

Claudia R. Brown and Diane E. Lea. *Landmarks of Hyde County, North Carolina: the Mainland & Ocracoke Island*. Engelhard: Hyde County Historical & Genealogical Society, 2007. 256 pp.

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In recent years, there has been little extensive coverage of the architectural landscape along the eastern shore of North Carolina. *Landmarks of Hyde County, North Carolina: the Mainland & Ocracoke Island* helps to address this issue by introducing readers to both the history of Hyde County as well as the more prevalent types of historical architecture which can be found in the region. From the outset, Claudia R. Brown and Diane E. Lea take their audience on a journey spanning almost four centuries of history. In 1585, John White, a member of Sir Walter Raleigh's expedition to the North Carolina coast, produced the first map of Hyde County. Since that time, developments such as the "Banker Ponies" (residents of Ocracoke Island), the Ocracoke Lighthouse (a white stucco brick landmark built in 1823), and the "Octagon House" (constructed circa 1850 and one of the only existing eight-sided antebellum homes in North Carolina) have all left an indelible mark on Hyde County. Despite the presence of the aforementioned enduring landmarks, Hyde County residents have still faced threats to their livelihood such as property damage caused by storms like Hurricane Isabel in September 2003.

Authors Claudia R. Brown and Diane E. Lea divide their book into three sections: a preliminary essay which provides a brief history of Hyde County, an article that offers readers an overview of Hyde County architecture, and an inventory of the historic architecture of the region. The inventory, which comprises about 50 % of the book, contains a name, accompanying photograph, address, ownership history, and short description of prominent buildings within the mainland portion of Hyde County and Ocracoke Island. The authors include a special section of color pictures to highlight distinctive architectural features of Hyde County, including Ocracoke Lighthouse, Lake Mattamuskeet, and the Swan Quarter waterfront. A glossary of architectural terms, index, and extensive bibliography of both primary and secondary sources are included for quick reference. Claudia R. Brown is employed at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office where she is Architectural Survey Coordinator and Supervisor of the Survey and Planning Branch. Diane E. Lea has worked (1991-present) as Preservation Director for North Carolina Estates, a company with an interest in preserving historical properties. In 2003, she contributed material to a book, *A Richer Heritage: Historic Preservation in the 21st Century*. She also writes about historical architecture and city planning for *Metro* magazine.

Landmarks of Hyde County, North Carolina: the Mainland & Ocracoke Island is intended to enable readers to understand both the variety of historical architecture in Hyde County as well as the need to keep these structures preserved for future generations. This book would be extremely well-suited for inclusion in any academic or special library collection and is essential reading for any researcher with an interest in historical architecture or local Hyde County history.

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