiple building periods and shifting agricultural practices throughout its history. The large property includes three family farmhouses, one post-World War-era concrete block bungalow, two mid-20th century Ranch houses, and three or four intact tenant houses, including a rare two-story representation. The farm spans the north and south sides of Fowler Road and surrounding the intersection of Pulley Town Road. A distinct grouping of agricultural buildings and a general store are sited along Fowler Farm Lane forming the nucleus of farming operations within the farmstead.⁴³

The Fowler family traces the farmstead, now operating as Wakelon Angus Farms, back to 1743. Today, the 1,400-acre family farm includes three sections, each owned by a member of the Fowler Farm, and each recognized by the Department of Agriculture as a Century Farm. The potentially eligible portion of the larger family farm traces its history back to 1872. This portion of the farm encompasses the center of the family farming operation and historic residential dwellings. Surviving buildings reflect the ownership of J.R. Fowler, Sr. (1885-1972) who owned the farm for much of the 20th century. Generations of the Fowler family raised tobacco, cotton, grains, feed, and timber. For the past 60 years, Angus cattle farming is the primary focus of the farm.⁴⁴ It is presently owned and operated by Bob Fowler, son of J.R. Fowler Jr. By the mid-20th century, the farm reportedly had upwards of 25 tenants farming the tobacco. The Fowler's operated a small general store at the heart of the farm, providing supplies for their tenants. Although several tenant houses and agricultural-related outbuildings associated with the late-19 to mid-20th century farming operations are no longer extant, the handful that do survive speak towards the evolution of mid- to large-size farming operations, patterns in rural residential design, and the significant role tenancy once played in the operation of the farm.

In addition to a late-19th century Triple-A dwelling (WA1839) believed to have been built for Dr. M.L. Fowler, the farmstead includes an early-20th century Triple-A house, and a later bungalow homesite. Following World War II, three additional homesites within the farm were developed to provide additional residences for members of the family. A 1940 concrete block bungalow fronts the west side of Pulley Town Road and likely served as the residence of a farm manager or tenant. Two fine ranch houses dating to 1951 and 1955 were erected just west of Fowler Farm Lane, the heart of the farming operations. Three tenant houses, also well-preserved, are intact and visible from Fowler Road, including WA1841, a rare example of a two-story tenant house. wellhouse. The remaining two tenant houses are modest, front-gabled frame bungalows with full-

⁴³ According to the 1991 survey file, the northwest quadrant of the farm, including a 1960s Ranch house and three modern dwellings, is associated with the J.R. Fowler farm. However, deed records confirm that this land is part of the Jones family and should be excluded from the boundary.

⁴⁴ North Carolina Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, "Plan now for the Century Farm Family reunion, Agricultural Review, <https://www.ncagr.gov/paffairs/AgReview/articles/2016/5-16-Plan-now-for-the-Century-Farm-Family-Reunion.htm>

width entry porches. A possible office or fourth tenant house is located at the core of the farm. Agricultural outbuildings include the former frame store, a barn, an office, the possible fourth tenant house, and bulk barns, among others. Despite the slight deterioration of the earliest dwellings, which are presently vacant, the majority of the buildings and the overall agricultural landscape of the Fowler farm are largely intact and well-preserved. The buildings and site retain integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, feeling, and association. The landscape and built environment illustrate the evolution of the farm from the late-19th century through the mid-20th century. Several agricultural buildings survive from the years of tobacco farming; however, the majority reflect the recent 60 years of focused on the raising of angus cattle.

In considering the boundaries for the Fowler Farm, the farm includes multiple subdivided parcels of land that continue to be associated with the Fowler family and the operations of the farmstead. In addition, two parcels of land surrounded by the Fowler farm and containing two dwellings should not be included within the boundary. The recommended boundary includes the following parcels of land occupying approximately 545 acres of agricultural and wooded land: 1777466387 (23.87 acres), 1777467619 (1 acre), 1777662368 (46.26 acres), 1777766011 (24 acres), 1777589819 (155 acres), and 1777984131 (295 acres). The latter parcel includes WA1839 and WA8161, the earliest Fowler farmhouse and a 1940 concrete bungalow, respectively.

WA1859 and WA8165 - Hopkins Chapel Church and Cemetery

4525 Hopkins Chapel Road (Wake Forest vicinity)

Constructed in 1957, the Hopkins Chapel Baptist Church and cemetery are significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development as a traditional rural church site established by the surrounding farming community. The adjacent cemetery includes burials of the communities' earliest farming families. The church and cemetery are further eligible under Criterion C in the Areas of Architecture and Art. The present church building is indicative of the large, mid-20th century churches built to replace earlier frame structures. Collectively, its T-shaped form, brick veneer, porticoed façade, and Colonial Revival-inspired design was a popular building tradition for church architecture in the mid-20th century. The adjacent church cemetery (WA1859) speaks toward the early foundations of the congregation and the site of the first church. The cemetery is comprised of a variety of burial markers including traditional headstones and footstones, obelisks, ledger stones, and box tombs. The decorative motifs and inscriptions reflect trends in the use of various symbols throughout the 20th century. Among the various motifs include Masonic symbology, lambs, urns, floral designs, gates of heaven, shaking hands, and the holy crown, among others.

Hopkins Chapel Baptist Church was first formed in 1851 by the farming community surrounding present-day Hopkins Crossroads (formerly Young's Crossroads). The original church building was constructed shortly thereafter and was built by B.J. Stickland. It was a small frame single nave sanctuary with wings for classrooms. The adjacent cemetery (WA1859) includes burials of many of the church's earliest members including the families of Barham, Bunn, Perry, Dean, Duke, Hopkins, Fowler, Ray, and Stallings, among others. Despite the congregation's mid-19th century formation, the earliest burial markers date to the early-20th century suggesting that members were interred in small family plots on their respective farms.

Construction on the present church began in 1954 and was completed in 1957, 100 years after the formation of the church. According to pastor Earl Roach, the lumber was milled locally from trees

that fell during Hurricane Hazel in 1954. Blueprints for the design of the church were reportedly taken from Pilot Baptist Church in Franklin County.

The present church survives as an excellent illustration of a rural mid-20th century church that replaced an earlier frame structure. Throughout the mid-20th century, churches established by close-knit farming communities within rural areas of eastern Wake County oftentimes merged with larger congregations closer to nearby towns. This was largely due to the increase in automobile ownership and improved transportation routes. In the case of Hopkins Chapel Baptist Church, the congregation was strong in the 1950s and the need for a larger church facility apparent. Its overall form and Colonial-Revival design are indicative of contemporaneous churches built throughout the state within urban, suburban, and rural settings. Those built within rural areas occur less frequently as a result of merging church congregations. The nearby Riley Hill Baptist Church shares a similar developmental history and design elements as Hopkins Chapel. The two are rare illustrations of impressive rural brick churches employing the Colonial Revival style. Hopkins Chapel Baptist Church retains its historic rural setting, location, and feeling. It continues to be associated as a rural farming community congregation and church. Its mid-20th century design, workmanship, and materials appear to be intact. According to the pastor, since its construction, minor renovations include the moving of some walls within the education portion (rear T-wing) of the building, but the overall footprint remains the same. Photographs presented on the church's website confirm the interior integrity of the building.

WA8159 – East Wake High School

5105 Rolesville Road (Wendell vicinity)

Constructed in 1965, Whitley High School (presently East Wake High School) is significant as a rare representation of the International style of architecture in the rural communities of eastern Wake County. It is potentially eligible under Criterion A in the area of Education and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The school was constructed as a result of mid-20th century expansion of the town of Wendell and the subsequent suburbanization into surrounding rural agricultural communities. The school is one of only a few public schools established in the mid-20th century beyond the limits of the incorporated towns of eastern Wake County.

The historic school is comprised of two separate massings employing the International style of architecture made popular in the preceding decade. The International style was commonly employed to institutional facilities and public architecture, particularly schools and hospitals. Both of the original blocks are single-story with flat roofs. The western block is generally rectangular in form. It houses the original school entrance on its north end, as well as a secondary entry on the south from the parking lot. The second building likely houses all of the classrooms. Covered walkways connect the two buildings. A brick smokestack is located at the northwest corner of the east building. The two buildings are clad in a brick veneer with an emphasis on long, linear lines. The most notable International style element are the long rows of windows. For the most part, the two buildings share the same window configuration: a single fixed window with transom above and a horizontal hopper below, followed by a cream-colored stuccoed apron. Small concrete awnings extend from the top of the window bays. The historic school includes a contemporaneous stadium. Continued suburbanization throughout the late-19th and early-20th century required the construction of large-scale support buildings to the school campus. The new buildings are detached from the original school. As such, the school retains its historic materials, design, workmanship,

setting, feeling, location, and association. It continues to serve as a public school within the expanding Wendell area.

WA8185 and WA1938 – Riley Hill Baptist Church and Cemetery

6101 Riley Hill Road (Wendell vicinity)

Riley Hill Baptist Church and cemetery are significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development as a traditional rural church site established by the surrounding farming community. The church and cemetery are further eligible under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage. Riley Hill developed as a predominantly African-American farming community following the Civil War and the adjacent cemetery includes burials of the communities' earliest families. The church and cemetery are also eligible under Criterion C in the Areas of Architecture and Art. The present brick church was constructed in the early-20th century. It retains its historic T-shaped form, brick exterior, symmetrical façade and Colonial Revival design. The windows and entry door are topped with round-arched windows and a prominent bell tower with steeple straddles the ridgeline. Historically, the windows were eight-over-twelve, double-hung sash with fanlights. Although the historic fenestration is maintained, the window sash are replaced with decorative stained glass. It is believed that the prominent gabled entry portico with round columns and the perpendicular two-story wing were added in the 1940s, a common feature of mid-20th century Colonial Revival-inspired churches. Despite these modifications, the church continues to reflect its original design, including its later mid-20th century upgrades.

The adjacent church cemetery (WA1938) speaks toward the early foundations of the congregation and the site of the first church. The cemetery is comprised of a variety of burial markers including traditional headstones and footstones, modest obelisks, and ledger stones, and box tombs. The decorative motifs and inscriptions reflect trends in the use of various symbols throughout the 20th century. Among the various motifs include lambs, urns, floral designs, gates of heaven, shaking hands, and the holy crown, among others.

The church congregation was formed in 1872. Among the early pioneers to form the congregation include Reverence J.J. Words, Reverend George Perry, Gabriel Montague, Willis High, Wash High, Henry High, Tom Eillis, Gaston Hodge, Henry Hopkins, Dorsey Perry Sr., Fegan Perry, John Tyler, Byse Robertson, Jeff Jones St., Andrew Young, Sr., Ruffin Ferrell, and Wesley Jones.⁴⁵ Shortly following the formation of the church, a small frame church was erected and quickly became the new focal point for the surrounding farming community. Reverend George Harris became the first pastor and was succeeded by Reverend Harmon Pair who served as pastor for more than 50 years. During his service, Reverend Pair the new church was erected on the site of the first church building. In 1922, Reverend Pair was succeeded by Reverend George Stokes who served until his death in 1972. In recent years, continued increase in attendance and expansion of church services made it necessary for additional space. A large-scale education building, fellowship hall, and sanctuary were completed in 2009 east of the historic church building. The historic church continues to serve as a center of the Riley Hill community.

WA8184 – Rhodes House

1817 Zebulon Road (Zebulon vicinity)

⁴⁵ Riley Hill Baptist Church, "Our History," <http://www.rileyhillbaptistchurch.org/about-us/our-history/>, accessed July 2019.

The Rhodes House is potentially eligible for the National register under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. It is a rare representation of a mid-20th century Period Cottage within eastern Wake County, particularly those within a rural setting. The red-brick dwelling is rectangular in shape with a cross-gable roof. The front (east) massing is side-gabled with a moderately-pitched roof. The house is characterized by its Colonial Revival-stylistics elements including a symmetrical façade with two gabled dormers, and an entry door enhance by a classical surround comprised of fluted pilasters, molded entablature, and topped with a triangular pediment with dentils. The house appears to retain a high degree of its historic design, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, setting, and location. It is an excellent, and rare, representation of an intact Period Cottage in the rural areas of eastern Wake County.

The present 5-acre parcel of agricultural land that contains this homesite once belonged to a larger, 17-acre tract of land referred to as Tract No. 23 of the division of I.M. Proctor Lands. The 17-acre tract of land can be traced to the 1920s with the ownership of R.J. Whitley. By 1941, the same tract was conveyed to E.A. Rhodes and wife, Sarah, by Lola Eddis. It is believed that E.A. Rhodes built the residence shortly following purchasing the property. According to census records, he was a farmer and undoubtedly farmed the small acreage of land on which he built his home. In 1973, E.A. Rhodes, widower, conveyed the 17 acres of land, including the 5-acre tract on which the house currently sits, to Juanita Rhodes Elks. Juanita left her estate to her heirs, Tammy and Sheri in 2009, who occupied the residence until 2018.