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HISTORIC HOUSES OF BEAUFORT COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, 1744-1899

*The University of North Carolina at Greensboro*

PH.D. 1982

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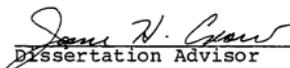
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Approved by

  
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APPROVAL PAGE

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The overall purpose of the study was to compile a written and visual record of historic houses in Beaufort County, North Carolina and to analyze the significance of various influencing factors on the design of historic houses. Houses from the earliest extant home, ca. 1744, through 1899, were included in the study. Of those, 61 were selected for individual discussion. A photograph, description of the architectural features, and provenance of those houses were included.

The procedure utilized was the historical method of research, consisting of a combination of archival, manuscript, and field research. Emphasis was placed on analysis of architectural features in the context of the social, economic, political, and geographic environment. Information on past owners was compiled in order to provide more complete understanding of influences and functions of residences. Architects, builders, and carpenters who worked in Beaufort County were identified.

Primary sources included manuscript collections, nineteenth-century architectural books, maps, newspapers, and photographs. Archival materials such as census records, deeds, and wills were also utilized. The Colonial and State Records of North Carolina and records of the Civil War were examined for facts related to house construction and

socioeconomic or political factors which influenced housing. Oral history was obtained through interviews with local resource persons.

Five styles were represented in Beaufort County: Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Victorian, and Vernacular. The most dominant style of historic housing was Vernacular. Only the Georgian, Greek Revival, and Italianate styles had significant impact on the plan of houses. The influence of other styles was revealed primarily in decorative motifs. Greek Revival, and the Victorian variations of Italianate and Carpenter Gothic were the most pervasive influences on decorative motifs.

Dominant housing characteristics were conservatism and the persistence of styles. Those factors were attributable to socioeconomic, political, and geographic influences.

The emigration of settlers from England, Virginia, or New England restricted ethnic influences. Because trade was primarily with other colonies and the West Indies, English influence was reinforced. The dominance of lumber products in local commerce was clearly reflected in housing materials. The Civil War and the economic disruption which followed inhibited the influence of Victorian styles. Results of the study indicated that housing was affected by those diverse environmental factors.

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Special thanks is extended to the many residents of Beaufort County who assisted in the study. Their generosity in furnishing information and access to the houses contributed greatly to the success of the study. Space does not permit mention of all the individuals who provided assistance, but special thanks are extended to Mrs. Rena Terrill and Mr. Marvin Davis.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
APPROVAL PAGE . . . . .	ii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS . . . . .	iii
LIST OF TABLES . . . . .	vi
LIST OF FIGURES . . . . .	vii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS . . . . .	xi
CHAPTER	
I. INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE . . . . .	4
Bath . . . . .	5
Washington . . . . .	9
Other Towns and Rural Areas . . . . .	11
Demolished Houses . . . . .	11
Summary . . . . .	13
III. PROCEDURE . . . . .	14
Purposes . . . . .	14
Justification . . . . .	15
Hypotheses . . . . .	16
Definition of Terms . . . . .	17
Architectural Styles . . . . .	18
Research Methods . . . . .	20
Delimitations . . . . .	22
Limitations . . . . .	22
IV. SOCIOECONOMIC INFLUENCES . . . . .	24
Settlement Patterns . . . . .	24
Religion . . . . .	33
Social Conditions . . . . .	35
Civil War . . . . .	38
Trade and Commerce . . . . .	41
Summary . . . . .	45

CHAPTER	Page
V. DESCRIPTION OF HOUSES. . . . .	48
Georgian . . . . .	48
Federal . . . . .	61
Greek Revival . . . . .	71
Victorian . . . . .	91
Vernacular . . . . .	180
VI. ANALYSIS OF DESIGN FEATURES AND HOUSE CONSTRUCTION . . . . .	231
Hypotheses . . . . .	231
Architectural Styles . . . . .	235
Construction Features . . . . .	236
Building Products . . . . .	242
Architects and Builders . . . . .	243
VII. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS . . . . .	249
Summary and Conclusions . . . . .	249
Recommendations for Additional Research . . . . .	252
BIBLIOGRAPHY. . . . .	254
APPENDIX A. PROVENANCE OF HOUSES INDIVIDUALLY DESCRIBED . . . . .	270
APPENDIX B. ADDRESSES OF HOUSES INDIVIDUALLY DESCRIBED . . . . .	280
APPENDIX C. INTERVIEWS . . . . .	283
APPENDIX D. BEAUFORT COUNTY CARPENTERS, MASONS, AND PAINTERS . . . . .	284

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 1. Architectural Styles . . . . .	235
Table 2. Design Features of Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival Houses . . . . .	237
Table 3. Design Features of Victorian Houses . . . . .	238
Table 4. Beaufort County Builders . . . . .	246

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1. Palmer-Marsh House, ca. 1744 . . . . .	54
Figure 2. Chimney, Palmer-Marsh House . . . . .	55
Figure 3. Belfont Plantation, ca. 1796 . . . . .	58
Figure 4. Chimney, Belfont Plantation . . . . .	59
Figure 5. Water Street, Washington . . . . .	63
Figure 6. Marsh House, ca. 1795 . . . . .	64
Figure 7. Hyatt House, ca. 1801 . . . . .	66
Figure 8. Myers House I, ca. 1797 . . . . .	68
Figure 9. Portico, Myers House . . . . .	69
Figure 10. Griffin House, ca. 1850 . . . . .	71
Figure 11. Cornice Returns. . . . .	74
Figure 12. Respass House, ca. 1830 . . . . .	76
Figure 13. Greenhill, ca. 1833 . . . . .	79
Figure 14. Blount-Hodges House, ca. 1810 . . . . .	82
Figure 15. Smaw House, ca. 1867 . . . . .	86
Figure 16. Phillips House, ca. 1875 . . . . .	87
Figure 17. Latham House, ca. 1891 . . . . .	89
Figure 18. Dimock House, ca. 1880-1902 . . . . .	90
Figure 19. Bonner House I . . . . .	92
Figure 20. Porch Detail, Bryan House . . . . .	94
Figure 21. Drip Molding . . . . .	95
Figure 22. Rutledge House, date unknown . . . . .	98
Figure 23. Rodman House, ca. 1848 . . . . .	102
Figure 24. Rodman House . . . . .	103

	Page
Figure 25. Rosedale, ca. 1859 . . . . .	108
Figure 26. Doorway, Rosedale . . . . .	109
Figure 27. Side Elevation, Rosedale . . . . .	110
Figure 28. Holladay House, ca. 1860 . . . . .	114
Figure 29. Porch, Holladay House . . . . .	115
Figure 30. Holladay House, Sketch in Catherine Bleeker Folger Collection, Beaufort- Hyde-Martin Library, Washington, N.C. . . . .	116
Figure 31. Quin House, ca. 1872 . . . . .	118
Figure 32. McKeel House I, ca. 1890 . . . . .	120
Figure 33. Moss House, ca. 1893 . . . . .	122
Figure 34. Short House, ca. 1895 . . . . .	124
Figure 35. Richards House, ca. 1846 . . . . .	126
Figure 36. Porch, Richards House . . . . .	127
Figure 37. Lucas House, ca. 1860 . . . . .	129
Figure 38. Blount-Jones House, ca. 1882 . . . . .	131
Figure 39. Simmons-Credle House, ca. 1875 . . . . .	133
Figure 40. Ayers House, ca. 1885 . . . . .	136
Figure 41. Porch, Ayers House . . . . .	138
Figure 42. McKeel House II, ca. 1890 . . . . .	139
Figure 43. Harris House, ca. 1894 . . . . .	141
Figure 44. Lupton House, ca. 1898 . . . . .	142
Figure 45. Bryan House, ca. 1899-1901 . . . . .	144
Figure 46. Dumay House, ca. 1900 . . . . .	145
Figure 47. 1857 Sketch of Elmwood, ca. 1829, from Strother (1857) . . . . .	150
Figure 48. Portico, Elmwood . . . . .	151

	Page
Figure 49. Elmwood. . . . .	154
Figure 50. Fowle House, ca. 1811 . . . . .	161
Figure 51. Hodges-Moore House, ca. 1824 . . . . .	164
Figure 52. Potts-Bragaw House, ca. 1842-1869 . . . . .	167
Figure 53. Doorway, Potts-Bragaw House . . . . .	169
Figure 54. Wilkins House, ca. 1884 . . . . .	171
Figure 55. Farrow House, ca. 1885 . . . . .	173
Figure 56. Bonner House I, ca. 1850-1885 . . . . .	174
Figure 57. Leach House, ca. 1885 . . . . .	177
Figure 58. Clark House I, ca. 1893 . . . . .	179
Figure 59. Meadowville, ca. 1835-1840 . . . . .	184
Figure 60. Williams House I, ca. 1854 . . . . .	187
Figure 61. Hanks-Thomas House, ca. 1855 . . . . .	189
Figure 62. Wallace House, ca. 1853-1860 . . . . .	191
Figure 63. Carrow House, ca. 1884 . . . . .	192
Figure 64. Mills House, date unknown . . . . .	193
Figure 65. Flynn-Aycock House, date unknown . . . . .	195
Figure 66. Nicholson House, ca. 1888 . . . . .	196
Figure 67. Havens House, ca. 1820 . . . . .	198
Figure 68. Ormond-Midyette House, early nineteenth century . . . . .	200
Figure 69. Smallwood, ca. 1826 . . . . .	202
Figure 70. Bonner House II, ca. 1830 . . . . .	205
Figure 71. Williams House, ca. 1830 . . . . .	207

	Page
Figure 72. Ell Williams House . . . . .	208
Figure 73. Doorway, Myers House II, ca. 1855. . . . .	210
Figure 74. Randolph House, date unknown . . . . .	211
Figure 75. Clark House II, ca. 1856 . . . . .	213
Figure 76. Gable End, Clark House . . . . .	214
Figure 77. Rowland House, ca. 1858 . . . . .	216
Figure 78. Rivers-Sanderson House, date unknown . . . . .	218
Figure 79. Kelly House, ca. 1890 . . . . .	219
Figure 80. Van Der Veer House, ca. 1790 (1830 appearance) . . . . .	222
Figure 81. Coward-Rodman House, ca. 1848 . . . . .	223
Figure 82. Riverside-Winfield, photograph 1893, by permission of Mrs. Zelma Winfield . . . . .	226
Figure 83. Riverside-Winfield, ca. 1886 . . . . .	227
Figure 84. Hooker House, ca. 1899 . . . . .	228
Figure 85. Frisbee House, ca. 1899 . . . . .	230

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- AR--American Recorder  
AP--Agnes Paton Foy Memoir  
BG--Bryan Grimes Papers  
Ca.--Circa  
CERM--Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men  
CR--Colonial Records  
CRV--Confederate Reveille  
DAR--Daughters of the American Revolution  
DB--Deed Book  
DMC--David Miller Carter Papers  
HDR--Historical and Descriptive Review  
HSR--Historic Site Report  
EHS--Edmund Harding Scrapbook  
EI--Eastern Intelligencer  
FE--Freeman's Echo  
FS--Federal Soldiers' Letters  
FWP--Federal Writers' Project  
GRE--Grimes Real Estate  
Int.--Interview  
JEH--Journal of Ebenezer Hazard  
JFP--Journal of a French Traveler  
JGB--John Gray Blount Papers  
JRG--James Redding Grist and Richard Grist Papers  
JSL--Journal of a Secesh Lady

MB--Map Book  
MFC--Mary Farrow Credle Papers  
MFP--Myers Family Papers  
MP--Morton Papers  
NCDRC--North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
NCG--North Carolina Gazette  
NCT--North Carolina Times  
NO--News and Observer  
NR--National Register  
NSP--North State Press  
NSW--North State Whig  
PB--Plat Book  
PFP--Perry Family Papers  
PP--Pettigrew Papers  
RS--Record of the Service  
SM--Sanborn Maps  
SR--State Records  
ST--The Statesman and Third Congressional District Advertiser  
TFD--Theodore Fulton Davidson Papers  
TS--Thomas Sparrow Papers  
UAP--Union Advance Picket  
VVH--Van Der Veer House  
WB--Will Book  
WBR--William Blount Rodman Papers  
WD--Washington Dispatch

WDN--Washington Daily News

WFP--Windley Family Papers

WG--Washington Gazette

WI--Washington Index

WP--Washington Progress

WR--War of the Rebellion

WW--Washington Whig

CHAPTER I  
INTRODUCTION

North Carolina possesses a rich and varied architectural history. Perhaps the greatest panorama of architectural styles is in the coastal plain region, where some of the earliest settlements in the United States were established. In the early years of North Carolina history the centers of trade and population were located in that area, thus affording greater opportunities for building and exposure to varying architectural styles.

Beaufort County is the site of Bath, the first permanent town in North Carolina. In the formative years of North Carolina the towns of Bath and Washington played an important role; thus, their history is of interest not only to local residents but is a vital segment of the state's development.

Historic houses in Beaufort County date from the eighteenth through the nineteenth centuries, the assemblage encompassing some of the oldest extant structures in North Carolina. Preservation of that architectural heritage through a descriptive account prevents the loss of vital links to the past. Greater depth and a sense of cultural continuity can be added to the lives of present inhabitants through knowledge and understanding of the homes of past generations.

We require the security of knowing that in acting out our lives we may be able to perform on a stage that maintains the links with those who lived and acted out their lives before us. (Stipe, 1978, p. 11)

Several purposes are served through documentation of historic houses. Their design, materials, and construction reveal the attitudes and values of their builders and owners, bearing silent witness to the lifestyles of the inhabitants.

Because the built environment serves as the physical framework for our social existence, we can sometimes find in it a reflection of our cultural values, our collective view of the world and man's position in it. (Rosenberg, 1978, p. 20)

In addition to shedding light on the lifestyles of past owners, methods and materials of construction disclose prevailing habits of trade and travel. Use of materials not available locally and the presence of architectural styles popular in other settlements indicate importation of some goods and the influence of architectural style books or travelers. Hence, a clearer picture of the social and economic environment of past residents may be obtained through study of their houses.

Some historic houses have been preserved through the efforts of public and private groups while other buildings stand awaiting the attention of architectural historians. That some structures and historic districts were considered worthy of listing in the National Register of Historic Places reinforced the importance of research on the historic houses of Beaufort County.

The rural character of much of eastern North Carolina may have been responsible for the preservation of many historic structures. However, greater industrialization and urban growth may bring increasing pressure to demolish historic buildings in the name of progress. Thus the preservation of historic houses through descriptive accounts and photographic records is increasingly essential.

An analysis of historic houses in Beaufort County provides a record of significant structures and enables better comprehension of the relationship between architecture and the social milieu. The full significance of historic houses can be perceived through integrated study of architectural styles and the environment in which they were constructed.

CHAPTER II  
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of the literature indicated a need for additional research on historic houses of Beaufort County. Despite a substantial architectural heritage, references to historic houses were scattered, often with little depth to analysis of specific structures. Bath and Washington were most frequently discussed; mention of homes in rural areas or in other towns was infrequent.

Sources for the review of literature were books, articles, and pamphlets concerned with historic housing in eastern North Carolina and other publications containing references to historic houses in that area. Analysis of the information was organized in four sections: Bath, Washington, Other Towns and Rural Areas, and Demolished Houses.

Some discrepancy was apparent in general descriptions of houses. Conceptions of early architecture varied from situations where "architectural beauty was sacrificed for comfort convenience and safety" (Reed, 1962, p. 38) with facades being rather plain (Cooper, 1916; Lefler, 1955; Lefler & Newsome, 1973) to indications that some pretentious houses on large plantations were built by wealthy families (Lewis & Young, 1978; Rodman, 1902) and were well furnished

(Cooper, 1916; Reed, 1962).

While accordant in their facts, many publications contributed little new information. Descriptions of specific structures were usually consistent, often to the point of repetitiveness, but there were some discrepancies. According to Cooper (1916), the Palmer-Marsh House was constructed for a Whitemore family by Monsieur Cataunch, although all other authors asserted that Cataunch himself occupied the house. Most references cited a date of ca. 1744 for the Palmer-Marsh House, but one author indicated that it was built in 1770 (Herzog, 1977).

Only a slight amount of data on builders and architects was located. The major source quoted listing of twelve house carpenters who took apprentices from 1786-1835 (Craig, 1965).<sup>1</sup> Craig's data were based on a survey of newspapers from 1700-1840. The one reference to an architect was in relation to the now demolished DeMille House in Washington, for which an architect was said to have been brought from New York (Worthy, 1976).

#### Bath

Historic houses in Bath were cited more frequently than those in Washington, perhaps because the extant

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<sup>1</sup>House carpenters listed by Craig were John Jones, William Sullerton, Danial Groves, John Lee, Caleb Evans, Thomas Trotter, Daniel Paul, Samuel Johnson, Joseph Cording (Cordon), John Bonner, Francis Brooks, and Samuel Peabody.

structures in Bath are older and association with the pirate Blackbeard gave the town a more colorful history. As a state historic site, Bath received preservation aid and publicity from the North Carolina Division of Archives and History.

Bath was mentioned with some frequency in histories of North Carolina and Beaufort County and a few authors made general statements, often undocumented, concerning housing. Sources usually suggested that the town was small (Cooper, 1916; Lefler & Newsome, 1973; Watson, 1975). One author of the early twentieth century stated that "It has long since ceased to be more than a memory" (Nash, 1906, p. 88).

According to secondary sources, the town contained mainly frame houses (Bonner, 1939; Cooper, 1916; Reed, 1962). There were scattered references to brick houses in Beaufort County. The Reverend Alexander Stewart purportedly had a brick house on Garrison Point and a family named Kewall had a brick house (Bonner, 1912).

Two books and a pamphlet were devoted exclusively to early architecture of Bath (Lewis & Young, 1978; Marsh & Marsh, 1966; Reeves, n.d.). All contained accounts of the founding of Bath in 1705, described the layout of the town, and discussed specific houses. Emphasis by Lewis and Young (1978) was primarily on individuals who resided in Bath; architecture was discussed primarily in relation to the occupants.

A publication by Marsh and Marsh (1966) contained several interior views as well as exteriors of houses while illustrations of the five houses in Lewis and Young (1978) were largely of the exteriors. Four historic houses were described and illustrated with pen and ink sketches by Reeves (n.d.).

In a history of Bath, Paschal (1955) devoted some attention to the sites of homes in early Bath but did not offer descriptions. His narrative related the story of the development and layout of the town, including a reproduction of the first known map of Bath. Brief references to historic houses were also contained in a general history of Beaufort County (Reed, 1962).

The Beaufort County house most frequently mentioned in the literature was the Palmer-Marsh House in Bath (Bonner, 1939; Cooper, 1916; Henderson, 1939; Johnston & Waterman, 1941; Loy & Worthy, 1976; Lewis & Young, 1978; Marsh & Marsh, 1966; Reed, 1962, Reeves, n.d., Rodman, 1902; Robinson, 1955; Wodehouse, 1969). Descriptions of the structure invariably alluded to the wide chimney flanked by closets. However, no detailed, comprehensive descriptions of the floor plan and architectural features were found in published sources.

The most extensive analysis included a rough floor plan, discussion of the appearance prior to restoration, and the work of archeologists in establishing the probable

original appearance (Allcott, 1975). A comparison to houses of New Bern and Maryland concluded that the chimney was not similar to those of New Bern, but bore some resemblance to Maryland chimneys (Herzog, 1977).

Other houses in Bath which received usually cursory mention were the Bonner House (Bonner, 1939; Lewis & Young, 1978; Loy & Worthy, 1976; Marsh and Marsh, 1966; Reed, 1962; Robinson, 1955), Van Der Veer House (Bonner, 1939; Lewis & Young, 1978), and Williams House (Bonner, 1939; Lewis & Young, 1978; Marsh & Marsh, 1966; Robinson, 1955). All of these structures have been restored and were included in the Bath Historic District (Reeves, n.d.). Incorporated in the Van Der Veer House was an example of the stair porch (Little-Stokes, 1978).

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places were Bath Historic District, the Bonner House, and the Palmer-Marsh House (NR, 1979). The Historic American Buildings Survey also recorded Bath Historic District and the Palmer-Marsh House (NR, 1979).

Several undocumented newspaper articles have been written on Bath's historic houses. In addition, pamphlets published by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History and other state agencies concerned those structures (NCDCCR, n.d.; DCD, n.d.).

### Washington

References to Washington were usually in the context of its growth as a port. Specific mention of historic houses was rare and no books were found which dealt specifically with the architecture of Washington. Despite a dearth of published descriptions, Washington Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NR, 1980) which served to indicate the value of research on houses in the district.

One thesis on Beaufort County architecture was located. Its preservation study of the Marsh House in Washington included an architectural description and extensive discussion of the family for whom the house was constructed (Taylor, 1976).

One of two comprehensive studies on North Carolina architecture, Old Homes and Gardens of North Carolina, contained only one Beaufort County house, the Myers House in Washington (Henderson, 1939). An illustration was accompanied by a statement, primarily concerned with the provenance of the house.

The most extensive analysis of North Carolina architecture referred to only four Beaufort County structures, three of which were commercial or ecclesiastical (Johnston & Waterman, 1941). In addition to the Palmer-Marsh House and St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Bath, the Bank of Washington and the Beaufort County Courthouse were mentioned.

All but the Courthouse were illustrated.

Little information on building materials was located. Jonathan Havens indicated that Mulberry Tavern in Washington was part brick (WG, Nov. 1, 1889). Descriptions of the Kennedy or General Bryan Grimes home outside Washington, ca. 1750, indicated that it may have had a frame front and rear facade with brick ends (Rodman, 1922).

Brief mention of Washington's nineteenth-century homes indicated that the town had retained some antebellum houses as well as structures of later dates (Lewis & Young, 1978; Reed, 1962; Wodehouse, 1970). Twelve Washington homes were briefly cited by Robinson (1955) with cursory descriptions. Seven of those houses and two additional homes were similarly described in a publication of the Federal Writers' Project (1938). Nine houses, the Bragaw, Fowle, Holladay, Myers, Myers-Sugg, Warren, Rodman, and Telfair Houses and Elmwood were named in the Tar-Neuse Inventory (NCDRC, 1977).

Sketches and photographs of seven houses were included in a volume of writings on early history of the Washington area (Loy & Worthy, 1976). Scattered references to other Washington homes provided evidence of the existence of several historic houses, including the Brown and Haven Houses. Brief mention of some houses was made in a bicentennial publication (DAR, 1976).

Elmwood, home of the Grist family, was one of the most notable houses described in the literature (Reed, 1962).

Other particularly noteworthy houses included the Telfair and Myers homes (Reed, 1962; Robinson, 1955).

#### Other Towns and Rural Areas

Published information on houses in towns other than Bath and Washington or in rural areas was virtually nonexistent. In analyzing historic events a few authors noted briefly the sites of houses associated with eminent individuals, but detailed information was not presented.

Houses cited in rural areas were the Harvey House (Wodehouse, 1969) and Belfont Plantation House (Masterson, 1965). Belfont was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the only rural Beaufort County house which received that distinction (NR, 1979). Rosedale Plantation had also been nominated for the National Register at the time of this study.

Noted in the Tar-Neuse Inventory were three historic houses in the vicinity of Chocowinity, all constructed in the nineteenth century (NCDCR, 1977). Also recorded and briefly described were one house in Edward, one in the vicinity of Wharton, two near Jessama, two near Bunyan, and three in Aurora.

#### Demolished Houses

The site or foundations of several old houses were mentioned by some authors, occasionally with short descriptions. Among these were the foundations of Edward Teach's

house near Bath (FWP, 1938; Lewis & Young, 1978; Reed, 1962; Rodman, 1902), Governor Eden's house, known as Thistleworth (Bonner, 1939; FWP, 1938; Lewis & Young, 1978; Marsh & Marsh, 1966; Robinson, 1955; Rodman, 1902), and the foundations of a brick house built by the Rhoulhac family (Rodman, 1902).

Kirby Grange, home of Christopher Gale, was alluded to by some authors (Bonner, 1939; Lewis & Young, 1978; Paschal, 1955; Reed, 1962; Robinson, 1955). The Lionel Reading home was also mentioned, but not described (Paschal, 1955; Reed, 1962).

References to the LeRoy home in Washington described it as one of the most elegant homes in Washington (Lewis & Young, 1978). Although information on past owners was given, no description of the house was provided (Loy & Worthy, 1976).

Houses cited as being in a dilapidated condition included the hip-roofed Ormond estate, two miles north of Bath (Rodman, 1902). A brief description indicated that it may have been a pretentious home, possessing a "fine tiled mantelpiece" and a "handsome old stairway" which terminated at a small-paned window flanked by doors (Rodman, 1902, p.4).

The Washington home of John Gray Blount was described in an article by Rodman (1923) and illustrated in a compilation of letters (Keith, 1959) in which mention was made of its unpretentious character. Blount's residence, the sixth house in Washington, was constructed in 1778 by slave labor (Rodman, 1923). According to Rodman, one of the windows

contained panes with dark green centers to represent the thirteen states.

A brief description of Mulberry Tavern, former Washington home of Colonel James Bonner, indicated that it burned following the Civil War (Myers, 1976) after being used as both a residence and a tavern (Reed, 1962). A note accompanying a sketch indicated that it may have been the first house in Washington (Loy & Worthy, 1976).

#### Summary

In comparison to other eastern North Carolina counties there were few literary references to historic houses in Beaufort County. Publications which did provide a description of historic architecture in that region often devoted more attention to discussion of noteworthy past residents than to analysis of their homes.

Most recent publications appeared to be based largely on secondary sources. The repetitious information indicated that authors may have relied on the same sources, conducting little original research. Even authors who did cite primary sources tended to quote identical passages.

Review of the literature revealed the presence of several historic homes, but little detail was provided. The paucity of information signified a need for research on early Beaufort County houses. Beaufort County's history was tightly interwoven with that of North Carolina as a whole; thus, its historic houses are well worth investigation.

## CHAPTER III

## PROCEDURE

The procedure utilized was the historical method of research, consisting of a combination of archival and manuscript research. Field investigation provided a description of architectural features. Through study of extant buildings and a search of the historical records, a more accurate picture of the development and use of housing was obtained.

Purposes

The overall purpose of the study was to compile a written and visual record of historic houses in Beaufort County, North Carolina, and to analyze the significance of various influencing factors on the design of those historic houses. Emphasis was placed on analysis of architectural features in the context of the social, economic, political, and geographic environment. Information on past owners was compiled in order to provide more complete understanding of possible influences and functions of residences. Specifically, the purposes were these:

1. To compile a written description of the architectural features and provenance of significant historic houses in Beaufort County.
2. To provide a visual account of significant structures.

3. To discuss the manner in which social, economic, political, and geographic forces affected the form of Beaufort County houses.

#### Justification

Review of the literature revealed little published information on historical homes in Beaufort County. It has been said that North Carolina's state, local, and architectural history has been neglected (Crow & Tise, 1979; Lounsbury, 1978). Analysis of printed materials on Beaufort County confirmed those statements.

Preliminary studies conducted by the North Carolina Department of Archives and History (NCDCH, 1977) provided an overview of the region's architectural resources but did not give a comprehensive or in-depth view of the houses. Review of available materials indicated that additional research would contribute valuable data to the fund of information on North Carolina's historical houses.

Preliminary studies revealed that Beaufort County possessed historically significant buildings with major concentrations in Bath and Washington (NCDCH, 1977). Several were considered of sufficient importance for National Register nomination. Deficiencies in existing records of historic houses accentuated the value of research.

### Hypotheses

Based on published information concerning the settlement pattern in eastern North Carolina, trade routes, and social characteristics of the inhabitants, several hypotheses were formed. The study attempted to determine the validity of these hypotheses. For clarification they were stated in the alternative rather than the null form.

1. The majority of historic homes in rural areas embody vernacular characteristics rather than academic styles.
2. Most academic architectural styles are represented in Beaufort County. Historic housing in the area spanned a period of over 200 years and most major styles are represented.
3. The majority of houses are frame. Lumber products were a major export in the region, indicating that wood may have been used extensively for construction. Also, while some Beaufort County residents were wealthy, the majority were middle class and therefore, unlikely to have built the more expensive brick houses.
4. The majority of the houses have undergone structural alterations. Having been occupied by many generations, the houses have been altered to meet changing needs and tastes.
5. The most dominant styles are of English origin. Most settlers in Beaufort County were of English background.
6. Many of the houses in Washington exhibit Victorian

characteristics. During Civil War occupation by Federal troops, a large part of the town was burned and pillaged. Since reconstruction occurred during the Victorian era, a large number of houses incorporate elements of that style.

7. A portion of the houses in Washington exhibit West Indian influence. Over coastal towns in eastern North Carolina, such as Edenton, Beaufort, and New Bern show evidence of such influence. Like those towns, Washington also is known to have traded with the West Indies.
8. Some houses in Washington are elaborate, reflecting wealth and social standing. Despite its rural and small town social milieu, Washington was the residence of some prominent families, and at one time carried on a prosperous trade. Consequently, houses of merchants reflected sophistication and evidence of outside influence.
9. Houses in Bath are largely of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, exhibiting few of the alterations that marked houses of the Victorian era. Bath never achieved the prosperous trade of Washington and therefore lacked influences present in larger towns.

#### Definition of Terms

For purposes of this study, the following definitions of terms were utilized:

Glebe. Farm set aside for ministers (Paschal, 1955).

Historic houses. Those structures built during the time period ca. 1744 through 1899, which retained sufficient architectural features to be considered representative of that time period.

I-houses. Vernacular houses two stories high, one room deep and at least two rooms wide, with side gables (Kniffen, 1965).

Message. A dwelling and its adjacent structures and property (Leary & Stirewalt, 1980).

Significant houses. Houses whose architectural style could be identified as one of the major classifications or which possessed unique architectural features.

Tradition. Information passed from one generation to another which had not been documented.

Vernacular. The style of houses which were local interpretations of an architectural style, usually with little embellishment, and lacking academic form or motifs.

West Indian influence. Term applied to houses with two-tier porches extending across the front facade.

Quaker floor plan. A variation of the center hall plan in which there were two rooms on one side and a single room on the other (Johnston & Waterman, 1941).

#### Architectural Styles

The majority of the houses included in the study could be classified as vernacular. Houses were grouped

stylistically whenever possible in order to more clearly define stylistic influences. The classification and dates of various architectural styles vary according to the views of diverse authors. For this study the following classification was developed. Houses sometimes combined features of several styles so the categories were not mutually exclusive and were employed only for the purpose of description. Only selected phases of the Victorian period were listed, representing the styles which occurred in Beaufort County. Stylistic influence was extremely restricted and classification within any category should not be interpreted to mean that the house is an academic example of the style.

In this study the following styles were considered:

1. Georgian
2. Federal
3. Greek Revival
4. Victorian
  - a. Italianate
  - b. Carpenter Gothic
  - c. Queen Anne
  - d. Composite
5. Vernacular
  - a. Coastal Cottage
  - b. L-plan
  - c. I-house
  - d. Other

### Research Methods

Records compiled for the Tar-Neuse River Inventory, Mid-East Commission, and National Register nominations, which were deposited in the Planning and Survey Branch of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, were searched for names of historic houses. A survey of extant houses was conducted to determine which structures were suitable for inclusion in the study.

Houses included in the study were photographed in order to provide a visual record. This report includes photographs of significant structures and representative examples of vernacular styles. Photographs were taken with a 35mm. camera, using 135 film with 400 ASA. Photographs collected by the Division of Archives and History and those found in manuscript collections were studied for evidence of changes in architectural features. When available, photographs in the possession of homeowners were also examined.

Readings on the history of Beaufort County were conducted to relate political, economic, and social events to the development of houses. In addition to published histories primary sources in manuscript collections provided insight into social life in Beaufort County. The Colonial and State Records of North Carolina were examined for information pertaining to socioeconomic factors, settlement patterns, and housing standards. Records of the

Civil War also provided useful facts on events of that era.

Maps of Beaufort County, Bath, and Washington were examined for information relevant to historic houses. Examination of maps revealed lot numbers, town layout, and sometimes owners and shapes of houses.

A variety of primary sources were utilized in order to obtain the most complete record of individual houses and of factors which influenced their design. Manuscript collections were especially helpful sources. Nineteenth-century architectural books were consulted in an attempt to determine stylistic influences. Newspapers of the era provided information on home owners, the social environment, and the construction of houses. A search was made of deeds, wills, and other pertinent documents for information concerning the structures to be investigated. Interviews were conducted with members of the Washington Historical Commission, owners and past residents of houses, and other resource persons.

Houses were named for the original owner when that individual could be identified. When a later occupant made extensive changes the two names were combined, e.g., Blount-Hodges House. The only exceptions were those houses already named in previous studies and cases in which local names were so well known that to rename the house would have resulted in confusion. When two or more names were found in published sources, the less common names were

cited in parentheses.

#### Delimitations

1. The study of specific houses was limited to a time period from the construction of the earliest extant house ca. 1744 through 1899.
2. Analysis of specific houses was limited to those which retained sufficient original architectural features to be considered representative of an historical style. Houses extensively altered during the twentieth century were excluded from the study.
3. In-depth analysis of specific houses was limited to those which were architecturally significant. Most vernacular houses were not individually analyzed, but representative examples were included.
4. Information on demolished or badly deteriorated houses was considered only as it related to overall characteristics of Beaufort County houses. When available, such data received limited analysis to determine major architectural features.
5. The study was limited primarily to exterior architectural features except in cases where interiors had been well preserved and were significant.

#### Limitations

Extant historic houses were only a small portion of those which once stood. It is possible that surviving

houses were not representative of the population. Existing structures may have been those which were in some way remarkable and thus considered worthy of preservation or structures which were in a location not subject to the pressures of urban growth. Thus caution should be used in generalizing about historic housing based on existing buildings. However, examination of records and photographs revealed information on dominant housing forms. The similarity of extant houses indicated that they were representative examples.

Historic houses have often been altered and it may be difficult or impossible to determine the original appearance. Thus present design features may not be an accurate reflection of the frequency with which these features actually occurred. Examination of primary sources aided in determining the prevalence of styles. Interviews revealed some changes made in structures.

Analysis of historical records assisted in obtaining an accurate view of historical housing but that procedure was subject to limitations. Written records were neither infallible nor always accurate. Intentional distortion by biased authors or accidental errors in transcribing sometimes resulted in inaccuracies. An attempt was made to alleviate this problem by comparison of accounts from various sources.

CHAPTER IV  
SOCIOECONOMIC INFLUENCES

Analysis of socioeconomic forces provided explanations for the predominance of particular housing forms. Such elements as the background of settlers and their social patterns accounted for the popularity of certain architectural styles. The trade routes also revealed possible influences.

Beaufort County's history as an English settlement extended over more than two hundred years. Over that period of time, many factors exerted influence on evolving housing styles. Reporting of those influences was divided into five sections: Settlement Patterns, Religion, Social Conditions, Civil War, and Trade and Commerce.

Settlement Patterns

Beaufort County was the site of Bath, the first incorporated town in North Carolina, but the area was inhabited for several years prior to the founding of Bath. The earliest occupants were Tuscarora Indians, who may have had a village on the site of what later became Bath (Paschal, 1955).

The county originally was part of a much larger area known as Pampticough, including parts of present day Pitt, Hyde, Craven, Martin, and Pamlico counties (Corbitt, 1950).

It was part of the lands granted by King Charles II to the Lords Proprietors of Carolina in 1663 (CR, Vol. 1, p. 20). First established in 1696 and named Bath County for John, Earl of Bath, it was one of two counties in Proprietary North Carolina (CR, Vol. 4, p. 1200). It was renamed Beaufort County in 1705 after the Duke of Beaufort, one of the Lords Proprietors (Wheeler, 1925).

During the latter part of the seventeenth century colonists began to move into the Beaufort County region. Quakers, primarily from New England, were prominent residents and there may have been a group of French settlers, but the major influence remained British (Lefler & Newsome, 1973; Paschal, 1955).

While some settlers, particularly during the eighteenth century, emigrated directly from England, many later residents came from New England. A visitor in 1783 observed that the large trade with New England might be explained by "very many New England emigrants having settled in North Carolina" (Schoepf, 1783, p. 126). Among the prominent Beaufort County families who came from New England were Jonathan and Daniel Marsh and Samuel Fowle. Settlers in Beaufort County also came from the Albemarle region of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania (Paschal, 1955).

Since most settlers in this region emigrated from the Albemarle area, other colonies, or England, there was little

diversity in ethnic influence on housing. According to one source, five out of six settlers were English during the early 1730's (Merrents, 1964). Although vernacular, most Beaufort County houses exhibited traces of English origin.

Bath was incorporated in 1705 on sixty acres "in the Old Town Creek in Pampticoe" at the petition of John Lardson [Lawson] and Joel Martin (SR, Vol. 23, p. 73). The town was laid out into 71 lots (Forbes & Hoyle, 1807). It was stipulated that the plan include "a Church, A Townhouse and Market Place & that the rest of the Land...be...laid out into lotts of halfe an Acre each" to be sold for thirty shillings each. The town was surrounded by a fence with two gates; one was for carts and the smaller one for persons and horses (SR, Vol. 23, p. 238). The major streets were to be at least 100 feet wide, but an 1807 map showed only Water Street 100 feet wide with Carteret 52 feet wide and Craven and King Streets 66 feet wide (Forbes & Hoyle, 1807). A visitor observed, "The Streets in these Towns are as level as a Bowling Green, there being no manner of Pavement to be met with over all the Province" (Brickell, 1737, p. 9).

Growth in Bath was regulated by restrictions similar to present-day zoning ordinances. The law required any person who purchased a lot in Bath Town to construct a "good substantial habitable house" within twelve months or lose his claim to the lot. A further restriction prohibited

building in front of the house any structure other than a cellar or vault, which could not be over 10 feet in height, "that the prospect of such as build in the said Town may not be Incommoded or hindered" (SR, Vol. 23, p. 73). That law was repealed in 1723 and persons with front lots were permitted to build wharfs extending as far as the edge of the channel (SR, Vol. 25, p. 193).

Fences were to be "Pail'd in or done with Posts and Rails set up" rather than a "Common Stake fence" (SR, Vol. 25, 1740, p. 231). In the same law occupants were instructed to keep the lots cleared of all trash that might be offensive to others. To insure that this was done, an overseer was enabled to summon all male tithables to assist in cleaning streets and to remove nuisances.

During the early eighteenth century, Bath was a town of some importance. Francisco Miranda (1783) included it in his list of 12 principle towns in North Carolina and Brickell referred to it as the "Second considerable Town in the Province" (Brickell, 1737, p. 8).

Four North Carolina governors owned lots in Bath during its most prosperous period in the eighteenth century: Sir Robert Daniel, Colonel Thomas Cary, Colonel Edward Hyde, and Charles Eden (Bonner, 1939). In addition, there were merchants such as Jonathan Marsh and a Chief Justice, Christopher Gale (Paschal, 1955).

The few early roads passed through Bath, which was

almost always marked on eighteenth-century maps. When the first postal route was established, that also went through Bath. In the early eighteenth century, Bath had the distinction of possessing the only public library in North Carolina, sent from England by Reverend Thomas Bray (CR, Vol. 1, p. 715; CR, Vol. 2, p. 130).

Bath's status was largely due to its position on the Pamlico River. A visitor noted that the river was "the most considerable and commodious for Trade in this Province, except Cape Fear" (Brickell, 1737, p. 8).

Despite disparaging remarks such as Governor Burrington's comment that Bath was "a Town where little Improvements have been made" (CR, Vol. 3, 1728, p. 187), in 1716 it had been designated a Port of Entry (CR, Vol. 2, p. 237).

As a borough town, Bath was represented in the General Assembly (SR, Vol. 25, 1722, p. 178). There was an attempt to designate Bath as the colonial capital, but the effort was destined for failure when the Upper House of the General Assembly refused to pass the law approved by the House of Burgesses (CR, Vol. 4, 1749, p. 1171).

That action indicated that even by the end of the eighteenth century, Bath had declined in importance. However, the removal of the county seat from Bath to Washington in 1785 (SR, Vol. 24, p. 764) was not popular with the citizens, who "contemptuously refused" to pay for the courthouse, prison, pillory, and stocks or to move materials to

Washington (SR, Vol. 25, p. 343). Reasons given in the act for establishing the courthouse at Washington were inconvenience, the ruinous condition of the courthouse at Bath, and lack of accommodations for visitors (SR, Vol. 24, p. 764).

The town was never large, consisting of approximately 12 houses in 1709 (CR, Vol. 1, p. 715). A visitor in 1777 observed that it was a small town and "contains about 20 framed Houses & I am informed is the oldest in North Carolina" (JFT, p. 370). Some idea of the size may be gained from the fact that there were only 13 landowners in Bath Town in 1780 (Morris, 1939).

Reverend John Urmstone wrote in 1704, "We expect to hear that famous city of Bath consisting of 9 houses or rather cottages once stiled [sic] the Metropolis & seat of Government will be totally deserted" (CR, Vol. 2, p. 144).

While the Reverend Urmstone was somewhat biased in his comments by his wish to obtain the Bath Library, his remarks on the size of the town were consistent with other reports.

William Gordon, an Anglican missionary, observed in 1709,

Here is no church, though they have begun to build a town called Bath. It consists of about twelve houses, being the only town in the province...in all probability it will be the centre of trade, as having the advantage of a better inlet for shipping and surrounded with pleasant savannas. (CR, Vol. 1, p. 715)

Schoepf noted that it had "hardly a dozen houses, affording

scant accomodations for travellers [sic]" (Schoepf, 1783, p. 126).

Perhaps a contributing factor to Bath's decline was the establishment of a larger town with a more advantageous position on the Pamlico River. Washington was incorporated in 1776 and consisted of 30 acres of land owned by Colonel James Bonner. It was originally known as the Town at the Forks of Tar River (SR, Vol. 24, p. 458). The petition was first presented in 1771 (CR, Vol. 9, p. 152) and the 1776 act indicated that the land was "laid out into half acre lots, with streets &c...and...several habitable houses" (SR, Vol. 24, p. 458).

Purchasers of lots were required to construct "one good habitable stone, brick, or framed house, with a brick or stone chimney not less than sixteen feet square" (SR, Vol. 24, 1776, p. 458). Among other provisions, the commissioners were given authority for "pulling down all wooden chimneys already built...and preventing the building thereof ...in order to prevent danger of fire" (SR, Vol. 24, 1776, p. 458). That provision suggested that at least a few houses were constructed with wooden chimneys.

In 1787 a traveler recorded,

WASHINGTON is a Town containing about sixty families... The lots upon the River are laid out 100 feet front to each Lot-The Houses are built of Wood a few are large and convenient. (Attmore, 1787, p. 28)

The same individual noted that a fire would have been

disastrous since there was neither a fire engine nor fire buckets.

Johnson's map of Washington (1851) showed a town laid out in a gridiron pattern, extending from the Pamlico River on the south to Sixth Street on the north and from Washington Street on the west to Harvey on the east. Early deeds of the nineteenth century referred to six areas of town: Respass Town, Pungo Town, Bonner's Old Part, Bonner's New Part, Gladden Town, and Van Nordon Town.

As the town expanded, an area east of Harvey Street which belonged to the McNair family was divided into lots and part of West Second Street and an area north of Washington was subdivided by S.T. Nicholson. All of those areas were frequently mentioned in deeds. In the 1860's it was observed that the town extended about a mile along the river and was approximately one half mile wide (RS, 1887). According to the Sanborn maps, at the turn of the century Washington extended east as far as Monumental and west to Washington Street (SM, 1901).

William B. Rodman observed in 1859, "They are laying gas pipes in our streets-I suppose in a month or two we shall have gas-at least all may that want it" (WEB, 1859). Some existing houses contained original gas fixtures or the pipes once used for gas.

By the late eighteenth century the town had approximately 30 houses (Schoepf, 1783, p. 124). Streets were

paved with oyster shells and later with brick within the memory of living residents (Int. Hughes; SM, 1901; WG, Ap. 16, 1981). It was observed by one visitor that,

Streets ran at right angles, were broad and well shaded, and bounded by many old fashioned, pleasant houses with fine gardens of ornamental shrubs and trees and English ivy gave a cosey [sic] and charming effect to many of the dwellings (RS, 1887, p. 110).

It was apparent from maps and physical evidence that many houses were constructed directly on the street. An ordinance established in 1867 instructed that "No building steps, platforms, piazza, porch, portico, or fence shall hereafter be erected upon the sidewalks of the town" (WI, March 14, 1867). Many existing houses have been moved back from the street. Later houses were constructed further from the street since one individual observed that residences were mostly approached through a garden (HDR, 1885).

By 1889 Washington had a population of 4000 (WG, Nov. 1, 1889). In the latter part of the nineteenth century there was considerable house construction. Many extant houses date from that era and newspapers of the period contained frequent references to construction. The Washington Gazette noted on April 16, 1891 that 25 new homes were under construction.

Visitors of the nineteenth century often noted Washington as a pretty town (FSL, 1862; Roe, 1907), but also as small (Burlingame, 1892). Occupying Union forces wrote that they were "much pleased with the neat and elegant appearance of this city...by far the prettiest and most tasteful city we have found in North Carolina"

(UAP, May 15, 1862).

There were frequent references to the large elms lining the streets and a sketch of Second Street showed a narrow tree-lined street (WG, Nov. 1, 1889). The trees impressed a soldier who noted, "we marched through the principal street, wide and shaded with fine elms" (RS, 1887, p. 110).

Beaufort County remained largely rural with Washington being the largest town. In addition to Bath, other small towns in the county are Chocowinity, Aurora, Pantego, and Belhaven.

#### Religion

Religion exerted negligible influence on Beaufort County houses. Whereas colonies such as Massachusetts produced housing that was a clear reflection of highly structured Puritan religious values, houses in Beaufort County showed no such traits.

Beaufort County was not a religious colony. Settlers came for economic and social reasons (Cooper, 1916) and records indicated that they had little concern for missionaries or churches. In 1709 one minister wrote to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel that the unsettled condition of the country,

Will necessitate any minister who goes over to purchase land, buy servants, build a church, and improve a plantation, before he can live tolerably; which will require more expense than the encouragement given will bear.  
(CR, Vol. 1, p. 715).

Another noted, "Upon my preaching upon any prevalent & predominant Sin, I must be prepared to stand the persecution of those who are guilty of it, especially in my resident Parish" (CR, Vol. 4, 1734, p. 604). The Reverend John Garzia spoke of his parishioners as "inveterate and obstinate", indicating that he received little support and no salary and "no minister would ever stay long in the place, though several have come hither from the West Indies and other plantation in America" (CR, Vol. 4, 1734, p. 604).

In spite of the lack of support given to ministers, Beaufort County did erect a church, which became the oldest brick church remaining in North Carolina. Although the present Glebe House dates from a later period, Bath was the site of the first such residence in North Carolina. The Reverend Alexander Stewart wrote in 1763, "I am now living in the Ist Glebe House ever finished in this Province" (CR, Vol. 6, p. 996).

Construction of the residence was not easily accomplished despite a record that a glebe was laid out by 1714 (Lawson, 1714). Reverend Stewart noted in 1760 that the glebe was in "no way improved or built on conformable to the present act of assembly" (CR, Vol. 6, p. 243). However, by 1762 he stated that a "neat" house with outhouses was nearly complete on 300 acres adjacent to the church and "I expect to move to it if it please God that I live to Easter next" (CR, Vol. 6, p. 735).

The church in Bath was Anglican; thus the glebe was laid out for a minister of that faith. However the policy of the Lords Proprietors was religious toleration and in the eighteenth century Quakers were the most dominant religious group in Beaufort County.

Quaker influence on housing was negligible, appearing only in floor plans. The oldest remaining house in Beaufort County, the Palmer-Marsh House, ca. 1744, exhibited a center hall floor plan with two rooms on one side and a single room on the other like that advocated by William Penn. It is possible that other houses of the period also used that plan. However, there was no evidence that it was ever a dominant floor plan and it was soon superseded by the single or double pile center hall plan.

#### Social Conditions

Beaufort County was largely rural, "a country but wild and imperfect in its circumstances" (CR, Vol. 1, 1709, p. 715) with few towns, none of them large. In its early days the settlements suffered Indian attacks and in 1711 many settlers near Bath were massacred (Byrd, 1711; CR, Vol. 1, p. 827).

In 1790 the first census recorded a total county population of 4662, only 951 of which were free white males. While the county did have a slave population of 1632, the majority belonged to a few landholders (SR, Vol. 26, p. 269).

Social life echoed that of more prosperous colonies on a reduced scale. While there were some wealthy and prominent families, these were in the minority. According to William Gordon there was,

Here and there, a gentleman whose substance, sense in managing, and methods of living somewhat exceed the rest; but they live at such distances, that, as by their example they have but little influence. (CR, Vol. 1, 1709, p. 714)

Even as late in the nineteenth century as 1885, a business directory observed that the majority of the profitable West Indies trade was "carried on by a few men of ample means and an ample enterprise" (HDR, 1885, p. 134).

The class system in North Carolina was not as well defined or rigid as that of other states, but it did exist (Johnson, 1937; Watson, 1975). However, the flexibility of the system resulted in exchanges among classes.

Beaufort County social life and real estate were dominated by relatively few families. Deed books throughout the nineteenth century revealed recurring family names. The dominance of established families and lack of outside influence combined to inhibit innovation. The consistency of house forms could be partially attributed to the consistency in social structure.

Despite the dominance of well-established families, Beaufort County had a large middle class. The previously cited business directory (HDR, 1885) observed that capital

tended to be evenly distributed. Thus middle-class conservatism was also an influence on the development of houses.

The lack of a real aristocracy was due in part to the system of land development. Whereas land grants in other states made possible the accumulation of vast tracts of land, a colonial law forbade North Carolinians to acquire areas larger than 600 acres (Talmage, 1956). Thus a network of small farms was established early in the development of Beaufort County. Deeds indicated that many residents of Beaufort County lived on "plantations", but they were of modest size. Although eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century records referred to some large plantations, there was no evidence that Beaufort County ever had large manorial plantation houses. Indeed, records spoke of the Palmer-Marsh House in Bath as one of the more pretentious houses and it was modest in comparison to structures in other towns.

William Attmore, who visited the county in 1787, recorded a description of John Bonner's house:

This Man tho' a Member of the Assembly, and a rich Batchelor, lived in an old house that had four Windows in the lower room only one of which appeared ever to have been glazed; the others had sash lights but no Glass. (Attmore, 1787, p. 25)

Even John Gray Blount, a Washington merchant with considerable land holdings, lived in a modest frame structure.

However, he had considered construction of a "long talked

of new big House" (JGB, 1959, p. 483).

The estimated population of Beaufort County in 1723 was only 500, although by 1755 it had increased to approximately 4460 (Reed, 1962). The area impressed travelers as being remote and sparsely settled. One recorded,

On the road from Edenton to Washington not a soul met us, and we saw but few dwellings; and quite as lonesome were the 40 miles from Washington to New-Bern. (Schoept, 1782, p. 126)

Residents of the county did little traveling. The most popular summer resort was nearby Ocracoke (Dunbar, 1958). However, family letters of more prosperous families indicated considerable visiting among relatives and friends in eastern North Carolina. The large houses constructed by families such as the Rodman, Grist, and Perry families were possibly due to a need for additional space for house guests.

#### Civil War

Washington's lack of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century houses was largely attributable to Civil War destruction. Although it was not a major battlefield, Washington was occupied by Federal troops, who captured the city in 1862 (WR, Ser. I, Vol. 18). Other than an unsuccessful attempt to recapture it in 1863, it remained in Federal hands until 1864 (WR, Ser. I, Vol. 33).

Although an 1862 communications from Brigadier General Palmer stated, "We do not propose to destroy a particle of property" (WR, Ser. I, Vol. 33), a fire broke out when the

town was being evacuated in 1864 (Carpenter, 1865; WR, Ser. I, Vol. 33). A few days later another fire consumed much of the property not damaged by the first conflagration. The eastern side of town suffered most of the damage. An observer wrote the following description of Washington in the aftermath of the fire.

The whole town square after square and street after street has been literally blotted out; and nothing but nodding chimneys and piles of unsightly rubbish remains of what was once so comely and prosperous. It is true that a few isolated private dwellings still continue...But even these...have been stricken and rent by cannon shot, or otherwise greatly abused. (WBR, Long, n.d.)

Skirmishes in Washington, particularly the 1863 attempt to recapture the town, resulted in considerable damage (Fowle, 1862; FSL, 1863; Roe, 1907). Of one battle it was reported that "Few houses in the line of fire escaped and after the fight that part of town presented a shattered and wrecked appearance" (CRV, 1898, p. 12). A Confederate soldier referred to Washington as a "once lovely and beautiful little town" (Clark, 1901, p. 83).

Many residents departed after the occupation of Washington leaving behind a severely damaged economy (Barrett, 1963; CRV, 1898; JSL, 1979). A local resident observed in 1867, "Washington is coming out but never will be in this Century what she was before" (WFP). David Carter wrote to Governor Vance that the burning of private dwellings had reduced the county to a "pitiabile condition

of poverty, suffering and destitution" (DMC, Oct. 5, 1864).

According to tradition, many houses were used as hospitals or prisons, but supporting evidence was not generally available. The only extant house for which confirmation of use as a hospital was found was Elmwood. An officer writing after the war, recalled that many houses were used as quarters and that a building used as a hospital was "one of the finest in the place, the property of one DeMille" (Roe, 1907, p. 124). Another officer, Colonel Osborn, recorded a description of the house in which he was quartered.

I returned to...an elegant house...having my headquarters in a large two-storey house, situated on a pleasant street, running by the side of the river. The...furniture I have in my chamber is a marble-top centre table, marble-top bureau with toilet glass, black walnut rocking chair, and half a dozen chairs that do not rock; bedstead, large desk...bronze and marble mantel clock. I...take my meals off china with a gilt edge, placed on a mahogany table in a large dining room. The house contains...eight rooms besides the kitchen, which is separate. (Roe, 1907, p. 122)

The Union Army seemed to have considered moving some houses and constructing chimneys for others. An 1864 letter from an officer in New Bern indicated, "The authority of this Agency would not warrant the removal of houses from the premises to which they belong...There would be no objection to building chimneys to houses that need them, where they are now Standing" (MFP, Jan. 23, 1864).

Despite the devastation in Washington, the remainder of Beaufort County suffered little physical damage as a

result of the Civil War. The largest loss of historic housing was in Washington. Few houses of the eighteenth or early nineteenth century survived the fire which destroyed the oldest section of town. Consequently there was little physical evidence on the style of early Washington homes.

#### Trade and Commerce

Prior to settlement in western North Carolina the coastal plain region was the most important geographic area. As many travelers asserted, the condition of early roads was poor (Waynick, 1952). Transportation of goods by land being nearly impossible, navigable rivers and ports were vital and increased status accrued to areas such as Beaufort County which possessed ports. That importance was revealed by frequent references to Bath and later Washington in the Colonial Records. As in most of North Carolina "The Planters for the most part live by the Water side" (Brickell, 1737, p. 14).

The most pervasive influence on Beaufort County's development was the Tar-Pamlico River. Bisected by the river, which flowed from the Pitt County border on the west into Pamlico Sound on the east, the county was able to develop navigation and trade at a time when overland transportation was difficult and sometimes impossible. Although separated from the Atlantic Ocean by the Outer Banks,

Beaufort County planters and merchants could ship their products down the Pamlico to be transferred to larger ships at Ocracoke when necessary.

However, harbors in Beaufort County were always treacherous, preventing development of a large and prosperous trade (Schoepf, 1783). Trade was often the main factor in the prosperity of a town (Merrens, 1964) and in Beaufort County, urban areas thrived when trade was profitable and declined as other ports became more important (Logan, 1950). By 1765 it was noted,

Bath is small having but little or no trade. The vessels can go 20 or 30 miles above the town. There are several vessels built here, and on other parts of this...but all small on account of the swash. (JFT, p. 736)

One visitor noted of Washington that there "are several convenient Wharfs, and there are sometimes lying here near 20 sail of Sea Vessels" (Attmore, 1787, p. 28). Some ship building was also carried out in Washington (JFT, 1765; Schoepf, 1783). The 1850 and 1860 censuses recorded several individuals as seamen or ship carpenters.

A large portion of the trade was conducted with Virginia and New England (CR, Vol. 4, p. 169), especially New England (Attmore, 178; Schoepf, 1783). In addition to trade with other colonies, ships traveled to England and the West Indies (Attmore, 1787; CR, Vol. 6, p. 611; Keith, 1940; Logan, 1965) and it was obvious from letters and newspapers that a significant portion of the trade was with

the West Indies. In 1889 a newspaper noted that Washington had six large vessels engaged in trade with the West Indies (WG, Nov. 1, 1889). Newspapers throughout the nineteenth century contained frequent notices of the arrival and departure of ships.

Hence, social influences from trade were obtained largely from other colonies rather than directly from England. Housing exhibited a simplification of the major English styles, indicating that colonists lacked much direct experience with those styles.

Agrarian enterprises became dominant in the eighteenth century and remained a vital segment of the economy. Production of lumber products and naval stores was the most extensive industry. However, cotton, rice, and other crops were also produced in Beaufort County.

The principal export of Beaufort County was naval stores, as attested to by the letters and diaries of many early travelers and by residents (JFT, 1765; Schoepf, 1783). Letters and accounts of the Blount family, prominent merchants of the eighteenth century, clearly revealed the importance of wood products such as shingles and staves (JGB).

At one time, both Bath and Washington conducted a thriving trade in the export of naval stores and lumber products (Logan, 1955). One visitor provided a description of Washington's commerce,

Washington...is a flourishing place of four thousand inhabitants and drives a smart trade in the staples of the State-turpentine, cotton, and lumber. It has several extensive establishments for sawing and planing [sic] lumber, and for converting the brute turpentine into its various derivatives. (Strother, 1857, p. 750)

At one would expect in an area where the economy depended heavily on lumber, the majority of the houses were frame. Reports of travelers confirmed that wooden houses were typical. According to William Attmore's 1787 journal, "The Houses are built of Wood a few are large and convenient" (Attmore, 1787, p. 28). Another traveler recorded,

An exterior view of the town presents nothing but a few steeples peering out from a thick grove of trees, and street views only continuous archways of verdure. In fact, its modest white wooden houses are completely buried in trees; and when the weather is hot the effect is highly pleasing. (Strother, 1857, p. 750)

By the Victorian era, the western portion of North Carolina was being developed and the port towns of Beaufort County were declining in importance. The flow of industry to the west inhibited construction of Victorian houses in the Tidewater region (Johnston & Waterman, 1941). Beaufort County exhibited little evidence of the design trends of that time period.

Through the nineteenth century, industry continued to be dominated by production of lumber products (GRE, 1899). The continuation of frame houses in traditional forms with trim such as brackets and gingerbread ornament corresponded with the commercial climate. In a period when industrial

growth and trade were stagnant or decreasing, there was little experimentation with new housing forms.

#### Summary

Socioeconomic influences affected the form of historic houses in Beaufort County and largely determined the persistence of design trends. Societal factors which affected historic houses in Beaufort County are summarized in the following list.

1. Ethnic diversity was limited; the majority of the settlers were of English origin. Consequently, virtually all housing was based on English prototypes.
2. By the late eighteenth century, the majority of the emigrants came from New England. Therefore, stylistic influences were diluted by colonial interpretations. Many settlers formed their view of proper housing not directly from English examples, but rather from American versions.
3. Shipping trade was conducted primarily with other colonies and with the West Indies. That tended to reduce possible design influences and reinforced the use of English prototypes.
4. Soon after the incorporation of Bath, building restrictions were imposed and to some extent housing in urban areas was regulated by law. The town plan of Washington was largely determined by restrictions. Few regulations,

- other than a restriction on chimney construction, affected the design of houses.
5. The social structure was based on a provincial society with a small plantation system. Large plantation houses were seldom constructed and there was little class distinction in housing.
  6. Examination of deeds revealed that the same family names recurred over long periods of time. Use of traditional housing forms was encouraged through extensive property ownership by long-established families.
  7. Religion was not a dominant influence. Housing was allowed to develop without religious constraints.
  8. The economy was dominated by lumber products and perhaps as a result, most houses were weatherboarded.
  9. The county remained largely rural thereby inhibiting exchange of design influences. That factor contributed to continuation of traditional housing through the conservation ambiance of the area.
  10. The demolition of many historic houses could be attributed to the Civil War. The social disruption which followed the war contributed to Victorian design's failure to flourish in Beaufort County.
  11. The port towns of Beaufort County were eclipsed by larger and more accessible towns. At the time when Victorian housing flourished in other regions, the economy of Beaufort County was in decline and those

styles were never a dominant influence. The Georgian and Greek Revival styles, which had significant impact in the county, were constructed at a time when the economy was thriving.

CHAPTER V  
DESCRIPTION OF HOUSES

Individually described houses herein consist of those which were either unique or representative of a style. They are grouped into five divisions based on design characteristics: Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Victorian, and Vernacular. Within those classifications, houses are discussed in chronological order according to original construction date.

Victorian houses are organized into four divisions: Italianate, Carpenter Gothic, Queen Anne, and Composite. Vernacular houses are divided into four groups: Coastal Cottage, L-plan, I-house, and Other.

Georgian

Few Georgian houses were located in Beaufort County and all were vernacular interpretations of the style. No academic Georgian houses were found in the county. Beaufort County's most extensive use of Georgian construction coincided with a period of economic expansion in the middle to late eighteenth century. Knowledge of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century building practices was restricted by the lack of extant structures from that era.

Although few houses from that period survived, traces of Georgian characteristics in nineteenth-century houses revealed the persistence of Georgian features. The social characteristics of Beaufort County influenced the persistent use of Georgian plans. Lack of direct European contact led to use of New England interpretations of the style and little embellishment of the basic plan. The paucity of outside influences encouraged continued use of Georgian prototypes rather than more fashionable styles.

Only the most fundamental characteristics of the Georgian plan were adopted in Beaufort County. The gable roof, symmetrical facade, and center hall plan were found in Beaufort County houses throughout the nineteenth century. Local builders seemed to have preferred the gable roof to the hipped roofs common in Georgian houses, but the few surviving houses could not be taken as evidence that hipped roofs were uncommon.

The act for Washington's incorporation permitted erection of stone, brick, or framed houses, indicating that the settlers were familiar with those forms of construction (SR, Vol. 24, 1776, p. 458). However, there were no records for the use of stone other than as foundations; hence, lack of suitable mortar may have been partially responsible for limited brick construction. Although Lawson (1714) wrote of lime being available he may have overstated the availability of materials in order to promote emigration.

John Lawson (1714, p. 177) wrote, "we there make extraordinary good Bricks throughout the Settlement." A more extensive description was given by John Brickell.<sup>2</sup>

Their Houses are built after two different ways; viz. the most substantial Planters generally use Brick, and Lime, which is made of Oyster-shells, for there are no Stones to be found proper for that purpose, but near the Mountains; the meaner Sort erect with Timber, the outside with Clapboards, the Roofs of both Sorts of Houses are made with Shingles, and they generally have Sash Windows, and affect large and decent Rooms with good Closets, as they do a most beautiful prospect by some noble River or Creek...Their Furniture, as with us, consists of Pewter, Brass, Tables, Chairs, which are imported here commonly from England; the better sort have tolerable Quantities of Plate with other convenient ornamental, and valuable Furniture. (Brickell, 1737, p. 37)

There was little evidence of extensive brick manufacturing or construction. Since brick was a durable material, extensive use would have resulted in more extant structures. Production of brick was not a dominant industry and lack of extant brick houses indicated that production was largely limited to that needed for local construction of chimneys.

Two houses, the Palmer-Marsh House in Bath and Belfont Plantation at Tranters Creek, were classified as Georgian. Both were vernacular interpretations of the style, but exhibited the basic Georgian plan and were constructed in

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<sup>2</sup>Brickell may have obtained some of his information from Lawson's book. Eighteenth-century authors sometimes exaggerated North Carolina's advantages to promote colonization. Lawson's and Brickell's discussions of brick could not be taken as conclusive evidence that brick was used for house construction.

that era. The Palmer-Marsh House was restored to its eighteenth-century design. Belfont Plantation was renovated ca. 1860, at which time Greek Revival and limited Carpenter Gothic features were added.

Neither house could be considered representative of eighteenth-century Beaufort County houses. The Palmer-Marsh House was considered unusually large at the time of its construction and Belfont Plantation was constructed for an eminent family. Both had chimney construction that was unusual in eastern North Carolina.

Vernacular houses exhibited more typical use of Georgian prototypes. The I-houses and coastal cottages discussed with vernacular houses were derived from Georgian plans. Exterior decorative motifs from the Georgian era were not found in Beaufort County.

Houses constructed in the eighteenth or early nineteenth century had eaves close to the house with little or no cornice return. Second floor windows were close to the eaves and smaller than those on the first floor. Nine over six or nine over nine sashes were used until the Greek Revival period in the mid-nineteenth century. The exterior end chimneys were constructed with detached stacks.

### Palmer-Marsh House

Perhaps the best known, and certainly the oldest house in Beaufort County was the Palmer-Marsh House in Bath. The precise date of construction is unknown, but ca. 1744 is generally accepted, based on deeds and investigation of architectural historians during restoration of the house.

There were several occupants, of whom Robert Palmer and Jonathan Marsh were best known (see Appendix A). The house was constructed by Michael Coutanch, a Boston mariner, but whether he occupied it was uncertain (DB 2, 1739, p. 331). Claims that he built it for a Whitmore family (EHS, p. 98) were not consistent with information on later owners.

Richard and Susannah Evans (Coutanch's daughter) sold the house to Robert Palmer in 1764 (DB 4, p. 48). Palmer was a merchant in Bath and tradition indicated that he had an office on the first floor. He was also one of the more noteworthy citizens of Bath and served as Customs Collector and Surveyor General.

The Marsh brothers, Daniel and Jonathan, acquired it in 1802 (DB 7, p. 386; DB 16, p. 260) from Lewis LeRoy, husband of Palmer's granddaughter, Helen. Jonathan Marsh may have had a store in the house (Cross, 1976). If so, the house was long associated with trade since there was a tradition that the chimney was placed on the back rather

than the customary side location in order to provide a side entrance for customers.

That it was considered a remarkable house was attested to by its identification on Sauthier's 1769 map of Bath, where it was shown with outbuildings. A 1797 deed referred to it as "the large house where...Jonathan Marsh...lives" (DB 7, p. 386). When William Palmer advertised the house for rent it was referred to as "a large and commodious house" that "requires not particular description" since it was well known (NCG, Jan. 16, 1778).

Beaded weatherboards cover the unusually large house. It is seven bays in width and three bays deep (Figure 1). The gable roof with eaves close to the house has a cornice which returns slightly in the gable ends. In the rear is a lean-to.

The most notable feature is the large double chimney at the east end (Figure 2). Seventeen feet wide and four feet deep, it is united by a pent from the foundation to the gable window. The base is constructed of stone, above which the bond of the brick is English. It is double-shouldered with paved, sloped weatherings and a corbeled top. The chimney encloses closets on both the first and second floor, with windows centered in the pent. In the rear is a second chimney, similar to the first, but laid in Flemish bond.

Windows have nine over nine sashes except those in the chimney pent, which are six over three. Door and window frames are plain with a simple heading and are flanked by paneled shutters. Paneled doors are located on all sides of the house.



Figure 1

Palmer-Marsh House, ca. 1744

When the house was restored additions made in the nineteenth century were removed. Photographs in the files of the Historic Bath Commission and other sources (Henderson, 1939; NO, June 22, 1924) showed a front porch and an ell in the rear, as well as overhanging eaves with

heavy returns. The shutters, missing in those photographs, were presumably removed during the nineteenth century when they became unfashionable. Those presently on the house were reconstructed, based on one found in the attic. Large panes of glass were removed and replaced with those more characteristic of the eighteenth century (Cross, 1976).



Figure 2

Chimney, Palmer-Marsh House

The interior has a Quaker floor plan with a wide center hall open to the second floor. Original floors survived and the plastered walls have exposed structural framing. The plan is similar to that of the Cupola House in Edenton (Johnston & Waterman, 1941), which Waterman (1950) cited as one of two Quaker plan houses in the state.

The stairway is composed of turned balusters with a tall turned newel post. On the second floor, a narrow closed string staircase winds up to the attic. Mantels are in the Georgian style. In the basement is a kitchen with exposed beams, ballast stone walls, and a brick fireplace.

#### Belfont Plantation House

Belfont Plantation House is most closely associated with Major Reading Blount who purchased the property in 1797 (DB 7, p. 326), but it was possibly constructed by an earlier occupant. William Lanier purchased "land and plantation" from John Kennedy in 1753 (DB 3, p. 153). According to one source, Belfont was probably constructed by Lanier prior to 1797 when his son deeded the property to Blount (NR, n.d.).

However, a 1796 letter from John Gray Blount to Thomas Blount stated, "Major Blount has now commenced building at Tranter's Creek a place more convenient to this, [Washington] and of course more to the satisfaction of his wife" (JGB, p. 32). The letter implied that Blount had the

house constructed. The origin of the name is unknown, but family letters of the early nineteenth century referred to it as "Bellfont" (WBR, May 8, 1815; AR, Nov. 20, 1821).

Blount, a member of a well-known family, achieved his military rank during the Revolutionary War. After his purchase of the land at Tranters Creek he made other land purchases in the same area. He operated a mill on Belfont Plantation, as well as at Chocowinity.

Reading Blount's daughter, Mary Blount Myers, inherited the plantation. In 1816 land on the east side of Tranters Creek was advertised for lease by the minor heirs of Reading Blount. The advertisement noted that it was, "together with a good Dwelling House and necessary out Houses" and that a second tract also had a "good Dwelling House" (AR, Dec. 18, 1816). Whether it was Belfont to which the advertisement referred is uncertain.

Belfont was sold to McGillevary Wilson in 1836 (DB 20, p. 255). Thereafter, it was owned by his brother, Albert Wilson (DB 21, 1839, p. 238) and by Edmond Moore (DB 72, 1860, p. 256). The latter sold it to John Gray Hodges, a Beaufort County planter, in whose family it remained (DB 72, 1860, p. 256).

The house is rectangular under a gable roof, the eaves of which return at the gable ends (Figure 3). Cornice returns were typical of the era during which Hodges remodeled the house. In the rear is a gable-roofed section

of unknown date, which was probably an addition to the main body of the house.



Figure 3

Belfont Plantation, ca. 1796

The most remarkable feature is a massive double chimney on the right side with a corbeled top, double-paved shoulders, and a molded water table. It is laid in Flemish bond with an English bond foundation (Figure 4). A pent joins the double chimney from the foundation to the eaves. On the left side of the house is a single chimney with similar features. The massive chimney is similar to that of the Palmer-Marsh House, ca. 1744, the only other example of that chimney form in Beaufort County.



Figure 4  
Chimney, Belfont Plantation

Beaded weatherboards cover all of the structure except the area beneath the porch which is covered with flush vertical sheathing. The sheathing may have been installed following the Civil War (NR, n.d.).

The front facade is three bay on the first floor and four bay on the second story of both front and rear. On the sides, windows flank the chimneys and there is a gable

window in each end. As was typical of the Georgian style, second-floor windows are smaller than those on the first floor. Lower windows have nine over nine sashes, but all others are six over six with louvered shutters. The presence of the six over six sashes, cornice returns, and flush sheathing suggest that Belfont was remodeled during the Greek Revival era. Windows have molded sills and three-part molded frames, but the front door surrounds are plain. The Greek Revival door with two light sidelights and transom has four panels surrounded by molding.

Across the front is a hip-roofed porch with square posts, gingerbread trim, and a porch railing composed of turned balusters. It was undoubtedly an addition made in the nineteenth century.

The floor plan is similar to a center hall plan, but it narrows at the rear and lacks the customary rear entrance. Like the Palmer-Marsh House, it has a Quaker floor plan with one room to the left of the hall and two on the right.

The stairway at the back of the hall is surrounded by an enclosure of raised panels. Unusual features are the closets built into the chimney pent. The one in the front room to the right of the hall has double doors in two sections with raised panels. In the rear room the closet is only half as wide and has flat panels.

Interior trim is generally plain. The six panel doors to the hall have raised panels on one side and are hung on HL hinges and surrounded by three-part molded frames. Walls are plastered with molded chair rails and beaded baseboards. In the hall, beaded sheathing covers the dado and the room to the left of the hall has a raised panel wainscot.

### Federal

The Federal period had limited impact on design trends in Beaufort County. No academic Federal houses were located. Few houses survived, but evidence indicated that the more refined details of the Federal period never replaced the Georgian style. Most of Washington's Federal houses were destroyed by fire, but vernacular houses in the county exhibited little evidence of Federal influence.

The county lagged behind the rest of the nation in adopting stylistic trends. When Federal houses were being erected in other areas, Beaufort County was still absorbed in Georgian construction. By the time local residents began building in a style other than Georgian, the Federal period had passed and Beaufort County was caught up in the tide of enthusiasm for Greek Revival.

The lack of architects in Beaufort County contributed to the Federal period's failure to thrive. The decorative treatment typical of the style would have required craftsmen skilled in carving and exposure to pattern books or

academic examples of the style. Extant houses are unsophisticated and simplified interpretations.

The style sometimes appeared in interiors when the exterior was vernacular or of another style. The Hodges-Moore House, a composite structure, was constructed with elaborate Federal interior details.

Four houses were classified as Federal. Three in Washington--the Myers, Marsh, and Hyatt Houses--closely resemble each other. All were constructed on Water Street during the same era (Figure 5). Physical and documentary evidence indicated that the resemblance resulted from later renovations rather than the original construction. As originally constructed, the Myers House had a side hall plan. It is the only extant house with a Federal side hall plan. The Myers and Marsh Houses have small Federal porticos typical of the style. The Griffin House once had a similar portico.

#### Marsh House (Telfair House)

The precise date of construction for the Marsh House is unknown, but it is presumed to be ca. 1795. The Marsh brothers, Jonathan and Daniel, purchased the property in 1795 and presumably had the house constructed soon thereafter. It served as a home for Daniel since Jonathan lived in the Palmer-Marsh House in Bath. The Marsh brothers were merchants in Washington and Bath.



Figure 5

Water Street, Washington

The house was sold for taxes in 1813, but was purchased in 1815 by Mary Marsh, Daniel's wife (DB 8, p. 402). The same year she advertised for rent a wharf and two warehouses opposite her dwelling (AR, Aug. 25, 1815; DB 11, p. 171). It remained in the family until 1942 (DB 342, p. 601), (see Appendix A).

The Marsh brothers were from Providence, Rhode Island, and a resemblance to Rhode Island houses was noted by one researcher (Taylor, 1976). The house has a five-bay facade, is two bays deep, and covered with beaded weatherboards

(Figure 6). The gable roof has eaves close to the house with slight returns. The cornice is ornamented by dentils. In the rear is a shed roof extension and there is a small lean-to on the right side.



Figure 6

Marsh House, ca. 1795

The front portico is plainer, but similar to that of the adjacent Myers House. The end chimneys in Flemish bond with corbeled tops are double shouldered and the one on the right has a detached stack.

Second-floor windows have six over six sashes while those on the first floor are nine over nine. The six-panel

door is surmounted by a four-light transom. Window frames are molded with simple entablature headings. The frames are replicas of the original ones (Taylor, 1976).

A previous study of the house noted the following features which indicated the age of the structure: large hand-hewn timber in the basement, wooden pegs, HL and strap hinges, and handmade nails (Taylor, 1976).

#### Hyatt House

The part of lot 1 on which the Hyatt House was built was sold, with improvements, to James Eastwood by John and Thomas Blount in 1798 for 400 pounds (DB 1, p. 426). Eastwood sold it to Thomas Smith in 1801 for \$1300 (DB 1, p. 438). An 1809 deed mentioned Captain Thomas Smith (DB 8, p. 73). If that was the same man, the tradition that the house was constructed by a ship's captain is plausible.

By 1828, a deed for the adjacent lot referred to lot 1 as belonging to the heirs of Thomas Smith and being occupied by John S. Bonner (DB 14, p. 511). In 1834 Samuel Smith, a merchant in Washington, mortgaged the house and lot in which he lived to Thomas D. Crawford (DB 18, p. 157). A year later Crawford sold it to Joseph Robinson (DB 18, 1835, p. 382), who in turn conveyed it to Lockwood Hyatt, for whom the house was named (DB 35, 1870, p. 250). Hyatt was listed as a farmer from New York in the 1860 Census (p. 220). Thereafter it changed hands several times

(see Appendix A).

The house was remodeled by the Wynne family, but the original form remained apparent. The front facade is five bays wide and the house is two bays deep with exterior double-shouldered chimneys at each end, the top of the chimney flue being detached (Figure 7).



Figure 7

Hyatt House, ca. 1801

Alterations to the original gable roof made it a clipped gable which flares at the front and incorporates two hip-roofed dormers. The front porch is a substitute for the original portico.

Windows have nine over nine sashes in the second floor and six over six in the dormers. Lower windows on the front are replacements. Window frames are molded and resemble those of the Myers and Marsh Houses on the west side.

#### Myers House I

The early history and original owner of the Myers House are obscure. In 1797 George Cameron sold to Joseph Brickell a part of lot 55 and its improvements beginning at Jonathan Marsh's line on the river (DB 7, p. 374). An 1801 deed for the adjacent Hyatt House indicated that the lot began at Joseph Brickell's line (DB 1, 1801, p. 438). The Myers House lot was referred to as lot 1 in later deeds and the deed to Brickell was for lot 55, but it was the same property.

The earliest deed which clearly referred to the Myers House was from Thomas Harvey Blount to his daughter, Polly Blount Myers (DB 14, 1826, p. 5). According to the deed, Blount purchased the lot from John Brickell, but no deed for that sale was found. When the house was advertised for sale in 1878 the property was cited as lot 55 "on which is situated the former residence of John Myers, deceased, and all necessary out building [sic]." (NSP, Nov. 12, 1878). The house remained in the Myers family until 1980 (see Appendix A).

The house stands close to the street as many Washington houses did at one time. The house is four bays wide, two bays deep, and covered by beaded weatherboards (Figure 8). The gable roof with eaves close to the house has slight returns. At each end is an exterior chimney with a single stepped shoulder, laid in common bond. Both have corbeled tops and the one on the left has a detached stack. In the rear is a shed-roofed addition.



Figure 8

Myers House I, ca. 1797

In the front is a gable-roofed portico with cornice returns. Attenuated square columns support the roof which

is ornamented by dentils. It is surrounded by a plain railing and steps lead up the left side (Figure 9).



Figure 9

Portico, Myers House

Windows have nine over nine sashes downstairs and nine over six upstairs, except in the gable end, where they are six over six. Many contain the original glass. They are headed by eared molding and have hardware for shutters. An earlier photograph confirmed the presence of shutters (Henderson, 1939). Over the front door is a four-light transom.

The interior has original flooring and some wood-grained doors. A research report on the house found characteristics of three styles: Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival (Turberg, 1980). The house was remodeled ca. 1826 when the left side was added to produce an asymmetrical front facade (Int., Gaskins). Prior to that it was a Federal side hall plan.

Tradition has it that the Myers House served as a headquarters for the Union Army, but no definite confirmation was found. Papers found in the house included letters from the Union Army (MFP).

#### Griffin House (Burbank House)

The Griffin House was constructed ca. 1850, but was named for a family which owned it several years later. In 1852 Edward Jones sold it to George Turner (DB 27, p. 230), who in 1870 conveyed it to Jesse Griffin (DB 35, p. 311). Several individuals owned the house in later years (see Appendix A).

The symmetrical front facade is five bays wide and the house is two bays deep (Figure 10). The gable roof has eaves close to the house with slight returns. Double-shouldered chimneys, laid in Flemish bond, were constructed with detached stacks.



Figure 10  
Griffin House, ca. 1850

Windows have six over six sashes on the second floor and nine over nine on the lower floor. Entablatures surmount the windows, which are equipped with hardware for shutters. The door has a four-light transom. According to earlier photographs, the recessed front door was once sheltered by a pedimented gable-roofed portico.

#### Greek Revival

The Greek Revival style permeated Beaufort County architecture, but the persistence of Georgian plans and the application of Victorian ornament resulted in few

quintessential examples of Greek Revival. First introduced into Beaufort County ca. 1820, Greek Revival became the most dominant stylistic influence on vernacular houses. Greek Revival motifs and fenestrations were utilized throughout the nineteenth century.

The popularity of Greek Revival housing was partially attributable to the economic environment in which the style flourished. At the inception of the Greek Revival period, Beaufort County was engaged in a prosperous shipping trade which continued until the Civil War. It was significant that the Greek Revival style lingered in Beaufort County after it had passed from favor in other regions. That was due in part to the economic decline which followed the Civil War. When Victorian styles were gaining popularity nationwide, Beaufort County was absorbed in rebuilding and had little time to be concerned with artistic trends.

Local builders constructed simplified versions of plans which were popular throughout the United States during the nineteenth century. Three house plans were associated with the Greek Revival style in Beaufort County. These were a three-bay, two-story rectangular structure of the I-house type; one-story houses; and gable-end plans.

The two-story rectangular houses bore a resemblance to Georgian structures, but Greek Revival proportions were more square. The plan was utilized for both rural and

urban houses and appeared in vernacular as well as more academic structures. Its popularity was partially a result of Beaufort County's conservative attitudes. Use of the rectangular plan allowed builders to retain the familiar Georgian form with slight alterations in proportions and changes in fenestration. Thus fashionable housing could be produced without dramatic departure from established custom.

The one-story houses had a broad low facade and interior chimneys incorporated into a hipped or gable roof. The scarcity of extant examples indicated that the plan had limited popularity. The reason is unknown, but two-story houses were more impressive and gable-end houses were better suited to narrow urban lots. Individuals who wished to erect a one-story house may have preferred the traditional coastal cottage.

Gable-end houses were found in Washington, but not in rural areas. The plan was a vernacular derivative of Greek Revival temple-form houses. Such houses were constructed with the gable and toward the street, but lacked the portico typical of the academic temple-form residence. Small porticos or Victorian porches were utilized in place of the portico. The Blount-Hodges House incorporated more classical motifs than other gable-end houses in Beaufort County. Prior to its 1860 renovation Elmwood was an academic temple-form house (see Figure 47).

Popular features of the Greek Revival period in Beaufort County were heavy cornice returns, trabeated doorways, paneled corner posts with entablature headings, and six over six window sashes. Earlier structures, such as the Palmer-Marsh House, which were renovated in the mid-nineteenth century, sometimes incorporated those features of the Greek Revival style. Eared molding and symmetrical molding with corner blocks were used on both interiors and exteriors. The cornice returns were utilized on houses up until the twentieth century (Figure 11).



Figure 11  
Cornice Returns

Since most of the extant rectangular plan residences had dominant characteristics more typical of Victorian or Vernacular houses, they are discussed under that classification. The one-story and gable-end houses associated with the Greek Revival period were included as examples of that style. Some of those structures also had features of later styles, particularly Italianate.

#### Respass House

The Respass House was constructed by Isiah Respass ca. 1830, presumably as a home for his wife, whom he had married in 1830 (Smallwood, 1964, p. 395), and it has remained in the family. His wife obtained the property in 1869 (MFC, Deed) and it passed from her to their daughter, Mary Farrow. She left it to her daughter, Mary Credle, and it passed into the possession of her daughters, Sophia Credle and Florence Nelson (DB 338, 1941, p. 628).

Respass was a well known Washington resident, who served as mayor in the mid-nineteenth century. He was a founder of the Bank of Washington (NSW, Feb. 19, 1851) and following the Civil War was elected as a state senator from Beaufort County (Legislative Manual, 1874).

The siding of the single-story house is unique among Washington houses. Composed of wood, the siding is grooved to imitate stone and the walls are solid (Figure 12). Although imitation of stone was common in Greek Revival

residences, the Respass House is the only example in Beaufort County.



Figure 12

Respass House, ca. 1830

The main section of the house is hip roofed with a flat-roofed porch extending across the front. The east-side extension was added during the twentieth century (Int., Nelson). There are two corbeled top chimneys covered by stucco.

Windows have six over six sashes with louvered shutters and contain the original glass. The trabeated door

has a three-light transom and sidelights. Window frames are plain.

The front porch is supported by square Doric columns and surrounded by a plain railing. According to photographs in the possession of the owners, the porch ca. 1900-1917 was small with carved flat balusters. A ca. 1910 photograph showed a finial topping an end post, which had been removed by 1917.

#### Greenhill (Warren Place)

The earliest record found for Greenhill was in 1811 when James O. K. Williams sold lot 51 to Charles D. Crawford for \$500 (DB 9, p. 109). Provisions of the deed stipulated that Crawford could not erect a distillery and that he "binds himself to erect a good House" on the lot and to "make Improvements on the same on or before the 29th day of October next" (DB 9, p. 109). That Charles Delzelle Crawford had the house constructed was unlikely since he died in 1811 (DB 11, 1813, p. 1; Smallwood, 1969) and the date usually given for the house was ca. 1825. The origin of the name Greenhill is unknown.

In 1833 Sidney C. Vines, Joseph Bonner and wife, William Kennedy and wife, Charles and Thomas Crawford, and Thomas Pasteur sold the lot to David Freeman for \$180 (DB 25, p. 375). David C. Freeman had moved to Washington in 1820, announcing his profession as that of a physician

(AR, July 14, 1820). An 1842 notice of Freeman's household sale provided insight into his furnishings:

Brussels, Ingrain and Straw Carpets, Mahogany and Maple Chairs; Sofas; Mahogany French Bedsteads; Maple Bedsteads; Beds; Pier; Dining and Breakfast Tables; Side Board; Bureaus; Wardrobe; Wash Stands; Mirrors; Lamps; Girandoles; Dining and Tea China; Cut Glass &c. (WW, May 25, 1842)

In 1837 Freeman conveyed Greenhill to George Houston, a merchant and Scottish emigrant (Census, 1850, p. 336; DB 20, p. 149). David Freeman and George Houston were partners in a Washington business. Their 1850 advertisement noted that they kept, "constantly on hand a full supply of such articles as are required for the retail trade, family and plantation use" (NSW, June 5, 1850). Freeman had moved to New York by 1850, although he maintained an interest in the business.

Houston sold the house to Deborah V. Warren in 1852 (DB 27, p. 39). It later belonged to Marcia Myers Knott, whose heirs sold it to Harry Fisher in 1964 (DB 575, p. 548; WB 9, p. 303).

The architectural style is unique in Beaufort County. Although many Washington homes are set on high brick foundations, Greenhill's is unusually high and the basement is accessible from the front of the house (Figure 13). No documentation was found for the tradition that it was built by an Englishman, but the doors retain the original

hardware, some of which is stamped with an English crest, indicating that it was imported.



Figure 13

Greenhill, ca. 1833

The front facade is five bays wide and the house is two bays deep. The gable roof with returns incorporates two interior chimneys. On the left side is a slight extension with an exterior door, one of six. In the rear, a basement level porch has been enclosed and a porch added.

A central portico is raised high off the ground with curved steps leading up from the right side. The concrete steps were a later addition and unconfirmed tradition is

that the steps originally ascended from the front (Int., Fisher). However, houses of that type were constructed with side steps so that position would not have been unusual.

Square posts support a flat roof and the portico is surrounded by a plain railing. The style and placement of the railing behind the posts suggested that it was a later addition.

Windows in the superstructure have a plain lintel heading, while those in the basement are surmounted by a wide heavy lintel. Windows have six over six sashes and are flanked by louvered shutters. Over the door is a transom with a geometric muntin pattern.

Both floors have a center hall plan with four rooms on each floor. All rooms have fireplaces; two wood burning and the remainder equipped with coal grates. Mantels and other interior features are plain. The four-panel doors have concave panels.

In the basement is a kitchen containing a fireplace with a warming oven. It had been plastered at some point and plaster was removed by the present owners (Int., Fisher). Stone foundations of a dependency, possibly a detached kitchen, are visible to the left of the house in the position where a structure appeared on the Gray Map (ca. 1880).

### Blount-Hodges House

The Blount-Hodges House was constructed for Thomas Harvey Blount ca. 1810, probably at the time of his marriage to Margaret Brown. When he sold lot 76 to Robert Lanier in 1829 the deed referred to "the same wheron Thos. H. Blount built & formerly resided" (DB 16, p. 231). Lanier sold it to Thomas Walker (DB 16, 1830, p. 104), who conveyed it to Ann Norcum.

No deed for that transfer was located, but later deeds referred to it as the "Norcum lot" (DB 57, 1884, p. 113; DB 108, 1898, p. 239) and in 1881 Thomas J. Norcum sold to Samuel Smith a "house and lot" on lot 74, saying that it was deeded to Ann Norcum by Thomas Walker (DB 51, p. 316). Despite the discrepancy in lot number, it was the Blount-Hodges House, which Smith, in 1884, sold to Robert Hodges, sheriff of Beaufort County (DB 57, p. 113).

Hodges remodeled parts of the house before conveying it to his "son", (actually his son-in-law) Robert Johnson, in 1898 (DB 108, p. 239). Mrs. James Johnson (James L. Johnson was the son of Robert and Jennie Johnson) recalled that parts of the house were rented during the early twentieth century (Johnson, n.d.). In 1936 it was sold to the Christian Science Society, which remodeled both the exterior and interior (DB 311, p. 582).

Thomas Blount, son of John Gray Blount, belonged to a family with considerable influence and wealth. His home

showed more sophistication and academic features than most in Beaufort County. The gable end of the rectangular house faces the street and there is a flat-roofed extension on the right side which was added by Hodges (Figure 14). In the rear a stone foundation is visible.

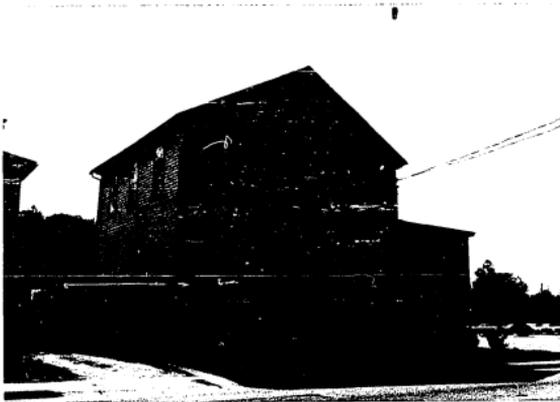


Figure 14

Blount-Hodges House, ca. 1810

Greek Revival influence is evident in the pedimented gable, fan light, and front doorway. The classical doorway is the most notable feature. Above it is a wide architrave and a broken arch pediment with a central urn. Engaged fluted Doric columns flank the doorway. The original front portico was removed by Hodges, who replaced it with a front

porch. That porch was removed, but a photograph showed a Victorian porch across the front of the house (Johnson, n.d.).

At each corner are two fluted pilasters. In the rear the gable end has slight returns. Modillions surround the cornice and the pedimented gable.

In the pedimented gable is a fan window, with the glass replaced by wood. Windows have been altered and removed, but there were originally four windows in the lower front and five upstairs (Johnson, n.d.). The side is three bay with some windows removed and the upper windows of the right side are apparently replacements since the frames differ. The rear facade has four windows in the lower story and two upstairs.

Windows have rounded sills with molded surrounds and four over four sashes. Some have three-part molded surrounds, as does a wide side door on the left side.

The most noteworthy interior feature is a spiral stairway to the right of the front door, which according to tradition was imported from England. The side is ornamented by scrolls and it has slender turned balusters and a turned newel post. A molded chair-rail curves around the stairway.

Interior doors and windows have three-part molded frames and doors have recessed panels. The original mantels have been removed, but there is a mantel in the right

extension with glazed tiles and Ionic columns.

### Smaw House

The Smaw House was constructed ca. 1867 by Colonel Thomas Smaw. The present owner located parts of an earlier foundation in the basement and location tradition is that a house on the lot was burned during the Civil War. That tradition was supported by a letter written in 1867 which stated that among houses being constructed in Washington was, "[by] Col. Thomas Smaw a very large one where [it] use [sic] to be on the corner by the Episcopal church" (WFP, August 15, 1867).

The property belonged to Smaw's wife, Elizabeth, whose will devised the house and lot to her husband (WB 1, 1877, p. 180). Smaw sold it to Joseph B. Stickney, a Washington merchant and nephew of Elizabeth Smaw (DB 49, 1880, p. 405).<sup>3</sup> In 1888, when it was advertised for sale or rent, the advertisement referred to the house as the "Stickney place...one of the most eligible residences in Washington" (WP, Jan. 31, 1888).

Caleb F. Clark purchased the property and sold it to Marianna Styron (DB 71, 1889, p. 521; DB 71, 1889, p. 522).

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<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Smaw and Harriet Stickney were daughters of General Frederick Grist. Harriet Stickney married J. B. Stickney and it was their son who purchased the house in 1880 (CERM, 1892, p. 502).

Her heir, James S. Styron, conveyed it to Charles H. Bramlett, who a year later sold the house to his son-in-law, the present owner, Charles P. Franklin (DB 507, 1959, p. 212; DB 507, 1960, p. 221).

Construction features which reveal the age of the house are hand-split wood laths, pegged beams, a foundation of ballast stones, and irregular planing of the mantels. The owner recalled that the house once had wooden shingles (Int., Franklin).

It has a side hall plan with the gable end facing the street (Figure 15). There is a central chimney and another interior chimney located in the hip-roofed extension across the back of the house. The front and sides are two bays wide.

The hip-roofed porch extends from the right side nearly all the way across the front and is supported by posts with a lattice design. The plain porch railing was a replacement by the owner, who had a photograph showing an older decorative railing of flat balusters.

Windows have six over six sashes and are framed by drip molding and louvered shutters. The Greek Revival door with three-light sidelights and transom also has drip molding.

Interiors are plaster over wood lathing of varying thicknesses. Below the windows are molded panels. Heavy

molding remains around the four panel doors. There are six fireplaces with plain mantels. The original heart-of-pine floors remain.



Figure 15

Smaw House, ca. 1867

#### Phillips House

One of few houses in Washington on which the date of construction was inscribed was the Phillips House. An inset located on the left side of the foundation read, "BUILT BY A. [Aaron] PHILLIPS JULY 1875." The house has remained in the family and the present owner is John Havens Moss.

Phillips owned three stores in Washington. Among the items in his store were,

foreign and domestic dry goods, fancy dress and white goods, latest notions, a full line of fancy and heavy groceries of all kinds, fashionable clothing, tools and shoes in sizes to fit all feet, farming tools and farmer's supplies generally. (HDR, 1885, p. 154)

The house is two bay on all sides (Figure 16). The lot on which it stands slopes down toward the river, resulting in an exposed brick basement in the rear. The exterior door to the basement is a cross and Bible form.



Figure 16

Phillips House, ca. 1875

The narrow gable end with cornice returns faces the street. A gable-topped portico is centered on the front

facade. Originally the house sat directly on the street (Int., Moss).

An unusual feature is the stone chimney placed near the center of a gable roof. Foundations are also of bal-last stones.

Windows contain the original glass in six over six sashes, flanked by louvered shutters and covered by simple entablatures. The front door is covered by a simple entablature and flanked by pilasters.

Use as a boarding house, armory, and newspaper office resulted in changes in the floor plan (Int., Moss). The heart-of-pine floors were covered by a hardwood floor. Cypress window frames were constructed with wooden pegs.

#### Latham House

The house was probably constructed by Thomas Latham, who purchased the lot in 1891 (DB 79, p. 274). Since that time, there have been several owners (see Appendix A).

The house has a side hall plan with a two-bay front facade and a two-bay side elevation (Figure 17). It is covered by weatherboards with the exception of the area beneath the porch, which is covered by flush diagonal siding. The gable roof with cornice returns incorporates a central chimney.

The hip-roofed porch is supported by chamfered posts. Brackets ornament the porch as well as the eaves of the house.

Windows have six over six sashes flanked by louvered shutters and topped by entablatures. The trabeated door has a three-light transom and two-light sidelights. The fenestration of the right side has been altered and is asymmetrical.



Figure 17

Latham House, ca. 1891

#### Dimock House

The house was constructed in the late 1880's or the early twentieth century. Mary Dimock acquired the property in 1881 and in 1902 sold it to Carl Richardson (DB 51, 1881, p. 256; DB 121, 1902, p. 13). Afterward there were several owners (see Appendix A).

The house is long and narrow, having a two-bay front facade and a three-bay side elevation. A gable-roofed extension is located in the rear (Figure 18).



Figure 18

Dimock House, ca. 1880-1902

The gable end faces the street with a central bay window ornamented by double brackets. Italianate influence is seen in the double window on the second floor. All windows have six over six sashes with drip molding. The door has a two-light transom and drip molding.

Across the front is a hip-roofed porch supported by square attenuated columns and surrounded by a plain railing. An unusual feature is the small second-floor

porch on the left side. In addition to bracketed eaves, the area is ornamented by gingerbread trim, not found on the first-floor porch. It is probable that the front porch was once trimmed in the same manner.

### Victorian

Victorian houses were classified in four divisions: Italianate, Carpenter Gothic, Queen Anne, and Composite. In Beaufort County Victorian houses had traditional Georgian or Greek Revival plans with the addition of ornament typical of the prevailing Victorian substyle. The asymmetrical floor plans and facades associated with Victorian styles had virtually no impact in Beaufort County.

Italianate was the only Victorian style which had strong or lasting impact on the decorative features of Beaufort County houses. The style was popularized through architectural books and articles published throughout the nineteenth century. In mid-century an architect wrote, "The severity of the purely classical style is certainly not congenial to modern American taste" (Wheeler, 1868, p. 92). Andrew Downing claimed that Italianate

addresses itself more to the feelings and the senses, and less to the reason or judgement, than the Grecian style, and it is also capable of a variety of expression quite unknown to the architecture of the five orders. (1850, p. 380)

Local builders did not accept the plan variations recommended in architectural books. Only the ornament and

easily adapted features such as porches and fenestrations were utilized. Those features of the Italianate style were readily accepted, perhaps because they could be easily combined with the familiar Greek Revival form.

Although Italianate motifs were added to Greek Revival or Georgian plans, few examples of the full-blown Italianate style appeared in Beaufort County. The Bonner House I is an example of the incorporation of Victorian features in a Greek Revival plan (Figure 19). The brackets and double windows shown in the illustration were virtually the only Italianate features found in Beaufort County.



Figure 19

Bonner House I

The most academic example of the Italianate style is Rosedale. The house was designed by a Baltimore architect and the extensive detail, such as pilasters and bracketed headings, was not typical of Beaufort County. The Holladay House showed more restraint in use of Italianate decorative motifs in combination with Greek Revival features. The McKeel House I was the only example found of an Italianate structure constructed with a tower.

Carpenter Gothic produced no major changes in Beaufort County house plans. Like the Italianate style, Carpenter Gothic motifs were applied to houses which were otherwise of Greek Revival or Italianate derivation. Motifs from both styles were combined on porches. The Bryan House in Washington utilized brackets and gingerbread trim, as well as limited motifs from the Stick style (Figure 20). The influence of the Stick style was so limited in Beaufort County that it was not discussed as a separate style. Motifs from that style were used only on porches in combination with Carpenter Gothic features.

Gingerbread trim, turned posts, and drip molding were Carpenter Gothic motifs utilized in Beaufort County. The drip molding was used even on houses with no other Victorian features (Figure 21). Its presence on Greek Revival structures suggested that it was used as a simplified form of Greek Revival eared molding, but the form was

like that found in nineteenth-century Carpenter Gothic houses shown in architectural books.



Figure 20

Porch Detail, Bryan House

Carpenter Gothic produced no extensive changes in floor plans in Beaufort County. Only the Lucas House had the T-plan and board-and-batten siding associated with Gothic Revival architecture.

One house type was associated with the Carpenter Gothic style in Beaufort County. Central gable houses

derived from the Carpenter Gothic designs of nineteenth-century architects such as Andrew Jackson Downing (Downing, 1850; Sloane, 1861; Vaux, 1867; Wheeler, 1855; Wheeler, 1868). In pattern books those designs were trimmed with a proliferation of ornament. Beaufort County residents chose much plainer plans with comparatively little embellishment.

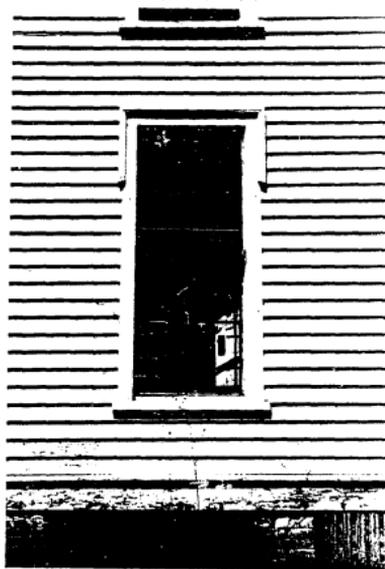


Figure 21  
Drip Molding

The resultant simplicity made attribution to a specific designer nearly impossible. No quintessential examples of Carpenter Gothic were found in Beaufort County. However, when vernacular center-gable houses were included as derivatives of the style it was clear that Carpenter Gothic had more impact than would be apparent to the casual observer.

Queen Anne houses were built more frequently in the early twentieth century. The few extant examples indicated that the style was seldom used, perhaps because the extreme ornament and changes in floor plan were incompatible with Beaufort County conservatism.

Although it was demolished, one of the most noteworthy Victorian houses was constructed on Main Street for Washington merchant Samuel R. Fowle. A contemporary noted that in 1855 "he erected the present large and spacious premises, familiar to every inhabitant and every visitor to Washington" (HDR, 1885, p. 149). A description of the interior design was published in a local newspaper which referred to it as "by far the finest in the city".

The hall is treated in Terra Cotta hangings with Lincrusta Walton dado in Louis 14th style, ceilings floral effects with art panel just over front entrance of cupid playing flute, the dining room is in deep maroon coloring, hangings of Moorish design, also Lincrusta dado with ceiling panels of fruits. The sitting room is treated in dark olive hangings with cream figures of festoon effects, ceiling of lighter colors touched off in gold. Parlor in cream and gold with large art panel in centre of ceiling

of cupid flying through fleecy cloud bearing clusters of roses. All art panels hand painted in water colors. Mrs. Fowle's bedroom is in blue Renaissance. The guest chamber room is in green empire style. (WP, Dec. 14, 1898)

The ornate design of that house was unusual.

Washington houses constructed during the Victorian period continued traditional designs, with the addition of limited ornament.

The one house classified as Queen Anne, the Bryan House, qualified as such primarily on the basis of some asymmetrical massing and trim. The Bryan House resembled houses of the early twentieth century more closely than other nineteenth-century homes.

Houses identified as Composite possessed features of Victorian revival styles, but did not belong to any particular stylistic group. Features of the Greek Revival, Italianate, and Carpenter Gothic styles were combined in a single structure. Some composite houses had features of the Neoclassical or Colonial Revival style, popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Houses remodeled in that time period sometimes exhibited few traces of the original appearance. A variety of classical features, including pediments and porticos, were added to Neoclassical houses (Figure 22).

Many factors combined to reduce the use of Victorian styles in Beaufort County. Although transportation had improved and there was increased contact with other regions,

Beaufort County had remained a rural and conservative area. The flamboyant Victorian designs had little appeal to Beaufort County residents and would not have reflected the life style of most residents.

In the mid-nineteenth century when Victorian housing flourished elsewhere, Beaufort County was in the midst of a war which blighted the economy. Houses were rebuilt in an era when funds were limited and residents had more vital concerns than artistic styles.



Figure 22

Rutledge House, date unknown

The availability of architectural books and articles would have exposed Beaufort County builders to Victorian

styles, but for practical and psychological reasons, those designs were adapted rather than copied. Beaufort County houses exhibited simplified Victorian trim.

#### Rodman House

The property on which the Rodman House stands originally belonged to Bryan Grimes, who in 1832-33 sold lots 36 and 37 in Van Nordon Town to Hull Anderson, a free black man who operated a ship yard. The William Blount Rodman Papers contained several documents related to Anderson's ownership of the property. Anderson subsequently emigrated to Liberia. No deed for a sale was located, but a secondary source indicated that Anderson sold his property in 1841 (Reed, 1962).

John Grist had the house constructed ca. 1848. He was married to Fanny Grist ca. 1841 and probably had the house constructed soon thereafter (Smallwood, 1964). Grist was a member of a prominent Beaufort County family. His father, Allen Grist, was Beaufort County Sheriff and his brother, James, was one of the wealthiest men in the county.<sup>4</sup> The large house which John Grist constructed on Main Street in Washington was a reflection of the family's social standing.

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<sup>4</sup>James Grist was the owner of Elmwood, the most elaborate residence in Washington.

In 1858 Grist conveyed the house to E.J. [Edward Jennings] Warren, who in turn conveyed it to Grist's wife, Fanny (DB 30, 1858, pp. 360, 359). Grist was shot following an argument in 1860 and his heirs later sold the house (MFP, 1862; TS, Oct. 5, 1860, Oct. 8, 1860).

Charlotte Grimes, who lived at Grimesland in Pitt County, visited with a Mrs. Grist around 1866 in what was probably the Rodman House, since Mrs. Grimes noted that her daughter, Mrs. W. C. [Wiley] Rodman, later lived there (BG, Grimes, n.d.).

The house was most closely associated with the Rodman family, which owned the residence from the 1870's until 1977. William Blount Rodman was one of Washington's best known residents. The grandson of John Gray Blount, Rodman was related to eminent Beaufort County families. He was also a prominent political figure, having served as an associate justice on the state supreme court (Legislative Manual, 1874, p. 163; CERM, 1892, p. 207; Ashe, 1905, p. 344).

William Rodman wrote to his wife, Camilla, in 1859, "I have had no time to think about buying a lot or anything of the sort" (WBR, July 28, 1859). In 1873 he again wrote,

I fear I cannot or ought not to buy Whitehursts' [sic] house. This is the case. [Rodman detailed his financial circumstances.] We should also have to put

up our house-stables-cow house-poultry yard &c... Then we should have to pay taxes-which now we avoid... I assure you-& you will believe me-I am very anxious to get a good comfortable permanent home for us & especially for you. But I wish you seriously to consider & write me-whether you think under present circumstances we ought to make so great a sacrifice to accomplish it. We should consider also that the house by no means suits our taste. If I make a good crop next year-as I hope I shall-I shall feel much better able to find the necessary money than I do now. In the meanwhile some opportunity may occur by which we can buy as good a house on better terms... You see what my opinion is-that we had better occupy our present house at least one year longer.-But I wish your frankly & candidly given advice. I want your judgement to help mine-& want you to be satisfied with what I may do. (WBR, June, 1873)

Camilla Rodman purchased the Rodman House ca. 1874 for \$5000 (DB 49, 1880, p. 81). In 1880 there was a dispute with the heirs of Hull Anderson over the title to the property and several documents in the William Blount Rodman Papers referred to the litigation. Rodman's will devised the property to his son, William B. Rodman, II, and it remained in the family until 1977 when Robert Hardy purchased the house (DB 747, 1977, p. 419; WB 1, 1893, p. 575).

In 1888 a local newspaper observed,

Mr. W.B. Rodman Jr. has moved into his handsome residence on Main Street. He has had it thoroughly [sic] repaired and it is now one of the most tasteful residences in that part of town. (WP, Dec. 4, 1888)

In 1894 Rodman considered constructing a house on the back lot for his sister (WBR, LB 2, 1894, p. 279).

The Rodman House is a large structure, five bays wide and three bays deep, with characteristics of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles (Figure 23). At the corners are pilaster corner posts molded at the edges.



Figure 23

Rodman House, ca. 1848

The low-pitched gable roof is pierced by four stuccoed clustered chimneys, identical to those at Rosedale, ca. 1859. The cornice returns in the gable ends.

Across the front is a flat-roofed porch supported by square attenuated posts, which are ornamented by small gingerbread trimming. The wrought iron railing, which also flanks the steps, is repeated on a balcony over the

porch (Figure 24). Tradition is that the wrought iron was imported from Italy (Int., Lawrence). The Rodman House was the only house in Beaufort County which utilized wrought iron as a decorative feature on a porch.



Figure 24

Rodman House

Windows have six over six sashes with louvered shutters and entablatures. The front door is surrounded by a three-light transom and sidelights. The red etched glass in the transom and sidelights is reputed to have been imported, although no evidence was found. It was the only example located in which such decorative glass was

utilized in a mid-nineteenth-century structure.<sup>5</sup> A second-floor door to the balcony also has three-light sidelights and transom. Brackets ornament the cornice and the porch.

The interior has a central hall plan with a wide hall and two rooms on each side. The floors with wide pine boards are original.

The William B. Rodman Papers contained records for the purchase of some interior features, including an oak mantel purchased ca. 1903 (WBR, LB 35, pp. 53, 217; LB 34, p. 55). While in Norfolk, Rodman selected a tile, "Nearly white and rather large pieces with figures in it" to place on a fireplace surrounded by a brass rim and with the top "curved in scroll like" (WBR, LB 34, 1903, p. 55). The request for samples indicated that he desired a mantel which would "make a handsome finish for [a] library" (WBR, LB 35, 1903, p. 53). Included in the correspondence were measurements of the fireplace. This was probably the fireplace which replaced one of marble. A classical white mantel installed by William B. Rodman III later replaced the oak fireplace (Int., Lawrence).

Some renovation of the house was carried out ca. 1895-1903 since letters disclosed the purchase of sashes and blinds in 1895 (WBR, LB 6, p. 260). and in 1898 the house was painted (WP, July 29). Rodman also purchased

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<sup>5</sup>On East Second Street in Washington, one vernacular house not included in the study because of alterations has similar glass in the transom and sidelights.

sage-colored window shades, above which he wanted brackets (WBR, LB 20, 1899, p. 453). In 1902 Rodman requested a catalogue of gas fixtures because he wanted to purchase "about" three chandeliers, one hall light and other small fixtures (WBR, LB 31, p. 388).

Some information on furnishings was available. In 1902 Rodman ordered from a catalogue of the Robert Mitchell Furniture Company, "One dining table, six dining chairs, two dining chairs, one hall bench, one hall glass and one library table" (WBR, LB 29, p. 209). He specifically requested the best materials and workmanship, "of Golden Oak, nicely polished" (WBR, LB 29, p. 209).

Correspondence related to William B. Rodman II's inheritance stated, "Some time ago-in accordance with the expressed wish of our father & mother the water front-my house and lot & the back lot were valued by E.M. Short & Dr. Blount & Mrs. S. Buckman" (WBR, LB 23, 1900, p. 17). The writing was unclear and the valuation illegible.

In the early 1900's there was a windmill on the property to transfer water to the upper floors. Within the twentieth century there was also a long breezeway extending from the back door to another detached room. The original detached kitchen stood on the site of the present garage and the smokehouse stood west of the kitchen. The carriage house in the back was demolished ca. 1920 (Int., Lawrence).

Rosedale Plantation (Wharton House)

Rosedale Plantation was constructed sometime in the late 1850's by David Brantley Perry, a well-known planter and "a gentleman noted throughout Eastern North Carolina for his hospitality and intelligence" (HDR, 1885, p. 152). His daughters, Elizabeth Blount, Isabella Carter, and Mary Wharton, inherited the property. Mary P. Wharton and her husband, Rufus, purchased the house after Colonel Wharton died intestate. It was inherited by their children (DB 191, 1916, p. 552). Thereafter it had several owners (see Appendix A).

The amount of detail suggested that if an architect was not employed, an architecture book was used as the source. Rosedale contains far more ornate Italianate features than other Beaufort County houses of that era. A letter to David Perry from Baltimore in 1859 referred to "Mr. Murdock, the architect", indicating that before Murdock could make an estimate on the cost of the house he would need to know which materials were available (locally) and the price. Among other comments, he noted that "if the Weatherboarding can be had it would also be a saving...The Flooring all ready to be laid down can be sent from here, also Doors, Window Frame Sash Mouldings &c" (PFP, February, 1859).

"Mr. Murdock" most likely was William T. Murdock of Baltimore. Prior to the Civil War Murdock was in

partnership with Edmund Lind, who practiced in Baltimore for three decades, was closely associated with the American Institute of Architects, and later practiced in Wilson, North Carolina (Ohno, 1981, p. 170; Withey & Withey, 1970, p. 372). Little information on Murdock could be located.

The origin of the house's name is unknown, but letters from the 1860's referred to it as Rosedale (DMCP). Mary Perry Wharton found it large since she mentioned being "entirely alone in this big house today" (TFDP, March 25, 1896) and eventually had a boarder (TFDP, Sept. 19, 1896).

When the Whartons acquired the plantation it had deteriorated (HDR, 1885). The structure was located on a plantation on which cotton, corn, and rice were grown. In 1885 it consisted of approximately 720 acres, 300 of which were cultivated (HDR, 1885).

It is a large Italianate structure with some Greek Revival detail, especially on the interior (Figure 25). The two-story house is three bays wide and three bays deep, resting on a brick pier foundation. A gable roof is pierced by four interior stuccoed chimneys, three of which are clustered and paneled.

It is evident that the back once had a porch extending nearly the width of the structure which collapsed and was removed (Int., Briley). Three doors remain in the back, all framed by fluted pilasters supporting bracketed heads.

The center door is Greek Revival and larger than the two flanking doors. It resembles the front door, although with plainer trim.



Figure 25

Rosedale, ca. 1859

The house has a substantial amount of detail, including fluted pilaster corner posts and bracketed cornices and returns with drops. A shed-roofed front portico is supported by paneled columns with entablature heads identical to those on the house. The cornice is bracketed with drops. The brackets, containing a trefoil motif, are unlike others located in Beaufort County.

The front door is Greek Revival with sidelights and flanked by fluted pilasters, above which are consoles and

a bracketed heading flanked by a bull's-eye motif (Figure 26). Below the sidelights is a small panel. Records of the Department of Archives and History indicated that they once contained etched glass. The four-panel door is heavily molded. Back doors are also four panel with molding, but simpler in detail.



Figure 26  
Doorway, Rosedale

Although the remainder of the house is weatherboarded, the area beneath the front portico is covered by flush sheathing. A single turned baluster remains on the portico.

Windows have four over four sashes. First floor windows are long and narrow, with second-floor windows having

shorter proportions (Figure 27). All windows are flanked by engaged pilasters matching those on the remainder of the house and surmounted by bracketed heads.



Figure 27

Side Elevation, Rosedale

On the left is a gable-roofed structure attached to the house by a breezeway. Possibly it was used as a kitchen. Like the main structure, it has corner posts, returns, and bracketed windows. The presence of decorative

features on the rear of the house and on the dependency was indicative of the owner's social position and the importance of the house.

The interior has a center hall plan and is two rooms deep. Heavily molded baseboards line the walls. Doors with graining are surrounded by heavy Greek Revival eared molding. In the hall is a stairway with turned balusters and scroll trim.

#### Holladay House (Brown House)

The earliest deed located for the Holladay House property was an 1858 conveyance from John and Margaret Taylor to John Gray Blount (DB 40, p. 526).<sup>6</sup> Shortly thereafter, Blount sold the property to George Hubbard Brown, in whose family it remained for several years (DB 32, 1860, p. 115). Brown had the house constructed ca. 1860.

George H. Brown was listed in the 1860 Census as a merchant with real estate valued at \$18,000 and \$32,900 in his personal estate (Census, 1860, p. 187). He had advertised as a merchant in 1844 (NSW, Aug. 13, 1844). Brown also served as a founder of the Bank of Washington (NSW, Feb. 19, 1851). A biography noted that, "in ante-war days, [he] was a prominent man in the business circles

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<sup>6</sup>The deed indicated the name as "Taylor". However, "Taylor" and "Tayloe" were sometimes interchanged.

of the town", serving as a director and president of the Bank of Washington (WG, Nov. 1, 1889).

Brown's purchase of the Holladay House property was part of a marriage agreement. The deed stated,

Whereas on the 29th day of November A.D. 1858 George H. Brown in contemplation of a Marriage then intended to be had and Solemized [sic] between him and Martha Bonner...[agreed]...he the said George H. Brown within twelve Months after said Marriage purchase real estate in the town of Washington Viz a piece of land with a suitable dwelling house thereon, to the Value of six thousand dollars...George H. Brown had purchased a lot of land with a dwelling house and appurtenances thereon from John G. Blount. (DB 32, 1860, p. 116)

The aforementioned deed clearly indicated that Brown purchased a house and suggested that it was constructed by someone other than Brown. Blount obtained the property for \$2000 and sold it to Brown for \$7600 (DB 40, 1858, p. 526; DB 32, 1860, p. 115). However, there was no evidence that Blount constructed the house for himself and he was known to have lived elsewhere. The second deed, which placed the house in trust for Martha Brown, with her brother, Macon Bonner, did not indicate whether the house was constructed specifically for Brown (DB 32, 1860, p. 116).

The Brown family occupied the house through the late nineteenth century. Mary Wharton wrote in 1897 that "Bella" had moved into "the Old Brown House", the description indicating that it was the Holladay House to which she referred (TFD, June 7, 1897). The Wharton's had a daughter named Isabelle, but whether she and her husband,

John Small, lived in the house is unknown.<sup>7</sup>

Martha Brown's will devised the house to her daughter, Hannah Hollyday [sic] McEwan (WB 3, 1908, p. 149).<sup>8</sup> In 1978 it was sold to the Mitchell Norton family (DB 775, p. 413).

The size and architectural detail of the house indicated that it was constructed for a prominent family. The house originally stood on the street, but was moved back on the lot in the early twentieth century. The earlier foundations are visible and a photograph in the Brown Library showed the house standing close by the street.

It possesses characteristics of both the Italianate and Greek Revival periods (Figure 28). The exterior is largely Italianate while the interior is dominated by Greek Revival trim. In that respect the house resembles Rosedale, ca. 1859. The two-story house under a hip roof has a five-bay front facade and is three bays deep, standing on a high brick foundation.

Brackets ornament the cornice and the porch. Corner posts are of the pilaster type. Four interior chimneys

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<sup>7</sup>John Small was a prominent Washington resident, mayor of Washington, and editor of the Washington Gazette (CERM, 1892). His law partner was George H. Brown, the nephew of George H. Brown, who purchased the Holladay House.

<sup>8</sup>Martha Bonner Brown was the daughter of Richard Bonner. Her sister, Mary, was the wife of Benjamin Havens and lived in the Havens House in Washington.

have corbeled tops.



Figure 28

Holladay House, ca. 1860

One of the most noteworthy features is the front porch, with curving steps at each end. Attenuated posts support a flat roof surrounded by brackets. The porch railing, made of turned balusters, terminates in a heavy newel post (Figure 29).

In the rear is a small central porch, now screened, with louvered shutters on two sides. On the outside are turned balusters, which also lead up the steps.



Figure 29  
Porch, Holladay House

First-floor windows extend nearly to floor level with wrought iron trim in the lower section. The iron trim is repeated on second-floor windows, which although large, have an interior panel below the windows rather than extending to the floor. All windows are surmounted by a heavy entablature and have four over four sashes and louvered shutters (Figure 30).

The double front door is surmounted by a three-light transom and flanked by three-light sidelights, all with etched glass. Pilasters flank the sidelights. The molded

panels of the front door resemble those at Rosedale.

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Figure 30  
Holladay House

The interior is double pile and has a center hall plan with a foyer directly inside the double front doors. A second set of double doors with three-light sidelights, transom, and pilasters separates the foyer from the remainder of the hall. At the rear of the hall another door with sidelights and pilasters creates a second foyer area.

Interior trim is similar to that on the exterior. Heavy eared molding ornaments the windows and four-panel doors. On the right side of the house a sliding paneled door flanked by pilasters separates the living and dining rooms.

Throughout the house are molded baseboards and ceiling molding. The stairway with turned balusters and a heavy turned newel post has scroll trim on the side and upper edge. The original wide pine flooring remains.

A light fixture in the hall contains etched glass similar to that in the sidelights and transom. Original gas fixtures remain. Medallions surround the chandeliers in the living and dining rooms.

Wooden mantels are simple with three raised panels. A tradition that all but one of several marble fireplaces were demolished during the Civil War by occupying Federal troops was partially supported by the discovery of pieces of marble on the grounds of the house (Int., Norton). The presence of three wooden mantels identical to the surviving marble fireplace indicated that former owners attempted to reproduce the destroyed fireplaces (Int., Norton).

#### Quin House

Emma Quin, wife of Louis Quin, purchased the lot in 1871 (DB 36, p. 128), so the house dates from ca. 1872. The area to the right is a twentieth-century addition (Figure 31).



Figure 31  
Quin House, ca. 1872

The original structure was a square building with a two-bay facade and a side hall arrangement. The dominant characteristics are Italianate, although the front door shows lingering Greek Revival influence. The hipped roof is pierced by an interior chimney.

The hip-roofed porch supported by Doric columns and surrounded by a plain railing was possibly a later addition made at the same time the right side was added. The style indicated a date in the early twentieth century. Brackets with drops ornament the cornice.

The double lower front window is long and narrow, reflecting Italianate influence. All windows are topped by plain lintels and flanked by louvered shutters. The front door has three light sidelights and a transom.

#### McKeel House I

William Bragaw conveyed the lot to Charles B. McKeel in 1890 (DB 75, p. 430). McKeel, in turn, sold it to Carmer T. Cordon in 1893, whose family owned the property until 1949 (DB 83, p. 199) (see Appendix A).

The style is Italianate with some Carpenter Gothic trim and is basically a variation on the L-plan, with the addition of a tower on the right side (Figure 32). The McKeel House I was the only Beaufort County house to utilize the Italianate tower. Both shed-roofed and gable-roofed additions are located in the rear.

Although most of the house is weatherboarded, the area beneath the porch is covered by flush diagonal siding, except over and below the windows where the siding is laid vertically. The shed-roofed porch, supported by plain square posts with gingerbread trim, extends across the front and left sides.

Window frames have drip molding, but the ventilation opening in the tower has a molded, arched heading. Paired windows on the first floor are typical of the Italianate style. Over the front door is a small transom.



Figure 32

McKeel House I, ca. 1890

Brackets ornament the cornice, tower, and porch. Some of the detail, while not identical, is similar to that of the McKeel House II, which is on the left side.

#### Moss House

Local tradition indicated that the Moss House was constructed by Beverly Moss for his mother and sisters (Int., Hughes). Moss was involved in the lumber business in Washington. According to deeds, the lot was sold to Mary Moss in 1893, who conveyed it to her children (DB 85,

1893, p. 432; DB 127, 1904, p. 87). It was later sold to the Nicholson family, who made some interior changes (DB 253, 1925, p. 218) (see Appendix A).

The plan is an L-shape with another cross gable in the rear (Figure 33). Both Italianate and Carpenter Gothic trim are used on the structure and the plan is derived from Italianate prototypes. Samuel Sloane illustrated L-plan Italianate houses in his 1861 publication and his comments on the style applied to the Moss House.

Its projecting roofs and ample verandas afford pleasing shelter during the dazzling sunshine of our summer months, and furnish an excellent reason for the preference frequently shown for it in the Middle and Southern States. (Sloane, 1861, p. 65)

A screened area on the second floor of the back was probably enclosed in the twentieth century. One of the two corbeled top chimneys (on the left) is stuccoed.

Although the house is weatherboarded, flush diagonal siding covers the area beneath the porch. A shed-roofed porch trimmed with brackets extends from the gable-roofed extension across the front and halfway down the left side. Square double posts joined by arches at the top and ornamented by gingerbread trim support the porch, which is surrounded by a railing of turned balusters.

Windows have two over two sashes with drip molding; some with louvered shutters. In the gable end are narrow



Figure 33

Moss House, ca. 1893

double windows, which along with the brackets, indicated Italianate influence. The left side is single bay and the right side two bay.

Although the interior was altered in the twentieth century, the center hall plan is visible. The stairway is composed of turned balusters and has a carved newel post.

#### Short House

The Short House was constructed ca. 1895. The earliest deed located was a sale to Lucy Bowers from S.S. Bowers

in 1919 (DB 208, p. 182). It was sold to Lewis Swindell in 1923 and was inherited by his wife (DB 241, p. 557). Swindell was a Washington doctor, who had moved to Washington in 1919 (Loy & Worthy, 1976).

The house is close to the Rodman House and was probably the structure to which Rodman referred in an 1895 letter to F.H. Short (WBR, LB 5, p. 154). Short's attention was called to houses that his mother was having built adjacent to the Rodman House.

The front facade is like that of gable-end houses in Washington, but it is actually an L-plan (Figure 34). In the rear are gable-and shed-roofed extensions. The corbeled top chimney is centered on the roof.

On the right side of the front facade is a bay window, the roof of which is joined to the shed-roofed porch. The porch begins at the bay window and wraps around the left side. The turned posts have gingerbread trim and the porch railing is composed of turned balusters.

Cornice returns in the gable ends are ornamented by brackets, which also line the eaves of the porch. There are double brackets on the bay window. The two over two sash windows are topped by drip molding. Over the double front door is a transom.

The interior has a center hall plan. The four panel doors are surrounded by molding. Greek Revival symmetrical molding with corner blocks trims the bay window.



Figure 34

Short House, ca. 1895

Richards House

The date of construction for the Richards House is uncertain. Thaddeus Richards had acquired the property in 1846 (DB 20, p. 34), but the earliest deed reference to a dwelling was a conveyance from Thaddeus W. Richards to Mary Richards (DB 25, 1848, p. 35). It was then conveyed to Shadrack Allen and by him to Benjamin [J.] Parmele (DB 28, 1855, p. 262).

Parmelee was a Washington merchant (Census, 1860, p. 181).<sup>9</sup> Other owners included Edwin Reade, who married Mary Parmelee, widow of Benjamin Parmelee (CERM, 1892, p. 60; DB 52, 1882, p. 439). Reade moved to Washington following his marriage and was a distinguished Beaufort County resident. He had served in Congress and was president of the North Carolina State Convention which met to amend the state Constitution after the Civil War (CERM, 1892, p. 60). Later owners of the Richards House were Charles Warren, William Hackney, Garland Holmes, and Robert Kidwell (DB 493, 1959, p. 47; DB 550, 1963, p. 606; DB 696, 1973, p. 381).

The front facade is three bay, the left side three bay and the right two bay (Figure 35). Corner posts are molded and have entablature tops. Two corbeled top chimneys pierce the low-pitched roof, on which the cornice returns. In the rear is a flat-roofed extension. It is a center gable house, but the front gable is unusual. Extending from the front facade, it is supported by brackets.

The center gable and ornament resulted in classification as Carpenter Gothic, although there are also features of the Italianate and Greek Revival styles. The house exemplified the addition of Victorian ornament to a Greek

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<sup>9</sup>The spelling of his name varied. The 1850 Census gave his name as Parmerlee (p. 337). It was also spelled Parmerle.

Revival structure. No evidence was found to indicate that the center gable and trim were later additions, but stylistic features suggested that the house was renovated in the nineteenth century. The plan and fenestration of the Richards House are clearly Greek Revival.



Figure 35

Richards House, ca. 1846

A hip-roofed porch with square posts, a flat baluster railing, and gingerbread trim extends across the front. Centered on the porch is a gable ornamented by a decorative bargeboard and supported by brackets (Figure 36). Both center gables have a flush sheathing design reminiscent of the Eastlake or Stick style, which may have resulted

from renovation. Brackets with drops line the eaves and around the porch are double brackets.



Figure 36

Porch, Richards House

Windows have large six over six sashes with molded lintels, corner blocks in the Greek Revival style, and flanking louvered shutters. Below the center gable is a double window. The Greek Revival trabeated door has a four-light transom and three-light sidelights. Framing of the door is Greek Revival symmetrical molding with corner blocks.

The interior has a center hall plan and fireplaces in each of the eight rooms. Fireplaces are marble, wood, and

tile. The living room, according to a local resident, Mrs. Lindsay Warren, once had heavy ornate molding at the ceiling (Int., Kidwell). Throughout the house are six-panel cross-and-Bible doors with Greek Revival trim consisting of symmetrical molding and corner blocks.

#### Lucas House (Shady Dale)

The earliest reference located was an 1868 deed from Jesse Lucas to David Lucas which stated that Jesse Lucas lived on the property (DB 34, p. 225). The deed indicated that the property had been purchased from W.B. [William Blount] Rodman and R.R. Walker in 1860.

David Lucas conveyed the property to Elizabeth Lucas in 1877, noting that Elizabeth Lucas lived on the property and that David Lucas was a resident of Pender County (DB 60, p. 124).<sup>10</sup> In 1889 Elizabeth Lucas conveyed the house to Annie Nicholson (DB 70, p. 336). When it was conveyed to Annie Taylor in 1914 the deed referred to the house as the Lucas or Nicholson Place (DB 177, p. 290). It then changed hands several times (see Appendix A).

The plan and design of the house are unique in Beaufort County. The board-and-batten T-plan was a type

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<sup>10</sup>Elizabeth Lucas was the wife of Jesse Lucas. Their daughter was Annie Nicholson (wife of S.T. Nicholson), whose daughter was Annie Taylor (Smallwood, 1964). Thus the house remained in the Lucas family until the twentieth century.

constructed in other parts of the country during the Gothic Revival era, but was not found elsewhere in Beaufort County (Figure 37).



Figure 37

Lucas House, ca. 1860

Andrew Jackson Downing, a leading proponent of the Gothic style, preferred vertical siding because it expressed a picturesque feeling. He also believed that vertical boards were expressive of vertical framing in a wooden house and "it has an expression of strength and truthfulness which the other has not" (Downing, 1850, p. 51). The inspiration for the Lucas House must have been the publications of Downing or one of his contemporaries.

Apart from the plan and materials the house exhibits no characteristics of the Gothic style. No exterior decorative treatment was utilized. The four interior chimneys have corbeled tops. Centered on the front facade is a small hip-roofed portico supported by square posts.

The fenestration is a mixture of window sashes. The front facade has six over six sashes and there are two over two sashes on the sides. The left side of the rear cross gable has six over six sashes while on the right side they are nine over nine. The nine over nine sashes are the original windows. Progression in pane size through the nineteenth century is demonstrated in the Lucas House. All windows are topped by entablatures.

#### Blount-Jones House

Mary Blount purchased property in 1882 which had belonged to the heirs of Whyriott Windley (DB 52, p. 261). In 1893 Mrs. Eva Way owned the lot (DB 83, p. 30).<sup>11</sup> Josephine Jones acquired it from H. R. Way in 1902, that deed being the first to mention a house (DB 116, p. 190). The property changed owners several times in the twentieth century (see Appendix A). Tradition claimed that the house was constructed by Mary Blount.

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<sup>11</sup>Whyriott Windley had a daughter named Mary, who married Reading Blount. Their daughter, Mary Eva Blount, married Harvey Way (Smallwood, 1969). Thus the property remained in the family until the twentieth century.

Stylistically, it shows evidence of Carpenter Gothic and Italianate styles. The form of the house is a cross gable with a central chimney and a gable-roofed ell (Figure 38). The chimney is composed of two units, back to back (Int., Johnson). Corner posts are molded in the center.



Figure 38

Blount-Jones House, ca. 1882

Small "picturesque" cottages similar to the Blount-Jones House appeared in numerous architectural publications throughout the nineteenth century. Although the house is plainer than those advocated by most architects of the era,

the plan was derived from such prototypes. Vernacular characteristics made attribution to a specific source impossible.

A hip-roofed porch extends across the front and half-way down the left side. It is supported by lattice work posts like those which appeared in architectural publications on Italianate and Carpenter Gothic houses. Other decorative features are a scalloped bargeboard and drops.

In the front gable end are double windows indicative of Italianate influence. Upper windows have two over two sashes and lower windows are six over six. All are surmounted by simple entablatures.

The interior has been remodeled with the original plaster removed, two rooms added, and new floors installed over the flooring (Int., Johnson). The second floor retains the wide pine floors and an exceptionally wide single board forms the stair landing.

Rooms are small with molding around the ceiling. The stairs are narrow and steep. Interiors are generally plain, although the fireplace in the rear room is ornamented by dentils.

#### Simmons-Credle House

The property on which the house was constructed was sold to James Simmons in 1875 (DB 40, p. 484). Simmon's will, made in 1885 and probated in 1886, left the house

to his wife, Martha, a son and a child not born in 1885 (WB 1, 1886, p. 375). In 1893 his heirs sold the house to E. S. [Edmund] Credle, who extensively remodeled the house (DB 83, p. 30). It remained in the Credle family, passing to Edmund S. Credle, Jr. at his father's death (DB 273, 1928, p. 587). Edmund S. Credle was a doctor in Pantego.

The house has decorative features of the Carpenter Gothic style and some asymmetrical massing typical of the Queen Anne style. The front is asymmetrical with a two-story pedimented bay window on the right (Figure 39). The side is two bay and has cornice returns. In the center of the gable roof are two stuccoed and corbeled top chimneys.



Figure 39

Simmons-Credle House, ca. 1875

According to the present owner, the house was a traditional two-story, eight-room, center hall plan when his father purchased it (Int., Credle). At one time there was a detached kitchen and a back room. The portico was replaced by a Victorian porch which wraps around the sides. It once extended the length of the right side, but a section was enclosed for use as a dining room.

Windows have two over two sashes, four over four, and six over six. All are surmounted by simple entablatures and flanked by louvered shutters. The six over six sashes are the oldest and typical of the Greek Revival period. On the right is a two-story bay window with a pedimented gable and a stained-glass window in the gable end. The front door is flanked by sidelights with frosted glass.

Exterior decorative features, hand carved from wood on the Credle property, were added by Edmund Credle (Int., Credle). On the porch is a turned spindle railing at the top and bottom. The turned posts which support the porch have gingerbread trim with whorls. Bargeboards ornament the pediment over the right bay window and both gable ends. On the second floor is a small balcony with decorative treatment similar to that on the porch. The ornament on the Simmons-Credle House is more extensive and individualistic than that of most Beaufort County houses.

The interior has a center hall plan. In the right front room is an ornate Colonial Revival fireplace with

green decorative tiles. The two-tier mantel is supported by Ionic columns. In the left room is an ornate Elizabethan-style fireplace supported by heavy turned spindles.

Doors have four recessed panels and Greek Revival symmetrically molded frames with bull's eye corners. The stairway has turned balusters and a heavy turned newel post.

#### Ayers House

Lots 79 and 82 were conveyed to E. W. Ayers by Seth Bridgemen in 1884 (DB 56, p. 335). Ayers had moved to Washington from Plymouth and opened a store (HDR, 1885).<sup>12</sup> Gray's Map (ca. 1880) denoted the property as belonging to Bridgeman, but did not show a house, so Ayers must have had it constructed ca. 1885. Ayers left the property to his wife and children and it came into the possession of his daughter, Mae Hackney (DB 324, 1937, p. 310; WB 5, 1931, p. 311).

The center gable house has Italianate, Carpenter Gothic, and Greek Revival characteristics (Figure 40). It presents an excellent example of the tendency to drape a

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<sup>12</sup>Ayers had other houses constructed for sale. The Washington Progress noted that two houses were being constructed for Ayers in 1889 (June 25, 1889).

traditional plan with decorative treatments from the currently popular style.



Figure 40

Ayers House, ca. 1885

The trim made the Ayers House one of the most ornate in Beaufort County. It has a five-bay front facade and is a single bay deep. Two interior corbeled top chimneys are located toward the rear of the house. The gable roof has cornice returns in the Greek Revival style.

First-floor windows are long and narrow. Like the second-floor windows, they are close together, giving the effect of Italianate double windows. All windows have six

over six sashes with louvered shutters and are topped by entablatures. The double front door has drip molding, a two-light transom, and three-light sidelights containing etched glass.

The hip-roofed porch across the front is supported by double posts joined by arches at the top. They are ornamented by gingerbread trim and surrounded by a railing of turned balusters. In the center is a cross gable with returns topped by a large finial (Figure 41). Both double and single brackets line the cornice of the porch. The roof cornice and second floor gable are also ornamented by brackets.

Like the Richards House, the center gable is utilized on the porch as well as the roof. On the Ayers House both cross gables are smaller replicas of the end gables. Brackets and cornice returns are utilized on all gables.

#### McKeel House II

The property on which the McKeel House II was built was sold to M. F. McKeel in 1890 (DB 75, p. 432). The property was not sold again until 1980 so the house was assumed to have been constructed ca. 1890 (see Appendix A).

Comparison of the Ayers House and the McKeel House II revealed the McKeel House II to be a more vernacular interpretation of the same house plan. The center gable house with a gable roof has a three-bay front facade

and is a single bay in depth (Figure 42).



Figure 41

Porch, Ayers House

In the rear is a cross gable having trim which matches the front extension. The identical trim indicated that the extension was original. A shed-roofed rear section has plainer window frames which suggested that it was a later addition.



Figure 42

McKeel House II, ca. 1890

Windows have two over two sashes in plain surrounds with double bracketed headings indicative of Italianate influence. Brackets also ornament the edge of the hip-roofed porch, cornices, and the two front gables. The trabeated door contains etched glass in the transom and sidelights.

The porch supports are a form of double post. They are joined by arches at the top and bottom and ornamented by gingerbread trim. Turned balusters compose the porch railing.

The interior has a center hall arrangement with some slight alteration. The kitchen area has been remodeled and a kitchen and bath added.

#### Harris House

According to deeds, the lot on which the house was built was conveyed to James H. Harris by G. W. [George] Kugler in 1894 (DB 86, p. 56). His daughter, Anna Gayle, recalled that Harris had the house constructed (Int., Gayle).

The form of the house is like Beaufort County vernacular houses, being a three-bay structure with decorative elements creating a more stylish appearance. The two-story house has Gothic Downingesque characteristics exemplified in the three dormers with gable roofs and decorative bargeboards with central drops (Figure 43).

The ends of the gable roof feature identical bargeboards with drops. Also noteworthy is a hip-roofed area centered in the rear of the house and topped by a finial. Two dormers identical to those on the front are located in the rear.

The main section has a three-bay front facade and is a single bay deep. Shed-roofed rear extensions with tin roofs were later additions.

In the front is a hip-roofed porch supported by square posts on brick piers and surrounded by a plain

railing. The character of the porch indicated that it was a later addition.



Figure 43

Harris House, ca. 1894

Hip-roofed bay windows flank the porch. Windows have six over six sashes with drip molding and louvered shutters. Although the house is weatherboarded, the area beneath the porch has flush diagonal siding. Two corbeled top interior chimneys are located in the rear of the house.

#### Lupton House

J. M. Lupton purchased the lot in Belhaven in 1898 and most likely had the house constructed shortly thereafter

(DB 96, p. 361). Three owners succeeded Lupton (see Appendix A).

Incorporated in the house are characteristics of the Carpenter Gothic, Queen Anne, and Greek Revival styles. The L-plan house has a five-bay front facade and is two bays deep (Figure 44). Decorative bargeboards ornament the pedimented gable ends. The two interior chimneys have corbeled tops. Beaded weatherboards cover the structure and it has corner posts with molded centers. Windows have two over two sashes with louvered shutters and entablature headings.



Figure 44

Lupton House, ca. 1898

Across the front is a hip-roofed porch, set back slightly on the right side and supported by turned posts with gingerbread trim. On the second floor is a small balcony with a railing of turned balusters. It resembles the one on the Simmons-Credle House, ca. 1875.

#### Bryan House

The date of construction for the Bryan House is unknown, but it was erected around the turn of the century. An 1898 deed indicated that F. H. Bryan was then living on the northern half of lot 21 and mentioned that the eastern half of lot 11, on which the Bryan House was built, was valued at \$1500 (DB 99, p. 357). By 1901 the house appeared on the Sanborn Maps (see Appendix A).

The overall appearance most closely resembles the Queen Anne style, but it also has characteristics of the Italianate, Carpenter Gothic, and Stick styles. The brackets are typical of Italianate houses, but there is also some half-timbering which appeared on Stick-style houses. The trim on the porch is Carpenter Gothic in style.

It is one of the more ornate houses in Washington, but the basic form is that of a gable end house with a one-story ell to the right and with rear extensions (Figure 45). There is a central corbeled top chimney.



Figure 45

Bryan House, ca. 1899-1901

On the left side is a two-story bay window with a hipped roof. A one-story bay window on the right ell has a pyramidal roof topped by a finial. Toward the right side is a hip-roofed porch with a central pedimented gable topped by a finial and having a sunburst design and half timbering. The porch railing and upper border are composed of turned balusters. The turned posts have gingerbread trim and a cartwheel design. Brackets surround the cornice, the porch, and both bay windows. Decorative

motifs are similar to those on the Dumay House, ca. 1900 (Figure 46).



Figure 46

Dumay House, ca. 1900

Interiors of the Bryan House have Greek Revival symmetrically molded trim with corner blocks at the windows and doors. On both sides of the bay window there is spool work and those windows are covered by louvered shutters. When the present owner acquired the house remains of the gas lights were still in the house (Int., Lassiter).

Elmwood

Elmwood was constructed for Colonel Joshua Tayloe ca. 1829 on 248 acres of land west of Washington (DB 15, 1829, p. 168). The property was beyond the western border of the town, adjoining Washington Street. Part of the tract was absorbed by the city of Washington around the turn of the century and the house was moved to a location on Main Street.

Tayloe was a well-known resident who served as Beaufort County delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1835 and was elected to the State Senate in 1844 (Legislative Manual, 1874, p. 163; Proceedings and Debates, 1836, p. 3). He also owned the Washington Steam Mill, was a local merchant, and served as Collector of Customs and Superintendent of Lights at Ocracoke Inlet (NSW, Aug. 3, 1843; NSW, June 5, 1850; WW, Feb. 2, 1842).

In 1829 Tayloe published a notice of ownership prohibiting theft of timber, which suggested that he was not yet living on the property at that time (FE, July 11, 1829). By 1830 he was residing in Washington District, which encompassed the Elmwood property (Census, 1830, p. 8).

Local tradition claimed that Tayloe had the house constructed, but never lived there. Evidence indicated that it was regarded as Tayloe's home. References to

his lawn west of Washington mentioned an ice house and fences (DB 26, 1849, p. 52).

Tayloe owned Elmwood until 1850 when a portion of the property was sold to Henry Alderson Ellison (DB 27, 1850, p. 51). Two other segments were sold to Ellison in 1851 and 1852 (DB 27, 1851, p. 50; DB 27, 1852, p. 47). Ellison had operated a business in Washington which stocked,

a large and elegant assortment of Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Crockery, Cutlery, Hollow Ware, Stone Ware, &c. &c, which they will dispose of cheap for cash or country produce. (FE, July 11, 1829)

In 1851 he was a founder of the Bank of Washington and also served as county sheriff (NSW, Feb. 19, 1851).

James Reading Grist purchased Elmwood from Ellison in 1855 for \$12,000. The deed noted that it was "the land and plantation whereon the said Henry A. Ellison now resides" (DB 37, 1869, p. 209).<sup>13</sup> According to family and business correspondence, Grist was living near Wilmington prior to his occupancy of Elmwood. In 1856 he wrote to his wife, Elizabeth Snoad Trotter Latham Grist, "you must be already to move when I get home...you may expect me home-Monday 3 of August" (JRG, July 19, 1856).

Grist was predominantly a farmer, who dealt in cotton and lumber products marketed through a commission merchant in New York. By 1860 he was one of the wealthiest men in

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<sup>13</sup>Although the deed was made in 1855, it was not registered until 1869.

Beaufort County with \$30,000 in real estate and \$76,400 in his personal estate. He and his father, Allen Grist, were listed in a second entry as turpentine farmers with \$44,000 in real estate and \$125,750 in personal estate (Census, 1860, p. 512). When one of James Grist's daughters was married in 1884 it was noted that she belonged to "one of the oldest and best families in town" (HDR, 1885, p. 156).

James and Elizabeth Grist had a large family of nine children who inherited Elmwood. The commissioners found it impossible to equally divide the property since the value of the "Message" was great in relation to the total inheritance (DB 39, 1874, p. 194; DB 45, 1875, p. 326). Deeds and Census records indicated that Olivia Grist lived in the house with her younger sisters until their marriages (Census, 1880, DB 66, 1887, p. 24; DB 159, 1887, p. 257).

Olivia Grist, who married Sylvester Fleming in 1889, was the last member of the Grist family to own the house (WP, Feb. 11, 1889). She was the daughter to whom a visiting Civil War veteran referred when he commented that a daughter of James Grist still lived in the house (Mitchell, 1889).

After the death of Olivia Grist the property was sold. Joshua Tayloe purchased the entire tract, founded Elmwood Realty Company, and sold individual lots (WP, Oct. 5, 1911;

Nov. 9, 1911).<sup>14</sup>

George Hackney purchased the property on which Elmwood stood in 1912 and by August of that year had moved into the house (DB 170, p. 478). The newspaper observed that he had moved into "his fine residence on Main Street. It is perhaps the finest residence in the city" (WP, Aug. 29, 1912). Hackney had the house moved from the original location at the end of Main Street to a site on the south side of Main Street.

The house was sold to E. T. Knott in 1920, who assigned the deed to his wife, Marcia Myers Knott (DB 193, 1920, p. 465; DB 211, 1920, p. 574). In 1964 her heirs conveyed it to Franklin Stallings (DB 227, p. 297).

Of the houses constructed in Beaufort County, Elmwood came closest to being a Southern "plantation mansion". During the nineteenth century it was considered unusually noteworthy.

The earliest date for which pictorial documentation was available was an 1857 sketch which showed a Greek Revival house with a two-story center portico (Figure 47). The pedimented gable contained a fanlight and was supported by four columns. One-story side wings were two bay with lintels over the windows. The sketch was unclear, but

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<sup>14</sup> Joshua Tayloe was a descendant of both Colonel Joshua Tayloe and James Grist. Mary Grist, daughter of James Grist, married David Thomas Tayloe, Colonel Tayloe's son.

the windows appeared to be flanked by shutters. A gable roof covered the side wings (Strother, 1857, p. 751).



Figure 47

1857 Sketch of Elmwood, ca. 1829

A corbeled top chimney was placed over the center section of the house. On the right side of the front facade was situated a small dependency. The temple form plan was common in Greek Revival houses, but Elmwood was the only Beaufort County example in which the center section was flanked by wings.

James Grist made extensive alterations ca. 1860. Materials for the portico were ordered from New York in

that year (JRG, Smith & Craw, July 30, 1860). The total cost for Corinthian columns, trusses, rosettes, balusters, brackets, key block and frieze ornament was \$327.95.

Following the renovations the portico rose in two levels of very different character. The lower section is supported by square paneled piers topped by entablatures. Between the piers is an arched opening supported by ornate scroll brackets (Figure 48).



Figure 48

Portico, Elmwood

The brackets bear an acanthus leaf motif and a heavily proportioned scroll. The keystone is ornamented by a floral ornament.

In contrast, the upper level is in classical style. Corinthian columns resting on square bases support the pediment. Centered on that level is a Palladian window, similar in style to the front door. Above is a second and smaller Palladian window. Pilaster piers headed by entablatures are much plainer than the columns.

The Corinthian columns support an entablature, above which is a frieze. Applied stucco ornament is centered on the frieze as well as the pediment, on bases supporting the columns, and over the entrance on the first level. Stylistically the designs are similar to those shown in the publications of Minard Lafever (1841).

The racking cornice of the deeply recessed pediment is adorned with large double brackets and dentils, which are repeated on the frieze. The dentils and brackets on the first level are smaller and more convoluted than those on the second floor.

Both tiers of the portico have a railing of slender turned balusters. The railing also surrounds the shed roofed veranda.

The front door, surmounted by an arched transom and flanked by sidelights, is surrounded by heavy molded trim.

A keystone heads the unit. On the interior the molding of the exterior is repeated, complete with the keystone.

The source of the portico design is unknown, but it was not an anomaly. Designs similar to that of the lower tier were found in the publications of Gervase Wheeler, a nineteenth-century architect (1855; 1868). A house in Connecticut of unknown date had a portico bearing a striking resemblance to that of Elmwood (Gillon & Lancaster, 1973, p. 42).

The side wings were raised to two stories at the time the portico was renovated. Comments by Civil War veterans indicated that the house changed little between 1860 and 1884 (Mitchell, 1889; Roe, 1911). An 1884 photograph revealed that the house closely resembled the 1980 appearance. Porches were widened in the twentieth century, but other features were the same (William Garrison Reed, 1884).

In 1884 the decorative details were painted in a dark color. Heads of the Corinthian columns, brackets, applied ornament, cornice molding, and portions of the molding around the Palladian windows were sharply outlined against the house. Although Beaufort County showed no evidence of the extensive use of color, dark paint was fashionable in the nineteenth century. Andrew Downing wrote that "No person of taste, who gives the subject the

least consideration, is however, guilty of the mistake of painting or colouring country houses white" (1850, p. 198).

The structure is covered by a hip roof with gable roofed pediments (Figure 49). Pediments on the sides are smaller than that on the front portico, but also have wide racking cornices and ornamental brackets.



Figure 49

Elmwood

Four corbeled top chimneys pierce the roof. The house is covered by weatherboards, but flush sheathing is used on the area sheltered by the portico.

The veranda around three sides is supported by paneled piers which are more slender, but otherwise identical to those on the lower tier of the portico. In 1884 the front steps were flanked by a railing of turned balusters terminating at a heavy newel post.

The windows have two over two sashes, are flanked by louvered shutters, and topped by a heavy cornice. Lower windows are larger than those on the second floor, extending to floor level. First-floor windows are designed to slide up into the wall cavity, creating openings to the veranda.

The interior has a double depth of rooms with a foyer and dining room in place of the usual center hall. To the right of the front door a spiral staircase ascends to the upper level. The handrail for the stairs was ordered from New York in 1860 (JRG, Jenkins and Porter, July 28, 1860). The same manufacturers billed Grist for the handrail, other merchandise, and trim for a door in September of 1860 (JRG, Jenkins and Porter, Sept. 24, 1860).

All interior doors are framed by heavy Greek Revival molding with large ears. Sliding double doors to the left back room have a keystone centered over the door. Ceiling moldings are plain in all rooms except the dining room. There the cornice is ornamented by dentils and auger marks.

Elmwood was one of few Washington homes for which documentation of its use during the Civil War was available. The Washington Grays gathered there for a ceremony preceding their departure for the Civil War. A contemporary newspaper noted, "The Company was called at the beautiful grove of Mr. Jas. R. Grist" (TS, Undated clipping).

Federal troops had a camp called Fort Seres located behind the house (Allis, 1863; Roe, 1911). One soldier noted that on entering the town they marched to a large cornfield behind the home of J. Grist Esq. (RS, 1887).

Although Grist occupied the house through a portion of the war there was evidence that the house was used as a headquarters. After the war a veteran visited "The old Mansion house, so long the headquarters and commanding the admiration of the private soldier" (Mitchell, 1889).

The house not only served as a fort and headquarters, but also as a hospital. Grist left in the winter following the Battle of Fredericksburg, "his mansion being taken for a hospital" (Roe, 1911, p. 139). A map drawn by a Union soldier showed a structure designated as a hospital on the site of Elmwood (Allis, 1863; RS, 1887, p. 159).

There was some evidence that during the unsuccessful attempt to recapture Washington, Confederate soldiers entered the town through the Grist estate. Supporting evidence was found in an account by a reporter for the

Boston Traveller on September 7, 1862, who noted, "It is believed that Mr. James Grist, perhaps the wealthiest man in Washington, and the most influential one now remaining there, led the rebels through his own grounds into the town" (Moore, 1863, p. 608). A soldier remarked, "We were shown the place where the raiders entered the town through the fields of one Grice" (RS, 1887, p. 110).<sup>15</sup>

The house survived the war with little damage. Returning Union veterans found the "old Grice estate apparently unchanged...although having been so often riddled with the shot and shell of both armies [it] has been repaired, and stands to-day looking as it did in 1862 and 1963" (Mitchell, 1889). Another stated, "The house showed marks of the seige...but seems unchanged" (Roe, 1911, p. 265).

Comments by the soldiers and by other visitors indicated that Elmwood and its grounds were considered unusually attractive. Strother denoted it as "The only sketchable object here" with "beautifully-improved grounds" (Strother, 1857, p. 750). A soldier wrote, "While there were a number of well laid out places, one was particularly so, this being the estate of Mr. Jas. R. Grist, who claimed to be a Union man" (Roe, 1911, p. 139).

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<sup>15</sup>The English spelling was Grice (Smallwood, 1964). In the 1790 Census Grice was listed, but Grist was not listed. Civil War accounts used both spellings, although the correct name was Grist.

Several commented on the landscaping. A veteran remarked, "Many will recall the beauty of this spot, with its beautiful groves, and the entrance through the long arbor of cedar trees" (Mitchell, 1889). A similar description noted,

One house was approached by a romantic arbored walk, over three hundred feet in length of red cedars, the branches of which were so closely interlaced as scarcely to admit the rays of the sun. (RS, 1887, p. 110)

#### Fowle House

Lot 11 on which the Fowle House was erected was sold to J. O. K. [John O'Kelly] Williams in 1811 (DB 9, 1811, p. 189). The style indicated a date prior to the 1830's, so Williams probably had the house constructed. James Ellison purchased the house in 1831 and the same year sold it to Bryan Grimes (DB 18, 1831, p. 112; DB 18, 1831, p. 493).

The Grimes family were prominent residents of Beaufort and Pitt Counties. The family was most closely associated with their rural plantations, particularly Grimesland in Pitt County. However, the Fowle House must have been used as a Washington residence since an observer after the Civil War burning of Washington noted, "the old and stately building once the home of the Grimes family" remained standing, but was damaged (WBR, Long, n.d.).

Grimes sold the house to William Willard, a merchant from Massachusetts, and one of the founders of two Washington banks (Census, 1860, p. 217; DB 27, 1853, p. 228; NSW, Feb. 19, 1851). Willard advertised as a "Commission Merchant and Wholesale Dealer in Merchandize [sic] Generally" (NCT, Oct. 8, 1865).

Willard sold the house to Oscar Adams (DB 36, 1872, p. 487). There is a tradition that the house was used as a hotel (Int., Fowle). Adams operated hotels in Washington and could have used the Fowle House for that purpose. Tradition has it that the house also served as a school and as a hospital during the Civil War (Int., Fowle).

In 1879 George Howard purchased the house (DB 59, p. 544). The family which extensively remodeled it and for whom the house was named obtained it in 1888 when Mrs. Elizabeth Tayloe Fowle purchased the property (DB 70, p. 43). The house remained in the Fowle family, the latest owner being Mary Fowle (DB 398, 1950, p. 619).

Elizabeth Fowle was the granddaughter of James Grist, owner of Elmwood. John Fowle, her husband, was a grandson of Samuel Fowle. The Fowle family were prominent Washington merchants, well known for their shipping company. Samuel Fowle was described in 1885 as "the wealthiest man in the county" (HDR, p. 149). John Fowle had entered into a partnership in the firm in that year (HDR, 1885).

Family tradition is that the house was designed by the same architect who designed the Blount-Hodges House (Int., Fowle). The house stood close to the street, but was moved back when the Fowles purchased the house (Int., Fowle; SM, 1885).

A local newspaper noted in 1889, "The Residence of John B. Fowle will be the most elegant and commanding looking building in town when completed" (WP, Jan. 11). The renovations took several months since it was November when the Washington Gazette recorded, "Mr. J. B. Fowle moves into his handsome residence this week" (WG, Nov. 31). The Washington Progress commented more extensively.

Mr. J. B. Fowle has moved in his new residence on Main Street. It is now just completed and is beyond a doubt the most handsome residence in town. We are not informed in regard to the cost of the house, but it must have cost a large sum of money. (WP, Nov. 19, 1889)

The following year it was again referred to as an "elegant mansion" (WG, Nov. 20, 1890).

It was one of few antebellum Beaufort County houses for which pictorial documentation was available. The present structure has Italianate, Greek Revival, and Carpenter Gothic features (Figure 50). An earlier photograph confirmed that the original structure was a Greek Revival house modeled on the temple form. The house was placed on a high brick foundation, the side of the house faced the street, and the end had a two-tier portico with

Doric columns.



Figure 50

Fowle House, ca. 1811

When Fowle purchased the house in 1888 it was moved back from the street and extensively remodeled. As a photograph taken shortly after the remodeling indicated, the house closely resembled its twentieth-century form. The extension of the right side was added at that time, the house was lowered, and dormers and bay windows were added. The porch had gingerbread trim. (Both photographs were in the possession of Mary Fowle.)

Around 1916 the house was remodeled a second time and the porch was changed to the present configuration, curving around the right side and supported by Ionic columns (Int., Fowle). The porch railing was changed to plain posts.

Features added in the nineteenth century gave the house "picturesque" characteristics. The major influences were Carpenter Gothic and Italianate. Neoclassical features were added in 1916, but the dominant styles remained those of the nineteenth century. Little trace of the original structure is visible.

The two-story house has two large dormers ornamented by cornice returns and containing double windows. A two-story bay window on the left side has a bracketed cornice. Below the dormer windows is a small area of sawtooth trim. Other decorative motifs are brackets and dentils. The gable end contains a decorative bargeboard and heavy cornice returns.

The house is covered with weatherboards, with the exception of the area beneath the porch, which is covered by diagonal flush sheathing set in rectangular panels. On the left side of the house is a stuccoed corbeled top chimney.

Windows are flanked by louvered shutters and surmounted by entablatures. Over the front door, which has

double drip molding, is a transom filled with etched glass. On the right extension are French doors.

The interior has a center hall plan and was remodeled ca. 1912 when the exterior was renovated (Int., Fowle). Classical columns divide the rooms on the first floor.

#### Hodges-Moore House

Due to its rural location and sketchy descriptions provided in deeds, it was difficult to determine the original owner or date of construction for the Hodges-Moore House. It was said to have been built ca. 1824. A secondary source stated that Gilbert Rumley and his wife, Mary Ann Blount, were married in 1857 and lived in the house (Smallwood, 1966, p. 401). The first member of the Hodges family to own the house was Robert Erastus Hodges (PB 2, 1936, p. 36) (see Appendix A).

The most dominant stylistic influences are Italianate and Greek Revival (Figure 51). The L-plan house is somewhat unusual in that the left side is hip roofed while the right side is gable roofed with the gable toward the front. The variation in roof styles indicated that the house was enlarged. The gable-roofed section is the most likely addition since it possesses characteristics of the later Italianate style while the remainder is more Greek Revival.

On the left is a carport-like addition with a wrought iron balcony. The right side projects slightly and in the

rear is a gable-roofed extension, running directly back from the house. A narrow back porch has been removed (Int., Moore).



Figure 51

Hodges-Moore House, ca. 1824

The present porch was an alteration by the current owner. Previously, there was a two-tier porch with a turned baluster railing. It was supported by tall square columns and the cornice was ornamented by dentils. In the alterations the second-floor porch was removed and the turned baluster railing was removed at the same time.

Beneath the weatherboards is wide rough vertical siding, which is visible in a small back room. Corner posts have slightly rounded center sections. There is a central chimney and in the back right side of the gable-roofed rear extension is a corbeled top chimney.

The front door is trabeated with a four-light transom and long sidelights. The door contains two arched glass panels surrounded by molding, below which are two molded panels.

The left side is two bay and windows have two over two sashes with louvered shutters and simple projecting lintels. Those in the front have plain frames which may have been replacements of earlier treatments. In the front is a pedimented dormer. The front windows of the hip-roofed extension contain decorative wrought iron. The only other house found in Beaufort County with wrought iron in the windows was the Holladay House, ca. 1858. The gable-roofed extension has a pedimented gable, also containing a small dormer window. Windows in that segment of the house are tall narrow double windows.

Interiors contain much of the original millwork and considerable detail. Downstairs floors are covered by hardwood, but on the second floor wide board pine floors are visible.

Most of the mantels are Adamesque in style, with swags and rosettes. In the left front room is a mantel

removed from the demolished DeMille House in Washington. Originally there was a central flue (which has been removed) containing four fireplaces, two upstairs and two downstairs.

Interior doors feature four recessed panels and there is a square block at the top of the door frames in Greek Revival style. Around the ceiling are dentils. The stairway is ornamented by scrolls.

#### Potts-Bragaw House

Deeds indicated that there was a house on the lot as early as 1792, but it is doubtful that the present structure is that old. Samuel Hodges purchased lot 45 from Mathias Eastwood in 1792 and when his heirs sold the lot to Joseph Potts in 1842 it was "with all its improvements" (DB 6, 1792, p. 420; DB 21, 1842, p. 474).

Potts, an English immigrant and Washington merchant, conveyed it to his son, W. A. Potts, in 1869 (Census, 1860, p. 183; DB 34, 1869, p. 83). In 1871 W. A. Potts executed a deed of trust to W. R. S. Burbank because he was "desirous of securing to his wife and children a home beyond the chances and possible mishaps of trade" (DB 36, p. 152). The house is commonly known as the Bragaw House for the family which occupied it for several years (DB 96, 1897, p. 129; DB 298, 1934, p. 58) (see Appendix A).

The major architectural features indicated a date in the mid-nineteenth century with possible later renovations. Local tradition is that Potts had the house constructed.

Stylistic influences include a mixture of Italianate, Greek Revival, and Neoclassical Revival. The Neoclassical alterations dominate the other styles. One of the largest houses in Washington, it has a three-bay front facade and a two-bay side elevation, under a hipped roof, once covered by slate (Int., Duke). The roof is pierced by two corbeled top chimneys and brackets surround the cornice and portico (Figure 52).



Figure 52

Potts-Bragaw House, ca. 1842-1869

On the left is a one-story flat-roofed extension which was an addition, formerly being a porch (Int., Duke). Extensions in the rear include a pedimented gable area on the right, over another gable-roofed extension, which is nearly the width of the house and beyond that a shed-roofed area.

Originally there was a back porch (Int., Duke). In that area are two Ionic columns and a short section of railing with heavily proportioned spindles. The style suggested that the columns and spindles dated from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. A porch remains on the right side with Doric columns and a plain railing. The style was typical of the mid-twentieth century. A large two-story portico supported by massive columns had Ionic capitals before the house was covered with aluminum siding, at which time they were removed (Int., Duke).

The classical front door has a semicircular transom with an entablature, dentils, and consoles (Figure 53). On the sides are sidelights flanked by three Ionic engaged columns. Bay windows on each side are surmounted by entablatures with dentils. The door style is typical of those installed on houses during the Neoclassical Revival.



Figure 53

## Doorway, Potts-Bragaw House

Windows are flanked by narrow louvered shutters. A double window over the entrance is notable for the decorative Adamesque swag between the panes. On the right side is a stained-glass window, possibly a twentieth-century addition, and a two-story bay with windows. There are two pedimented dormers on both sides of the house, one centered at the front, and a shed roofed dormer in the back. Upper panes have lead muntins in a geometric arrangement and date from the twentieth century. The front dormer contains a window arrangement reminiscent of

Palladian windows with an arch containing lead muntins and two flanking windows.

Although interiors have been altered, an elaborate classical mantel remains in the front living room. Features include slender Corinthian columns, an entablature with dentils, and a raised urn and swags.

### Wilkins House

Hattie Wilkins, wife of Goethe Wilkins, purchased the lot from E. W. Ayers in 1884. Goethe Wilkins was a Swedish immigrant who served as Clerk of the Circuit and Superior Courts in Beaufort County (CERM, 1892, p. 556; HDR, 1885, p. 157). Wilkins sold the house to W. B. [Willis] Walling in 1907 (DB 149, p. 161). Design features indicated that Walling renovated the house.

Incorporated in the structure are features of the Greek Revival, Italianate, and Neoclassical styles. It is a large two-story house with a hipped roof and a second-story projection centered on the front facade (Figure 54). On the right is a small extension. There are two interior chimneys.

The flat-roofed porch extends across the front and wraps around the left side. It is supported by Ionic columns and surrounded by a railing composed of turned balusters. The cornice of the porch is composed of flush vertical siding.



Figure 54

Wilkins House, ca. 1884

The large central dormer with gable roof and cornice returns is flanked by two smaller hip-roofed dormers. The large dormer is topped by a finial. On the sides are two square dormers.

First-floor windows are long and narrow, reflecting Italianate influence. On the second floor windows have two over two sashes. All are flanked by louvered shutters and have drip molding. The center projection incorporates a Palladian window. The door has a two-light transom.

### Farrow House

The lot for the house was sold to Joseph Farrow in 1885 (DB 60, p. 286). It remained in the family until 1937 (see Appendix A). The Farrow family were well known in Washington because of their ship-building business.

The house shows evidence of early twentieth century alterations, which resulted in dominant Neoclassical features. The two-story house has a hipped-roof pierced by two corbeled top chimneys (Figure 55). In the rear is a gable-roofed extension with a corbeled top chimney. A pedimented gable also appears in the rear. Pedimented gables of that type did not appear in Beaufort County houses until the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Whether they were original or alterations is unknown.

The bay window on the right is pedimented and ornamented by dentils. A bay window also appears on the left side. First floor windows are headed by entablatures.

The front porch is supported by fluted Ionic columns and surrounded by a railing composed of turned balusters. Dentils surround the cornice of the porch.

### Bonner House I

The house was built by John Bonner, possibly in the mid-nineteenth century. The house was there in 1885 when a deed for the adjacent lot referred to John Bonner's lot

(DB 58, p. 213). A 1901 deed referred to the house as being on a "tract of land whereon John B. Bonner lived at the time of his death" (DB 111, p. 138).

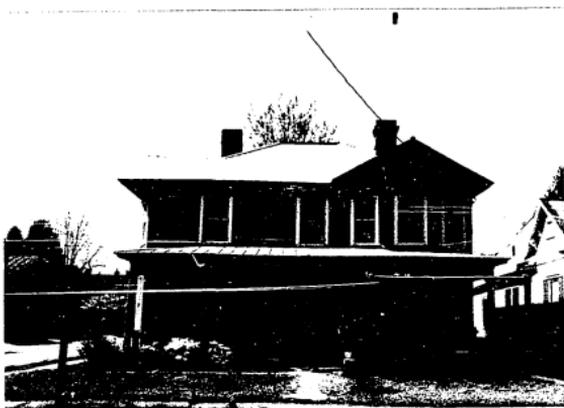


Figure 55

Farrow House, ca. 1885

In 1901 it was sold to F. F. Cherry and by him to Cora Cherry (DB 58, 1901, p. 213; DB 280, 1929, p. 199). The house was devised to David Sparrow, who sold it to Walter Berry (DB 405, 1950, p. 375; WB 7, p. 73).

Carpenter Gothic, Italianate, and Greek Revival features are apparent in the structure. The large house is two and a half stories high under a clipped gable roof

with cornice returns (Figure 56). It is three bays wide and three bays deep. On the left side are two single stepped shoulder chimneys with drip courses. Chimneys are laid in common bond with every eighth row composed of headers. On the right is an interior stuccoed chimney.



Figure 56

Bonner House I, ca. 1850-1885

Across the front is an engaged shed-roofed porch with a center gable. Posts are square with molding at the top and are ornamented by gingerbread trim. The railing is composed of turned balusters. Around the edge of the porch is scalloped trim and it is ornamented by brackets.

The house originally had more extensive ornament (Int., Berry). The back porch has been enclosed.

The fenestration of the house is composed entirely of double windows, reflecting Italianate influence, and are headed by heavy entablatures. There are three large gable-roofed dormers with cornice returns in the front and one dormer in the back. On the right side is a two-story bay with narrow sash windows.

The Greek Revival trabeated double front door has a four-light transom and three-light sidelights. The door has four panels, the two upper panels arched, and is heavily molded.

The interior has a center hall plan. Doors with four recessed panels have heavily molded surrounds. The original louvered blinds have been removed (Int., Berry).

Wide pine boards remain in the house. One of the most distinctive features is the flush beaded diagonal siding in the hall. Similar treatment appears in the ceiling, where it is laid in a decorative geometric pattern. The patterns varied in each room, but most have been covered by a lower ceiling.

Below the chair-rail is flush vertical sheathing, which also appears above the doors. Around the baseboards are recessed panels. The stairway has turned balusters and a heavy turned newel post. The fireplaces feature raised panels and molding.

### Leach House

Lot 31 was sold in 1885 to Margaret Satterthwaite, wife of Thomas Satterthwaite (DB 66, p. 76). In 1905 George Leach purchased the house and had it extensively remodeled in the Neoclassical Revival style (DB 137, p. 24). Leach was the founder of the Eureka Lumber Company, possibly the source of some materials used in the restoration (Prominent People, 1906). His widow, Julia, devised the house to her children in her will (WB 7, 1950, p. 128) and John Leach conveyed it to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Dixon in 1972 (DB 677, p. 167).

Tradition was that Dr. David Thomas Tayloe used it for a hospital in the early 1900's, but no record of a sale to Tayloe was found. It is possible that the house was leased.

The Leach House is a large square structure with a three-bay front facade and is four bays in depth (Figure 57). Toward the rear are extensions on both sides. The hipped roof is pierced by a stuccoed corbeled top chimney on the left side. The Neoclassical alterations were so extreme that all trace of the original structure was obliterated.

On all sides are hipped-roof dormer windows, one on the front and back and two on the sides. In the front the facade projects slightly below the dormer. The cornice is ornamented by brackets.



Figure 57

Leach House, ca. 1885

A one-story porch topped with a balustrade extends across the front and around both sides. It is supported by Ionic columns and surrounded by a railing of turned balusters. The front facade of the porch projects slightly and is ornamented by a raised frieze of swags and a lion-head motif.

A date inscribed on the front door (1904) indicated that the entire unit was installed at that time (Int., Dixon). Ionic engaged columns flank the front door.

The transom and sidelights contain decorative glass. A second-floor door also has a transom with corner lights and sidelights. Those sidelights are slightly bowed and more delicate than those on the first floor. In the rear of the house is a stained-glass window.

#### Clark House I

The Clark House was constructed ca. 1893 as a hotel and home for the agent of the Norfolk and Southern Railroad, which began purchasing land around Belhaven in 1891 (DB 79, p. 110). Maps until the 1940's showed the agent's home set at an angle, although it was later moved to face the street (MB 2, 1921, p. 40; MB 4, 1946, p. 83).

In 1944 it was sold to George Clark, who remodeled and lowered it from a high foundation (DB 35, p. 480; Int., Latham). After that the house changed hands several times (See Appendix A).

At 1897 photograph in a publication of the Old Dominion Steamship Company (which identified the house as the Belhaven Inn) revealed a structure quite different from the form created by the twentieth-century alterations (MFP). At that time the house had four pedimented gables set at right angles. Windows were flanked by shutters. Across the back was a one-story shed-roofed porch.

The twentieth-century renovations produced a large two-story house with a three-bay front facade and three-bay

side elevations (Figure 58). There are extensions, which are obviously later additions, on all sides and it is covered by asbestos siding.



Figure 58

Clark House I, ca. 1893

The clipped gable roof has pedimented gable ends. Across the front is a two-story portico supported by attenuated columns, above which is a balustrade. Trim on the balustrade matches that on the twentieth-century addition to the left, indicating that both were added at the same time. Beneath the cornice of the portico are flat brackets.

Windows have six over six sashes in plain frames with simple headings. In the gable end are very small two over two sash windows.

The central entrance is surmounted by a fanlight above which is a balcony, and is flanked by four-light sidelights. On the right side of the house is an exterior corbeled top chimney.

#### Vernacular

Classification of vernacular houses was difficult since they commonly combined elements of several styles, but were nearly devoid of ornament. The basis for grouping vernacular houses was basic form rather than stylistic features. Houses were classified in four groups: coastal cottage, L-plan, I-house, and other.

Few examples of the one-story coastal cottage were documented, but it was the oldest and at one time a prevalent form of housing in Beaufort County. The plan first appeared in the county in the eighteenth century and continued to be utilized into the twentieth century. Over that period the features changed very little.

Those houses invariably had a gable roof and usually a three-bay front facade. End chimneys were common and there were sometimes extensions on the rear, added as there was need for additional space. The distinguishing feature was an engaged front porch.

An enlargement of the small coastal cottage produced the one-and-one-half-story house. Those houses tended to possess the basic characteristics of the coastal cottage, but with the addition of dormers. End chimneys were typical. Like the one-story house, they were utilized in the eighteenth century, but few examples survived. Engaged porches were not always used on one-and-one-half-story houses. Extant examples indicated that porticos were sometimes used and that Victorian porches were added to some houses in the nineteenth century.

One-story and one-and-one-half-story houses were not restricted to the lower socioeconomic groups. Among the prominent residents who occupied such houses were John Gray Blount and William A. Blount.

L-plan houses were constructed in Beaufort County in the middle to late nineteenth century. Many were plain vernacular structures, although some exhibited Italianate motifs. L-plan houses which possessed decorative Italianate or Carpenter Gothic features were discussed as Victorian houses. L-plan houses should not be confused with similar plans created by the addition of ells on the rear of houses. In an L-plan house the projection was toward the front.

Beaufort County builders constructed a large number of houses with a gable roof, the main entrance located on

the longest side, with a center hall plan. Those houses were three bays wide with exterior end chimneys and were commonly referred to as I-houses. Many were of Greek Revival or Georgian heritage, but did not reflect sufficient characteristics of any style to warrant classification as a representative example.

The plan was utilized from the eighteenth into the twentieth century. By the middle to late nineteenth century some chimneys were located on the interior rather than the exterior gable ends. During that period builders were under the influence of the Greek Revival style, which did not emphasize chimneys. Other characteristics of the houses changed little.

#### Meadowville (Meadowview)

Meadowville Plantation was constructed by General William Augustus Blount prior to 1866. The architectural features indicated a date from 1835 to 1840. He married his second wife, Ann Littlejohn, in 1835 and possibly had the house constructed prior to his marriage (ST, Feb. 7).

Blount, the son of John Gray Blount, was a member of an eminent Beaufort County family, a planter with large land holdings, a member of the state legislature, and a trustee of the University of North Carolina (Ashe, 1905; Wheeler, 1878). In 1860 Blount owned \$40,000 in real estate and had \$125,000 in his personal estate (Census,

1860, p. 74). A newspaper noted in 1890 that Major Blount (W. A. Blount's son) and W. A. B. Branch (W. A. Blount's grandson) had a 16,000-acre farm (WG, March 20).

Despite his social and economic position William A. Blount's home was unpretentious. In 1866 he deeded land including "my Meadowville or Home plantation" to his grandson, William Augustus Blount Branch (DB 35, p. 181). Branch conveyed the property to M. Makely in 1890 (DB 76, p. 275). Several transactions followed until it was sold in 1947 to Ben Stowe (DB 375, p. 167) (see Appendix A). The house stood vacant for many years and was again sold in 1981, when it was referred to as the "old Branch Plantation" (DB 799, p. 705). The origin of the name Meadowville is unknown, but letters from the 1860's in the William Blount Rodman Papers referred to it as Meadowville.

The most dominant stylistic influence in the one-and-one-half story house is Greek Revival and Meadowville is one of the best Beaufort County examples of the small Greek Revival residence (Figure 59). It has a three-bay front facade and a two-bay side elevation. Eaves of the gable roof are close to the house with slight returns. The absence of roof overhangs and heavy cornice returns indicated that the builder retained older building practices, adding only the decorative features of the fashionable Greek Revival style.



Figure 59

Meadowville, ca. 1835-1840

The corner posts of the house have recessed panels. On the left are two exterior chimneys with single-stepped shoulders, corbeled tops, and laid in common bond. In front of the chimneys are the remains of an extension. Two chimneys are also situated on the right.

The front porch is an addition made in the mid-twentieth century. The area in which a portico originally stood is clearly visible and the octagonal columns are stored beneath the house. Flush horizontal sheathing covers the portico area. Part of a box cornice is visible

at the sides of the porch.

In the front are three dormers and there is one in the rear. The front central dormer has been enlarged, probably at the same time the porch was added. The others have six over six sashes and slight cornice returns. Window frames are Greek Revival symmetrically molded frames with corner blocks.

The framing of the front door is similar to that of the windows and is flanked by pilasters. The sidelights and transom have a geometric muntin pattern similar to that in Benjamin Asher's 1830 publication (Asher, 1830, Plate 27).

The interior with a double pile center hall plan has Greek Revival trim. Doors with four recessed panels are framed by molding and have bull's eye corner blocks. Molded baseboards remain in the house. It has never received plumbing or wiring.

A tradition that the house was set afire during the Civil War was partially supported by the discovery of charred timbers (Int., Madre). However, a letter from William B. Rodman in 1862 stated, "Uncles [house was] set fire to in several places-but no serious harm done to that" (WBR, February , 1862). According to the letter a slave rather than Federal soldiers was responsible. In another letter Rodman observed, "All Genl. Blounts [sic]

negroes ran away-the Yankees have not been on his plantation" (WBR, June 20, 1862). Yankee soldiers did raid the plantation in August of 1862 (New Era, Aug. 2, 1862).

#### Williams House I

John Williams purchased property from Henry Ellison in 1853 and may have had the house constructed ca. 1854 (DB 28, p. 49). In 1865 Williams sold to Samuel Williams land west of Washington on which John Williams resided, the deed specifically referring to a dwelling with outbuildings (DB 33, p. 4). Twentieth-century deeds referred to the house as the Sam Williams homeplace (DB 460, 1956, p. 40; DB 794, 1980, p. 1) (see Appendix A).

The one-and-a-half-story house has a steep gable roof with a central chimney (Figure 60). It shows evidence of several additions and alterations. Behind the front portion is an ell, beyond which is another addition at right angles to the first. That they were additions was obvious from the exterior doors and windows still in place in the main section.

The hip-roofed front porch is supported by square fluted columns and surrounded by a plain railing. The style suggested that it was a twentieth-century addition. Two large dormers are located in the front. Dormers are also placed on the sides toward the rear of the house.



Figure 60

Williams House I, ca. 1854

Windows have nine over nine sashes except those in the dormers which have vertical muntins. Window frames are plain with slight molding. Over the door is a two-light transom.

Interiors have been altered, but the house has a modified hall and parlor plan. The stairs are located in the right front room. Molding surrounds the doors and windows, many of which contain the original glass. Fireplaces are plain. Wide pine board flooring remains in the house. A medallion ornaments one ceiling.

Hanks-Thomas House (Thomas House)

The Hanks-Thomas House was constructed ca. 1855 by Benjamin Hanks, but incorporated the name of the family which owned the house for many years (DB 28, 1855, pp. 694, 731). Hanks, a native of Massachusetts, owned a saw and planing mill in Washington (Census, 1850, p. 349).

John A. Thomas purchased the property in 1861 and the same day made a deed of trust to Charles Thomas in order to provide a home for his wife, Elizabeth. According to the deed, he was to "keep the same as a house for all the common children" of John and Elizabeth Thomas (DB 34, p. 158). The 1860 Census listed J. A. Thomas as a ship's carpenter from Maryland, who was living with his wife, Elizabeth, seven children and an apprentice (Census, 1860, p. 197). In 1899 the house was sold to William Carty (DB 102, p. 557).

The story and a half house has a steep gable roof with cornice returns (Figure 61). On the left is a one-story addition.

The front facade is three bays wide. The side hall plan resulted in placement of the door on the right side. In a house of that type the asymmetrical entrance is unusual. In the center of the roof is a corbeled top chimney.

The hip-roofed porch is supported by turned posts and surrounded by a plain railing. Gingerbread trim ornaments

the posts. Toward the front of the right side is a gable-roofed portico supported by identical posts. The gable end of the portico is covered by vertical flush siding.

The two gable-roofed dormers on the front and rear have six over nine sashes and cornice returns. Lower windows have nine over nine sashes with plain frames flanked by louvered shutters.



Figure 61

Hanks-Thomas House, ca. 1855

#### Wallace House

Local tradition was that the Wallace House pre-dated the Civil War. The earliest deed located was a mortgage by Josephus Wallace in 1866 which referred to "a certain

Lot of land and premises...being the same lot and premises where the said Josephus Wallace now resides" (DB 32, p. 5). In 1853 he had sold his house, furniture and several schooners in Portsmouth (NSW, Aug. 17). A Josephus Wallace whose occupation was given as waterman was listed as residing in Washington in the 1860 Census (p. 89). He advertised the house and lot at the "extreme E end of 2nd Street" for immediate sale in 1869 and in 1870 it was purchased by Martha Stickly (DB 35, 1870, p. 489; EI, June 1, 1869) (see Appendix A).

Originally it stood by the street, but was moved back in the early twentieth century (Int., Morgan). The story and a half structure has a steep gable roof pierced by two interior corbeled top chimneys (Figure 62).

The front is three bay. Across the front is a shed-roofed porch supported by square posts and surrounded by a plain rail. The style indicated that the posts and rail, if not the entire porch, were later additions. The present owner recalled that it was added.

Side windows are flanked by louvered shutters. There are three dormers in the front and rear with six over six sashes and scalloped trim. The two bay windows in the front could have been alterations. The front door is headed by a transom.

On the left side, toward the rear of the house, is an extension with a gable roof and returns. Over those

windows is a simple entablature. In the rear is a gable roofed and shed roofed extension.



Figure 62

Wallace House, ca. 1853-1860

Carrow House (Fisherman's Cottage)

The property was sold to James Carrow in 1884 (DB 59, p. 573) and it remained in the family until 1965 when it was conveyed to the Historic Bath Commission (DB 581, p. 340). The house is commonly referred to as the Fisherman's Cottage because it was typical of such dwellings in the coastal area (Figure 63).



Figure 63

Carrow House, ca. 1884

The house has a three-bay front facade under a steep gable roof. The front is sheltered by an engaged porch supported by square posts. Windows have nine over nine sashes in plain frames. There are no windows on the sides. In the back is a door covered by a simple shelter and one window on the left.

On the right side the single-stepped shoulder chimney has a detached stack and a corbeled top. It is laid in common bond.

The Mills House, slightly larger and dating from the late nineteenth century, has the same basic form (Figure 64). Comparison of the two structures revealed that the larger one-and-one-half-story coastal cottage retained the original shape with the addition of dormers.



Figure 64

Mills House, date unknown

#### Flynn-Aycock House

Tradition was that William F. Flynn had the house constructed and that Charles Pickney Aycock renovated and enlarged the house (Int., Respass). Both men had considerable land holdings in the vicinity of Pantego. The

house was constructed prior to 1893 when lands denoted as part of the W. R. Flynn homestead were sold (DB 84, p. 365). The family graveyard dated from the mid-nineteenth century so the house could have been antebellum. It remained in the Aycock family until 1974 (DB 717, p. 684) (see Appendix A).

Interiors have hand-hewn beams and plaster over wood lathes, indicating an early construction date. In the rear of the house is a board-and-batten dependency.

The house has an L-plan with a three-bay front facade and is aluminum sided (Figure 65). In the rear the house projects in a square hip-roofed extension, topped by a widow's walk. Both interior chimneys have corbeled tops and the one on the left is paneled. Based on stylistic trends in Beaufort County, the L-plan and the paneled chimney were most likely the result of late nineteenth-century alterations.

The cross gable on the right is bowed and contains three windows. A decorative bargeboard and fish-scale shingles ornament the pedimented gable, which has bracket supports. The stained-glass window has been painted. A porch supported by fluted columns extends across the front and the right side.

Interiors have been altered, but one ceiling once had a wide classical frieze in plaster relief and a ceiling

medallion (Int., Respass). Around the walls was a metal wainscot. The elaborate Neoclassical mantels were probably added when the house was renovated. Stair balusters are carved in a spiral form.



Figure 65

Flynn-Aycock House, date unknown

#### Nicholson House

The Nicholson House was constructed on lots 8 and 9 in Bath by J. T. Nicholson, who purchased the property at different times. Lot 9 was purchased in 1888 from S. S. Eborn and lot 8 from E. L. Stewart in 1921 (DB 69, 1888, p. 269; DB 169, 1912, p. 457) (see Appendix A).

Tradition was that the house was constructed in stages, having been added onto several times. If so, the long leg of the L was the older part since it was on lot 9, purchased first by Nicholson (Figure 66). When he bought lot 8 the deed referred to it as being part of his residence lot, so it was possible that the structure extended onto the lot prior to 1912. The present owner found portions of a driveway under the left side, which supported the theory that it was an addition. However, the porch was there in the early twentieth century when a photograph was taken.



Figure 66

Nicholson House, ca. 1888

The gable end has cornice returns and there are two interior chimneys with corbeled tops and paneling. Windows are surmounted by a simple entablature.

Interiors have been remodeled, but two fireplaces remain, both Neoclassical. The style indicated that they were twentieth-century additions.

### Havens House

Lot 6, on which the Havens House was constructed, was sold by John S. Britts (grandson of Jane Congleton, who formerly owned the lot) to Richard H. Bonner in 1819 for \$750 (DB 13, p. 127). When Bonner died intestate, Benjamin F. Havens, husband of Bonner's daughter, Mary, was given the lot, valued at \$1000 (DB 23, 1845, p. 124). It was probable that the house was constructed ca. 1820 for Bonner's daughter and her husband.

In 1874 a framed building, valued at \$300 was removed from lot 6, but the type of building was unknown (DB 39, p. 140). In 1893 Mary Havens devised "the house and lot on which I reside" to her son, Jonathan Havens, in whose family it remained until 1951 (DB 406, p. 441, WB 2, p. 91) (see Appendix A).

The Havens family was well known for their Washington shipping company. The Havens Warehouse was located directly across Main Street from the house. Their home was one of few Washington houses which escaped the Civil War

unscathed. An observer referred to "the neat and prosperous premises of Mr. B. F. Havens" as being undamaged (WBR, Long, n.d.).

The house has a three-bay front facade and is two bays deep under a gable roof with cornice returns (Figure 67). The most distinctive feature is the two-tier porch across the front and both sides. Tradition was that it was modeled after a Bermuda house, which was plausible since the Havens family were merchants who traded with the West Indies.



Figure 67

Havens House, ca. 1820

The porch is supported by double posts joined by arches and has a balustrade of turned balusters on the second level. The double posts are like those found on Beaufort County Italianate houses and may have been mid-nineteenth century additions. The porch flooring is of brick. In the rear is a curved lattice breezeway leading from the house to a detached brick kitchen.

There are two interior corbeled top chimneys and wide paneled corner posts. A double row of dentils ornaments the cornice. Windows have six over six sashes with louvered shutters. The door is headed by a transom.

The house had gas light fixtures, removed by the most recent owners (Int., Winfield). The interior has a center hall plan with the original pine floors.

#### Ormond-Midyette House

The date of construction and original owner of the house are unknown. The earliest deed reference was in 1871, when Henry Ormond owned the property, but the house was obviously much older, possibly from the early nineteenth century (DB 37, p. 143). Henry Ormond, son of Whyriott Ormond, was married in the 1820's, so the house could have been constructed at that time (Smallwood, 1964). It passed through several owners until 1885 when T. M. Midyette obtained title and in 1929 came into the possession of the Godley family (DB 58, 1885, p. 40; DB 280, 1929,

p. 181) (see Appendix A).

The I-house has a three-bay front facade and two-bay side elevation, with a shed-roofed extension across the rear of the house (Figure 68). The eaves of the tin gable roof, which are close to the structure with only slight returns, indicate an early construction date. There is a narrow molded cornice.



Figure 68

Ormond-Midyette House, early nineteenth century

The double-stepped shoulder chimneys have detached stacks with slight corbeling on the right chimney. The upper portion of the left chimney was a replacement.

Common bond was utilized with every sixth row composed of headers. The lower portion of the right chimney incorporates a diamond form laid in dark brick. That was the only example found in Beaufort County of decorative brick patterns.

Windows have a mixture of sash treatments. Second floor windows on the sides have six over six sashes. On the left side, first-floor windows have two over two sashes, while on the right side they are nine over nine. Those in the front are nine over six. All windows have plain frames and some of the glass is original.

Across the front is an engaged shed-roofed porch supported by square posts. It could have been original, but was possibly a nineteenth-century addition.

The interior has a hall and parlor plan. The room to the left contains a simple mantel with fluted pilasters. Interior doors and windows are surrounded by molding.

#### Smallwood (Sycamores)

The property on which Smallwood was constructed once comprised a portion of the Bonner Hill Plantation on which Henry Bonner lived (DB 28, 1854, p. 548). His daughter, Portia, married Samuel Smaw Smallwood (DB 14, 1827, p. 163). The home most likely was constructed shortly before their marriage, giving a date of ca. 1826. Their son, John

Smallwood, inherited the property and it remained in the family several years (see Appendix A). He was living there in 1868 (DB 32, p. 443). A 1901 deed referred to it as "the house and plantation occupied by...John W. Smallwood about one mile north of the town of Washington" (DB 32, p. 505.

It has a three-bay front facade (Figure 69). The weatherboarded house with corner posts has a gable roof with a shed-roofed porch across the front and a short distance around both sides.



Figure 69  
Smallwood, ca. 1826

Posts on the porch, as well as on the railing, have lattice work construction surmounted by a cloverleaf design. Gingerbread trim is placed at the corners of the posts.

The house has a gable-roofed center section with cornice returns, surrounded by a shed-roofed extension. The front section of the house is covered by horizontal flush siding.

The second floor has six over six sashes with plain frames flanked by louvered shutters. Very large windows on the front of the first floor have eight over eight sashes. The off-center gable window has a four over two sash.

The symmetrically molded Greek Revival framing around the windows is repeated on the four-panel door, which has a three-light transom and three-light sidelights. Window shutters on the extension are composed of vertical boards.

The house is situated on a brick foundation and has two interior chimneys with corbeled tops, covered with stucco and paneled. A rear extension which contains a basement kitchen had an exterior chimney with two shoulders, the upper one stepped.

### Bonner House II

The Bonner House stands on the same lot where John Lawson had his house and where there was a "Mansion House"

in 1740 (DB 2, p. 345). The lot was conveyed to Joseph Bonner in 1830, who had the Bonner House constructed (DB 16, pp. 342, 345). Tradition was that it was moved from Ocracoke or built of shipwrecked materials (Harding, 1962). Bonner left it to his son, Joseph Vines Bonner (WB 1, 1872, p. 164). Since that time the house has had several owners (see Appendix A).

A research report on the house noted a resemblance in architectural style between the Bonner House and the Williams House, also in Bath (Anglely, 1979). Both were constructed ca. 1830. The house has been restored to the original appearance with front and back porches removed and replaced. A photograph from ca. 1920 showed no railing and square posts; one from ca. 1940 showed round posts (Files, Historic Bath).

The appearance is similar to that of many Beaufort County houses, with a four-bay front facade, two-bay side elevation and a gable roof (Figure 70). The Bonner House differs from many houses in having a four-bay rather than a three-bay front facade. Unlike most houses of that type, it has a side hall plan. The extension to the right gives the interior the appearance of a center hall plan. It is covered by beaded weatherboards, has paneled corner posts, and the cornice returns in the gable ends.



Figure 70

Bonner House II, ca. 1830

On the left side is a double-shouldered chimney laid in Flemish bond with a detached stack. A one-story extension is located on the right side.

Shed-roofed engaged porches at the front and rear are supported by chamfered posts and surrounded by a plain railing. Windows have nine over six sashes. The door is surrounded by five-light sidelights and has a five-light transom.

The most distinctive feature of the interior is extensive wood graining on baseboards and doors. There are

Adamesque mantels in two rooms. Floors are composed of wide pine boards. The stairway has a decorative scallop border.

Williams House (Glebe House)

The date of construction for the Williams House is uncertain, but the resemblance to the Bonner House, ca. 1830 indicated a similar date for the Williams House. In 1827 Abishai Pritchett sold the lot to Jesse B. Bryon, indicating that it had belonged to William Vines (DB 14, p. 440). In 1830 a mortgage for the lot mentioned "one new frame house" (DB 16, p. 220). At that time, it belonged to Samuel Lucas, who could have had the house constructed.

It was named for the Williams family, who owned the house for many years. Granberry Williams purchased the house in 1877 (DB 41, p. 453). The family remained in possession until the house was sold to A. C. D. Noe and the Episcopal Diocese in 1937 (DB 316, p. 130).

The house has a five-bay facade and is two bays deep with paneled corner posts (Figure 71). The cornice returns slightly in the gable ends.

Like the Bonner House, it has a one-story extension on the left side, which has a saltbox configuration. There is also an ell in the rear (Figure 72). Another resemblance to the Bonner House is in the side hall plan.



Figure 71

Williams House, ca. 1830

Windows have nine over six sashes except in the right gable end where they are four over two sashes. The front door is surmounted by a three-light transom and flanked by three over two sash sidelights. In the left gable end is a fanlight.

The chimney on the right side is double shouldered with a corbeled top and laid in Flemish bond. A similar chimney is located on the end of the left extension.



Figure 72

Ell, Williams House

On the left of the front facade is a gable-roofed portico supported by six square posts and surrounded by a plain railing. At one time, there was a hip-roofed porch across the front, which was visible in a photograph in a secondary source (Bonner, 1939). The back area, now enclosed, once functioned as a breezeway (Int., Rumley).

### Myers House II

The Myers House was constructed in the late 1850's by Thomas Harvey Blount Myers. In 1855 James Ellison gave Myers part of lot 31 "in consideration of the favors and Kindness I have and bear toward my Son in law Thomas H. B. Myers and with a desire to advance my said Son in law" (DB 28, p. 626). In 1857 lot 31 was specifically deeded to Myers by Ellison (DB 29, p. 624). The house remained in the Myers family (see Appendix A).

Myers was the son of John Myers and participated in the Myers Shipping Company. He also served as an agent for the Old Dominion Steamship Company.

The Myers House is a large structure with Greek Revival proportions, being three bay on all sides except the left, which is two bay. The gable roof has returns and is pierced by two chimneys. Corner posts have decorative rope molding. The rear portion was damaged by fire in 1960 and was altered at that time (Int., Myers).

Windows have six over six sashes with louvered shutters and Greek Revival symmetrical molding with corner blocks. The four panel door has a two light transom and three light sidelights (Figure 73). Greek Revival fretwork framing around the door is a unique design in Beaufort County. An identical design appeared in a book by Benjamin Asher (1830, Plate 28).



Figure 73

Doorway, Myers House II, ca. 1855

Centered in the front is a hip-roofed portico with attenuated columns. Brackets ornament the eaves, but those on the front and gable ends are of different styles.

#### Randolph House

According to tradition, the small vernacular house originally stood by the river and was moved to a location on Main Street in Washington after a larger home on Main Street burned (Int., Irby). The property was owned by Pheobe Randolph in the late nineteenth century and appeared

on the Gray Map (ca. 1880). In 1868 it had been placed in trust for Randolph and according to that deed was purchased in 1855, but no record was found (DB 32, p. 407) (see Appendix A).

The three-bay front facade is weatherboarded. A single interior chimney with a corbeled top is positioned to the left side of the house (Figure 74).



Figure 74

Randolph House, date unknown

Windows have six over six sashes, simple window frames, and louvered shutters. The lower windows are unusually large, extending nearly to the floor. The Greek

Revival door with three-light sidelights contains one pane of etched glass in each sidelight; other panes are replacements.

The house is gable roofed with a hip-roofed porch and a shed-roofed extension in the rear. Porch rails are plain and posts are chamfered.

Interiors are quite plain. Ceilings are covered by narrow tongue and groove sheathing and are insulated with sand. The plaster walls contain hair used as a binder.

#### Clark House II (Mayo House)

The first record found for the sale of the lot was from John Taylor to Sally Ann Clark in 1855 for \$600 (DB 29, p. 49). Although the deed mentioned improvements on the lot, it was probable that Clark had the house constructed, since an 1883 deed to Marianna Styron was the first specific mention of a house (DB 55, p. 543). The Styrons sold it a year later to Edward Long and in 1916 it passed to Lucy Mayo (DB 57, 1884, p. 9; DB 195, 1916, p. 338) (see Appendix A). The date, 1856, was inscribed on a chimney in the home (Int., Williams).

The house has a three-bay front facade and a two-bay side elevation (Figure 75). Centered on the front is a large gable-roofed portico supported by six Doric columns. Framing for an earlier one-story porch extending nearly

across the front is clearly visible. A photograph showed ornate gingerbread trim with a top railing of turned spindles (WDN, Nov. 7, 1974).

The cornice of the gable roof returns at the ends and is ornamented by brackets. Gable ends also feature a decorative rake board (Figure 76). There are two interior corbeled top chimneys covered by stucco. Pilaster corner posts on the side extension are molded.



Figure 75

Clark House II, ca. 1856



Figure 76

## Gable End, Clark House

On the right side, toward the front, is a small porch supported by columns identical to those on the front portico and apparently added at the same time. Behind the porch is a square extension, possibly original, since features are the same as those on the main structure. In the rear are hip-, shed-, and gable-roofed extensions.

Over the door is a small transom. Windows have six over six sashes in plain frames and are flanked by louvered shutters.

Rowland House

John Rowland began purchasing land in Beaufort County in 1857 and had the house constructed shortly thereafter.<sup>16</sup> The present owners found the date 1858 written inside a wall and signed by John Rowland. In 1891 it was sold to J. R. Beasley, the deed indicating that it was the house occupied by Elizabeth Rowland and after her death by John Rowland (DB 77, p. 117). Several transactions followed and by 1925 it was "well known as the Rowland Homeplace" (DB 260, p. 49) (see Appendix A).

The house is two and a half stories with a finished attic, has a three-bay front facade, and is two bays deep (Figure 77). End chimneys have a corbeled top, a single stepped shoulder, and detached stacks. Eaves are close to the house with slight returns.

Windows have a mixture of sashes, being nine over six on the first floor, six over six on the second floor, and six lights in the gable. They are surrounded by a molded frame and have hardware for shutters.

In the front is a shed-roofed engaged porch with square columns. The style indicated that the posts were replacements of the original treatment. A shed-roofed

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<sup>16</sup> A genealogist speculated that John Rowland's mother, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Wyriott Ormond (Smallwood, 1964). If so, Rowland might not have been a new resident of the county.

extension is attached to the rear.

The interior has a center hall plan. Most of the trim is original, with molded baseboards and chair rails. Molding surrounds the doors and windows. Upstairs is an unpainted door with original wood graining.

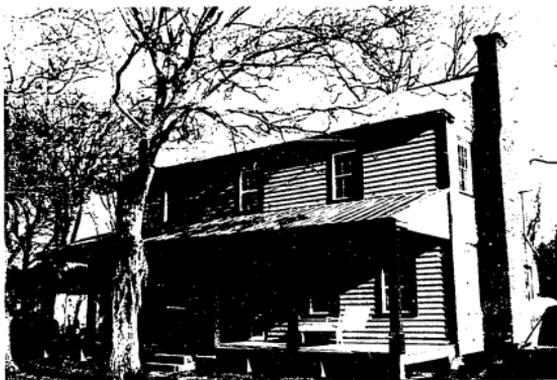


Figure 77

Rowland House, ca. 1858

#### Rivers-Sanderson House

Although the house belonged to John Rivers and Samuel Sanderson, the original owner was unverified. John Rivers purchased land in 1869 from Henry Ormond and the house was possibly constructed on the property (DB 35,

p. 119). Rivers died intestate in 1879 or 1880 (DB 52, 1882, p. 165).

Dicy Rivers Crawley (widow of John Rivers) and her husband, Joseph, sold their interest to Samuel H. Sanderson in 1894 (DB 68, 1888, p. 572; DB 88, 1894, p. 512). The house has remained in the Sanderson family (DB 322, 1938, p. 79).

It is an I-house three bays wide and two bays deep (Figure 78). The tin roof with extended eaves has pedimented gable ends. It is weatherboarded with the exception of the area beneath the porch, which is covered with flush sheathing. The single-shoulder chimneys, laid in common bond, have corbeled tops and detached stacks.

Across the front is a hip-roofed porch supported by square columns. In the rear is an addition and there was formerly a porch (Int., Sanderson).

Windows have six over six sashes on the second floor and nine over six on the first floor. Lower front windows have recessed molding and are surmounted by a wooden key-stone arch. The six-light gable windows have drip molding and windows on the side have plain surrounds.

The interior has a center hall plan with molded baseboards and a chair rail. The stairway is ornamented by flat carved balusters and the lower portion is enclosed by recessed vertical panels. Mantels and the area below the

windows also have recessed panels.



Figure 78

Rivers-Sanderson House, date unknown

#### Kelly House

The lot on which the house was constructed was conveyed to A. S. Kelly in 1889 (DB 73, p. 254). Since the house was not transferred again until 1924 it was probable that the house was constructed ca. 1890 by Kelly, in whose family the house has remained (DB 243, 1924, p. 344).

It bears a striking resemblance to the Jordan House next door, which was constructed ca. 1893. Like its neighbor, it is a two-story, three-bay structure with a

gable roof and a cornice which returns at the ends (Figure 79). Corner posts are a pilaster type. In the rear are two interior chimneys.



Figure 79

Kelly House, ca. 1890

Windows have six over six sashes with drip molding and louvered shutters. The trabeated door has a transom and two sidelights. The front door is notable for the hand carving of four panels and decorative rosettes.

Brackets ornament square posts which support a hip-roofed porch. The porch railing is composed of decorative flat baluster forms. Around the cornice and porch are

brackets.

Van Der Veer House

When Roger Ormond sold the lot to Phinehas Latham in 1770 there was no house (DB 4, p. 257). The North Carolina Division of Archives and History estimated the date of construction to be ca. 1790 (VDH, n. d.). The original owner probably was Ephraim Whitmore, although there was no record of a sale to him. In 1802 it belonged to his heir, Joanthan Whitmore, and on that date, Stephen Owens, Sheriff of Beaufort County, deeded a "House and Lott" to Alderson Ellison, indicating that it had belonged to Ephraim Whitmore (DB 13, p. 160). Ellison conveyed it to James Marsh (DB 12, p. 481).

By 1824 when Thomas Ormond conveyed it to Joseph Bonner, it was "more particularly Known by the name of the Whitmore lot" (DB 13, p. 332). The same day, Bonner sold it to Jacob Vandevier, for whom the house was named (DB 13, p. 349). Afterward there were several owners (see Appendix A). The Van Der Veer House has been moved from the original location, as was specified when it was given to the Beaufort County Historical Society (DB 648, 1969, p. 626).<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>Sources used both Vandevier and Van Der Veer. Historic Bath named the house Van Der Veer.

When the house came into the possession of the Historic Bath Commission, extensive alterations were removed and the house was restored to the 1830 appearance (HSR, n. d.; VDH, n. d.). Drawings and photographs completed before the restoration showed a two-story three-bay house with a gable roof, having cornice returns and extensions on both sides. It had been covered with shingles (Wilson, 1971).

Apart from the gambrel roof, the Van Der Veer House resembles the coastal cottage house type. The gambrel roof is an unusual type in Beaufort County. The front facade is five bays wide and it is two bays deep, covered with beaded weatherboards (Figure 80).

In the rear is a shed-roofed extension. Both the front and back have shed-roofed dormers. The exterior double-shouldered chimneys have sloped weatherings, detached stacks, corbeled tops, and are laid in Flemish bond.

Across the front is an engaged shed-roofed porch supported by chamfered posts with a plain railing. The back porch originally covered only the left and central portion. In the 1830's it was made into the enclosed stair hall and flanking rooms.

Dormer windows have nine over six sashes. First floor windows are nine over nine and those on the second floor are nine over six, all with plain frames. The rear dormer has two over two sidelights and nine over six sash windows

flanking the door.

Some interior moldings were added ca. 1830, but original raised panel doors remain on the second floor and there are remnants of baseboards and moldings (Turberg, 1976). There are also beaded baseboards, wainscots, and a chair rail (Honeycutt, 1969).



Figure 80  
Van Der Veer House, ca. 1790  
(1830 appearance)

Coward-Rodman House

Deeds were unclear, but the house could have been constructed ca. 1848 by Charles Coward (DB 24, p. 278). Coward sold the house to William B. Rodman, who conveyed it to his son (DB 69, 1888, p. 534). It was then conveyed to Rodman's sister, Lida (DB 88, 1894, p. 310). The most recent owner is W. C. Rodman (DB 374, 1947, p. 578).

Although constructed after the Federal era, the basic plan is that of a Federal side hall house. The house is composed of a gable-roofed main section with a gable-roofed ell in the rear, attached to a smaller shed-roofed extension on the left (Figure 81).



Figure 81

Coward-Rodman House, ca. 1848

A hip-roofed front porch extends across the left side and adjoins a bay window on the right. It once stood on the street, but was moved back in the mid-twentieth century.

The two-story house has a two-bay facade with nine over nine sash windows, louvered shutters, and entablatures over the windows. Weatherboards cover the structure and there are corner posts in a pilaster form.

The glass in the transom and sidelights was etched, but has been replaced in the twentieth century. Brackets ornament the eaves of the porch and the cornice returns in the gable ends. In the center is a chimney.

#### Riverside-Winfield

Riverside-Winfield was constructed as a hotel for the Jamesville and Washington Railroad, which purchased the property in 1886 and had the building constructed soon thereafter (DB 63, p. 176). A 1900 deed referred to the lot "with the buildings and improvements thereon erected by the Jamesville and Washington Railroad Company" (DB 105, p. 571).

In 1887 a local newspaper noted, "The River View Hotel will be open on October 1st under the management of Mr. T. A. [Thomas] McNair...This house is located at the depot" (WP, Sept. 20, 1887). Some idea of the size of Washington at that time could be gained from the fact

that the same newspaper criticized the hotel's location for being remote from the business center. By the following year it had changed hands and the Washington Progress noted that Captain J. H. E. Merriam had rented River View and it would be open for boarders (WP, Dec. 18, 1888).

In 1889 a newspaper reported,

At the Hotel Merriam the tables are laden, always with the best, and a stranger will feel at home there amid music and flowers. (WG, Nov. 1, 1889)

Soon afterward it was sold to Lida Studdard (DB 113, 1901, p. 215). Tradition indicated that it was converted to a residence during the occupancy of Studdard and placed on a raised foundation by Charles Cowell, whose wife purchased the property in 1916 (DB 193, p. 367; Int., Winfield) (see Appendix A).

An 1893 photograph showed a large rectangular building having four gable-roofed dormers with returns and a seven-bay front facade (Figure 82). The shed-roofed porch across the front and sides was supported by chamfered posts ornamented by gingerbread trim and surrounded by a rail composed of lattice work. Brackets ornamented the cornice.

Following renovations the structure is a large rectangular building with a five-bay facade and is four bays deep. Two of the four dormers remain and the gable roof with returns is pierced by two corbeled top chimneys (Figure 83).



Figure 82

Riverside-Winfield, Photograph, 1893

The windows with louvered shutters and molded surrounds are single pane and obviously replacements. On the first floor are four symmetrically placed French doors, two on each side of the front door.

In each gable end is an arched window, the top being surrounded by dentils. The door is ornate, with ten-light sidelights and a fanlight surmounting the door. This was a twentieth-century addition. The shed-roofed porch extends across the front and left sides and is supported by

Doric columns.



Figure 83  
Riverside-Winfield, ca. 1886  
(current appearance)

Hooker House

The house could have been constructed ca. 1899 after the property was conveyed to Nannie Hooker, wife of William Hooker (DB 103, p. 309). In 1931 Mayme Litchfield purchased the house and it has remained in the family (DB 289, p. 320).

The house is three bays wide with a two-story central projection (Figure 84). The derivation of the projection is uncertain, although it is reminiscent of Georgian homes. The feature is uncommon in Beaufort County. The front gable and the ends of the gable roof have cornice returns. End chimneys have detached stacks, a single-stepped shoulder, and are laid in common bond.



Figure 84

Hooker House, ca. 1899

Beneath the porch narrow flush sheathing is laid diagonally, but around the sides of the projection the flush sheathing is vertical. The hip-roofed porch is supported by turned posts.

Windows have four over four sashes with entablature headings. The door frame is Greek Revival with corner blocks. Brackets ornament the cornice of the house.

The interior has a center hall plan and the stairway has turned balusters. In the hall is some flush diagonal beaded sheathing. Doors have molded frames.

#### Frisbee House

Nellie Frisbee purchased property in Pantego from 1899 through 1901 (DB 103, p. 374; DB 112, pp. 226, 295). Although it was said to have belonged to the Olds family, no record of a sale was found. Its most recent owner is Mrs. Cecil O'Neal (DB 344, 1942, p. 546).

The original floor plan has been extensively altered, but the house has a two-bay front and is a single bay deep (Figure 85); in the rear is an extension. On the left side is an exterior chimney with a detached stack, a corbeled top, and double-stepped shoulders.

The house has an asymmetrical front facade and it appeared that the original plan was a two-bay side hall house. The room to the right of the door was an addition. Corner posts are molded at the center.



Figure 85

Frisbee House, ca. 1899

The shed-roofed porch extends across the front and the right side. Turned posts have gingerbread trim and a top railing of turned balusters. Fish-scale shingles appear on the porch and on the lower front of the house. Those on the porch were added by O'Neal (Int., O'Neal).

Windows have two over two sashes on the second floor and nine over six on the first floor. Small molded entablatures top the windows.

CHAPTER VI  
ANALYSIS OF DESIGN FEATURES AND HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

Included in Chapter VI is a discussion of design features common to historic houses in Beaufort County and information on builders, architects, and building products. Emphasis is placed on identification of stylistic characteristics and analysis of design, socioeconomic, and political influences. A statistical analysis would have been misleading since many houses had been altered and those standing were only a portion of the structures built in Beaufort County.

Research was conducted on 168 houses, 61 of which were individually analyzed in the dissertation. Following preliminary research, 11 houses were excluded from further study because twentieth-century alterations had made them unrepresentative of the era in which they were constructed.

Hypotheses

Nine hypotheses were developed prior to conducting the study. Six of the hypotheses were supported by results of the study and three of them were not.

1. The hypothesis that homes in rural areas would have vernacular characteristics was supported by the

findings. So few decorative elements were utilized in the county that urban houses were also largely vernacular.

2. The hypothesis that most major styles would be represented was not supported. Housing in Beaufort County tended to be homogenous, with little variation from traditional forms. Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, and Victorian styles were represented. Of the Victorian styles, only Italianate and Carpenter Gothic had substantial impact. Their use was almost entirely limited to the application of decorative motifs on houses of Georgian or Greek Revival heritage. The impact of other Victorian styles was insignificant.
3. The hypothesis that lumber would be the primary building material was supported. All extant historic homes were frame structures. Evidence indicated that brick was never utilized extensively for construction, other than for chimneys.
4. The hypothesis that houses would have undergone structural alterations was supported. Some had been altered several times. However, the extensive alterations common in other geographic areas during the Victorian period were minimal in Beaufort County. The most extensive alterations were done in the mid-twentieth century. Victorian alterations were usually confined to

the application of ornament and plans were seldom disturbed.

5. The hypothesis that most dominant styles would be of English origin was supported. Styles until the Victorian period were based on English prototypes. The rectangular forms of the Georgian houses persisted into the nineteenth century.
6. The Victorian characteristics which were hypothesized to be present in Washington did not appear with great frequency. Washington lost many of its historic homes to fire and urban growth, so it was possible that some of the demolished houses were Victorian. However, the remaining examples indicated that Beaufort County was slow to adopt new styles. Victorian houses were not built with frequency until the early twentieth century. Belhaven, incorporated in 1899, did evidence Victorian influence, as did Washington houses constructed at the turn of the century. Although houses seldom had the asymmetrical massing of the Victorian period, some of the trim was adopted. Houses had gingerbread trim and brackets applied to traditional vernacular house plans.
7. The hypothesis that houses in Washington would exhibit West Indian influence was not supported. The reason for the lack of two-tier porches common in surrounding towns was unknown, but the rural and traditional

characteristics of the county could have resulted in less tendency to adopt outside influences. Demolished antebellum houses could have had such porches, although travel diaries made no mention of them. One-story porches were utilized in Beaufort County throughout the nineteenth century. Their presence on houses of that era suggested that the inspiration was found in nineteenth-century architectural books.

8. The hypothesis that some houses would show evidence of wealth and status was supported. Generally, status took the form of a larger dwelling maintaining the basic vernacular form. In some cases, additional ornament such as wrought-iron trim, pilasters, or porticos distinguished the house. Sophistication in design or evidence of outside influence was not common. Status was not always expressed through housing and Beaufort County houses tended to show little class distinction.
9. As was hypothesized, houses constructed in Bath were vernacular structures. Little ornament was applied to the houses and no Victorian homes were located.

#### Architectural Styles

Historic houses in Beaufort County had characteristics of five styles: Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Victorian, and Vernacular. The largest number were Vernacular, followed by Victorian, Greek Revival, Federal,

and Georgian (see Table 1). Vernacular houses possessed characteristics of previous styles; thus, the number of houses classified as an example of a style did not accurately reflect the impact of that style. So few Federal and Georgian houses survived that detailed analysis of their characteristics was hindered.

Table 1  
Architectural Styles

Style	Number	Percent
Georgian	2	1.2
Federal	5	2.9
Greek Revival	23	13.7
Victorian	25	14.9
Vernacular	113	67.2
Total	168	100.0

Center hall house plans were utilized in eighteenth-century houses and continued to be used throughout the nineteenth century. The only variations from that plan were side hall and L-plan houses. Extant side hall plan houses appeared in the mid-nineteenth century during the Greek Revival period, but persisted throughout the century. L-plan houses were associated with the Italianate style, but not all exhibited Victorian trim.

The influence of Victorian styles was largely confined to decorative trim. Only the Georgian, Greek Revival, and Italianate periods had substantial impact on the floor plans of houses. The extremely ornate asymmetrical houses associated with the Victorian period were quite uncommon in conservative Beaufort County. Features of Italianate and Carpenter Gothic houses persisted from the mid-nineteenth century until the turn of the century. Shortly before 1900, Neoclassical features began to replace the older Victorian characteristics. Tables 2 and 3 summarize the features of Beaufort County architectural styles.

#### Construction Features

Historic houses in Beaufort County were characterized by the persistent use of a few housing features. In the following discussion those features were grouped into four categories: Exterior Finish, Porches, Chimneys, and Fenestration.

#### Exterior Finish

Nearly all houses included in the study were covered by weatherboards. Five houses were found to have beaded weatherboards, but such siding was used most frequently on eighteenth-century houses and few of those had survived.

Only one house was located that had board-and-batten siding. The lack of extant examples could not be taken as

Table 2  
Design Features of Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival Houses

Style	Plan	Fenestration	Exterior Finish	Trim
Georgian	Center hall Rectangular proportions	9/9 or 9/6 sashes Molded frames	Beaded	Dentils Pediments Entablatures
Federal	Rectangular proportions	9/9 or 9/6 sashes		3-part molding Dentils Pilasters
Greek Revival	Side hall Square proportions Temple form	Trabeated 6/6 sashes	Flush sheathing	Cornice returns Pilaster corner posts Symmetrical molding Corner blocks Eared molding

Table 3  
Design Features of Victorian Houses

Style	Plan	Fenestration	Exterior Finish	Trim
Italianate	L-plan	2/2 sashes Narrow windows Double windows		Brackets Double posts
Carpenter Gothic	T-plan Center gable		Board and batten	Gingerbread trim Turned posts Drip molding Lattice work

evidence that such siding was not more extensively utilized.

During the Greek Revival period flush sheathing began to appear on the front facade in the area sheltered by the porch. The sheathing was laid diagonally, horizontally, or vertically. That treatment was utilized on houses until the turn of the century.

Corner posts were used on houses built through the nineteenth century. Some were of the pilaster type with entablature headings. Molded centers were also utilized. Only one example of decorative rope molding on a corner post was located.

#### Porches

Although double-tier porches were found in other areas of North Carolina, few were constructed in Beaufort County. The only extant houses which had such porches were the Hodges-Moore House, Rodman House, and Havens House.

One-story porches were utilized for Beaufort County houses from the eighteenth through the nineteenth centuries. In houses of the early nineteenth century, engaged porches which extended across the entire front facade were placed on both large and small houses. By the Victorian period of the middle to late nineteenth century, porches had become smaller. In that era the porches

did not extend to the corners of the house.

The early engaged porches were constructed with shed roofs. During the mid-nineteenth century, hip-roofed porches became more common.

A variety of decorative features were applied to porches. Supporting posts were square, paneled, turned, chamfered, or composed of lattice work. During the Italianate period double posts joined by arches were introduced. Motifs included gingerbread trim and brackets. Those features were applied to houses which had no other Victorian features.

So few porticos survived that generalizations were not possible. Elmwood was the only extant Beaufort County house to have a two-tier Greek Revival portico.

### Chimneys

In houses of the eighteenth through the mid-nineteenth centuries, end chimneys were constructed with detached stacks and corbeled tops. Common, English, and Flemish bond were found in Beaufort County. During the Greek Revival period chimneys began to be constructed on the interior rather than the exterior gable ends.

Paneled chimneys were found on houses from the middle to late nineteenth century. Two houses constructed between ca. 1848 and ca. 1859, the Rodman House and

Rosedale Pantation, had identical clustered and paneled chimneys, covered by stucco. No other examples of that chimney type were located. The only house which had a decorative brick pattern was the Ormond-Midyette House, constructed in the early nineteenth century.

The most unusual type of chimney was found in the Palmer-Marsh House and Belfont Plantation. Both had double chimneys united by a chimney pent. The original owner of the Palmer-Marsh House came to Beaufort County from Boston and could have seen such chimneys in New England. That house predated Belfont Plantation, but whether the builder of Belfont was inspired by the Palmer-Marsh House is unknown.

#### Fenestration

A definite progression in the size of window panes was apparent. Nine over six or nine over nine sashes were used on houses of the eighteenth through the mid-nineteenth centuries. In later houses of the nineteenth century, particularly those with Greek Revival characteristics, sashes were six over six. Still later, two over two sashes became common.

Dormer windows were used from the eighteenth through the nineteenth centuries. Their use was almost entirely limited to coastal cottages.

Houses constructed during the Greek Revival period when shutters lost popularity in other regions, continued the use of that design feature. Extant houses in Beaufort County were constructed with louvered shutters. Only the Palmer-Marsh House had paneled shutters.

Types of window surrounds in Beaufort County included Greek Revival symmetrical molding with corner blocks, Federal or Georgian molding, and plain frames. Entablatures were also used to head windows. Drip molding was used on houses of various styles in combination with Greek Revival and Victorian features.

Trabeated doors appeared during the Greek Revival period and maintained their popularity through the remainder of the nineteenth century. That feature was used even on houses which had no other Greek Revival features.

#### Building Products

Various lumber companies were located in Washington during the nineteenth century and it was likely that most of the materials utilized in local homes came from those factories. Willis Walling produced newel posts and balusters for sale in the north and they could also have been used locally (WP, May 17, 1887).

"Bracket and Scroll Sawing" was advertised by the Washington Iron Works (WG, 1889). Among the companies

producing lumber products during the nineteenth century were, G. W. Kugler, J. T. Winfield, E. M. Short Lumber Company, Eureka Lumber Company, and W. Archbell (CRV, 1885; HDR, 1885; WG, 1889). The Kugler Lumber Company had a newspaper advertisement in 1892 for "bracket or scroll work" (WP, March 15).

In the nineteenth century advertisements for window sashes and glass were common. J. B. Stickly advertised 8 X 10 window glass in 1815 (AR, 1815). Seven types of sashes were advertised by J. J. Doughty in 1856 (NCT, Oct. 8, 1856). Sizes were 8, 10, 12, 15, and 18 light sashes. DeMille had available 8 X 10 and 10 X 12 window lights and 8, 12, 15, and 18 light sashes (NCT, Oct. 8, 1856).

Merchants of the mid-nineteenth century listed paint colors in their advertisements. Colors mentioned included: Chrome Green, Chrome Yellow, Verdigris, Burnt Sienna, Burnt Umber, Prussian Blue, Paris Green, Gray, Brown, Buff, Red, White, Stone Colored, Black, Red Ochre, Venetian Red, and Rose Pink (WD, Sept. 17, 1866; NCT, Oct. 8, 1856; NSW, Feb. 6, 1850). That those colors were kept in stock suggested that they were used frequently.

#### Architects and Builders

There was little documentation on architects. The only specific reference to an architect was in relation to

Rosedale Plantation. Evidence was found that William Murdock, a Baltimore architect, was responsible for the design of Rosedale.

Local tradition was that three Washington houses, Elmwood, the Fowle House, and the Blount-Hodges House, were designed by English architects. Fowle family tradition was that the Fowle and Blount-Hodges Houses were designed by the same man. Old photographs indicated that originally all three houses were modeled after the Greek Revival temple form, a type of housing that was uncommon in eastern North Carolina. All were constructed between 1810 and 1830; thus it was possible that there was a single source of inspiration.

Another architect was associated with Beaufort County, but whether he was responsible for any structures in the county is unknown. David Paton, scion of a family of Edinburgh builders, emigrated to North Carolina in 1832 and worked on the State Capitol in Raleigh (Colvin, 1978, p. 626). Paton married Anne Farrow, a resident of Beaufort County. Written comments by the Patons' daughter, Agnes, indicated that she was born in Edinburgh in 1845 and that the family moved to Beaufort County when she was about seven years old (AP, n. d.). The 1850 Census listed Agnes Paton as a four-year-old in the household of Theresa Farrow (p. 337).

Little information on specific builders was located, although the names of several individuals were found. The 1850 Census listed 23 men as house carpenters or house joiners. Table 4 indicates the names of builders cited in the 1850 and 1860 Censuses and the regions of the county in which they lived. Unless otherwise indicated, all were listed as house carpenters born in North Carolina. The 1860 Census did not distinguish between carpenters and house carpenters. For that reason and because carpentry was a related occupation, Appendix D includes a listing of carpenters and a list of men engaged in the related occupations of masonry and painting.

Newspapers revealed information on builders and the diversity of their businesses. Benjamin S. Russell advertised that he built houses and also engaged in,

Making and repairing Riding Chairs, Waggon, Carts, and every thing of that kind, Pumps and Blocks of every description, Building and repairing Houses &c. (AR, March 1, 1822; AR, June 11, 1822)

His business must have been extensive since he employed,

several journeymen who are experienced...he flatters himself to be able to give satisfaction to those who may think proper to honor him with their commands. (AR, June 11, 1822)

Francis Brooks, a carpenter and joiner, owned a shop on Second Street above the Washington Academy. He advertised his services for building or repairing houses in town or in the country (NSW, Aug. 3, 1843). His

contemporary, Seth K. Cordon, was a house joiner who also advertised various types of carpentry (NSW, March 21, 1849). J. J. Hinton was associated with Cordon; his specialty was house and vessel painting (NSW, Feb. 6, 1850).

Table 4  
Beaufort County Builders

Name	Location	Other	1850 Page	1860 Page
William C. Moore	Washington	House Joiner	339	
Benjamin Moore		A Prentice [sic]	339	
Anthony Nadall (born in St. Martins)			340	
Simon Cooper			343	
James Campaign			346	
Archibald Dudly			349	
William Windley	Broad Creek		355	
Thomas Phillips			356	
Henry Paul	Bath		359	
John Porter			359	
Will Satchwell		House Joiner	361	
Volandas Swindell	North Creek		367	
Malike Linton	Bath		368	
Howard Woolard			369	
Richard Boyd			369	
Thomas Congleton	Beaver Dam		374	
Henry Congleton			375	
Robert Walker	Washington		386	
William Walling (born in England)	Transters Creek		394	
John Wolfenden	Beaver Dam		398	67
Lewis Johnson	Blounts Creek		409	
James Ellis	Washington		416	194
James H. Williams			418	

In the latter part of the nineteenth century, Jones and Chapman of Edwards Mills advertised house building (WP, 1889). A newspaper item observed that T. C. Carrowan was building a dwelling in 1888 (WP, Aug. 14). A letter from William B. Rodman referred to Mr. Cowell as "an old and experienced builder" (WBR, LB 5, p. 154). Gardner and Gardner, Builders, advertised in 1878 that,

We are Prepared to Do All kinds of work in our special line...from the simple repairs of a stable-yard fence to the erection of a palatial mansion. (NSP, Nov. 12, 1878)

W. W. Cordon was a builder who worked in Washington ca. 1890. A newspaper reference to his work on D. T. Tayloe's office specifically mentioned attractive interiors (WP, Jan. 7, 1890). A business directory of 1890 listed eleven men as builders and contractors. Those were John Gardner, Lewis Grist, Stephen Harding, Jonah Hurse, Thomas Porter, McKinsy Smithwick, Ed. Warren, J. E. Jerkin, Lacy Edwards, Jno. Edwards, and B. K. Davis (Branson, 1889).

Only two advertisements for interiors were located. C. M. Spear advertised that he was a house and sign painter, noting that he did "all kinds of designing" and that paper hanging was a specialty (WP, Nov. 20, 1888). L. H. Padgett advertised that he did house painting and interior work (WG, Ap. 4, 1895). Other house painters were John Potts Company (WG, July 24, 1807) and William Hay (Whig, Feb. 6, 1838).

Available information indicated that there were several builders working in Beaufort County, but no research on their lives or work had been conducted. The most useful sources of facts relevant to builders were contemporary newspapers and census records.

## CHAPTER VII

## SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary and Conclusions

The study consisted of a combination of archival, manuscript, and field research which sought to determine characteristics of historic houses in Beaufort County and to examine the significance of various influencing factors on the design of houses. Photographs of significant structures and representative examples of vernacular houses were included.

Primary sources included manuscript collections, maps, newspapers, and photographs. Archival materials such as census records, deeds, and wills were utilized to locate information relevant to Beaufort County houses. The Colonial and State Records of North Carolina and records of the Civil War were examined for facts related to house construction and socioeconomic or political factors which influenced housing. Oral history was obtained through interviews with local resource persons.

Emphasis was placed on the factors which influenced house design. The impact of political, social, and economic events on the design of houses was analyzed. Readings were conducted on the history of Beaufort County to determine

trends of development and significant events in the area. In addition to published histories, primary sources provided insight into social life in early Beaufort County.

A total of 168 houses with features typical of the era from 1744 to 1899 were examined. Of those, 61 were selected for individual discussion. Those discussed individually were houses which met one of two criteria: 1) they were unique or possessed particularly noteworthy features or 2) they were representative examples of house forms found in Beaufort County.

Five styles were represented in Beaufort County: Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Victorian, and Vernacular. The most dominant style of historic housing in Beaufort County was Vernacular. Even those houses which could be classified as one of the major styles frequently were Vernacular interpretations of the style.

Only the Georgian, Greek Revival, and Italianate styles had significant impact on the basic plan of houses. The influence of other styles was revealed primarily in decorative motifs. The Georgian plan and facade persisted through the nineteenth century. In the middle to late nineteenth century, Greek Revival proportions were adopted and chimneys began to be placed on the interior. The Italianate style contributed the L-plan to Beaufort County house forms.

Greek Revival, Italianate, and Carpenter Gothic were the most pervasive influences on decorative motifs.

Although few houses exemplified all characteristics of those styles, many showed marks of their influence and it persisted into the twentieth century.

The dominance of lumber products in local commerce was clearly reflected in housing. There was little variation in construction materials. The weatherboards which covered nearly all the houses could be produced locally by the many lumber companies in the area.

Socioeconomic, political, and geographic influences on historic housing in Beaufort County could be discerned, even though the majority of the houses were vernacular. The similarity of housing forms was a reflection of the rural and traditional way of life in that area of North Carolina.

Beaufort County did not have large self-sufficient plantations; thus, community life remained an important aspect of society. That contributed to the spread of locally popular styles and motifs. There were few examples of class distinction in housing. Wealthy residents tended to construct larger versions of predominant styles.

Settlers came to Beaufort County primarily from England, Virginia, or New England. Thus there was little diversity in ethnic influences on housing. The large number of settlers from other colonies resulted in little direct contact with European styles, increasing the tendency to construct vernacular houses. Trade was largely with other colonies and the West Indies which served to reduce contact

with diverse housing styles and reinforced the influence of English styles.

The Civil War resulted in destruction of many historic houses in Washington. Therefore, most of the extant houses dated from the middle to late nineteenth century. The social and economic disruption caused by the war inhibited adoption of Victorian housing forms. Styles of that period did not have great impact. Some of the trim was adopted, but Victorian styles did not replace traditional forms.

#### Recommendations for Additional Research

The study revealed several areas in which additional research is needed.

1. Several homes constructed in the early twentieth century and worthy of investigation are located in Beaufort County, particularly in Belhaven and Washington. Research on those houses would further expand the fund of information on the history of Beaufort County.
2. Research on the commercial buildings of Washington would contribute to knowledge of architecture, as well as having relevance to the commercial history of the region.
3. Ecclesiastical structures have received little investigation. There are a number of historic churches in Beaufort County on which research has yet to be conducted. Such an investigation would contribute valuable

information on architectural features and on church history.

4. Research on construction methods of houses in Beaufort County and archeological research on some sites might yield useful information.
5. Interiors of some houses would be worthy of further study.
6. Further investigation of builders and architects might yield useful information.

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## APPENDIX A

## PROVENANCE OF HOUSES INDIVIDUALLY DESCRIBED

Included in Appendix A is additional information pertaining to the provenance of some historic houses discussed in the text.

Blount-Jones House

Following the death of Josephine Jones, Odelle and E. W. Wilkinson acquired the property and sold it to James Lancaster (DB 360, 1945, p. 231). Lancaster sold it to David Lee and it later belonged to Ashley Winfield (DB 528, 1961, p. 122). Winfield conveyed it to Edward and Carolyn Ricks, who sold it to Stancil D. Johnson (DB 675, 1971, p. 445; DB 785, 1979, p. 831).

Bonner House II

In 1931 Marian Harding conveyed it to Jehu Bonner (DB 289, p. 638). In 1942 L. R. Smith et al. conveyed it to Joseph Norman (DB 344, p. 47). The most recent owner was the Historic Bath Commission.

Bryan House

In 1978 Julia H. Bryan sold the house to Albert E. (Peck) and Hazel B. Lassiter (DB 768, p. 35).

Burbank House

The house was inherited by Hattie Griffin Burbank. In 1974 William Mayo sold it to Harry Meredith, who in turn sold it to B. Gutfield (DB 706, p. 171). Gutfield

conveyed it to the Historic Preservation Fund (DB 760, 1977, p. 240). A year later it was sold to Hugh Todd, Jr. (DB 761, 1978, p. 728).

#### Clark House I

George Clark conveyed the house to Glyde Clark (DB 379, 1947, p. 176). Clark conveyed it to Karl Zibell in 1960 (DB 507, p. 277). Zibell conveyed it to his wife, Ursula Zibell (DB 528, 1961, p. 117). In 1962 her attorney, Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, sold it to Magnet Cove Barium Corporation (DB 543, p. 193). In 1971 Jefferson Sugg purchased the property (DB 667, p. 171). Charles Latham obtained it in 1973 from Twin States Financial Corporation (DB 700, p. 704).

#### Clark House II

In 1916 Frank and Mary Mueller sold the house to Lucy Mayo (DB 195, p. 338). Two deeds, from Harry and Louise Fisher and from Virginia Polytechnic Institute Educational Foundation, conveyed it to Roger Howell (DB 664, 1971, pp. 422, 424). Howell sold it to Gary and Eva Williams (DB 738, 1974, p. 696).

#### Dimock House

Mary Dimock sold the house to Carl Richardson in 1902 (DB 121, p. 13). He conveyed it to R. E. Hodges (DB 170, 1912, p. 544). In 1977 Bryan Grimes sold it to Fred Mallison (DB 749, p. 312).

Elmwood

There were several deeds related to the transfer of the property to Olivia Grist (DB 66, 1887, pp. 24, 178; DB 45, 1875, p. 326; DB 39, 1874, p. 194).

Farrow House

In 1937 the house was sold to Ella Young and S. Jackson by W. A. Chancy, the heir of J. A. Farrow (DB 318, p. 276). In 1977 Marvin Davis purchased the property from Wachovia Bank and Trust Company (DB 758, p. 664). Later owners were J. W. Blackstone and S. Hassell, Trustee (DB 791, 1980, pp. 154, 156).

Flynn-Aycock House

The house remained in the Aycock family until 1974 when Mildred Aycock sold it to Jack and Brenda Respass (DB 717, p. 684).

Havens House

The will of Jonathan Havens left a life estate to Elizabeth Harvey with a provision that the house go to seven relatives (WB 5, 1929, p. 182). In 1941 a deed gave Bryan Russell's interest to Mary Moss and Kathleen Reynold (DB 338, p. 499). In 1951 Mary Moss, Lindsay Moss and Elizabeth Britt sold it to Mildred Winfield (DB 406, p. 441).

Hodges-Moore House

The R. E. Hodges lands were divided in 1936 (DB 314, p. 254). In 1956 L. H. Ross deeded to Sam T. and Elizabeth

Moore (daughter of Hodges) tract 5 in the division of the Hodges property (DB 465, p. 350).

#### Hyatt House

After Hyatt purchased the property the next deed located was from W. L. Grissom to John Dixon (DB 109, 1899, p. 145). Dixon sold it to Mary Blount (DB 159, 1909, p. 350). The next deed found was a 1920 transfer from Marcella and W. S. Eborn to Emily Wynne (DB 219, p. 445). Her heirs, Evelyn Blue, William Wynne et al. conveyed it to Erma Lee Carter (DB 668, 1971, p. 435).

#### Latham House

The will of Thomas Latham left his property to Betsy Chillik, who conveyed it to Mary Laughinghouse (WB 7, p. 207). She and her husband, W. L. Laughinghouse, conveyed it to their daughter, Mary Leary (DB 165, 1911, p. 260). A later deed from Maxwell Chesnutt conveyed the property to Travis Squires (DB 735, p. 583).

#### Lucas House

A deed between Anne Taylor and Anne Nicholson pertained to the property (DB 198, 1915, p. 404). It was later conveyed to Winifred Lusk, who conveyed it to Anne Taylor (DB 341, 1941, p. 68). Dan and Anne Taylor sold it to Robert Jackson in 1959 (DB 500, p. 25). In 1979 he conveyed it to Robert Jackson, Jr. (DB 778, p. 590).

Lupton House

Lupton's heirs, Belle and W. B. Edwards, and Mildred Anderson, sold the house to Beartha Thompson (DB 404, 1950, p. 217). In 1965 Sarah and C. J. Burgess sold it to Truett Coston (DB 591, p. 159). He sold it in 1971 to W. P. and Shirley O'Neal (DB 665, p. 563).

Marsh House

In 1942 a descendant of the Marsh family, Mildred Telfair (widow of S. F. Telfair), sold the house to James Lester and Lucy Wynne (DB 342, p. 601).

McKeel House I

Mary Gordon sold the house to James R. Russ, who conveyed it to Joe Glazebrook (DB 388, 1949, p. 185; DB 527, 1961, p. 446). Glazebrook sold it to A. E. Evans, who conveyed it to Ralph Baker (DB 640, 1969, p. 595; DB 710, 1974, p. 371).

McKeel House II

In 1980 Ralph Baker purchased the house (DB 791, p. 214).

Meadowville

M. Makely et al. sold the house to D. F. Shull (DB 117, 1902, p. 331). In 1926 W. B. Rodman, Trustee, sold it to Charlotte Kugler, who sold it to Ben Stowe (DB 266, 1926, p. 316; DB 375, 1947, p. 167). Charles P. Madre purchased the house from Thomas Allen in 1981 (DB 799, p. 705).

Moss House

In 1931 John Nicholson sold the house to Lucretia Hughes (DB 286, p. 618). That deed described it as having been the property described in a deed from S. T. Nicholson to J. L. Nicholson.

Myers House I

The house remained in the Myers family until it was purchased in 1979 by Herman Gaskins (Int., Gaskins).

Myers House II

In 1877 Thomas H. B. Myers conveyed it to Sarah Myers (DB 42, p. 335). In 1911 J. G. Myers left it to his daughter, S. Myers (WB 3, p. 338). Another deed in 1931 referred to the ownership of the property by Sallie Masters, who conveyed it to J. G. B. Myers (DB 291, p. 227).

Nicholson House

In 1925 J. T. Nicholson conveyed the property to Anna Nicholson (DB 260, p. 49). The executor of Annie Nicholson conveyed it to Harold Nicholson in 1955 (DB 454, p. 358). Georgette Nicholson sold it to Marvin Buck (DB 707, 1974, p. 275). Buck sold it to Ed. Alton and Jane Whitehurst (DB 742, 1976, p. 751).

Ormond-Midyette House

In 1871 William Barnett obtained the property (DB 37, p. 143). In 1877 Wm. Tyre bought it at auction from David Lucas, administrator of Jesse Lucas (DB 41, p. 522).

A deed in 1873 conveyed it from Samuel Ormond to Cicero Brooks and Timothy Midyette (DB 37, p. 491). Brooks sold it to T. M. Midyette (DB 58, 1885, p. 40).

#### Palmer-Marsh House

Michael Coutanch's widow married Reverend Alexander Stewart and they occupied the house until the Glebe House was completed. Coutanch's daughter, Susannah, and her husband, Richard Evans, sold it to James Lockhart in 1763 (DB 4, p. 3). Robert Palmer acquired the house in 1764 (DB 4, p. 48). His granddaughter, Helen, and her husband, Lewis LeRoy, sold it to Jonathan and Daniel Marsh (DB 7, 1802, p. 386). It remained in the Marsh family until 1915 when Henry Ormond purchased the house for use as a hotel and in 1958 it was sold to the Beaufort County Historical Society (Cross, 1976).

#### Potts-Bragaw House

In 1897 J. M. Potts and W. R. S. Burbank conveyed the property to Maude Bragaw, subject to a life estate by W. A. Potts (DB 96, p. 129). Later the Trust Company of Washington and the Life Insurance Company of Virginia held title to the property (DB 261, 1925, p. 251; DB 298, 1934, p. 58). The insurance company conveyed it to J. Frank and Lila Duke (DB 304, 1935, p. 124).

#### Randolph House

Phoebe Randolph's will devised it to J. F. Randolph (WB 4, 1917, p. 158). He conveyed it to Netella Leens and

Ely Windly (DB 318, 1937, p. 161). The deed indicated that T. H. B. Myers formerly owned it and that it was occupied by Justus Randolph. In 1950 the Trustees of St. Peters Church sold it to Elizabeth Phelps and Rebecca Simmons (DB 401, 1950, p. 467). Elizabeth Phelps conveyed it to W. S. and Betsy Irby (DB 420, 1952, p. 113).

#### Riverside-Winfield

Lida Studdard sold it to H. C. Carter (DB 179, 1913, p. 38). Carter sold it to Howard Winfield (DB 188, 1915, p. 302). Winfield sold it to Sallie Cowell (DB 193, 1916, p. 367). Charles Cowell sold it to Maude Bragaw (DB 260, 1925, p. 142). The Federal Corporation conveyed it to C. S. Graves, who conveyed it to J. Bryan and Zelma Winfield (DB 375, 1947, p. 488).

#### Rosedale Plantation

In a division of the Wharton property Isabella and John Small obtained title (DB 191, 1916, p. 552). They sold it to the East Carolina Company, which conveyed it to T. J. Moore (DB 321, 1937, p. 18; DB 326, 1937, p. 25). In 1951 Moore sold it to H. H. Swanner and William Chauncy (DB 406, p. 248). Swanner sold it to Chauncy, who conveyed it to J. D. Briley (DB 532, 1962, p. 488; DB 745, 1977, p. 477).

#### Rowland House

In 1891 S. Fowle, Commissioner, conveyed the property to J. R. Beasley, who in 1894 executed a deed of trust to

George Brown (DB 79, 1891, p. 117; DB 86. 1894, p. 291). Brown, in 1900, sold it to J. T. and B. B. Nicholson (DB 109, p. 474). In 1925 J. T. Nicholson conveyed it to Annie Nicholson (DB 260, p. 49) and it was later sold to Jack Swindell.

#### Smallwood

There were a number of deeds related to the property. In 1890 it was purchased at auction by Robert Bruce (DB 74, p. 201; WP, Jan. 14, 1890). A 1901 deed conveyed the property to Gilbert Rumley to be held in trust for Emily Smallwood. Also conveyed was personal property, a list of furniture, and "one mule named Fanny" (DB 113, p. 505). In 1932 Charles Smallwood conveyed it to Marilu Smallwood, who sold it to Smallwood Incorporated (DB 293, 1932, p. 504; DB 568, 1964, p. 61). Smallwood Incorporated sold it to Shepherd and Carolyn Grist (DB 645, 1969, p. 1).

#### Van Der Veer House

Jacob Van Der Veer lived in the house until 1836 and it was later sold to William Harvey (Cross, 1975). In 1876 S. H. Hammond sold it to W. H. Beasley (DB 41, p. 392). In 1894 W. Baugham, William Bragaw, and William Beasley sold it to George Brown (DB 86, p. 289). Wesley Peebles conveyed it to J. D. Eborn in 1903 (DB 121, p. 535). Eborn sold it to Charles Bowen in 1919 (DB 208, p. 262). Mrs. Ruth Smith deeded the house to the Historic Bath Commission in 1969 (DB 648, p. 626).

Wallace House

Jas. B. and Martha Stickney sold it to Ann Satterthwaite in 1874 (DB 60, p. 559). Following her death a special proceeding indicated that Fenner B. Satterthwaite had a life estate and the property was conveyed by A. D. MacLean to Annie Worthington (DB 183, 1914, p. 39). In 1928 Annie Worthington sold it to F. J. Morgan (DB 270, p. 515).

Williams House I

James M. and Nancy Williams sold the house to Margaret Williams in 1956 (DB 460, p. 40). In 1980 she conveyed it to Wayne and Pearl Davis (DB 794, p. 1).

## APPENDIX B

## ADDRESSES OF HOUSES INDIVIDUALLY DESCRIBED

Ayers House...Washington, 326 Market Street  
Belfont Plantation House...W. side SR 1411, N. jct with  
SR 1410  
Blount-Hodges House...Washington, E. side Market Street  
Blount-Jones House...Pantego, N. side NC 264  
Bonner House I...Aurora, W. side Fifth Street at Chapin  
Street  
Bonner House II...Bath, Front Street  
Bryan House...Washington, 231 E. Main Street  
Carrow House...Bath, Main Street  
Clark House I...Belhaven, 102 Front Street  
Clark House II...Washington, 600 W. Second Street  
Coward-Rodman House...Washington, 238 E. Main Street  
Dimock House...Washington, 316 W. Main Street  
Elmwood...Washington, 731 W. Main Street  
Farrow House...Washington, 127 Fourth Street  
Flynn-Aycock House...Pantego, E. side NC 264 at  
jct. SR 1704  
Fowle House...Washington, 412 W. Main Street  
Frisbee House...Pantego, SW corner jct 264 and NC 99  
Greenhill...Washington, 612 W. Main Street

Griffin House...Washington, NW corner Market and  
Fourth Streets

Hanks-Thomas House...Washington, 303 E. Main Street

Harris House...Washington, 419 E. Second Street

Havens House...Washington, 404 W. Main Street

Hodges-Moore House...Washington, Market Street Extension

Holladay House...Washington, 706 W. Second Street

Hooker House...Aurora, N. side Bridge Street at jct  
with Third Street

Hyatt House...Washington, Water Street

Kelly House...Washington, 404 E. Second Street

Latham House...Washington, 409 E. Main Street

Leach House...Washington, 511 W. Main Street

Lucas House...Vic. Washington, N. side SR 1517, E. jct  
of SR 1422

Lupton House...Belhaven, 325 Front Street

Marsh House...Washington, Water Street

McKeel House I...Washington, 412 E. Main Street

McKeel House II...Washington, 410 E. Main Street

Meadowville Plantation...Vic. Chocowinity, N. side NC 33  
S. jct of SR 1127 and 1181

Moss House...Washington, 401 E. Main Street

Myers House I...Washington, Water Street

Myers House II...Washington, 243 E. Main Street

Nicholson House...Bath, S. side Main Street

Ormond-Midyette House...Vic. Bath, S. side SR 1743, E.

jct SR 1741

Palmer-Marsh House...Bath, Jct Main and Carteret Streets

Phillips House...Washington, 323 W. Main Street

Potts-Bragaw House...Washington, SW corner Bonner and

Main Streets

Quin House...Washington, 126 E. Second Street

Randolph House...Washington, 239 E. Main Street

Respass House...Washington, 132 E. Fourth Street

Richards House...Washington, 626 W. Main Street

River-Sanderson House...Vic. Bath, E. side SR 1744

S. jct of SR 1743

Riverside-Winfield...Washington, 627 W. Main Street

Rodman House...Washington, 520 W. Main Street

Rosedale Plantation...Vic. Washington, S. side SR 1407

Rowland House...Vic. Bath, SE corner jct SR 1742 and 1528

Short House...Washington, 524 W. Main Street

Simmons-Credle House...Pantego, N. side NC 264 E.

jct NC 99

Smallwood...Washington, Market Street Extension

Smaw House...Washington, 164 E. Main Street

Van Der Veer House...Bath

Wallace House...Washington, 302 E. Second Street

Wilkins House...Washington, 320 Market Street

Williams House I...Washington, 627 W. Second Street

Williams House II...Bath, SE corner Main and Craven Streets

## APPENDIX C

## INTERVIEWS

Mr. Ralph Baker	Mrs. F. J. Morgan
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Berry	Mr. and Mrs. Sam Moore
Mr. J. D. Briley	Mr. John Havens Moss
Mr. Edmund Credle, Jr.	Mrs. John G. B. Myers
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Dixon	Mrs. Florence Credle Nelson
Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Duke	Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Norton
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fisher	Mrs. Cecil O'Neal
Miss Mary Fowle	Mrs. Julia Williams Rumley
Mr. Charles P. Franklin	Mrs. Brenda Respass
Mr. Herman Gaskins	Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Sanderson
Mrs. Anna Gayle	Mrs. Lindsay Warren
Miss Lucretia Hughes	Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Whitehurst
Mrs. Scott Irby	Mrs. Gary Williams
Mrs. Sandra Johnson	Mr. and Mrs. Ben Winfield
Mrs. Robert Kidwell	Mrs. Zelma Winfield
Mrs. Peck Lassiter	
Mr. Charles Latham	
Mrs. Marsha Rodman Lawrence	
Mr. Charles P. Madre	

APPENDIX D  
BEAUFORT COUNTY CARPENTERS, MASONS, AND PAINTERS

Carpenters, 1850 Census

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>1850 Page</u>	<u>1860 Page**</u>
Henry S. Snell	Washington	339	
Marse Newton*		339	
George Turner		340	201
Andrew Ellison		342	
Tilmon Woolard		342	204
Christopher Miller		342	
Henry Lynch		343	196
William Heritage		343	192
William Cooper		344	
Zachariah Keys		345	
Hose Martin*	Leachville	350	
Samual Hull	Broad Creek	356	
Elizha Lilly	Bath	360	157
Stephen Sawyer		361	
Adam Cordon		361	
Allen Alligood	Beaver Dam	374	
Wm. Woolard*		376	
Tilmon Thougood (Thorogood)	Washington	386	213

\*Those marked with an asterisk were nearly illegible and the spelling could be incorrect.

\*\*A few individuals were listed in both the 1850 and the 1860 Census.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>1850 Page</u>	<u>1860 Page</u>
Harrison H. Eason	Washington	386	
Israel (Harding)	Chocowinity	402	
Gurham Turner*		404	

Carpenters, 1860 Census

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
Stephen Barnett	Goose Creek	21
S. G. Harris	South Creek	21
John Gibson		21
Z. B. Carowan		22
T. M. Swindell		22
S. A. Swindell		22
Charles Rice		26
Benj. Dixon	Durham Creek	31
Isiah Cutler		31
Jno. Carney	Chocowinity	61
Garret Nelson		61
Boyd C. Rice		65
Frank Handfill*		68
Jesse Parker		71
Lewis A. Taylor		72
John S. Hursa	Leachville	89
Willis Williams		93
Henry Foster*	Pantego	99
H. North	North Creek	105

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
Greene Davis	North Creek	116
King Little	Bath	127
Asa Hardison		165
Jno. Randolph	Washington	189
S. K. Cordon		192
William Cordon		192
Elijah Tetterton		200
Henry Picar		200
Silvester McKey		205
Jno. Thomas		205
Kelly Moore		205
T. J. Gardner		208
Wm. R. Kees		210
Michal Turrel*		210
Jacob Saul		211
Henry Simmons		211
Jno. E. Rany		211
Hallie E. Moore		213
Zack Lees		213
Jack Morton		215
James Rice		215
J. F. Mallett		216
Arnold Hoskins*		217
Benj. Cowell		220

Masons

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>1850 Page</u>	<u>1860 Page</u>
James H. Williams	Washington	340	
Abraham Allen		342	
William Allen		342	
Henry Green		342	210
Henry Wilson		342	
William Allen		343	
Silas Etheridge		345	206
Saben Philips	South Creek	416	23
Henry Barrow	Washington		196
Bryan Moore			205
Frank Johnson			206
George Copes*		416	211

Painters

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>1850 Page</u>	<u>1860 Page</u>
Carney Sparrow	Washington	342	
Saml. Osborn		343	