

BEAUFORT COUNTY
MUNICIPALITIES SURVEY

2009

Beaufort County Municipal Survey: Introduction

I.0 Project History

This report summarizes the findings of the first phase (Phase 1) of an architectural survey project currently estimated to have three phases. Phase 1 will consist of an architectural survey of six of Beaufort County's (County) seven incorporated municipalities: Washington, Washington Park, Aurora, Belhaven, Pantego and Chocowinity. The Town of Bath is not included in the project as most of its geographic area is included in the National Register-listed Bath Historic District. Phase II and III will record rural resources in both the rural areas and the unincorporated communities of the county.



This project was funded by the City of Washington (City) with a federal matching grant from the National Park Service administered by the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO). The total cost of Phase I was \$43,500. The City provided contract oversight. The County provided GIS-format real estate parcel information. The HPO provided technical expertise regarding the project database and editing of this report and the survey files that were generated. HPO staff also shared

their considerable knowledge of the area's cultural resources and history. The City has been awarded a second matching grant for Phase II.

Beaufort County has not had a comprehensive architectural survey to date. A survey of Washington was undertaken in the late 1970s and resulted in the listing of the Washington Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Roughly 450 properties are included within the district. The Bath National Register District was one of North Carolina's first, listed in 1970.

Approximately 489 Beaufort County survey files are archived at the HPO. Files were generated as a result of a variety of projects such as National Register nominations, road improvement projects, and environmental permits. These properties were recorded on state-issued paper survey forms and 35 mm black and white photographs were taken of each property. The multi-phase Beaufort County survey will provide a more complete picture of the county's architectural heritage.

An important aspect of this project is the use of architectural survey records in digital format, in keeping with HPO-issued standards for architectural surveys (2007). Digital photography and databases will allow local governments and the HPO to map the locations of newly-surveyed historic properties and neighborhoods in a Geographic Information System (GIS), thereby making the survey information more accessible to government agencies and the general public.

1. 2 Scope of Work

Phase I began in August 2008 and was completed on August 15, 2009. The scope of work for Phase I included field visits to approximately 750 properties within six of Beaufort County's incorporated municipalities. Properties meriting survey were identified by the Preservation Specialists of the HPO's Eastern Office. The table below outlines the project timeline.

Product Number	Product	Due Date
1	Attendance at August 2008 Beaufort County Association of Mayors Meeting. Field survey for Washington (approx. 300 properties) and labeled digital photo files.	8/29/08
2	Draft survey files for Washington (with survey forms printed from database, contact sheets, and notes and other associated materials as appropriate).	11/03/08
3	Draft report on Washington's historic architecture with Study List recommendations.	01/02/09

4	Field survey for Washington Park and Aurora (approx. 235 properties) and labeled digital photo files.	12/29/08
5	Draft survey files for Washington Park and Aurora (with survey forms printed from database, contact sheets, and notes and other associated materials as appropriate).	03/27/09
6	Draft report on the historic architecture of Washington Park & Aurora with Study List recommendations.	05/19/09
7	Field survey for Chocowinity and Pantego, (approx. 85 properties) and labeled digital photo files.	07/09/09
8	Presentation of Washington, Washington Park and Aurora SL properties to NRAC	06/11/09
9	Draft survey files for Chocowinity and Pantego, (with survey forms printed from database, contact sheets, and other notes and associated materials as appropriate).	07/29/09
10	Field Survey for Belhaven properties (approx. 150) and labeled digital photo files.	07/09/09
11	Draft survey files for Belhaven (with survey forms printed from database, contact sheets, and other notes and associated materials as appropriate).	08/27/09
12	Draft report on the historic architecture of Belhaven, Pantego, and Chocowinity with Study List recommendations.	08/08/2009
13	Consolidated draft report (with overall methodology, summary etc.) on all surveyed municipalities, plus text and images for Study List presentation for Belhaven, Chocowinity, and Pantego.	08/15/09
14	Final report, files, and maps	08/30/09
15	Presentation of Belhaven, Pantego and Chocowinity SL properties to NRAC	10/20/09
	TOTAL	

1.3 Survey Products

The Phase 1 survey produced five main products: an Access database, paper survey files, digital photographs, maps and a final report. Each of these products is described in more detail below.

Database

At the start of the project, the HPO provided Circa, Inc. with an Access database for recording information about historic properties. This database contains geographical information about each property, such as address and parcel identification number, as well as an architectural and historical description based on analysis of images, past survey work, interviews and other resources. All of the data entry was performed by Circa, Inc. staff. Survey record forms will be housed at the HPO.

The Access database replaces the paper survey forms that have been used by the HPO since the 1970s. In the past, the HPO assigned a unique survey site number only to highly significant properties, which were recorded on forms printed on yellow paper, hence the moniker “yellow form.” City blocks or clusters of less significant properties were recorded on “green forms.” Both yellow and green forms were assigned a survey site number, preceded by a two letter county code, in the case of Beaufort County, “BF.” The survey site number referenced the HPO’s tracking and file organizational system. HPO’s new Access database requires that each individual property be assigned a unique survey site number.

For Phase 1, the HPO allotted survey site numbers BF 490 through BF 1289. (Numbers BF 1234 through BF 1289 were unused and returned to the HPO for future use.) Individual properties previously recorded on yellow forms retained their original survey site numbers.

Paper Files

A paper report form was printed from the database for every property recorded. Groups of roughly 5-10 forms were placed in an HPO-issued envelope. Envelopes containing one survey form were created for highly significant properties, or properties in which an existing envelope was reused. The envelope is labeled with the address(es) or location description of the properties contained within it. For example, an envelope reads “900 block N. Market St., east side, Washington, Beaufort County.” The range of survey site numbers contained within the files is also marked on it, for example “BF490-500.”

The survey forms contain the name, property location, parcel identification number, district or neighborhood association (if any), surveyor identification, construction date and style. Construction dates were based on ones provided in the County tax database. Unless a building has a historically documented construction date (such as a cornerstone, architectural plans or a strong family tradition), “ca.” precedes the date. If the tax database date seemed incompatible with a particular building’s style, a new “circa” date was assigned based on stylistic appearance. Sanborn maps were also used to estimate general construction timeframes.

Properties were named based on building use or ownership, when possible. (Example: “Beaufort County Iron Works,” or “B.F. Bowers House.”) City Directory research was not part of the Phase I survey in

Washington, and therefore many of the properties are identified only as “house.” The task of naming properties in the five remaining municipalities was complicated by the fact that city directories were not made for these locations. Property names in Washington Park, Chocowinity, Aurora, Belhaven and Pantego were identified when possible through informant interviews and review of published and unpublished sources. If the original owner could not be identified by these methods, the building was simply called by its function, such as “house” or “store.” Deed research was not possible within the project timeline, but may be necessary during the preparation of National Register nominations.

The survey envelopes also contain the “contact sheets” of digital prints, location maps, site plans, and notes or other information collected during the project.

Maps

A number of GIS-generated maps were produced by Circa, Inc. for the project. Site files contain maps identifying the location of each parcel surveyed. Boundary maps for each historic district recommended for the state study list are included in the body of the report.

Photographs

Each digital photograph was assigned an electronic label per HPO standards. The photo label begins with the survey site number, followed by the city identifier, address or property name, month and year of the photograph, and the initials of the photographer. If more than one photo of a property was taken, a numeric tag was appended at the end of the photo label. For example, the house at 100 North Market Street, Washington, is electronically labeled as:

BF 490_Washington_100 N Market_8-08_ET.jpg

A second view of the same property, or an outbuilding on the parcel, would be labeled as:

BF 490_Washington_100 N Market_8-08_ET-02.jpg

A few categories of photographs deviate from the above labeling system. In some cases, overall views of streetscapes that do not depict a specific property were taken. Overall images are labeled as such but were not assigned a survey site number. (Example: Washington Market streetscape_8-08_ET.jpg). Images were saved on a DVD and provided to

HPO. On the DVD, each municipality is contained within its own file, and the survey site number arranges each individual photo numerically.

Typical buildings were captured with one or two photographs. Resources with a higher level of architectural or historic significance have more. Most photographs were taken from the public right-of-way, except in cases of public buildings, or ones in which the property owner invited the surveyor into or onto the property.

Obtaining clear views of outbuildings presented a particular challenge. Many were obscured by fences or vehicles. A best-effort was made to photographically capture as much of each outbuilding as possible from the right-of-way. If a photo could not be made, the outbuilding is described in the outbuilding field of the survey form.

Interior photographs were obtained for resources recommended individually for the state study list and significant buildings whose owners allowed access. Surveyors left pre-printed letters requesting interior access and historical information at each municipality's more significant properties. The response to the requests was disappointing overall, but was successful in a few cases.

2.0 WASHINGTON

2.1 Methodology

The City of Washington contains the largest number of recorded properties within Phase I of the 2008-2009 Beaufort County Municipal Survey. A total of 300 resources were surveyed over three field days on August 8, 20, and 21, 2008.

During the course of the survey project, 200 resources were recorded in the North Market Street Survey Area. This survey area centers in North Market one of the city's main thoroughfares. The survey area is roughly bounded by North Market Street from Hackney Street on the south and to East Fifteenth Street to the north. Summit Avenue and Respass Street are the western limit of the survey area. Bonner Street and a portion of Nicholson Street constitute the east boundary.

Additionally, 100 properties were recorded either in small clusters of less than five resources or stand-alone properties of individual significance. These properties were identified by HPO staff prior to the beginning of fieldwork or by Circa, Inc. staff while in the field.

2.2 Recommendations

Based on the results of the survey and limited research, the following resources are believed to be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and are recommended for placement on the state study list. :

- **North Market Street Historic District**

This primarily residential district is potentially eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its architecture. Queen Anne, Neo-classical Revival, Colonial Revival, Craftsman and Ranch styles are represented. The City's best concentration of 1950s Ranch-style houses, many with Colonial Revival details, is located in the western part of the potential district. The quality and integrity of resources in the North Market Street Area is comparable with those in the existing Washington Historic District. However, the North Market Street Area depicts a later period of the city's development, ca. 1900 through circa 1958. The southern blocks of Market Street may be compromised by recent federally-funded foundation elevations project. This area should be carefully evaluated in consultation with the HPO. A map of the proposed National Register boundary is below.

- **Thematic Study of Washington's Cemeteries: Oakview Cemetery and Cedar Hill Cemetery**

Washington has two important public burial grounds. Oakview Cemetery, located on East Fifteenthth Street, was the burial place for Washington's white residents. Burials date from roughly 1795 to the present. It features an unmarked potter's field, and thousands of marked graves and family plots. Cedar Hill Cemetery, distant from the city's historic core at Highland and South Reed Streets, is Washington's surviving African American cemetery. It also has a potter's field and graves marked with stones and vaults. Each cemetery possesses distinctive design elements, such as curvilinear path layouts, mature plantings, notable grave markers and statuary, and fencing. Both cemeteries potentially meet National Register Criterion C and Criteria Consideration D.

- **Beaufort County Iron Works**

The Beaufort Iron Works, 132 West Thirdrd Street, is a highly intact industrial 1937 warehouse and foundry. The warehouse has a stepped parapet roofline with full-length monitor atop the roof ridge. The foundry is a metal covered frame building with a brick blast furnace on the north side. The Ironworks produced a variety of railroad components for the Norfolk and Southern Railroad. This complex is the most intact of several similar ones on West Third Street and is potentially eligible under National Register Criterion C. It also represents the role of industry in Washington's past.

- **Coca-Cola Bottling Plant**

Bottling plants are industrial buildings built for a very specific purpose. Often they are embellished with cast stone or other materials incorporating decorative motifs related to a specific brand. The building at 905 West Fifth Street is an intact example of the building type. It is potentially eligible under National Register Criterion C. The significance and context for this plant can be established by comparing it with others already recorded and/or listed in North Carolina.

The due to the foundation elevations the area listed below was does not retain the requisite integrity for placement on the state study list:

- **Washington Historic District Expansion East/Simmons Street**

Project sponsors requested this area be evaluated for National Register-eligibility. Simmons Street is adjacent to and contiguous with the National Register-listed Washington Historic District's eastern boundary. The area contains five dwellings dating from the early twentieth century. The buildings are similar to others already included in the district.

However, all of these buildings have been elevated on new foundations within the last ten years as a result of federal flood avoidance programs. The elevations have compromised both the integrity of the individual resources and the overall streetscape. Therefore this area is not recommended for placement on the state study list.

2.3 General History of Washington

The City of Washington is located on the north bank of the Pamlico River in Beaufort County. The broad Pamlico is a tidal river formed by the junction of Tar River and Tranters Creek just west of Washington. It empties into the Pamlico Sound approximately five-miles east of Washington. A main transportation artery prior to the advent of rail and auto transport, the Tar River enabled trade between Tarboro, Greenville and points east. Washington's location at the confluence of two rivers and proximity to the open waters of the Pamlico Sound has defined its history.

Beaufort County was settled by the British in the early eighteenth century and by the middle of the century, a small settlement and port known as "Forks of the Tar," later renamed Washington, was established. The community was crucial to supplying the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Washington, named after General George Washington, was incorporated by the North Carolina Legislature in 1782 and became the seat of Beaufort County shortly afterwards in 1785. A 1779 plan of Washington shows sixty lots of equal size laid out in a grid plan (www.lib.unc.edu/dc/ncmaps 10 September 2009).

Beaufort County's early economy relied heavily on harvesting and processing natural resources such as tar, pitch, turpentine, and lumber. Due to its waterfront location, Washington became the point of export for these goods and emerged as the mercantile center of the Pamlico region. Warehouses and wharves were built on the waterfront. Shipyards provided fleets needed for the transport of goods to larger markets up and down the east coast. A merchant class blossomed, building fine homes, churches, and commercial and warehouse buildings.

The town and its people enjoyed success until the hardship of the Civil War. The war damaged both Washington's infrastructure and economy. Federal forces occupied much of the Sound region throughout the war. Union forces captured Washington in March of 1862. Union troops were ordered to evacuate on April 20, 1864. The fires set during their retreat destroyed many antebellum buildings, obliterating the physical vestiges of the first period of settlement. Yet the early street pattern remained.

After the war, Washington's economy was slowly reestablished. The main export continued to be lumber products, and cotton, corn and tobacco became major crops. In 1877 the Jamesville and Washington Railroad and Lumber Company laid Washington's first railroad to transport lumber from the county's forested interior to its docks. In 1892 Washington was added to the Wilmington and Weldon line and in 1904 a substantial brick passenger depot with a connected freight warehouse was built at Main and Gladden Streets. The Norfolk and Southern Rail Road ran through Washington, connecting Greenville with points north and south of Washington. The Atlantic Coast Line terminated in Washington with a branch forking just west of the city, then crossing the Pamlico River, and merging with the Norfolk and Southern Rail Road and heading southeast to Vandemere (1917 Rail Road Map).

By 1900 Washington's population was roughly 5,000. Its role as a port of statewide importance diminished as the centers of industry shifted east to the cities of the Piedmont. However, Washington remained a center of regional commerce, shipping and rail distribution.

The National Register Washington Historic District, listed in 1978, is roughly bounded by Fourth Street on the north, the Pamlico River to the south, Hackney Avenue to the west, and Brown Street to the east. A compact commercial area is centered along Main Street, between Bridge Street and South Market Street, and along South Market Street south of Fourth Street. This roughly five-block area contains two and three-story, brick commercial buildings with glass storefronts. Many of these buildings are typical of early-twentieth-century commercial buildings found throughout the state; however, a few standout buildings are interspersed and provide architectural variety. Their decorative brickwork, classical details and corbelled cornices characterize these more fanciful buildings.

Residential development extends north, west and east from the commercial core of Main Street. The majority of dwellings date from the 1880s through the 1930s and are executed in nationally popular styles such as Italianate, Queen Anne, Neo-classical Revival, Colonial Revival, Craftsman as well as vernacular forms. In total, the district contains roughly 450 residential, institutional, civic and commercial buildings dating from the early nineteenth century through the 1930s. The number and overall quality of the buildings illustrate the importance of the town as a commercial center.

Beginning in the mid-1920s the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh operated two schools, a church and covent in Washington. The Mother of Mercy School and the St. Agnes School, for African American and white children repsectively, were operered through the ealry 1970s. The buildings associated with these activites remain, some are still owned by the Diocese, and will be discussed in more detail in Section 2.4.

Due to fire and demolitions, the ca. 1880 through ca. 1930 period has the highest survival rate for buildings. Important antebellum buildings remain, such as the ca. 1830 Courthouse, the 1854 Bank of Washington, the early nineteenth century Fowle and Havens Warehouses near the waterfront, and scattered houses from the Federal and Greek Revival periods. However, the bulk of Washington's building stock dates from the post-1900 period. Landmark civic buildings include the 1918 Post Office and the 1913 Beaux Arts Courthouse and Post Office. Within the district are scores of simple modestly detailed, frame dwellings, which impart on the district's residential areas a rhythmic streetscape. These dwellings are one and two-story, single-pile or L-plan structures. Porches are ubiquitous, providing shade and shelter, and a canvas on which to distinguish the dwellings with turned and sawn decorative details. Detailed descriptions of building types and styles, as well as a basic history of pre-1930s Washington, can be found in the 1978 National Register Nomination entitled, "Washington Historic District," authored by H. McKeldon Smith and Jim Sumner.

Washington's population grew steadily from the turn of the twentieth century through the 1970s. In 1920 6,300 people lived in the city (Ormond 52). Between the 1930 and the 1950 Washington's population grew from 7,000 to 8,500. A cursory review of 1930s census records indicates that homeownership was at about seventy-five percent, approximately the same figure as it is today. Employment patterns are characteristic of a small city with diverse work opportunities, particularly for whites. Jobs recorded by the census taker include professionals such as doctors, lawyers and teachers; numerous small business owners (such as grocers, merchants, service station owners, automobile dealers, etc.); sales and management; and railroad workers, such as engineers and clerks. Working-class African Americans were employed in the fishing and seafood processing industries, as all manner of "laborers," and domestic servants, although a number of black professionals were recorded as well. By 1950, the population had reached 9,600, and by 1960, 9,900 residents called Washington home. The decades of the 1970s and 1980s saw the population decrease, to a low of approximately 8,000 in 1980 (www.ci.washington.nc.us 11 September 2009).

Today, Washington has a population just under 10,000. Its economy is no longer based on its status as a port. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Washington's largest employment categories are education and health services. State and local government is a significant employer, as are the Beaufort County Hospital and the East Carolina Medial Center in Greenville. Hackney Industries is the world's largest aluminum truck body manufacturer. Fountain Powerboats, a publicly traded company and manufacturer of sport boats, fishing boats, and pleasure craft is also headquartered in the city. (The company employed 450 people at its peak, but filed for Chapter Eleven bankruptcy protection in August of 2009.) Other products manufactured in Washington include diesel fuel pumps and filters, industrial filters, textile yarns, retail display cases, and valves for power plants.

2.4 North Market Street Area

The North Market Street Survey Area consists almost exclusively of residential resources. Its dwellings represent a continuation of the development patterns and architectural types and styles within the Washington Historic District. Sidewalks and planting medians are found intermittently in the area. Mature trees and yard plantings are found throughout, imparting on the neighborhood an established feel.

Beginning around 1900 North Market Street became a desirable location away from the density and bustle of downtown, and Washington's prominent wealthy citizens built impressive homes here. These large and stylish dwellings in particular characterize the north end of the street. Two of these houses have previously been evaluated for the National Register. The Bowers-Trip House, 1040 North Market Street (NR 1999) is substantial two-story, hipped-roof dwelling with classical details and a distinctive green tile roof. At 1001 North Market Street is a similar and related dwelling, the B.F. Bowers House (SL 2006). The construction of these large dwellings, some of the earliest on the street, sparked waves development in the survey area that continued until the late 1950s.

In general, the 1000 and 1100 blocks of North Market Street possess the largest and most high-style dwellings in the study area. The 1200 block has more modest one-story houses. The 700-900 blocks contain plain, two-story frame houses and duplexes from the early twentieth century, perhaps built as speculative housing. On the 700 and 800 blocks a number of dwellings have been elevated on concrete block foundations as are a result of federally-funded flood hazard mitigation projects of the late 1990s. The streets east and west of North Market Street are populated with typical middle-class houses in the Bungalow, Colonial

Revival, Period Cottage and Minimal Traditional styles. Respass, Summit and 12th Streets, in the northwest portion of survey area, are of particular note for their collection of 1950s brick Ranch houses. Summit Street in was outside the city limit until the 1940s.

The Catholic Diocese of Raleigh had a significant impact on the North Market Street survey area. Beginning in the mid-1920s the Diocese assembled a number of building lots and existing structures for purposes of worship and education.

In 1924 under Pope Pius XI the vicariate apostolate of North Carolina became the Diocese of Raleigh, comprising the entire state except for the eight western counties subject to Belmont Abbey. Bishop William Joseph Hafey was named the first bishop in 1925. In the twelve years that Hafey served North Carolina as Bishop, he significantly expanded the statewide system of Catholic primary schools, with particular focus on schools for African American children.

Mother of Mercy High School and Mother of Mercy Elementary School were coeducational Catholic schools for African-American youth in Washington. Both institutions were housed in a two-story stuccoed Neo-Classical Revival-style building erected in 1927 for this purpose located at 107 West Seventh Street (BF 781). Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary from Scranton, Pennsylvania staffed the schools. Founded in 1845, the Sisters ran colleges, schools and hospitals internationally with a focus on “farmers, miners, immigrants, orphans, the sick and homeless, women and children” ([www. ihmnew.marywood.com](http://www.ihmnew.marywood.com) 12 September 2009). Mother of Mercy High School was the first fully accredited Catholic high school in the state Its students went on to Shaw University and North Carolina College for Negroes and graduates were found in “law, teaching, and nursing (Waters 132).” By the late 1950s there were 184 students in the elementary grades (Waters, no page #). The school closed in 1973. Today the school building and brick ca. 1955 Colonial Revival church (BF 782) located at 112 West Ninth Street serve as the religious headquarters and base of community programming for the Mother of Mercy Catholic Church.

In 1929 the Diocese purchased the Judge Halleck Ward House (BF 511), also known as the St. Agnes Convent, located at 1110 North Market Street. They converted the large Neo-classical Revival dwelling to a convent for the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who had been living in a small brick foursquare house east of the school building. A small stuccoed chapel was built north of the main house and a modest one-story concrete block house was erected as a priest’s residence on the

property was well. The property was used as convent until the mid-1960s. In the 1950s the Diocese has built a one-story concrete block Modernist elementary school at 1100 Respass Street. The building housed St. Agnes School an elementary school for white children. This building survives (BF 567), although heavily altered. It is owned by the county and used for the Beaufort County Child Development Center.

Below are representative examples of the various styles of dwellings found in the North Market Street Area. The styles are more full discussed in Section 1 of this report.



119 West 11th Street, ca. 1920s. Example of classic **Bungalow** form: one-and half story height with roof dormer and inset porch under main roofline.



1106 Respass Street, ca. 1920s. The dwelling typifies the **American Foursquare** form.



1102 Summit Avenue. North Market Street Area's best **Georgian Revival** dwelling, well detailed with an elaborate diamond and ellipse frieze



211 W. 11th Street. Tripartite **Federal Revival** house with side hall plan.



1026 Summit Avenue. A simple, symmetrically balanced 1950s **Georgian Revival** dwelling.



1306 North Market Street. Example of **Southern Colonial Revival Dwelling**.



1302 Respass Street. This frame house displays elements of the **Period Cottage** style such as arched entry, front facing gable and façade chimney.



205 W. 11th Street, ca. 1930s. Steeply pitched front-facing gables and the arched entry are suggestive of the **Period Cottage** influence.



1109 Summit Avenue, ca .1945. The dwelling's simple form and details are typical of **Minimal Traditional** houses.

Noteworthy is Washington's small yet distinct collection of *Coastal Cottage Revival* dwellings. Seven of these houses are found scattered throughout the survey area, primarily east of North Market Street. Dating from the 1940s, these one-and-one-half story dwellings have steeply-pitched, side-gable rooflines that transition to engaged porches. Twin, flush-sheathed roof dormers, shouldered end chimneys and 6/6 sashes provide additional references to the colonial era.

213 East 11th Street. Example of a local phenomenon, the **Coastal Cottage Revival**.





1307 Summit Street, ca. 1950s This **Ranch** house nicely illustrates the typical horizontal Ranch form and minimally applied Colonial Revival details, such as fluted entry pilasters a divided-light window sash.



1201 Summit Street, ca .1950s. This **Ranch** house displays more modern elements such as the horizontal metal window sashes and low patio wall.

3.0 WASHINGTON PARK

3.1 Methodology

Washington Park is a .26-square-mile area of twenty blocks east of Washington on the north bank of the Pamlico River. The incorporated area is bounded by Snode Creek to the north, Spruce Street to the east, the Pamlico Sound to the south, and Edgewater Street the west. Each property within the incorporated boundary was evaluated during the survey. A total of 186 resources, out of roughly 210 primary resources within the town, were selected for recordation. Dwellings less than forty-five years of age are clustered at the east end of town on the 500 block of Isabella Street and on Shorewood Drive. These properties were not recorded. Survey work was performed over three field days on November 14 and December 5 and 12, 2008.

Eight survey files existed prior to the commencement of Phase I of the Beaufort County survey. The 1913 McMullen-Rumley House (BF 470), 400 Riverside Drive, was placed on the state Study List in 2006. The Washington Park Historic District (BF 229) was determined eligible for listing (DOE) in the National Register in 1997 as a part of the Section 106 process undertaken by FEMA after Hurricane Fran. FEMA created six survey files, numbers BF 457 through BF 462, for properties proposed for foundation elevation with FEMA funds. These properties are 201 and 212 Isabella Street; 201 Edgewater Drive; and 106 and 100 Edgewater Drive; and 222 River Road.

Neither Sanborn maps nor city directories were made for Washington Park. Therefore, research was based on interviews, newspaper articles, published and non-published local histories and U.S Census records. A complete list of sources organized by municipality is included in the bibliography at the end of this report. Two in-depth interviews were conducted in Washington Park on December 5, 2008. Tom Richter has served as the town's mayor since 1976. Walter Bowen, Jr. is the current Town Clerk, a position he has held for 40 years. The men provided information regarding the town's history, physical development, and current and historical property ownership. Several other short interviews were conducted by telephone, email, and U.S. mail. Records of these interviews have been placed in the survey files.

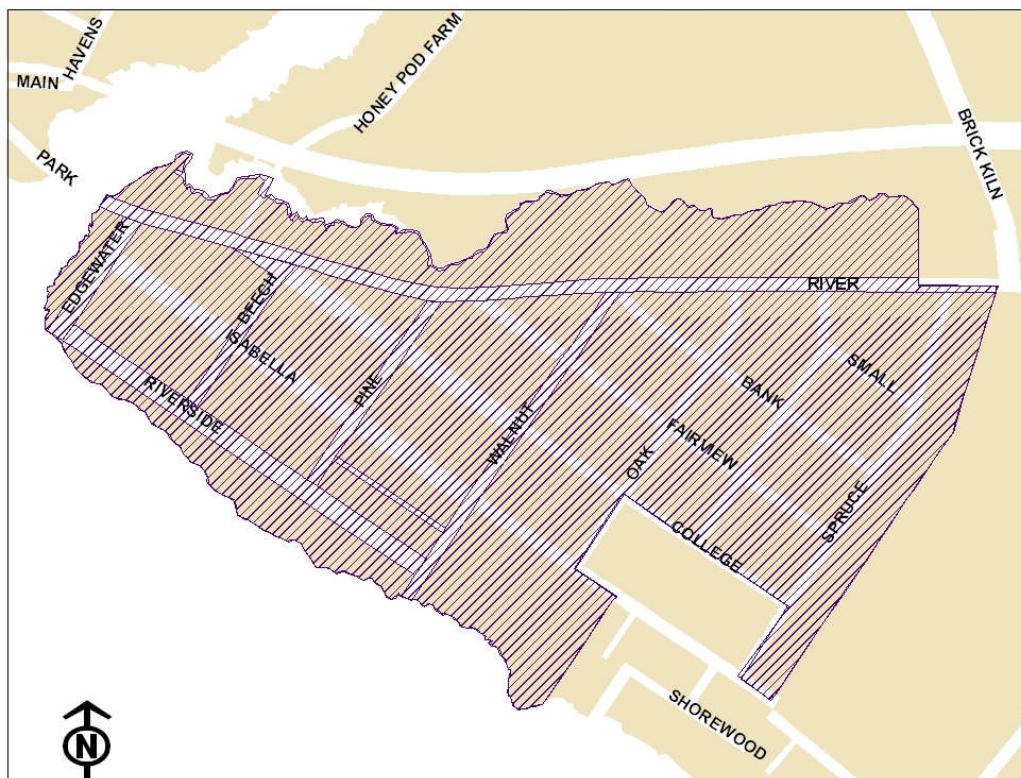
3.2 Recommendations

Based on the results of the survey and research, the following resources are believed to be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places:

- **Washington Park Historic District**

The area proposed for National Register listing is shown below. The potential historic district is larger than the one determined eligible for the National Register in 1997. The 1997 and 2009 recommended boundaries are the same on the north, south and west sides, but the 1997 boundary ends at East Pine Street. As a result of the Phase I survey it is recommended that the eastern district boundary be extended to Spruce Street.

The proposed district is completely residential. There are no commercial, institutional or religious uses, with the exception of the town hall. However, this building was constructed in a residential style to blend with its surroundings. In addition to an excellent collection of early-to-mid-twentieth-century dwellings, Washington Park's riverside setting, mature live oaks, and narrow streets with planted medians distinguish the district. The district is potentially eligible under Criterion C, for its setting and architecture, and possibly Criterion A for community planning.



Recommended Boundary Washington Park National Register Historic District

- **McMullen-Rumley House, 400 Riverside Drive**

This Colonial Revival dwelling on a 1.7-acre river front parcel was placed on the state Study List in 2006 at the owner's request. The dwelling was designed by Rocky Mount architect John Christie Stout around 1912. The study list application states that the house is significant for its association with Harry McMullen, who served as North Carolina's Attorney General from 1938 through 1955, and also for the "finely-detailed and very intact, two-story Colonial Revival-style residence." The house was remodeled some time after 2006. Large additions were built on both side elevations and the guesthouse was elevated to accommodate two garage bays below the living space. The interior was not accessed and we were unable to access its integrity of the interior spaces and floor plan. The house has been significantly altered since 2006, and we do not believe that it maintains its eligibility for the National Register.

3.3 General History of Washington Park

The picturesque community of Washington Park grew from the riverside summer home plantation of John Humphrey and Isabella (Sally) Small (McMullen-Rumley SL). Local tradition states that the Small's 1836 house "Cedar Grove" was burned by Federal troops at the close of the Civil War (Small; Jackson 1; Thornburgh interview). John and Isabella had three children, John, Jr, Whitmell and Fanny. The family's winter home was on Water Street in Washington.

John H. Small, Jr. (1858-1946) studied law at Trinity College (later Duke University) and set up practice in Washington in 1881. A successful lawyer, Small held several local elected offices, including Mayor of Washington from 1889-1890. He was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1899 and served ten terms, the final one ending on March 3, 1921 (Powell 423). Around 1904 Small purchased the land associated with Cedar Grove from his brother and sister, Dr. Whitmell Small and Fanny Lyon (Small). Small subdivided the land into a community of building lots and renamed the plantation "Washington Park."

Washington Park's most distinguishing feature is its location on the Pamlico River. Within this waterfront park-like setting is laid a grid pattern of curbsless, narrow, concrete streets. There are no sidewalks in the town as the streets, particularly in the older portion west of Walnut Street, are narrow by today's standards, designed to accommodate only local traffic. The most desirable lots are on Riverside Drive and have water views and access. Waterfront parks are located on the south side of

Riverside Drive between Pine and Walnut Streets, and on the west side of Edgewater Drive. The current setting has been altered little over the years.

Several early accounts state that Andrew Hathaway of Norfolk, Virginia assisted Small in laying out Washington Park's streets and lots, and with the landscaping and plantings. It is not known if Hathaway was professional landscape designer, or a business partner or friend of Small's. Local accounts suggest that Hathaway played a significant role in the early development of the town. He built the first house, the Hathaway-Bell House at 206 Riverside Drive (BF 790), on the site of the former Cedar Grove plantation, around 1905. The plantation's original detached kitchen was incorporated into the Queen Anne-style dwelling. The lot originally spanned the area between Beech and Pine streets on Riverside Drive. The south edge of the lot had three hundred feet of river frontage. The original lot has since been subdivided, and there are currently five dwellings on the block. Since 1924 the property has been in the Caleb Bell family, who operated a small farm on the property, with cows, chickens, a smoke house, and a large garden.

Another early dwelling in "the Park," as residents fondly referred to the new development, was that of Dr. Whitmell Small. Whitmell graduated from New York University Medical School some time around 1880. After practicing for twenty-five years in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, he returned to Washington Park around the time of the plantation's subdivision in 1904 (Small). Hathaway built for Dr. Small the two-story hipped-roof shingled house at 300 Riverside Drive (BF 795). The house has a one-story wrap-around porch with a central double-height section, all supported by distinctive shingled porch posts. John Small chose two smaller lots between Dr. Small's house and Walnut Street, but never built a dwelling in Washington Park.

By the mid-1920s about ten dwellings had been built in the Park, although many more building lots had been sold (Ritcher interview; Petition of Incorporation). In addition to the Smalls and the Hathaways, early residents included the Tanfields (ca. 1908 house at 309 Isabella Avenue/BF 816), McMullens, Simmons Russes, O'Neills, Janettes, and the Flynns (Small 3). In May of 1923, fifty landowners and/or residents of Washington Park petitioned the Secretary of State to "organize a municipal corporation." The assessed value of the land at that time was \$140, 810. The petition was granted on August 28, 1923. W.N. Everett, Secretary of State of North Carolina, appointed Dr. Whitmell Small mayor and the following commissioners: C.A. Flynn, I.V. Turner, C.R. Campbell, Ada M. Pegram, and Alice T. Rankin (Petition of Incorporation). Mayor

Richter notes that the movement toward incorporation began over the refusal of some property owners to pay required homeowners dues. Funds were needed to pave the streets, install telegraph poles and maintain the riverfront park. Incorporation enabled the town to collect taxes for public works projects.

The unofficial “outline map” attached to the petition shows the municipal boundaries and street plan as they remain to this day. Riverside Drive, Isabella Avenue, College Avenue and River Road run east-west. North-south streets are, beginning in the west, Edgewater Street, Beech Street, Pine Street, and Walnut Street. The land east of Walnut Street was not residentially developed until after the Depression, as it was occupied by the Washington Collegiate Institute (W.C.I.) until then. A 1923 plat depicts a large block containing the campus, bounded by Walnut Street on the west, College Street on the south, Maple Branch to the north, and on the east by a street of undetermined name. The school had an impact on the social life and physical development of Washington Park, particularly the development of the street plan east of Walnut Street as the east-west streets of Fairview, Bank and Small Streets were cut sometime after the early 1930s when W.C.I. was closed. This explains the later construction dates and building styles east of Walnut Street.

W.C.I. was a co-educational school founded by the Blue Ridge Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the mid-nineteenth century the church split into northern and southern denominations over the issue of slavery. The Blue Ridge Conference had remained loyal to the northern churches. The conference drew its membership from the coastal communities of North Carolina and Virginia, and the mountains of North Carolina. Established by a donation of twenty-eight acres in Washington Park by John H. Small, who would become a trustee, and Mrs. W.P. Maugham, W.C.I. opened in October of 1913. The campus was enlarged in 1919 when the trustees purchased an additional fifty acres “(Catalogue” 11).

In the 1920-1921 school year the Institute had a total of 229 students listed under the following categories: seniors, juniors, sophomores, freshmen, commercial, sub-preparatory, primary and music (W.C.I. Catalogue 1920-1921). A photograph in the 1920-1921 promotional catalogue shows a substantial two-story, Classical Revival-style brick “Main Building” with a massive pedimented portico with Corinthian columns (now demolished). Also pictured is a two-story, hipped-roof dwelling with a wrap-around porch, which was the home of the Institute’s president Maynard O. Fletcher. The “President’s House” (BF 863) remains at 320 College Street, although with vinyl siding and an

altered porch. The catalogue also contains a drawing of a massive Georgian Revival-style girl's dormitory and states "the building is now in the process construction...and every effort will be made to have the dormitory ready for occupation next fall." Prior to completion of the new dorm, the Institute rented all or parts of the "Old Small Homestead" (BF 795), the Hathaway-Bell House (BF 790), and the John Woolard House to accommodate boarders ("Catalogue" 11; Bell family letter). The 1930 U.S. Census population schedule shows that both teachers and students continued the practice of lodging with local residents.

The school was "one of the most highly respected private schools in North Carolina" (Loy and Worthy 264). It was known for its state champion debating team and its excellence in music, foreign language and secretarial instruction. There were two literary societies at the Institute: the Athenian Society for young men, and the Pamliconian Society for young women. All students were expected to join the societies and participate in the numerous academic competitions sponsored by them. The school also operated a farm on which male students were expected to work; female students worked in the dining room or kitchen.

Sadly, W.C.I. could not survive the economic conditions of the Depression. Many parents could no longer afford their children's tuition, and church and state-provided scholarships also dried up. The school closed sometime in the early 1930s. Charles Flynn, who had built one of the early houses on Riverside Drive and was a trustee of the Institute, purchased the land east of Walnut Street and converted the main campus building to apartments. Flynn died in 1939, but his daughter Elizabeth continued to oversee the development of the east side of town (Jackson 4). In July of 1974 the town demolished the deteriorated old main campus buildings with plans to place recreational facilities on the site. However, that plan never materialized. The block bounded by Isabella Avenue, Oak Street, Spruce Street and College Avenue was the location of the demolished building (Richter interview). Modern houses have been constructed on this block, all of which is located outside the potential historic district.

The history of Washington Park consists mainly of its physical and political development and of the personal histories of the families that live there, as the Park has no local economy of its own. Its population has remained remarkably stable since the 1950s. The town cannot grow beyond the geographical confines of the Pamlico River and Runyon and Snode Creeks. Today there are 456 residents living in the community's 210 dwellings (Richter interview: US Census). Mayor Richter, who has served in the capacity since 1976, estimates that roughly half of the

population are retired persons; the other half work locally either at East Carolina University (10%-15 %) or as professionals in Washington. In 2000 the median household income was \$45,972, significantly higher than that of Beaufort County, which census records list as \$31,066 (www.epodunk.com 1 May 2009).

Washington Park is bounded by three watercourses. That Pamlico River forms the town's southern boundary and Snode Creek and Runyan Creek form the northern and western boundaries, respectively. Its average above-sea-level elevation is only ten feet. Due its location and topography, Washington Park experienced a series of storm-related floods in the late 1990s, with the most severe flooding a result of Hurricanes Bertha and Fran in 1996.

At the close of the 1996 storm season the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) made grant funds available to North Carolina local governments through its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The grants could be used to demolish buildings within the flood plain or to elevate existing ones above flood levels. The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management administered the program and distributed the funds. Within the proposed Washington Park Historic District, eighteen dwellings were placed on elevated foundations, or just less than ten percent of the 186 resources surveyed. Most of the elevated properties are located in the western half of the district where flooding was most severe.

The *overall* effects of the building elevations on the district are not adverse. If a National Register nomination is prepared in the future, the elevated structures may not be classified as contributing, even if they retain a high degree of material integrity. However, the town's historic street layout, setting and landscape features were not altered by the elevations. These significant design features continue to convey their historic significance.

3.4 Architecture in Washington Park

Washington Park is notable as a municipality with only one building type: domestic. Unlike most communities, Washington Park does not have a commercial or industrial center that provides the foundation for a local economy. The total dominance of residential buildings demonstrates Washington Park's status a bedroom community for Washington and Greenville and its early development as a waterfront retreat.

The historic architectural styles found in Washington Park include nationally popular styles from the early-to-mid-twentieth century. Craftsman-influenced houses are seen in both bungalow and Foursquare forms. Revivals based on classical precedents were a popular choice and built from the 1910s through the mid 1960s. A few Period Cottages, essentially unadorned Tudor Revival-style dwellings, were built in the 1930s. Simple Minimal Traditional-style dwellings with modest detailing are found on the less expensive lots located on the streets back from the river. Ranch style houses became popular in the 1950s and Washington Park has a large number of them. They vary in size, and detailing runs the gamut between the conservatism of the Colonial Revival and bold Modernist motifs.

Development in Washington Park occurred piecemeal as owners acquired lots and built homes, sometimes years after purchasing the land. However, it can be generally said that the first wave of construction spanning 1904 through ca. 1930 occurred west of Walnut Street, with the very first dwellings constructed on Riverside Drive and Isabella Avenue. The earliest east-west streets can be identified by the presence of the planting medians in the center. The Park's grandest dwellings, in terms of stylistic detail and size, are on the north side of Riverside Drive, with views of the Pamlico River. The houses on the 400 block of Riverside Drive are accessed from the rear of their lots via Isabella Avenue. The facades of these Colonial Revival-style dwellings can only be viewed from the river, contributing to the feeling of privacy and exclusivity.

The closure of the Washington Collegiate Institute after the Depression allowed the lots east of Walnut Street to turn to residential use. Therefore, the district's Ranch-style houses and a fine collection of mid-century Colonial Revival-style dwellings are concentrated here.

In Washington Park, perhaps more than in any other municipality in Beaufort County, the natural location and planned landscape take center stage and should be considered a historic resource unto itself. The Park's waterfront location, grid street plan, planting medians, mature trees and plantings, and the gardens of individual dwellings provide a picturesque backdrop for its diversity of architectural styles.

A discussion of the architectural styles of Beaufort County's municipalities, including Washington Park, is found in Section 1 of this report. Below are examples of the styles discussed in Section 2. Survey files provide a complete photographic inventory of Washington Park and record the full collection of local resources.

Craftsman

308 College Street (BF 866), ca. 1919: This house is a classic example of the one-and-one-half-story bungalow form with Craftsman details which include the tapered porch columns on brick piers, the exposed rafter ends and the 4/1 configuration of the window sash.

218 College Street (BF 870), ca. 1930: This house is an intact example of a one-story bungalow with simple Craftsman details.

Foursquare

304 Isabelle Avenue (BF 830), ca. 1909: This frame foursquare is a good representative of this early-twentieth-century house form. Its square massing, hipped roof with deep overhanging eaves, and wide, plain frieze board are important design element of the Foursquare. Other variations of the form are found at 300 Isabella Avenue, 216, 300 and 314 College Street.

Colonial Revival

The Colonial Revival style is the most prevalent architectural style in Washington Park. There are many variations on traditional or classical design motifs, including Georgian, Federal, and Dutch Colonial Revival. In some cases, the ornamentation does not represent a strict adherence to an earlier period or style, but rather uses a creative application of details loosely based on earlier precedents.

615 Bank Street (BF 904), ca. 1952. This Georgian Revival dwelling was built in 1952. Characteristic of the Georgian period are the five -bay façade, with its central projecting entry bay with a paneled entry and brick quoins.

316 Riverside Drive (BF 798), ca. 1915: This two-and-one-half story, five-bay dwelling has a well-executed half-round Federal-style entry porch topped by a wrought iron balustrade. The delicate patterns of leaded glass around the entry are a hallmark of Federal architecture. Note here the delicate spiderweb fanlight and X-and-O pattern sidelights.

216 Isabella Drive (BF 833), ca. 1940. This dwelling combines elements of both the Craftsman (4/1 windows) and Colonial Revival (dentil molding freize, etc) styles.

On the 400 block of Riverside Drive are adjacent dwellings embodying a form particular to coastal North Carolina: the two-story, double pile house with an engaged piazza, or porch, where the porch roof is incorporated into the main roof structure rather than being appended to

it (Bishir 21). These grand dwellings, often plantation seats, were built in the first half of the nineteenth century. They were commonly constructed on waterfront locations. Sandy Point in Chowan County and China Grove in Pamlico County just two examples of the form.

416 and 420 Riverside Drive are twentieth century interpretations of this early style. The form's use in Washington Park is appropriate for the private mini-estates at the east end of Riverside Drive.

416 Riverside Drive (BF 804), ca.1940: This two-story house is flanked by one-story wings. The two-story engaged porch faces the river and has a Chippendale balustrade. The second story of the porch is supported by oversized brackets.

420 Riverside Drive (BF 805), ca. 1935: This dwelling has an engaged "Mount Vernon" porch. It also has a Federal-style entrance with a fanlight and sidelights.

316 College (BF 864), ca. 1952. Yet another example of a modest Colonial Revival-style dwelling. Details to note are the arcaded porch frieze and the 6/6 windows with paneled aprons.

Dutch Colonial Revival

106 Riverside Drive (BF 460), ca. 1931. The Dutch Colonial Revival is defined principally by its distinctive gambrel roof line and second story dormers. There are five examples of the style in Washington Park: 306 Isabella and 106, 210, 212 and 322 Riverside Drive.

209 College Street (BF 844), ca. 1954. This one-and-one-half story house nicely illustrates the use of Colonial-inspired detailing on a modestly-sized dwelling. Note the broken pediment entry surround with fluted pilasters and the 8/8 window sashes with shutters.

Period Cottage

402 Walnut Street (BF 935), 1952. This is one of two Period Cottage dwellings in the district. The steeply pitched front facing wing, façade chimney and arched entry are characteristic of the style.

Ranch

106 Spruce Street (BF 930), ca. 1950: This brick gabled-roof Ranch-style dwelling has Colonial Revival detailing. Fluted pilasters flank the recessed entry and sidelights. The windows have paneled shutters.

620 Bank Street, (BF 905) ca. 1954: This Ranch house has a shallow hipped-roof with deep overhanging eaves that gives it a more modern appearance than the gabled-roof Ranch at 106 Spruce Street.

BF 852/Roberson House, 313 College Street, 1950. Built in 1950, this sprawling and low-slung gabled-roof Ranch is the district's best example of Ranch style architecture. Contrasting with its traditional weatherboard sheathing are distinctly modern details such as banded awning windows and fretwork sidelights.

4.0 Pantego

4.1 Methodology

The town of Pantego is located on the north side of the Pamlico River in Pantego Township twenty-five miles east of the Beaufort County seat of Washington. US Highway 264 passes through the town. The incorporated area is small, and historic buildings are scattered on both sides of US 264 and Latham, Maple and Elm Streets. The most recent US Census lists 168 residents of Pantego (www.epodunk.com 1 September 2009)

Prior to the Phase I Beaufort County Architectural Survey, there were seventeen survey files for Pantego properties. Pantego has one property in the National Register; the ca. 1874, 1915 Pantego Academy (BF18) was listed in 1984.

The 2008-2009 survey consisted of updating existing files that could be located and creating 30 new ones using the HPO provided Access database and digital photography. Survey site numbers were assigned to each primary resource that did not already have one. Fieldwork was preformed on June 2 and 3, 2009.

The following properties have been demolished:

- Weeping Mary Church of Christ (BF 239). This property was placed on the state study list in 1998. It was destroyed by fire in the early 2000's and is no longer eligible for the National Register.
- The Cullifer Store (BF 11), located on the east side of Latham Street.
- The Windley Houses (BF 21 and BF 22), on the east side of Maple Street, were demolished.
- Frisbee-Olds-O'Neil House (BF 13), intersection of NC 99 and 264. This was demolished sometime after the mid-1990s.

The following properties have been previously evaluated for National Register eligibility and remain potentially eligible:

- Pantego Historic District (BF 186). This potential district was placed on the state study list in 1980 and is discussed in more detail below.
- Pantego Jail (BF 169). This small board-and-batten building was placed on the state study list in 1982. The structure has been moved, but it may merit listing under Criterion C only, as an intact example of a rare building type.

As mentioned above, the Pantego Historic District was first evaluated for the study list in 1980. A district boundary was not drawn at the time, but the general area was found to have a concentration of historic resources with good integrity. In the mid-1990s the area was reevaluated by HPO staff as part of the fieldwork for the publication of *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*. Construction of a large new Electrical Cooperative building at the southeast corner of US 264 and Church Street was noted to negatively impact the district, but overall the district retained its historic character. With the exception of the demolition of the Weeping Mary Church of Christ, the Windley Houses, Cullifer Store, and the Frisbee-Olds-O'Neil House, the 2008-2009 survey found no other significant changes in the integrity of resources.

4.2 Recommendations

Based on the results of the survey and research, the following resources are believed to be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places:



Hebron Methodist Church (BF 14). The church was built by local builder David Wilkinson in 1895. A Sunday school wing was added to the rear in

the mid 1950s. The handsome Gothic Revival frame church has a steeply-pitched front gable main block and a square corner entry tower, which, unfortunately, has lost its steeple. However, the church does retain a significant amount of original material such as weatherboard siding, faux buttresses at each corner and pointed-arch double-hung windows with wood shutters. The open plan interior retains plaster walls and a dramatic ceiling with a grid pattern of beams with rondells at each corner. Each panel is sheathed with narrow beadboard in alternating horizontal and diagonal patterns. There are lancet arched window and door surrounds with paneled doors. The chandelier and pews are also original to the building. The building is potentially eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. It also meets Criteria Consideration A for Religious Properties.

The following buildings are potentially eligible based on their exterior appearance only and associations with individuals important to the history of Pantego. Interiors were not viewed during the 2009 Survey:



Blount-Jones House (BF 9). 25889 Main St., 1869. Pantego's only example of a Gothic Revival cottage.



Simmons-Credle House (BF 10). 25915 Main St., ca. 1850s, 1890. Home to prominent physician Edmund Credle. A mid-nineteenth century house overbuilt with an Eastlake wing, porch and detailing.



Rosenwald School (BF 1076). A one-story brick school building built for African American children with partial funding from the Julius Rosenwald Foundation.

4.3 History of Pantego

The site of present-day Pantego was part of a three-hundred acre tract acquired by Phenias and Rothius Latham from the Lord's Proprietors in 1777 (Loy and Worthy 271). Historical references suggest there was an established settlement at Pantego by the early 1800s and by 1828 Pantego had its own post office (Powell, *Gazetteer*). The Town of Pantego was incorporated in 1881. At this time it was predominantly a farming community which also relied heavily on timber harvesting and processing.

United States population census records provide a snapshot of life in Pantego Township in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. 1880 census entries depict a rural township of approximately 400 households. Residents were almost completely dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. Almost all male residents, both black and white,

were listed by the census enumerator as farmers, farm laborers, or “works on farm.” Women were denoted as “keeping house,” and a few were employed as seamstresses or domestics. By 1910, the Town of Pantego had a population of 325 (approximately double what it is today), and its economy appears to have diversified somewhat. Although most adults recorded by the census still had agricultural-based jobs, increasing numbers were employed in the timber industry. Loggers, sawyers, saw mill workers and log train conductors are the lumber-related occupations denoted. The 1930 census reveals that the number and size of farms was decreasing in the township, following statewide trends. Agriculture and the lumber industry were still major employers, but many people made their living in the skilled trades as painters, carpenters, bricklayers, blacksmiths, and auto mechanics. Service jobs such as barbers, merchants, store clerks, chauffeurs also rose in number. A few professionals were listed as well such as teachers, lawyers and medical doctors. Dr. Edward Credle, M.D. is listed in Pantego with a home (BF 10) valued at \$2,500. The presence of what was then Pantego High School was also an evident part of the local economy. The dwelling of Josephus Parker had eight teachers boarding in the home.

There are three church buildings in Pantego, the same number noted in a 1931 Duke University study of the county’s churches (Ormond 53). The churches were important social institutions to which the town’s prominent families, such as the Clarks, Windleys, Whitleys and Credles belonged. The origins of each of the three congregations date from prior to the Civil War, but the antebellum church structures have been lost. The frame Gothic Revival –style Hebron Methodist Church (BF 14) was built ca. 1895 on land donated by local resident and Pantego Academy benefactor Walter Clark (survey file). Pantego Christian Church (BF 19) was built by the Disciples of Christ denomination in 1876. The congregation was formed in 1830 and the denomination was Beaufort County’s largest by the early twentieth century (Ormond 55). The pedimented front-gable church, now covered with vinyl siding, was built around 1876; its one-bay columned entry pavilion was added around 1900 at the same time as the rear addition. Weeping Mary Church of Christ (BF 239) was a 1860s building, which was destroyed by fire and has been replaced with a new vinyl-clad church building.

From the mid-1870s through late 1960s the history of this small northeastern Beaufort county town is inextricably linked with the Pantego Academy (later the Pantego High School). The presence of this institution makes the history of Pantego distinct from that of other small, rural agricultural communities. The school provided instruction prior to

widespread and effective public education, and most of Pantego's prominent residents were involved with establishing and operating the school over the years of its existence.

In 1874 the Pantego Educational Association was established to create a private school. The group was comprised of thirteen local men, most of whom were farmers, but one medical doctor and two merchants also participated (NRN 8.1). This dedicated group was particularly progressive and ambitious, as the state's system of public education had collapsed with the Civil War. (Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries* 418-419). In an effort to resurrect it, the state constitution of 1868 included minimum requirements for public education, but this mandate was largely unfunded. During the years of Reconstruction the difficulty of day-to-day survival resulted in a popular indifference to education. The lack of tax revenue, poor popular opinion and the necessity of child labor left North Carolina with the highest rate of childhood illiteracy in the US; in 1880 only one-third of the state's children attended school (420). The private academy, or subscription school, was the only education available to many children. Prior to ca. 1879 the children of Pantego were schooled in the second story hall of the Grange building (no longer standing). Pantego Academy filled a void in rural education through 1907 when Governor Charles B. Aycock's educational initiatives began to have widespread effect and the Academy was converted to a public school (Loy and Worthy 271).

In 1874, local merchant and association member Walter Clark donated one acre of land to the association. This parcel is the same one on which the Pantego Academy (BF 18) now sits. The Pantego Academy National Register nomination describes the first academy building as a front-gable, two-story, frame structure with a centrally placed double-leaf entry and 6/6-window sash (7.1). Accounts vary, but the school opened sometime between 1875 and 1879. The co-educational class was all white, and had twenty-seven students. Henderson Snell was the first principal.

Pantego Academy was converted to a public school in 1907. This year marked the start of a decades long expansion of the original Academy site to a public educational complex, only two buildings of which remain: the original ca. 1874 Academy and a ca. 1965 brick cafeteria. In 1910 a county bond was passed to fund expansion of the Academy to its present eight-bay appearance. A two-story rear addition was built. It was also at this time that the school's distinctive exterior split stair was constructed. By 1917 a two-story frame dormitory with a clipped front-gable roofline

had been constructed west of the Academy. This building was moved to an unknown location in the 1940s. (Hamilton, "History"). There was also a gable-front teacherage, demolished in the 1960s (Hamilton, "More History").

In 1925 a substantial two-story brick school for white students, recently demolished, was constructed on the campus west of the Academy and east of NC 99 (Hamilton, "History"; "Beaufort County Schools Property Report"). The Academy building was converted to a grammar school in 1937 with the assistance of W.P.A. funds and workers and the 1925 brick building was renamed Pantego High School. In 1944 the Academy building was remodeled yet again as a lunchroom for the complex; it served in this capacity until the brick cafeteria presently standing on NC 99 was built in the mid-1960s. Also, around 1965, a new elementary school, now demolished, was built on site (Loy and Worthy 271).

Pantego was a center for African-American public education in eastern Beaufort County after the turn of the twentieth century. The first black school was constructed with funds from the Julius Rosenwald Foundation in 1920. In total, there were six Rosenwald-funded schools built in Beaufort County (www.rosenwald.fisk.edu 8 September 2009). The first, a frame, four-room school, was destroyed by fire on November 21, 1921 shortly after its completion. A second and more substantial brick, eight-teacher "training school" or high school was built in 1927 with \$1,800 from the Rosenwald Foundation and almost \$16,000 from local school funds and private donations of black and white residents. This Rosenwald School (BF 1076) still stands on Swamp Road. It later became Beaufort County Elementary school, and closed in 2001.

In the 1950s Pantego High School had 18 teachers and 300 students. Students came to Pantego from the surrounding communities of Ransomville, Winsteadville and Terra Ceia. The county built a new large integrated consolidation school near Yeatesville for the students of Pantego, Bath and Belhaven in the late-1960s and high school students were moved there. Elementary-age children remained in the new brick school at the site. The Pantego Alumni Association bought the ca. 1874 Academy building from the county in 1966. The school has been restored and is now used as a museum.

5.0 Belhaven

5.1 Methodology

The town of Belhaven is located at the confluence of Pantego Creek and the Pungo River in northeastern Beaufort County. Belhaven is thirty miles east of the county seat of Washington. The major road to and from Belhaven is US 264. The US 264 Bypass skirts the west side of town. Present-day US 264 Business is the original business corridor and is also known as Pamlico Street. Pamlico Street runs from southwest to northeast, roughly bisecting the town. The town's grid pattern streets are laid on either side of Pamlico Street to the northwest and southeast. There are approximately 1,900 citizens in Belhaven (epodunk.com 1 September 2009).

Prior to the Phase I Beaufort County Architectural Survey, there were forty survey files for properties in Belhaven. About 30% of these were created or revised by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 1996 as the products of a mitigation project to be described in more detail in Section 7.4. Below is a list of properties previously evaluated for National Register-eligibility prior to the 2008-2009 survey.

- Belhaven City Hall (BF 24), 211-215 E. Main Street, listed in the National Register in 1981.
- Belhaven Historic District (BF 228), determined eligible for the National Register in 1995 by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. (No longer eligible.)
- Robert L. Phelps House (BF 467), 110 Lamont Street. This property was placed on the state study list in 2005. A nomination was prepared and the HPO determined the house was not eligible due to its elevated foundation.
- John A. Wilkinson High School (BF 233), 100 W. Main Street. This property was placed on the state study list in 1998. Remains eligible.

The 2008-2009 survey consisted of updating forty existing files. Two files, BF 485 and BF 486, were found to have been assigned site numbers previously, BF 26 and BF 36 respectively. The lower site numbers were used and BF 485 and BF 486 remain unassigned. Circa created 110 new survey files and updated thirty-eight existing ones using the HPO provided Access database and digital photography. Survey site numbers were assigned to each primary resource that did not already have one. Fieldwork was performed on June 1 and June 2, 2009.

Published sources provided broad historical background for the town, but in most cases ownership and occupant information could not be directly tied to specific buildings. Historical city directories were not made for Belhaven. Research was based on interviews, census information, Sanborn maps for the years 1911, 1924 and 1933, published books and articles, and materials in the vertical files at the Brown Library in Washington, North Carolina. A complete list of sources organized by municipality is included in the bibliography at the end of this report.

5.2 Recommendations

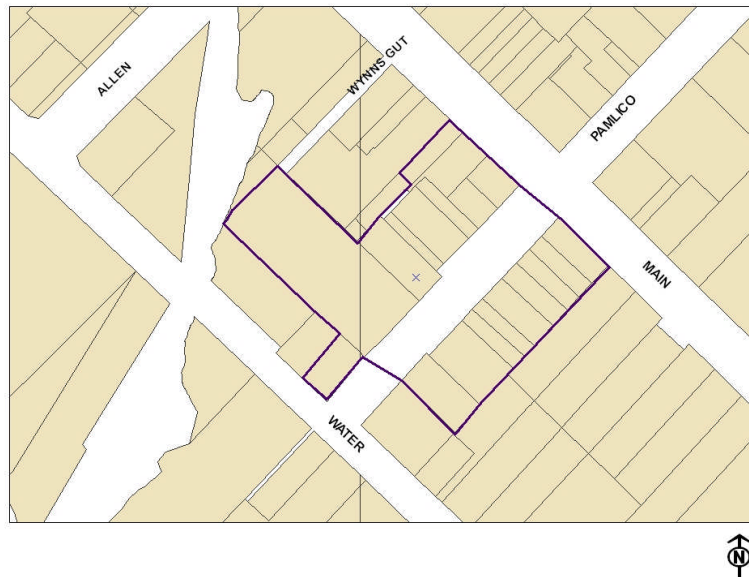
Based on the results of the survey and research, the following resources are believed to be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places:

- **Belhaven Commercial Historic District**

The Belhaven Historic District was determined eligible for the National Register in 1995 as part of a HUD-funded housing rehabilitation project. The district contained both commercial and residential resources. The district's eligibility was confirmed in 1998 by FEMA. However, since 1998 significant changes (explained in greater detail in Section 7.4) have taken place, and the district no longer retains the requisite physical integrity for National Register listing. The recommended Belhaven Commercial Historic District consists of the core commercial area that was included within the larger 1995 Belhaven Historic District boundary.

The recommended district contains approximately fifteen properties on the 200 block of Pamlico Street between Main and Water Streets, and three buildings that front E. Main Street northwest of its intersection with Pamlico Street. The buildings are all brick commercial structures dating from ca. 1910 through ca. 1950. A map of the recommended district boundary is shown below. The district is potentially eligible under Criterion C, for its architecture.

Proposed Belhaven Commercial District



• **John A. Wilkinson House/River Forest Manor**

This massive waterfront Classical Revival house with a monumental Ionic portico was built around 1899 for local lumber baron John Aaron Wilkinson. Wilkinson owned shares of the Belhaven Lumber Company and the R.L. Roper Lumber Company, was a vice-president of the Norfolk and Southern Railroad, and was a land speculator heavily involved in the development of Belhaven. In the 1940s the property was converted to “River Forest Manor,” a hotel, restaurant and marina popular with travelers along the Intracoastal Waterway. The property is significant for its association with Wilkinson and its architecture. Of particular note are the dwelling’s impressive interiors of Classical and Craftsman influence with unpainted oak paneling, tiled fireplaces, ornate plastered ceilings and frescoes.

The dwellings below have excellent exterior integrity. Interiors were not accessed and the properties were not fully evaluated for National Register eligibility.

- Topping House (BF 39), 201 Lamont Street.
- Kirk-Bishop House (BF 31), 643 Water Street.

The Interstate Cooperage Company (BF 30) may be eligible or the National Register Under criterion D as an industrial archaeological site. The Office of State Archaeology must make this determination.

5.3 Belhaven History

Prior to its incorporation in 1899, the area of present-day Belhaven was a fishing and farming settlement known as Jack's Neck. The Topping and Latham families were early residents of the area. The families, related by marriage, farmed and operated a sawmill on Tom's Creek. Jack's Neck was known for a brief time as Belle Porte. The town of Belhaven was incorporated in 1899 and at that time had a population of approximately 300 (1902 *North Carolina Yearbook*) However, prior to its official establishment, infrastructure was being built that would make Belhaven a regional center of lumber processing and shipping for decades to come.

The lumber industry was Beaufort County's largest, employing thousands of local residents from the 1890s through the 1950s. The county's stands of virgin timber were noted by Union officers during the Civil War. During the Reconstruction era newly formed timber companies made up of northern investors laid claim to large tracts of coastal North Carolina timber (Loy and Worthy 329). Lumbering shifted from a locally confined activity (farmers clearing land) to a large-scale and infrastructure-heavy industry of roads, wharves, railroads, mills and factories.

Beginning in 1898 with the establishment of the Pungo Lumber Company, a number of lumber companies were headquartered in Belhaven including the Belhaven Lumber Company, the Albemarle Lumber Company, Wade's Point Lumber Company, and the William Schutte Company. The John L. Roper Lumber Company was based in Norfolk, Virginia, but had at Belhaven one of its five major manufacturing centers. In the 1910s, the Roper Company's Belhaven facility was the largest manufacturing company in North Carolina (Loy and Worthy 346-347). In 1906 the Interstate Cooperage Company, a subsidiary of Standard Oil, built a huge mill at Belhaven. Its ruins and tall brick smokestack still stand on the south side of W. Main Street. Interstate's industrial complex consisted of saw and stave mills, barrel and box factories, and drying kilns. The plant supplied boxes and barrels for shipping of Standard's oil and related products (347). The plant was said to produce 125,000 board feet of lumber every ten hours and employed about 500 (347).

Railroads were critical to the success of the lumber industry. The first line run to Belhaven was Albemarle and Pantego Railroad in the 1880s. This railroad was constructed by the John L. Roper Lumber Company from Mackey's Ferry in Washington County to the wharves of the Pungo River. The rail line made accessible the company's expansive timber tracts in the swamplands of northeastern North Carolina. In 1892 the Norfolk and Southern acquired the Albemarle and Pantego line (Loy and Worthy 344-345). In 1893 the Norfolk and Southern built a hotel on Water Street (BF 32) and a board-and-batten depot on West Main Street (BF 25). The successes of the timber industry and the railroads were so interlinked that many of Belhaven's most prominent citizens held interest in logging, lumbering and railroad endeavors. One of these men was John A. Wilkinson. Wilkinson's ca. 1899 grand Classical Revival-style dwelling on East Main Street (BF 172), the largest and most ornate home in Belhaven, is a testament to the man's success and the centrality of the lumber industry in the town's history.

In the first half of the twentieth century Belhaven was a town with a wide class divide. Its physical development reflects the hierarchical relationships between the wealthy business owners and those who worked in the mills and factories. Along Water Street are the large dwellings built by timber and railroad executives and other local businessmen. On East Main Street, east of Pamlico Street, are more modest houses of middle-class residents such as teachers, factory managers, boat captains and merchants. East Main Street is also the location of three of the town's prominent religious congregations: St. James Episcopal (BF 37), Trinity Methodist (BF 1145), and First Christian (BF 1142). As one travels north away from East Main Street, the dwellings trend to vernacular forms such as one and two-story I-houses and simple front-gable dwellings.

Belhaven's commercial district is concentrated around the intersection of Main and Pamlico Streets. The historic business district is located between the upper and middle-class neighborhood east of it and the working class mill housing to the west. The commercial center has a collection of early-to-mid-twentieth century commercial structures typically found in many North Carolina communities. A review of period business directories lists a variety of businesses such as druggists, grocers and general merchandise stores in the downtown. The Bank of Belhaven (demolished, now the site of the town hall) was situated at the northeast corner of Main and Pamlico Streets. Two long-term businesses remain in operation on Pamlico Street. O'Neal's Drug Store was established in 1931 at the southwest corner of Main and Pamlico and the

Riddick and Windley Hardware Company was started in 1938. The business has occupied several buildings in the downtown and currently occupies the old Rose's Department Store building (BF 1199).

The area between Railroad Street west to the Highway 264 bypass contains the town's modest frame mill worker's housing. On the south side of West Main Street and the north bank of Pantego Creek was Standard Oil's expansive Interstate Cooperage Company complex, as well as other lumber mills and industrial facilities dependent on water access. This part of town was the logical place for Belhaven's "company houses," although it is not known to what extent these dwellings were built and operated by the lumber companies.

It is known that the mills relied heavily on an African American and immigrant labor force, preferred by the mill operators due to cheaper labor costs. By 1910 the town's total population was 3,500, with 2,375 white and 1,125 black residents (*1914 North Carolina Year Book*). At its peak, the Interstate Cooperage Company employed 900 workers (Boyette 12). In July of 1916, a riot broke out between the local workers and the immigrant laborers. The National Guard was called in to suppress the riot. Most of the immigrant workers left Belhaven afterwards (Loy and Worthy 348).

Timber supplies were depleting, and by the middle of the twentieth century Belhaven's lumber boom was largely over. At the beginning of the twenty-first century the town's population is not much more than it was at the beginning of the preceding one. Today, is as a center of pleasure boating, recreation and retirement.

5.4 Impact of Recent Storms on Belhaven

Belhaven is located at the confluence of the Pamlico River and Pungo Creek in northeastern Beaufort County. The town is located in a 100-year flood plain and has an average elevation of three feet above sea-level. Due to this geographical circumstance, Belhaven has experienced a series of devastating storms. The 1996 hurricane season was particularly extreme, with three major storms hitting Belhaven within a three-month period. First was Hurricane Bertha on July 12th and 13th which resulted in heavy flooding. The storm surge from Hurricane Fran, a category three storm, hit Belhaven on September 5th and 6th causing a second flood. A little more than a month later Tropical Storm Josephine dumped many inches of rain on the already waterlogged town. These storms, and the resulting federal projects intended to protect real

property from future storm damage, have significantly impacted the character of the town's built environment.

At the close of the devastating 1996 storm season, FEMA made grant funds available to North Carolina local governments through its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The grants could be used to either demolish buildings within the flood plain or to elevate existing ones above flood levels. The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management administered the program and distributed the funds. In Belhaven, 232 eligible buildings were repaired and placed on elevated foundations after the 1996 season; elevations accelerated after Hurricane Bonnie in 1998 and Floyd in 1999. A total of nine million dollars in grant money has been expended in Belhaven to elevate 379 of the town's 950 buildings. ("America's Hurricane Threat" 26 August 2009). In the historic district approximately 50% of the 120 houses surveyed as part of this project are now on elevated foundations.

As a federal agency, FEMA was required to comply with the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This legislation ensures that historic resources are taken into account during project planning. FEMA consulted with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) to identify the boundaries of the Belhaven Historic District. The agencies agreed that the district was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and that a large-scale elevation project would adversely affect the district's historic character. The agencies executed a Memorandum of Agreement stipulating ways to minimize adverse effects on the historic district. In order to mitigate the adverse effects, FEMA and the HPO devised acceptable designs for the elevation of historic buildings. The plan consisted of setting the contributing buildings on a concrete block foundation with nonstructural brick "piers" along the perimeter wall. The block wall surface between the piers was stuccoed or infilled with wood lattice. The intent was to mimic the traditional building techniques where frame buildings were set on structural piers. Mature plantings were to be removed during the work and replanted.

A second component of the mitigation was the "Historic Structures Mitigation Photographic Documentation." Each building to be treated with FEMA funds was photographed prior to the beginning of work to document existing conditions within the historic district. Mark Wolfe of FEMA took large-format photographs and keyed them to site plans for each historic building in the district that was to be elevated. The photos

and site plans were incorporated into the HPO's architectural survey files. The documentation phase was completed in October of 1998.

The elevation program, while damaging to the town's historic fabric, was successful in that the town largely avoided damage from Hurricane Isabel's storm surge in September 2003.

5.5 Visual Effects of Elevations on the Belhaven Historic District

The elevations impacted the town at both the micro and macro levels. Individual buildings and streetscapes have been substantially changed from pre-1996 appearances. Dwellings historically two to three feet off the ground on brick pier foundations are now raised substantially on continuous perimeter foundations of concrete block. Elevation heights range from several feet to twelve or more. About 50% of the district's resources have been elevated. In some cases homeowners raised their houses higher than necessary in order to gain another level of storage or garage space. Today, the wide range of building heights in what used to be a neighborhood of one and two-story houses is considerable.

Elevation also resulted in changes to original porches and entries. Historic porch posts and balustrades in some cases were reused, but in others were replaced with modern materials. In some instances the new materials approximate the original; however, turned porch elements were often replaced with plain square ones. Porch balustrades are higher in order to meet modern building codes. Houses and porches originally built low to the ground required only a few steps for access. Elevation necessitated the construction of multi-step exterior stairways to reach porches and front doors. Some of these new staircases are split, with two runs of stairs leading to a landing and then a single run of stairs up to the main level. In some cases front steps were removed and not replaced. These houses are now accessed from a new deck on the front or rear of the building.

Many property owners undertook renovations at the time of the elevations. A significant amount of synthetic siding and replacement windows are present when compared with the 1998 FEMA photographic documentation completed prior to the elevations. In addition to the elevation, incompatible additions, carports, decks and garages have been added to houses.

Due to the cumulative effects of the elevations and concomitant alterations, the Belhaven Historic District no longer retains the integrity of setting, feeling and materials required for National Register eligibility.

One area where the elevation projects did not have a visual effect is on the commercial block at the south end of Pamlico Street. This area contains one and two-story early twentieth-century brick commercial buildings which couldn't be raised because of their size and method of construction. Also, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds could not be applied to commercial or institutional buildings. Therefore, this compact area remains largely intact and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and is described as the Belhaven Commercial Historic district in Section 7.2 above.

6.0 Aurora

6.1 Methodology

The town of Aurora is located on the south side of the Pamlico River in Richland Township twenty-five miles east of Chocowinity in Beaufort County. Fifteen miles east of Aurora, NC 33 terminates at the Intracoastal Waterway, which separates mainland Beaufort County from Goose Creek Island. The incorporated area of Aurora is roughly bounded by Railroad Street on the north, South Creek on the east, Peedtown Road on the south and NC 306 to the west. NC 33 runs east-west through the town, and Aurora's historic core is located north of the road.

Prior to Phase I of the Beaufort County Architectural Survey, there were six survey files for Aurora properties:

- The Aurora Commercial Historic District (BF 464) was placed on the state study list in 2003.
- The Staley-Rutledge House (BF 173) at 295 Main Street was placed on the study list in 1977.
- The Henry Harding House (BF 46), formerly at 305 Main Street, has been demolished.
- The Hooker-Litchfield House (BF 49), formerly on the north side of Bridge Street at Middle Street, has been demolished.
- The Bonner-Cherry House (BF 155) at 307 Fifth Street remains, but has been altered since the original survey file was made.
- The house (BF 156) formerly on the west side of Fifth Street has been demolished.

In 2004 a survey of Aurora was undertaken by East Carolina University interns Naomi Winkleman and Martha Baldree, under the guidance of the HPO Eastern Office staff in Greenville. The project's purpose was to gather information on which to base a National Register inventory list. The students produced survey files using state issued Historic Structures Data sheets and 35 mm photography. However, the files were not assigned survey site numbers, nor were they accessioned into the statewide architectural survey records in Raleigh (Wood interview). The 2008-2009 survey consisted of updating the files created by the interns with Access database entries and digital photography. A total of ninety-two survey site numbers were assigned to all primary resources identified during the 2004 survey, including those that were demolished, during the 2008-2009 survey. Fieldwork was performed over two field days on December 12, 2008 and January 16, 2009. A total of eighty-seven properties were recorded.

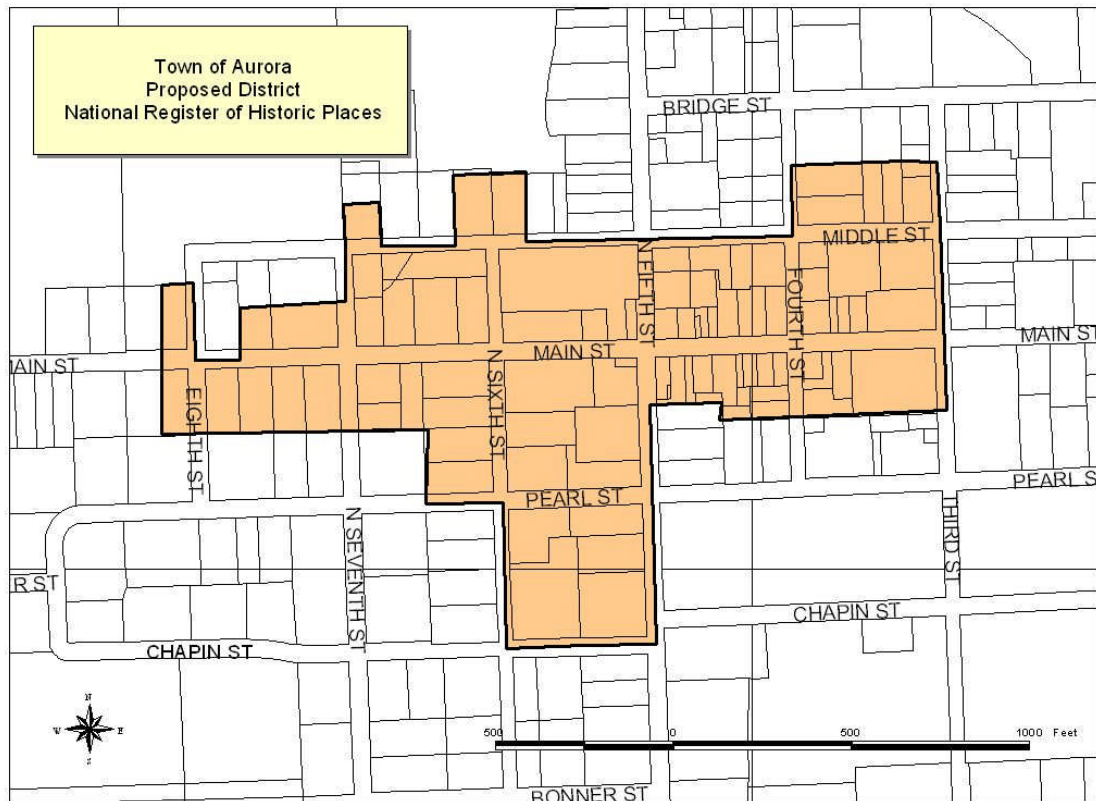
The interns did a thorough job researching the history of many of the properties in Aurora. Neither Sanborn maps nor city directories were made for Aurora. The students relied heavily on interviews, North Carolina Business Directories, newspaper articles, and published and non-published local histories to develop the historical background for the more significant buildings. This information was incorporated into the Access database. Circa, Inc. did additional research for the churches proposed for the study list. A complete list of bibliographical sources organized by municipality is included in the bibliography at the end of this report.

6.2 Recommendations

Based on the results of the survey and research, the following resources are believed to be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places:

- **Aurora Commercial Historic District**

The Aurora Commercial Historic District was placed on the study list at the request of the mayor in 2003. The district boundary is described in the study list application as follows: “From and including 2nd Street down Main Street to and including 7th Street, also including side streets of 4th Street and 5th Street.” The USGS topographical boundary map that was included with the application depicts a rectangular district somewhat larger than that described in the verbal description. This area remains eligible for the National Register, with the exception of the blocks east of Third Street where approximately seven buildings have been demolished since 2004. A revised smaller boundary has been drawn to reflect these demolitions and to include as many contributing buildings as possible. A map of the 2009 district boundary is shown below. The district as it is currently identified in SHPO records is the Aurora Commercial Historic District. If a nomination were prepared, the area would be more accurately called the Aurora Historic District, as it is comprised of commercial, residential, religious and other types of buildings. The district is potentially eligible under Criterion C, for its architecture.



- Aurora United Methodist Church (BF 1019), 327 Main Street**
 This Methodist church was Aurora’s first congregation, established by the town’s founder Reverend W.H. Cunningham around 1860. The existing church building was erected ca. 1949. It is a gable-front stone building with a massive projecting central belltower with stone buttresses and a recessed, arched entry. Associated with the church is a small cemetery located at the rear of the churchyard. The property is potentially eligible for the National register under criteria A and C.
- Church of the Holy Cross and Rectory (BF 1041 and BF 1043), 640 Main Street**
 This brick church displays both Gothic and Craftsman design elements. The chapel was built in 1917 and the attached parish house in 1935. The congregation, established in the 1880s, is one of the town’s earliest. The picturesque church and ca. 1900 two-story gable and wing rectory are potentially eligible for the National register under criteria A and C.

The property below is no longer legible for the National Register of Historic Places:

- **Staley-Rutledge House, BF 173, 295 Main St.**

The Staley-Rutledge House was placed on the state study list in 1977. The Queen Anne-style dwelling has fine Colonial Revival interiors. The town acquired the house in the late 1970s and renovated it for use as the town hall. As a result of the renovations the house lost significant exterior characteristics. Vinyl siding now covers the exterior obscuring the weatherboards, window surrounds and projecting eaves. Window openings and half-round vents have been covered on both the front and rear elevations. The original windows have been replaced with vinyl sashes. The half-round entry porch with square posts, which was not original, was rebuilt with Ionic columns and a reduced frieze. A shed porch on the west side was also rebuilt with fewer details. The sidelights and transom surrounding the entry were covered and replaced with a Colonial Revival broken pediment surround. The interior retains some historic features including: the asymmetrical floor plan, mantles with classical motifs and mirrored over-mantles; a dogleg paneled stair with turned spindles and square newel topped with an egg-and-dart molding, and an Eastlake spindled frieze in the main hall. Dentil moldings have been added to many of the door surrounds and the five-panel Craftsman doors have been replaced with six-panel Colonial Revival ones. While the Staley-Rutledge House retains some high-quality interior woodwork, the cumulative effect of the numerous 1970s alterations has adversely impacted the building's historic appearance and integrity. The building no longer retains sufficient integrity to be eligible for the National Register.

6.3 General History of Aurora

Historically southeastern Beaufort County has contained an abundance of natural resources: navigable waterways, fertile black soil, hard and softwood forests, and underground phosphate deposits. The modern history of Aurora chronicles the impact of these resources on the development of the town's economy.

Methodist minister W.H. Cunningham arrived in southeastern Beaufort County around 1856 from Lenoir in Caldwell County. He is credited with being the first to call the area by the name "Aurora." The name is said to refer to either the Aurora Borealis light displays of the Earth's polar regions, or, "such a dark and dismal place that it needed light and was therefore called Aurora." Neither of these claims--often repeated and counter in nature--could be confirmed.

Secondary sources state that Cunningham visited Beaufort County while recruiting students for his school, the Lenoir Institute. Accounts vary, but Cunningham either purchased or traded for a farm near South Creek. The land in this area was already known to be fertile and highly desirable. Cunningham and Reverend John W. Litchfield founded the Aurora Methodist Church in 1860. (The congregation's stone sanctuary ca. 1949 (BF 1019) stands at 327 Main Street today.) Cunningham is also credited with laying out the town's grid pattern of streets around 1860. Cunningham moved to Raleigh during all or part of the Civil War. Upon his return to Beaufort County, Cunningham became involved with the forcible removal of the free black settlement on South Creek (now Aurora) known as Betty Town (Powell *Gazetteer*, 16; *Located*; HPO files). Some of the blacks forced from the land are said to have returned to the area from Ohio in the mid 1880s and filed an unsuccessful suit to reclaim their property. The history of Betty Town and the lawsuit merits a more in-depth treatment than can be presented in an architectural survey report.

Land surveyors R.T. Bonner and R.R. Bonner followed Cunningham's early plan and expanded the town's grid when surveying for the town's incorporation on March 29, 1880. Bonner and Bonner formalized Aurora's layout, with Main Street acting as Aurora's main east-west thoroughfare and numbered streets bisecting it. During the decades of the 1870s and 1880s Aurora was described as "a quiet, peaceful little village" with less than one hundred inhabitants. The 1880 U.S. Census population schedule lists only twenty households in Aurora. All but one of the heads-of-household worked as farmers, farm laborers, or in an agricultural related job such as blacksmithing or harness making. Forty-three year old John B. Bonner was listed as a physician, living with his wife and daughter.

While Aurora began as a trading center for local farmers, the town developed into a social community for the farmers of southeastern Beaufort County. General stores, groceries, feed stores and planing mills were the earliest businesses established. Among the first merchants were J.B. Bryan, W.O. Watson, and John B. Bonner. With the success of the business climate, merchants built fine houses, and additional businesses opened to cater to the growing in-town population. In 1890 the population was 150 persons. Yet Aurora was the third largest town in Beaufort County at the time, whose 17,471 residents were mostly rural dwellers. The *North Carolina Yearbook and Business Directory* for 1890 lists a post office, four churches, nine general stores, three grocery stores, three feed stores, a drug store, three physicians, thirty-five farmers and a school in Aurora. There was even a newspaper called *The*

Progressive Age. Clearly, by 1890 Aurora had already become a regional market. An early-twentieth-century unpublished memoir by William Frederick Harding, who lived in Aurora as a boy, described the setting and populace of the town as follows:

“it was in the midst of a rich agricultural section and the inhabitants of Aurora were farmers who owned farms adjacent to the town or situated nearby, and who gathered together in the village for convenience as well as social enjoyments and educational and religious advantages.”

Seventy-five households, both black and white, were enumerated in Aurora for the 1900 census. The listing of occupations clearly shows that Aurora had grown from a small farming village to a prosperous small town in a span of two decades. Farming remained the dominant occupation, but there were approximately twelve “merchants” listed--a category not used in Aurora in the 1880 census. Shop owners, grocers, a horse dealer, and hotel operator are some of the non-farming occupations listed. Women were employed as teachers, clerks, dressmakers, “sales ladies,” midwives, and domestics.

By 1902 Aurora’s population had grown to 314. The Bank of Aurora was established in 1903 followed by Richland’s Farmers Bank ca. 1910. Both the 1910 and 1915 *Business Directories* list Aurora’s population as 800, with 450 white and 350 black residents. In addition to its service-based businesses, the 1915 edition lists several industrial concerns. A lumber company and a ginning company processed agricultural products from the surrounding area, and a “manufacturing company” is also listed.

By the 1920s Aurora’s economy was fully diversified. Northerners came to hunt in the fall and winter and stayed at the Cherry Hotel at 499 Main Street (BF 1032) and McWilliams Hotel on Fourth Street (gone). The town had clubs and fraternal organizations found in any small town such as a Masonic Lodge, American Legion, and Order of the Eastern Star. There was also a town baseball team.

Cotton, rice, corn, and most importantly potatoes were grown in the fertile lands near town. The 1910 Agricultural Census recorded 2,981 farms in Richland Township in 1910. Potato cultivation was concentrated in the northeastern part of North Carolina, and the state’s production of the crop increased twenty-six percent between 1900 and 1910 (www.agcensus.usda.gov 11 September 2009). Due to the fine sandy loam and high mineral content of Richland Township’s soils,

Aurora came to be known as “the potato capital of North Carolina.” Fishing and seafood processing were also an important part of the local economy. Pine, oak, cypress, and gum trees were the foundation of the area’s timber industry. All of these products were shipped to market by way of South Creek, and later by the A.C.L. rail line. (HPO file; *The Past and Present History of Aurora; The Eden of North Carolina*).

A school has been located in Aurora since the 1870s (Oakley 4). Not much is known about educational buildings in Aurora prior to 1915. A frame school was built by Beaufort County in 1916 for Aurora’s African American children. It has been demolished and its location is not known. (*Schools of Aurora*; Loy and Worthy 491; Peed interview). The large tract north of Middle Street between NC 306 and Seventh Street has been used for public education since 1915, when a school building, long since demolished, was built there. In 1928 a two-story brick Colonial Revival-style graded school for white students was constructed. The brick school consolidated several rural schools near Aurora. Grades one through twelve were taught in the building until 1968, when Beaufort County schools were integrated. After integration the building housed grades nine through twelve and elementary students were moved to a new building, now abandoned, at the western edge of the parcel, closer to NC 306 (outside survey area). Part of the elementary campus includes an extant yet altered one-story brick school house built for black children sometime after 1934 (Van Camp, *Beaufort County*, 85). The building appears to be modeled after a plan provide by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation; however, a school at Aurora does not show up in Fisk University’s online database of schools funded by the foundation.

S.W. Snowden Elementary School, built in the 1990s and named after the principal of the African American school in the 1960s, is built on the approximate footprint of the 1928 consolidation-era school, which burned in 1980 (Peed and Litchfield interviews). East of the Snowden School is a 1930s gymnasium/shop building (BF 999). A 1950s gymnasium with a barrel-vaulted roofline also survives.

Although barely visible from town today, South Creek was essential to Aurora’s economy. The creek was navigable and led into the broad Pamlico River. The intersection of the Pamlico and the Pungo Rivers east of Aurora forms the Pamlico Sound, and provides access to ports along the eastern seaboard. The Tar River, which forms the headwaters of the Pamlico River at Washington, was navigable eastward to Greenville and Tarboro. South Creek was a stopping place for both freight and passenger vessels and many boats used Aurora as their home port. A boat captain and the three sailors were listed in Aurora in the 1900

census. The steam ship *Aurora* traveled between Aurora and Washington in the 1890s. At the turn of the century Bryan Tripp Bonner owned the two-masted schooners the *Cobb* and the *Virginia Dare*. In the 1920s the Litchfield family owned and operated the *Dependence*, which hauled groceries and farm supplies between Aurora and Washington, and a tug, *Lola*. The *Hatteras*, a passenger steamer, operated between Washington and Aurora. During the 1930s Esso-Standard and Sinclair Oil had docks on South Creek at Aurora before tank trucks rendered them obsolete in the 1930s (Loy and Worthy 490-491).

Over the years fish and crab packing houses were also located on South Creek in Aurora. The Bay City Crab House is still in operation to this day, one of only two remaining seafood processing concerns in Aurora. Its concrete block pack houses are located at the west end of Bridge Street and its offices and shipping headquarters are at the southwest corner of Main Street and NC 306. Both complexes are outside of the recommended historic district boundary and survey area.

The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad (A.C.L.) passed through Aurora between Washington and its terminus at Vandemere in Pamlico County. Its arrival in Aurora around 1908 further established the town as a center of trade. By 1900, the A.C.L. was one of the state's three consolidated rail companies. The arrival of the railroad allowed another mode of transporting agricultural and timber products in addition to shipping.

The tracks to Aurora were taken up in the 1940s and their removal had a tremendous impact on the town by severing an important transportation connection (Powell 416; 1917 Rail Road map; Loy and Worthy 491). NC 33 connecting Chocowinity and Aurora was finished sometime after 1931, and was shifted south from Main Street to its current corridor in the late 1940s. It was at this time that the concrete bridge over South Creek was completed, replacing a wood bridge that crossed the creek at the end of Main Street (Ormond 53; Litchfield; Peed interview).

There are approximately ten churches in Aurora today. Denominations include Methodist, Episcopal and several Baptist congregations. Two historic church buildings remain within the district boundary today, the Aurora Methodist Church (BF 1019) at 327 Main Street and the Church of the Holy Cross (BF 1041) at 640 Main Street.

Aurora Methodist Church was the first church to be established in the town. It was founded by Methodist minister W. H. Cunningham and J.W Litchfield around 1860. A frame chapel was built, and in it blacks and whites worshipped together. In 1933 and 1948 two rural Methodist

congregations consolidated with the church in Aurora. In order to accommodate the growing congregation, the original frame building was demolished and the existing stone church and attached education hall was built on site ca. 1949. This building was dedicated on November 25, 1956. There are 108 members of the church today (*Church History 2*; Peed interview). A small cemetery containing roughly a dozen marked graves is located behind the sanctuary. Stones date from the 1870s through the 1970s and are inscribed with the names of the prominent families in Aurora's history such as Swindell, Bonner, Hollowell, and Hooker.

In 1882 J.B Bryan gave a lot in the 600 block of Main Street for construction of an Episcopal church. Built in 1885, the frame church was called Chapel of the Cross, as it was a "chapel of ease" of St. John's Parrish in Bonnerton. Trustees of the congregation were Bryan, J.B. Bonner, C.S. Dixon, Joe Peed and C. F. Buck; Francis Joyner was the first priest. In 1917 a new brick Gothic Revival-style building was erected and the original chapel was moved and converted into the parish house. The frame parish house was replaced in 1932 by the existing brick one east of the chapel. The two buildings were connected by a brick breezeway in 1935. A ca. 1900 rectory stands immediately west of the church. It is not known if this building was built as such, or acquired later for the purpose. Around 1999, Aurora's African American Episcopal congregation, St. Jude's, was closed due to declining membership. The remaining members merged with the Church of the Holy Cross. St. Jude's church stands altered at the north terminus of Fifth Street (outside survey area). The continued presence of an Episcopal church in Aurora is in jeopardy due to the shrinking congregation. There are currently only six active members of Holy Cross church (Douglas interview; *Holy Cross 1-2*).

By the mid-twentieth century Aurora's population began to decline from its high of around 800 in the 1910s and 1920s. Sweeping changes in agriculture and rural life fundamentally altered the community. Mechanized farming was replacing manual labor; produce was being transported by gasoline powered trucks rather than rail. After World War II many young people moved to larger towns and cities seeking non-agricultural jobs and left farm life behind for good. In the 1940s the potato market declined due a combination of factors. A soil-based blight was decreasing Beaufort County's potato yields. Competition from California, Idaho, and New England was increasing at the same time U.S. potato consumption was decreasing. Per capita consumption, 198 pounds in 1910, was quickly falling with the rise of truck farming, which

made a wider variety of non-locally grown foods available to the consumer (www.ncagr.gov 11 September 2009).

By 1960 the population has dropped to 429, less than in 1905. In the early 1960s deposits of phosphate, a mineral used in making fertilizer and animal feed, were discovered near Aurora. Beaufort County is situated on the Albemarle Embayment covering the northeastern part of North Carolina. The embayment contains the fossilized remains of reptiles, fish, and sea mammals. In the mid-1960s Texas-Gulf, Inc. began purchasing land near Aurora for an open-pit phosphate mining operation. Railroad tracks to service the mine were re-laid on the old A.C.L. route that had been taken up around 1950 (Peed interview). Local residents hoped that the industry would reverse Aurora's economic decline. Many farmers sold their land to Texas-Gulf for above market price and were happy to do so, as agriculture was no longer a viable source of income (*Future Worries*). Aurora's leaders prepared for an influx of new residents associated with the mine.

The mining operation has been a mixed blessing for the town. It is the county's largest taxpayer and employer, employing over 1,300 workers and contractors and is responsible for roughly one-third of its tax revenue. However, Aurora never grew as anticipated; most upper level managers and professionals chose to live in Washington or New Bern. Today there are three businesses open in downtown Aurora and the population is roughly 600 (Douglas interview). Texas-Gulf was purchased by Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan (PCS Phosphate) in 1995. The company now operates one of nation's largest phosphate mines in Aurora. Its continued operation is in question as the company and state and federal authorities negotiate a controversial permit for the continuation of the mining operation.

6.4 Architecture in Aurora

A discussion of the architectural styles of Beaufort County's municipalities, including Aurora, is found in Section 2 of this report. Below are photographic illustrations of the styles discussed in Section 2, and also brief discussions of buildings that are significant in Aurora but that are not treated in Section 2. Survey files provide a complete photographic inventory of Aurora and record the full collection of the town's architectural resources.

The proposed Aurora Historic District has three building types. Residential buildings comprise the largest component of the district, followed by buildings erected for commercial purposes, which are concentrated on Main Street between Fourth and Fifth streets. There are

two religious buildings in the district. The earliest building is the two-story I-house with stuccoed shouldered chimneys at 229 Main Street (BF 47). It appears to be a mid-nineteenth century dwelling.

Aurora is located on the west side of South Creek, a large navigable waterway that extends south from the Pamlico River. The creek is not visible from the district, and the town does not have the “waterfront feel” of Washington and Washington Park, despite a history heavily influenced by the waterway. Aurora’s streets intersect in a grid, a plan laid out by its founder W.H. Cunningham in the 1860s. Main Street was historically the primary east-west corridor, and as such possesses the grandest houses along with commercial and religious architecture. The town’s only sidewalks are found on Main Street between third and Fifth Streets. The north-south streets are numbered First through Eighth and begin on the town’s east side. NC 33, outside the recommended district boundary, is the only east-west travel artery in southern Beaufort County. Recent commercial development, including stores, service stations and banks, is concentrated there.

The building lots in Aurora are level and landscaped to varying degrees. There are many old oaks and pines, particularly on the west side of town. Many residential lots possess old decorative plantings such as azaleas, hollies, nandina and juniper. Other lots are completely devoid of plantings. Residential lots average approximately one-quarter of an acre in size.

Aurora’s economy has struggled in the latter half of the twentieth century, and as a result an unknown number of homes have been demolished as a result of neglect or abandonment. Eight buildings are known to have been demolished since 2004, mostly on the east side of town. A significant number of residential and commercial properties appear to be vacant and are deteriorating. The Aurora Fossil Museum has a strong presence, occupying two early-twentieth-century brick commercial building storefronts on the 400 block of Main Street, and also a noncontributing “annex” on the opposite side of the street at 399 Main Street. It is important to note that a significant number of intact buildings from ca. 1860 through ca. 1960 remain in Aurora. This collection of building types and styles, combined with the original street layout and the town’s setting continue to convey Aurora’s past as an agricultural and commercial center in a tangible way. The recommended historic district boundary encompasses a concentration of historic buildings, with construction dates that span the years between ca. 1900 and ca. 1940.

The building that houses the Aurora Fossil Museum at 400 Main Street (BF 1026) was built around 1920. The two-story building is typical of early twentieth century brick commercial buildings found in small towns across North Carolina. The storefront in the building has been altered, but the decorative corbelled brickwork remains above it and at the cornice. The adjacent arched storefront buildings (BF 1027 and 1028) are a good depiction of the single-story commercial form. Thompson's Feed Store was an early occupant of number 464. 462 was originally Warren's Barber Shop.

Aurora was not developed as a planned community in the way that Washington Park was. The town grew organically over time and design choices represent the preferences of the owner/builder, who in most cases was also the initial occupant. Aurora was not immune to national building trends and stylistic preferences. There are examples of such nationally popular styles as Colonial Revival, the bungalow or Craftsman-influenced house, the Foursquare, and the Period Cottage. Another nationally popular style, the Ranch house, is present east of Seventh Street. There are no Ranch houses included in the potential district boundary. Craftsman and Colonial Revival motifs are the most commonly displayed, although it is important to note that a substantial number of buildings have no stylistic association and take on common vernacular forms.

Pre-1900 Dwellings

The town of Aurora has a number of houses that appear, based on physical evidence, to predate 1900. These houses represent the first wave of building after the town's incorporation. There are approximately a dozen dwellings within the recommended historic district that may predate 1900. (This figure does not include the mid-nineteenth century house at 229 Main Street (BF 47) and several other dwellings east of Third Street that were not included in the recommended district boundary.) All of the pre-1900 houses are I-houses or gable-and-wing dwellings, with the exception of the Midyette House BF (985), an irregularly-massed house at 415 Sixth Street. The dwelling was built in 1900 for C.G. Midyette, mayor of Aurora from 1912-1914. This two-story, irregularly massed Queen Anne-style dwelling remains highly intact. It retains original 1/1 windows, plain weatherboards, diamond shingles in the eaves, and a wrap-around porch with columns and a turned balustrade. Scrolled metal finials cap the standing seam roof.

698 Middle Street (BF 997) is a symmetrical ca. 1900 I-house with a one-story rear ell. The house would not be out of place in a rural, small town or city setting. The district's other two-story I-houses are 465 Fourth

Street (BF 970), 577 Main Street, 743 Main Street and 801 Main Street (BF 1048). The Church of the Holy Cross Rectory (BF 1043) at 672 Main Street, is another house with a pre-1900 two-story gable-and-wing form. The house has a porch with jig-sawn brackets and turned posts.

The two-story gable-front dwelling at the corner of Fifth and Pearl Streets (BF 978) retains its original weatherboard siding and 6/6 windows. It has wings on the north and west elevations. Of note is the diagonal beadboard on the façade wall under the porch. Aurora has five of these minimally detailed, two-story, two-bay front-gabled houses. Tax records and oral histories date all of these dwellings to around 1900.

Bungalow/Craftsman

The ca. 1920 house located at 720 Main Street (BF 1040) is a large one-and-one-half story dwelling with the front porch inset into the main roofline--a defining feature of the bungalow form. The square, tapered porch posts are characteristic of the Craftsman stylistic influence.

310 Sixth Street (BF 983) was built in 1946. This one-and-one-half story brick dwelling has a simple gable-front form; however, the exposed rafter tails of the main roof and porch, triangular eave brackets, and 4/1 upper window sashes are Craftsman details. 619 Bonner Street, (BF 1111) is a one-story front-gable house and another example of Craftsman detailing applied to a simple form. The deep eaves and 4/1 sashes of the former bus station located at 470 Fourth Street (BF 470) station show how Craftsman elements can be applied to a commercial structure.

Foursquare

765 Main Street (BF 1047), ca. 1915, is the only example of the foursquare form in Aurora. The foursquare form is frequently adorned with Craftsman-style detailing, and less commonly, classical details, or a combination of the two. Aurora's sole foursquare dwelling is plainly finished with 1/1 sash, and a porch with square tapered posts on brick piers. Vinyl siding covers the house.

Period Cottage

Aurora has several lovely examples of the Period Cottage style, rendered in brick. The ca. 1935 dwelling located at 107 Sixth Street (BF 981) has a steeply pitched front-facing gable, a façade chimney and an arched entry door. Each of these features typifies the Period Cottage style. A second Period Cottage, this one frame, is the ca. 1928 Max Thompson House (BF 988, 465 6th Street). The front gable of this dwelling has a playful, sloping roofline.

Colonial Revival

The town of Aurora has two dwellings on Main Street with “Mount Vernon”-style porches. These porches became popular in the 1930s, and were often added to older houses to give them an updated look. The house located at 577 Main Street (BF 1039) takes an I-house form. It has gable eave returns and an arched-light entry door which suggest an earlier date of construction, perhaps around 1890. The porch and the asbestos siding are later alterations, possibly dating to the 1930s, or as late as the 1950s. 743 Main Street (BF 1045) was the residence of Dr. Frank Bonner, a local physician. The Mount Vernon porch and broken pediment entry surround place the house in the Colonial Revival stylistic category as well. The 2/2 window sashes and I-house form suggest that the main block of the house may also date from around the turn of the twentieth century.

Despite its deteriorating condition, the ca. 1900 Benjamin Thompson House (398 Middle Street, BF 1004) is Aurora’s only true Colonial Revival dwelling. This two-story house employs details loosely based on formal, colonial precedents. The façade pent is suggestive of the Dutch Colonial Revival style, although the main roofline is a traditional gabled one. The windows have multi-light upper sashes and are flanked by shutters with diamond cutouts. Brackets with exaggerated end scrolls support the entry hood.

7.0 Chocowinity

7.1 Methodology

The town of Chocowinity is located on the south side of the Pamlico River in Chocowinity Township four miles south of the county seat of Washington in Beaufort County. The town of roughly 700 citizens is centered on the intersection of US 17 and NC Highway 33. Highway 17 runs north-south through Chocowinity; it is eastern North Carolina's major road, traveling north-south between Virginia and South Carolina. NC 33 is the only major road through southern Beaufort County; it runs from Greenville to southeastern Beaufort County where it turns south into neighboring Pamlico County.

Prior to the Phase I Beaufort County Architectural Survey, there were six survey files for properties in Chocowinity:

- Patrick House (BF 51), West side US 17, .15 miles south of junction with SR 1142. Demolished.
- The Chocowinity Historic District (BF 452), NC 33, west of intersection with US 17. This small district was determined eligible for the National Register in 2001 as part of the US 17 bypass project.
- Trinity School (BF 178), Northwest corner of NC 33 and US 17. This school had been demolished by the mid-twentieth century.
- Chocowinity School (BF 224), East side US 17, .1 mile south of junction with NC 33. The school was determined ineligible for the National Register in 1996 as a result the US 17 bypass project. The building has been demolished.
- Trinity Episcopal Church (BF 263), 200 NC 33.
- Alton Weatherly House and Workshop (BF 455), East side US 17, .2 miles north of junction with NC 33. The property was determined eligible for the National Register in 2001 as part of the US 17 bypass project.

A comprehensive survey of Chocowinity was not conducted prior to Phase I of the Beaufort County survey. Half of the above noted survey files were created as part of the 1995 and 2001 environmental studies for the US 17 Bypass road project. The pre-1995 files included old SHPO "yellow forms" and 35 millimeter photographs. The 2008-2009 survey consisted of updating the six existing files and creating thirty-six new ones using the HPO provided Access database and digital photography. Survey site numbers were assigned to each primary resource. Fieldwork was performed on March 17 and March 24, 2009.

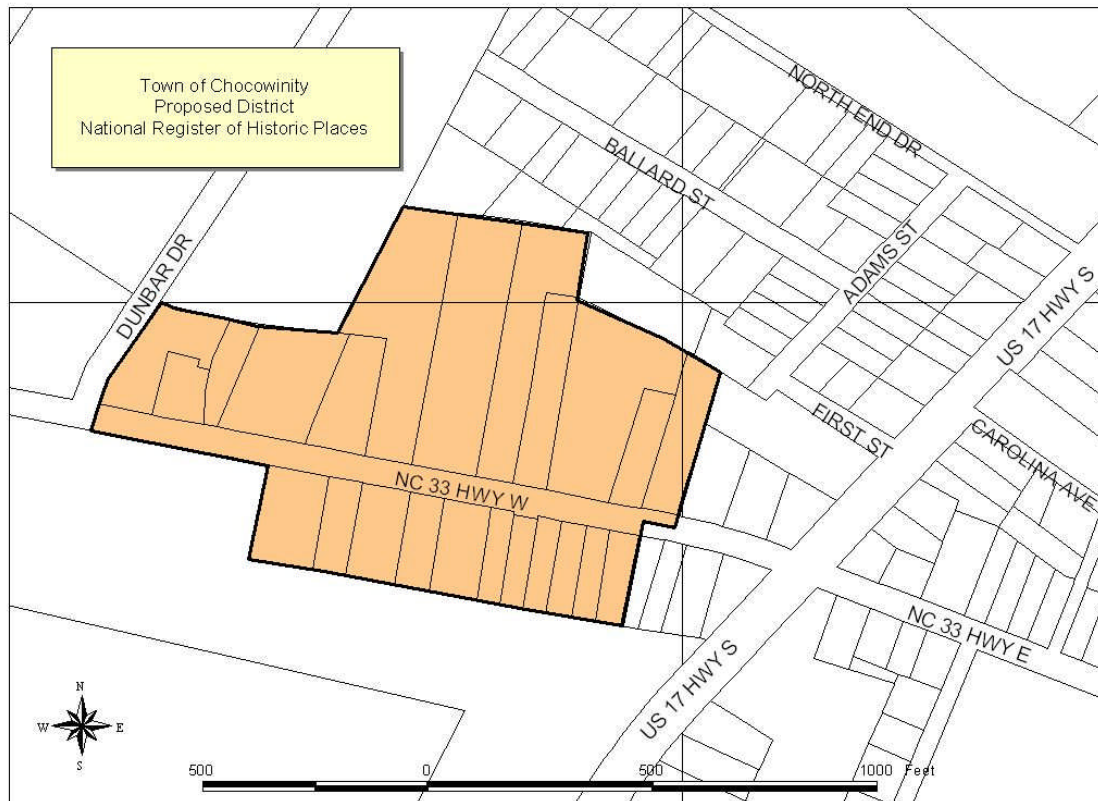
Neither Sanborn maps nor historical city directories were made for Chocowinity. Census information provided broad historical background for Chocowinity Township, but in most cases ownership and occupant information could not be directly tied to specific buildings. Historical research was based on interviews, published books and articles, and materials in the vertical files at the Brown Library in Washington, North Carolina. Interviews were conducted with local residents including Catherine Pfeiffer, Greg Percer and David Elks. The interview subjects provided information regarding the town's history, physical development, and current and historical property ownership. Several other short interviews were conducted by telephone, email, and U.S. mail. Records of these interviews have been placed in the survey files. A complete list of sources organized by municipality is included in the bibliography at the end of this report.

7.2 Recommendations

Based on the results of the survey and research, the following resources are believed to be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places:

- **Chocowinity Historic District**

The Chocowinity Historic District (BF 452) was determined eligible for the National Register in 2001 as part of the US 17 Bypass project. This area remains eligible for the National Register. The recommended district contains 17 primary resources on the north and south sides of NC 33, west of its intersection with US 17. The properties are residential with the exception of Trinity Episcopal Church and First Baptist Church. Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Bungalow style residences are considered contributing, as well as early twentieth century simple vernacular house types which are found in the historic district. The most significant building is the ca. 1774 Trinity Episcopal Church, a simple gabled Colonial-era chapel with rare riven siding that was moved to this location in the 1930s. The period of significance is ca. 1890 through ca. 1950. A map of the recommended 2009 district boundary is shown below. The district is potentially eligible under Criterion C, for its architecture.



- **Trinity Cemetery**

Trinity Cemetery (BF 1103) is the burial ground for Trinity Episcopal Church. The cemetery is located on the south side of NC 33; the church's original location is across NC 33 on the north side. Approximately 300 graves arranged on an east-west axis are situated on either side of the unpaved central drive. Markers are commercially cut granite stones dating from the 1860s to the present, the largest of which is an obelisk monument to Confederate Major General Bryan Grimes. Nicholas Collin Hughes, founder of the Trinity Academy, is buried here, as are many other locally prominent individuals and families, some clustered in fenced plots. Plantings include a landmark oak tree near the entrance and mature magnolias, hollies, dogwoods and oaks. Parallel with NC 33 is a modern iron "arrow" picket fence punctuated by granite piers spanned by a wrought iron arch lettered with the words "Trinity Cemetery" that forms the entrance. The cemetery possesses distinctive design values, mature plantings, notable grave markers and statuary, and fencing. It potentially meets National Register Criterion C and Criterion Consideration D.

7.3 General History of Chocowinity

Chocowinity Township comprises the area in western Beaufort County roughly bounded by the Pamlico River to the north, Craven County to the south, Richland Township to the east and the Pitt County line to the west. The Town of Chocowinity is situated in the northwest part of the township, approximately three miles south of Washington and eight miles east of the Pitt County line. Today Chocowinity is a town of roughly 700 citizens within its municipal boundary. The community is centered around the intersection of US Highway 17 (the old “New Bern Highway”) and NC 33 (the old “Greenville Highway.”) Historically, the name “Chocowinity” referred to an area that is now outside of the present day municipal boundary. A brief overview of the area is necessary to understand the historical development of the town.

The lands around Chocowinity were settled in the eighteenth century by migrants from Bath (incorporated in 1705) on the north side of the Pamlico River. The small settlement at Chocowinity predates the one on the north side of the Pamlico at Washington, incorporated in 1772. Chocowinity began as a small settlement known as Godley’s Crossroads, named after a local family. It was situated west of the intersection of NC 33 and Taylor Road. The community was anchored by what was at the time an Anglican church called Blount’s Chapel, later Trinity Church. Between 1864 and 1882, the designation Godley’s Crossroads fell out of favor and was replaced by Chocowinity, named after the nearby creek east of Godley’s Crossroads. The name Chocowinity is believed to mean “fish from many waters” and likely comes from the Indian word (most likely Tuscarora) “chocowanateth” or “chocowinwhee” (Powell, *Gazetteer*, 106; Van Camp 65).

In 1906-1908, a Norfolk and Southern Rail Road station and depot was located between Godley’s Crossroads and the intersection of the Greenville and New Bern Highways. The railroad named its station “Marsden” for railroad official Marsden J. Perry in 1917 (Powell, *Gazetteer* 106), and that name became applied to the area around the station. Dwellings, a schoolhouse, and a blacksmith shop grew up around the station (Van Camp 67; 1914 postal map). All of these places, Marsden, Godley’s Crossroads, (occasionally called Godley’s Chapel), and Chocowinity describe the geographical area described in this report as Chocowinity.

Since its settlement, Chocowinity has been a small community, never approaching the size of Washington, in part because it did not have

direct access to a deep-water port and because of the concentration of growth and development on the river's north side (Washington NRN 8.1). However, beginning in the late seventeenth century with the construction of Trinity Chapel, Chocowinity became a backcountry center of the Anglican church for southern Beaufort and southeastern Pitt County. A church-affiliated school, Trinity Academy, opened in 1850, also played an important role in Chocowinity's development. With the school's closing in 1908, Chocowinity lost a major part of its history and economy.

Trinity Church

Blount's Chapel, a substantial frame church for its day, was built around 1774 at Godley's Crossroads on the north side of NC 33, just outside the present day municipal boundary of Chocowinity. Construction of the simple gabled and weatherboarded structure is attributed to local carpenters Giles Shute and John Harrington (Bishir, *Eastern* 183; Van Camp 65; *Chieftain*). The building was moved in 1939 to its present site. The exterior of the chapel is plainly trimmed with paneled pilasters and boxed eaves. A few hand-riven weatherboards survive as well as beaded and later plain siding. Additions to the original block date from around 1884 (rear addition), 1939 (entry vestibule), and 2000 (multipurpose building at rear). The gabled parish house with 4/4 windows is attached to the chapel's west wall by a hyphen and was added around the time of the relocation. The chapel's open plan interior has an exposed arched truss system, stained glass windows made by the R. Geissler Company of New York, and a pipe organ made by the George Stevens Organ Company of Boston. Both the organ and windows were put in place in the 1880s.

The church was commissioned by wealthy Anglican clergyman Nathaniel Blount (1748-1816). It is sometimes referred to as "Blount's Chapel." Blount was a Beaufort County native and part of a distinguished family of state and national importance. The family was one of the earliest to receive land grants in North Carolina and they were deeply involved in North Carolina business, agriculture and politics. The family seat was near Grifton in neighboring Pitt County, but the Blounts had landholdings, plantations and residences throughout Pitt, Beaufort and Craven Counties (Power 274-275). Meadowview Plantation was the seat of William Augustus Blount (1792-1867). The 25,000-acre plantation was several miles east of the US 17/NC 33 intersection. The one-and-one-half-story plantation house still stands outside the survey area.

Nathaniel Blount was said to be devoted to religion and disinterested in the life of a politician, merchant or gentleman farmer. His family clearly

had the means to educate him and prepare him for the ministry. He was ordained in the Anglican Church in England in 1773. Upon his return Blount erected the small church on Chocowinity Branch. The parson traveled extensively to minister to distant parishioners and sermonize in Beaufort and neighboring counties. At his death in 1816 he was the only Episcopal cleric in North Carolina (Powell, ed. *Dictionary*, 180).

During the Colonial period the Anglican presence in North Carolina was not a strong one due to its association with wealthy aristocracy and Tory sentiments. Thirteen years after the Revolution, in 1789, the Protestant Episcopal Church was organized in Philadelphia. One year later Nathaniel Blount participated in an unsuccessful convention in Tarboro to organize an Episcopal church in North Carolina. However, it was not until 1817, one year after Blount's death, that the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina was formally established (Lefler and Newsome 391-392). Through the 1800s Baptism and Methodism continued to spread and remained the largest of eastern North Carolina's denominations. The Baptist order gained stronger footing with the founding of the state Baptist Convention in 1830 in Greenville. By the 1920s the Disciples of Christ, also known as the Christian Church, was the largest denomination in Beaufort County, followed by Methodists and Baptists. (Ormond 55: Lefler and Newsome 339- 394). Given the relatively weak Anglican/Episcopalian presence south of the Pamlico River, the construction and survival of Trinity Church is exceptional and speaks to the influence of Nathaniel Blount.

Trinity Academy

Around 1850 a frame schoolhouse was built across Chocowinity Branch from Blount's Chapel. The structure is attributed to parish member Edward Laughinghouse, and no longer stands. Rev. Nicholas Collin Hughes was the founder and headmaster of the school, which was named Trinity School.

Hughes, a Swedish descendant from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the General Theological Seminary in New York. Upon his ordination at St. Thomas Church in New York City in June of 1844, Hughes moved to North Carolina where his brother, a medical doctor, had settled in New Bern. Hughes was assigned as an Episcopal missionary to Lenoir, Wayne and Pitt Counties. He became an ordained priest at Christ Church in Raleigh on October 17, 1848. Around 1850 he arrived at Godley's Crossroads and Trinity School was opened. During the Civil War Hughes was sent to various posts across North Carolina and Tennessee, and the school may

have closed for a period during the war (accounts differ). He did not return permanently to eastern North Carolina until 1875, when he was appointed rector of St. Paul's Church in Greenville and missionary to Beaufort, Pitt and Craven Counties.

Around 1877 Hughes and his son Nicholas Collin Hughes, Jr. reopened Trinity School as a coeducational Christian day and boarding school (Powell 227-228). The school served students from Beaufort and neighboring counties ("Trinity School," 1877). The institution was moved from Godley's Crossroads to the intersection of the Greenville and New Bern Highways around 1877. School-related buildings came to occupy all four corners of the crossroads. These buildings shaped the character of the community in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

On the intersection's northeast corner, set diagonally to the road was the large frame school building (Hughes notes in Brown Library vertical file; Whitley account). In front of the school was a small "house with a porch" used as a "stationary," or school bookstore. No documentary photos of these buildings have been found to date. At the southeast corner was the ca. 1880 home of Nicholas Hughes, Jr. A documentary photo and a site plan depict it to be a rambling two-story weatherboarded structure with two-story porches and many additions. A gable-front dormitory was attached by a porch to the house's east side. A second dormitory was located at the crossroads' northwest corner. At the southwest corner was the George Frank Hill House. Hill was a teacher at the academy and took in student borders. Many pupils and teachers also boarded with local families.

An advertisement in the *Washington Gazette* dated July 1877 outlines the academy's course of instruction as "the ordinary English branches, History, Physics, Rhetoric, Book keeping, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Latin, Greek and Music on the Piano." Tuition for English courses was ten dollars; fifteen dollars was the fee for physics, rhetoric, and mathematics, and courses in the classics were twenty dollars. Board was thirty dollars per term. Surveying was taught for an additional charge. Attendance at religious services and study of the bible was required for all students.

Nicholas Collin Hughes, Sr. was widely respected for his life's work and received a doctorate of divinity from the University of North Carolina in 1884. He died in 1893 and is buried in Trinity Cemetery. Nicholas Collin Hughes, Jr. became headmaster upon his father's death.

Trinity School closed in 1908 (Loy and Worthy 265). In 1900 Charles B. Aycock was elected governor of the state. During his term over 1,100 public schools were built across North Carolina. The rise of public education marked the end of the era of private academies (<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/aycock/main.htm>. 19 August 2009). Nicholas Collins Hughes, Jr. was listed in the 1910 U.S. Census as a civil engineer. He also served Chocowinity as its first mayor and magistrate after its incorporation in 1917 (Powell, *Gazeteer* 106). The academy buildings were demolished by the mid-1950s and had been replaced with commercial buildings and service stations (*Chieftain*). The use or presence of the school buildings between 1908 and the 1950s is not known.

Chocowinity Post-Trinity Academy

After the school's closure, the 1910 U.S. Census enumerated approximately 126 people living in twenty-five households in Chocowinity. The town remained a small community supported by a few stores and services. Male occupations listed in the census include laborers (employed by the railroad and a steam mill), merchants, farmers or farm laborers, a mail carrier, and a horse trader. Women were employed as domestics and teachers. There were three blacksmiths recorded by the census taker: J.E. Taylor, Major Smith, and John Ange, whose shop was near the Marsden Station. Chocowinity had its own cotton gin at the southwest corner of US 17 and NC 33 (now gone), although most agricultural products were traded in Washington.

By the late 1930s Chocowinity consisted of commercial buildings, dwellings, the Trinity and First Baptist churches, and the railroad structures at Marsden Station (1938 Highway Map). One and two-story brick commercial buildings with glass storefronts were clustered on the south side of the Greenville Highway, west of the New Bern Highway. These buildings remain standing, although heavily altered by stucco veneer applied in the 1980s. The town hall, post office, and Turnage Grocery Store were a few of the occupants (Whitley account; www.beaufort-county.com/Chocowinity). Filling stations, such as the ca. 1920 Gulf Service Station at the northwest corner of the Chocowinity crossroads (now gone), were built to serve the increasing number of vehicles traveling US 17, which was paved in 1919.

Lumber was Beaufort County's largest industry from the 1890s though the 1950s (Worthy and Loy 329). In the 1940s the Edinburg Hardwood Lumber Company was established east of the tracks at Marsden. The corporation's founding was the town's first experience with industry. The company became Edinburg Industries, a furniture maker, in the mid-

1950s. Later, the plant continued to manufacture furniture but was absorbed by the Singer Sewing Machine Company. The plant closed in 1997 (Van Camp 72; Mason interview; *Cheiftan*).

The Winfields were a prominent Chocowinity family with interests in local business and agriculture. Across from the present day middle school on US 17 was the home of Robert and Alice Winfield. The house burned; its pecan grove still stands. The Winfields had five children: Bryan, Ben, Bernard, Warren and Mary. After Robert's death, Alice moved to the house she built in 1929 at 185 NC 33 (BF 1092). The family operated a large stockyard on the land of the earlier house. The large open fields south of NC 33 and north of the pecan grove are still under the family's ownership (Whitley; Percer and Pfeiffer interviews).

A significant event in the town's physical development was the moving of the ca. 1774 Trinity Church from its original to its current location at 200 NC 33 in 1939. The congregation wanted to be closer to town and moved the building to a lot it already owned. Soon after the relocation the gabled parish hall was added to the east side of the old church. The Colonial Revival dwelling on the east side of the church at 156 NC 33 (BF 1090) was put in use as the rectory.

Children who could not afford private school tuition were educated in modest schoolhouses scattered throughout the Beaufort County countryside, as was the norm across North Carolina prior to the school consolidation movement. In the early 1930s there were fifteen schoolhouses of some type for both black and white students throughout Chocowinity Township. A one-story, frame, gable-roof school for whites was erected in Chocowinity in 1926. In 1933 a frame schoolhouse for African-American children was built. Both of these buildings have been demolished. In 1937 a brick consolidation school for white students was built to replace the 1933 frame structure on the east side of the New Bern Highway south of the Chocowinity crossroads. This building was demolished some time after 2007. In 1952, a new high school building and lunchroom were erected immediately to the south of the 1937 school. In 1965, an elementary school building was constructed to the rear of the 1952 high school, and in 1966-1967, the gymnasium was constructed. This site presently is home to the middle school campus. The complex is comprised of a ca. 2000 brick school connected to the above mentioned buildings by walkways with metal canopies.

The town's charter was repealed for unknown reasons in 1947; it was reinstated in 1959 (Powell, *Gazetteer*, 106). W.T. Barnes served as mayor when the town was re-incorporated. The current mayor is James Mobley.

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