



**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

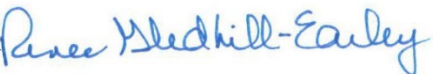
Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary D. Reid Wilson

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary, Darin J. Waters, Ph.D.

May 8, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vanessa Patrick vepatrick@ncdot.gov
Environmental Analysis Unit
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley 
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report, Widen SR 1006 Old Stage Road from SR 2736 Rock Service Station Road to SR 3884 Rolling Meadows Drive, PA 21-08-0005, Wake County, ER 23-0877

Thank you for your April 11, 2023, memorandum transmitting the Historic Structures Survey Report for the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the report and concur that the Stephenson-Sauls House (WA8812) is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under any criteria.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT mpfurr@ncdot.gov

**Historic Structures Survey Report
Widen SR 1006 (Old Stage Road)
from SR 2736 (Rock Service Station Road) to SR 3884 (Rolling Meadows Drive)
Wake County, North Carolina
TIP No.: HL-0008I WBS No.: 49367.1.1 PA Tracking No. 21-08-0005**

Prepared for:
Environmental Analysis Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

Prepared by:
Mdm Historical Consultants Inc.
Post Office Box 1399
Durham, NC 27702
919.368.1602

April 5, 2023

Historic Structures Survey Report
Widen SR 1006 (Old Stage Road)
from SR 2736 (Rock Service Station Road) to SR 3884 (Rolling Meadows Drive)
Wake County, North Carolina
TIP No.: HL-0008I WBS No.: 49367.1.1 PA Tracking No. 21-08-0005

Prepared for:
Environmental Analysis Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

Prepared by:
MdM Historical Consultants Inc.
Post Office Box 1399
Durham, NC 27702
919.368.1602

April 5, 2023

Jennifer F. Martin, Principal Investigator
MdM Historical Consultants Inc.

Date

Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor
Historic Architecture Team
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

Historic Structures Survey Report
Widen SR 1006 (Old Stage Road)
from SR 2736 (Rock Service Station Road) to SR 3884 (Rolling Meadows Drive)
Wake County, North Carolina

TIP No.: HL-0008I

WBS No.: 49367.1.1

PA Tracking No. 21-08-0005

Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to widen SR 1006 (Old Stage Road) from SR 2736 (Rock Service Station Road) to SR 3884 (Rolling Meadows Drive) in Wake County, North Carolina. This project is subject to review under the *Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects* (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA/USACE/USFS 2020).

An NCDOT architectural historian defined an Area of Potential Effects (APE) and identified and assessed all resources approximately fifty years of age or more within the APE. Following this initial review, NCDOT staff identified one resource within the APE that warranted an intensive evaluation of individual eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). They determined that all other properties are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity. NCDOT requested Mdm Historical Consultants (Mdm) evaluate the NRHP eligibility of the Stephenson-Sauls House (WA8812) at 10133 Old Stage Road southeast of Garner in rural Wake County, North Carolina.

As part of the project, Mdm intensively evaluated the property and provided a written report that included photographs of the resource and landscapes; an historic and architectural context; an evaluation of NRHP eligibility; comparisons to similar types of resources; and carefully delineated and justified NRHP boundaries, as appropriate.

In February and March 2023, architectural historian and principal investigator Jennifer F. Martin conducted fieldwork and research then authored this report. The table below identifies the resource evaluated and summarizes the recommendations regarding its eligibility.

This eligibility study confirms to the *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products* (NCDOT 2015) and *Report Standards for Historic Structures Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina* (NCHPO 2021). This report is on file at NCDOT and NCHPO and is available for review by the general public.

Property Name and Survey Site Number	Address, PIN, and Parcel Number	NRHP Eligibility Recommendation and Criteria
Stephenson-Sauls House WA8812	10133 Old Stage Road 0698862235/ 0483885	Recommended not eligible under any criteria

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Management Summary	2
I. Project Description and Methodology	4
II. Property Description and Evaluation: Stephenson-Sauls House (WA8812)	8
III. Bibliography	30



Stephenson-Sauls House, view from Old Stage Road to the east-southeast

I. Project Description and Methodology

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to widen SR 1006 (Old Stage Road) from SR 2736 (Rock Service Station Road) to SR 3884 (Rolling Meadows Drive) in Wake County, North Carolina. The project area is located within Wake County, North Carolina. The TIP number is TIP No. is HL-0008I, the WBS No. is 49367.1.1, and the PA Tracking No. is 21-08-0005.

An NCDOT architectural historian defined an Area of Potential Effects (APE) and identified and assessed all resources of approximately fifty years of age or more within the APE. Following this initial survey, NCDOT staff identified the Stephenson-Sauls House (WA8812) as warranting an intensive evaluation of its individual eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). They determined that all other properties in the APE are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity.

This project is subject to review under the *Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects* (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA/USACE/USFS 2020). This eligibility study was carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Secretary of the Interior's standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 60; 36 CFR Part 800; and *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products* (NCDOT 2015) and *Report Standards for Historic Structures Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina* (NCHPO 2021). This evaluation meets the guidelines of NCDOT, NCHPO, and the National Park Service.

In order to meet the requirements of the above laws, regulations, and guidelines, the work plan for the evaluation of the Stephenson-Sauls House (WA8812) included the following items: (1) conducting general historical and architectural background research in order to develop contexts within which to evaluate the potential National Register eligibility of the resource located within the APE; (2) field investigation on the resource and similar properties; (3) specific historical and architectural research on the resource; and (4) preparation of a report developed pursuant to the above-referenced laws, regulations and guidelines. The report is on file at NCDOT and NCHPO and is available for review by the general public.

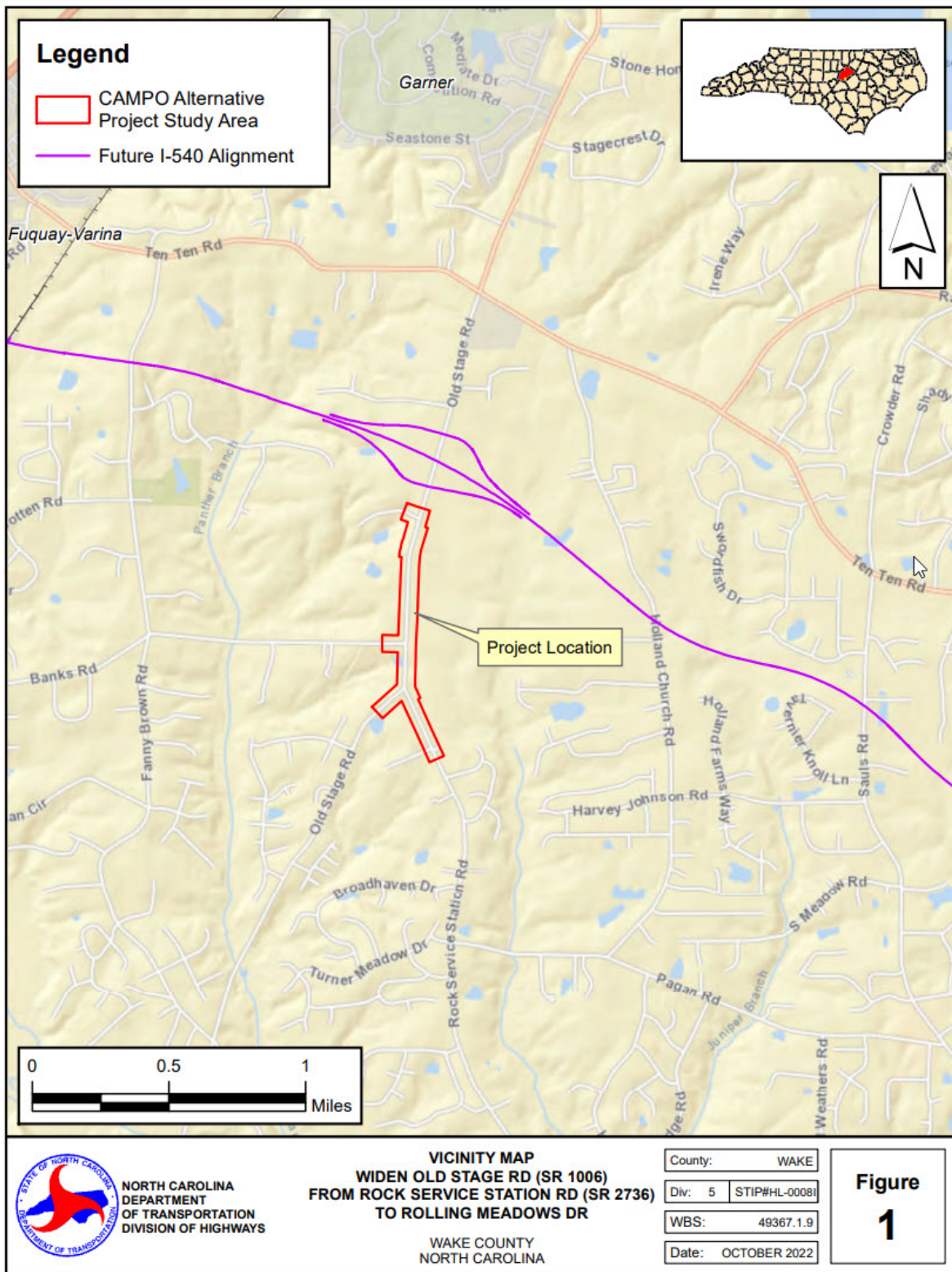
In February and March 2023, MdM evaluated the Stephenson-Sauls House (WA8812) as required, in compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, other state and federal regulations, and NCDOT's and NCHPO's guidelines and standards. As part of the project, MdM evaluated the Stephenson-Sauls House (WA8812) and provided a written report that included photographs of the landscapes and buildings; historic and architectural contexts; evaluations of NRHP eligibility; comparisons to similar types of resources; and carefully delineated and justified NRHP boundaries, as appropriate.

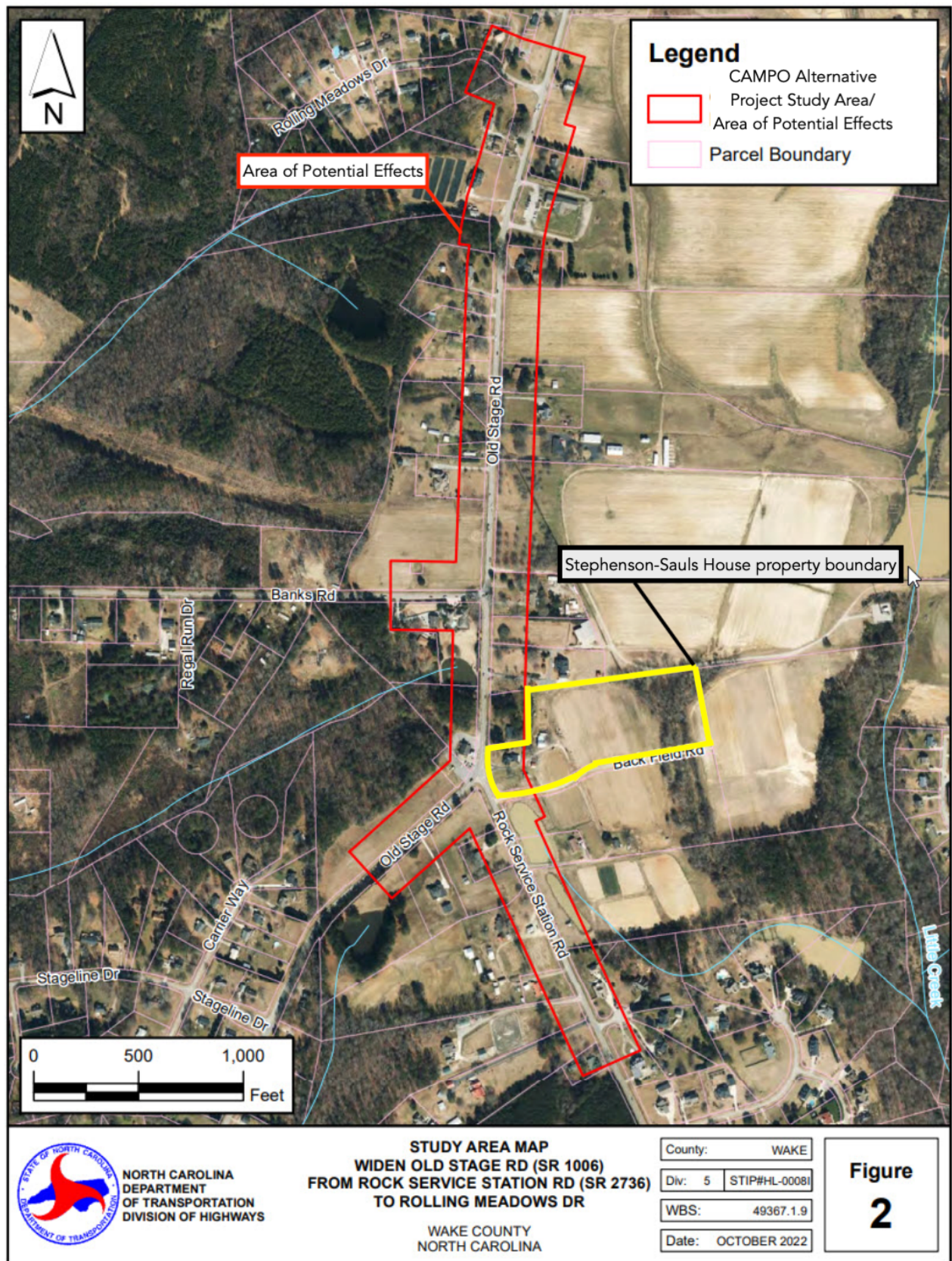
MdM project manager and architectural historian Jennifer F. Martin, who meets the Secretary of Interior's qualifications for architectural history (CFR 36 CFR Part 61), conducted the fieldwork and research, analyzed the resource, and drafted this report in February and March 2023. As part of this effort, she sent a letter to the property owners informing them of the project and her planned site visit. On February 15, 2023, she visited the Stephenson-Sauls House (WA8812), met with the owners, Amy and John Bynum, and toured the property. She gathered history on the house and farm from Ms. Bynum and photographed the site, house exterior, and house interior. Ms. Martin visited and documented comparable resources in Wake County to provide context for the evaluation of the Stephenson-Sauls House. The property owner, Amy Bynum, provided Ms. Martin with extensive historical information about the Stephenson, Sauls, and Baker families. Ms. Martin reviewed deeds and other documents on the Wake County Register of Deeds website. With permission of the United States Department of Agriculture, Ms. Martin reviewed North Carolina Farm Census reports for Wake County.



Stephenson-Sauls Farm in the early 1960s. The two tobacco barns and looping shed are no longer standing. The small ranch house to the left is on a separate parcel. View to the east, photo courtesy of Amy Baker Bynum

The project to widen SR 1006 (Old Stage Road) from SR 2736 (Rock Service Station Road) to SR 3884 (Rolling Meadows Drive) is located within Wake County. Its project area and location of the evaluated resource, the Stephenson-Sauls House (WA8812), are depicted on the following maps.





II. Property Description and Evaluation

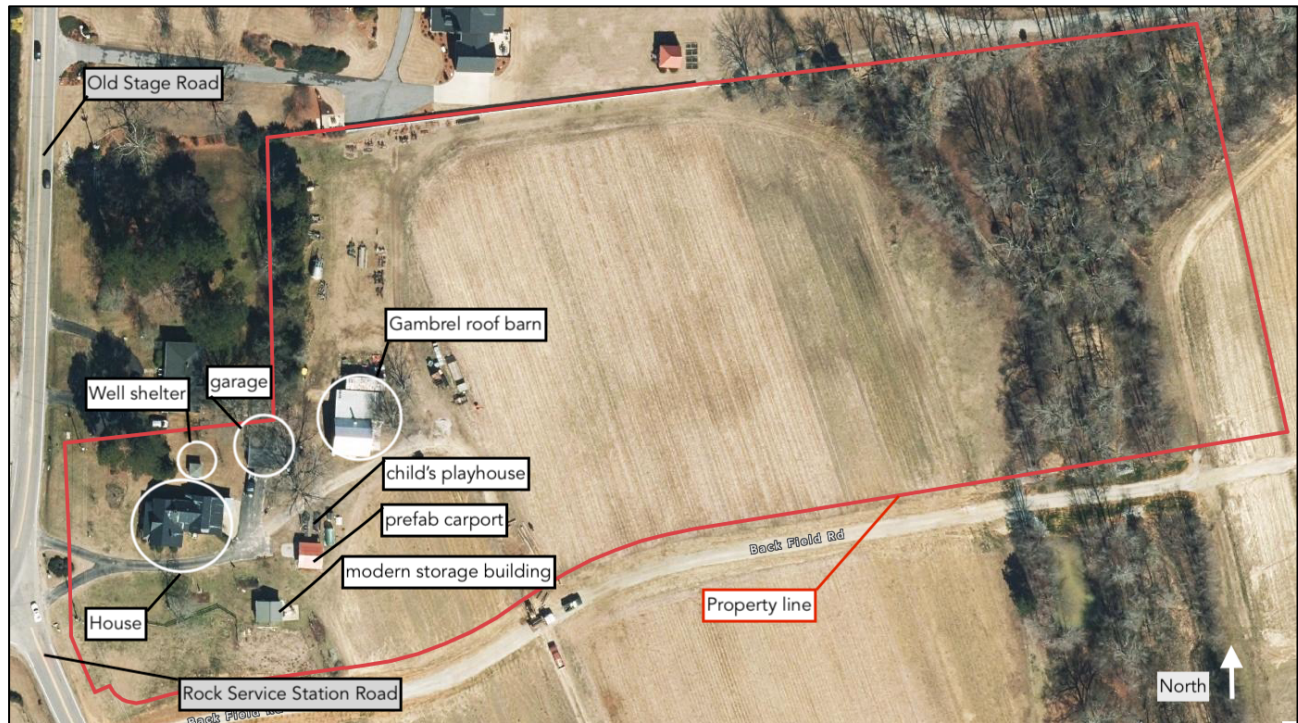
Resource Name	Stephenson-Sauls House
HPO Survey Site Number	WA8812
Location	10133 Old Stage Road, Garner vic.
PIN/Parcel Number	0698862235/0483885
Construction Date	Ca. 1910
Recommendation	Recommended not eligible under any criteria



House façade view to the east-northeast

Setting

The Stephenson-Sauls House stands in a rural but rapidly developing area approximately seven miles south-southwest of the town of Garner in Wake County. Occupying an 8.67-acre mostly level parcel, the house faces west toward Old Stage Road (SR 1006), just north of its junction with Rock Service Station Road (SR2736). Back Field Road, a recently created private dirt lane originating on the east side of Rock Service Station Road, parallels the parcel's southern boundary as it proceeds to the east. The farm's layout is typical of rural Wake County with the house standing on the westernmost third of the parcel approximately thirty yards from right-of-way for Old Stage Road. Its attendant outbuildings, flanking both sides of an unpaved driveway, spread out behind the house. Behind the outbuildings to the east, a four-acre farm field lies at the middle of the property, while a thick line of trees covering about two acres serves as the eastern border.



Site plan, created from iMaps Wake County GIS application

Description

The one-story, single-pile, side-gabled frame house featuring a centered front gable with a diamond-shaped vent—a house form commonly referred to as a triple-A—faces west toward Old Stage Road. The dwelling stands on a concrete block foundation, includes two interior brick chimneys, and is crowned with modern metal roofing. The exterior has been altered with the application of aluminum siding and the replacement of the original front porch posts with square posts. Most of the original window openings have been reduced in size to accommodate new sash.



Gloria Sauls Baker and Charles Baker in front of the house in 1961, note original porch posts, courtesy of Amy Baker Bynum

The dwelling's original form consisted of the side-gabled front block with a rear shed room and a gabled rear ell with a south elevation porch. In the early-to-mid-twentieth century, a gabled kitchen dependency was connected to the rear ell and the ell's porch enclosed. Over time, the house was further expanded with a

rear porch that was later enclosed. The house's evolution illustrates a typical method farm families used in the early and mid-twentieth centuries to expand their living spaces to accommodate growing families.



Photo showing original porch posts and full-size windows, view to the east, date unknown, courtesy of Amy Baker Bynum

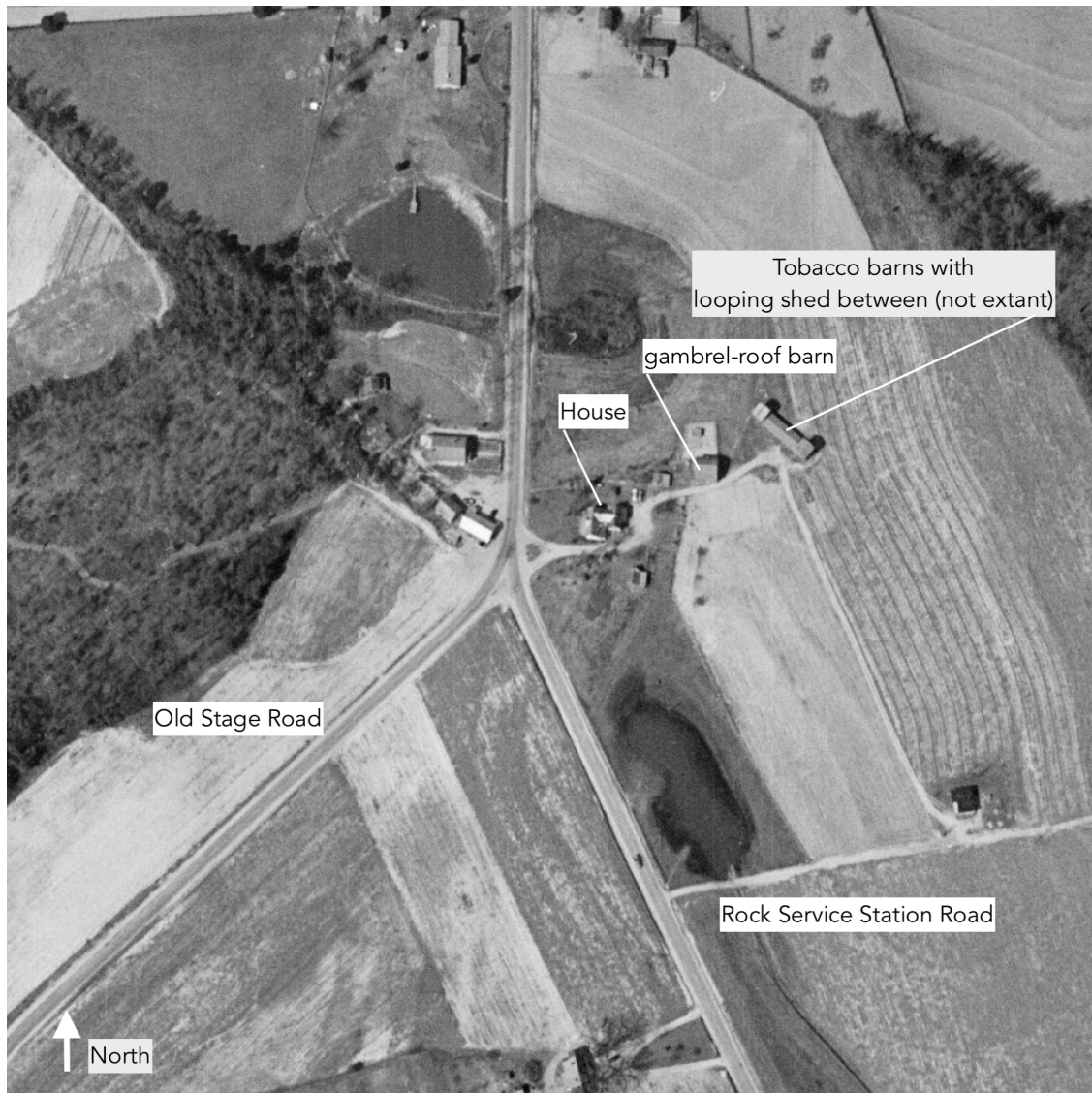
At the façade, a hipped-roof porch with replacement square posts shelters a center entrance with paneled wood and half-glazed sidelights flanking a replacement front door. Single windows pierce the façade on each side of the door. Both window openings have been



Gloria Baker Sauls at backdoor, view to the northwest, circa 1960, courtesy of Amy Baker Bynum

truncated and fitted with new sash that are smaller than the original. The north elevation includes a multi-lite window corresponding to the location of a bathroom and a small, enclosed porch topped with a shed roof and fitted with a storm door. Windows on the south elevation have also been truncated and sash have been replaced. An enclosed porch and small mudroom extend along the rear elevation. Both are sheathed in vinyl siding.

The interior is organized around a central passage. The parlor north of the passage retains a handcrafted mantel enlivened with geometric elements including diamonds and squares constructed from wood moulding and a sawtooth band spanning the facing over the firebox. According to the property owner, her great grandfather, James A. Stephenson, built the mantel. Other original elements in the main block include a batten door with a box lock leading to the rear shed room, oak flooring, and five-panel wood doors. Ceiling and wall are not original. The historic kitchen, which was likely originally a free-standing building, contained two rooms. The center wall has been removed to create an open kitchen/dining room space.



Stephenson-Sauls House and farm shown on 1959 Wake County aerial photograph, USDA Historical Aerial Photos, GIS Services, UNC Libraries, web.lib.unc.edu

Outbuildings

Barn

Circa 1910

The gambrel-roofed barn with metal siding stands northeast of the house. The current owners report that the barn was used as a tobacco pack house and contained an ordering pit on the bottom level. The building stands on concrete block piers and includes an open-sided storage sheds on the east and north elevations.

Garage

Circa 1965

A one-story, gable-roofed garage with vinyl siding stands between the house and the barn. Sliding wood doors extend along a portion of the façade (south elevation). A small prefab shed stands on its east side.

Well shelter

Early twentieth century

Just to the north of the house stands a pyramidal-roofed, open-sided structure built of vertical log supports with wood railings. The structure, which rests on a concrete slab, originally sheltered a well.

Playhouse

Circa 2000

A diminutive Queen Anne-style playhouse stands behind the house.

Prefabricated carport

Circa 2000

A metal-roofed, open-sided carport is east of the house and south of the playhouse.

Storage building/office

Ca. 2010

A front-gabled building with vinyl siding and resting on concrete block foundation piers stands southeast of the house.



Front of the house, view to the east



North (side) elevation, view to the south



South elevation, view to the north



Rear elevation, view to the west



Top left: center hall with front door in the background, view to the west; top right: batten door leading to shed room, view to the west-southwest; bottom: mantle made by J. A. Stephenson in front parlor, view to the east



Kitchen, view to the south



Gambrel barn, view to the northeast



Garage, view to the east-northeast



Well shelter, view to the west



Playhouse view to the east-southeast

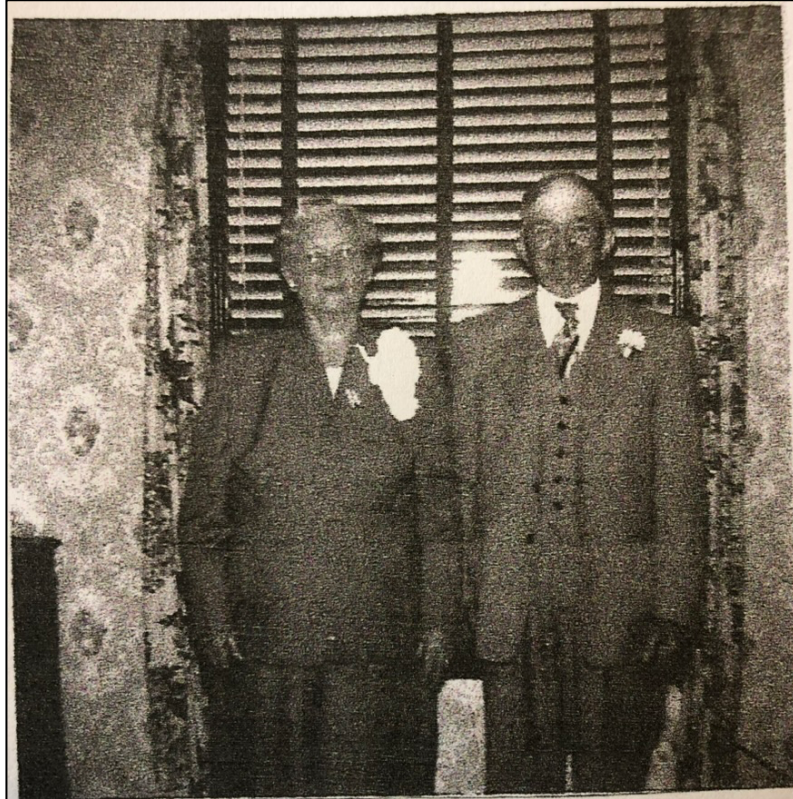


Carport, view to the east

Historical Background

On December 26, 1910, Lula Jewell Myatt and Thomas M. Myatt sold the house and 101 acres in Panther Branch Township to Mary Frances Wilson Stephenson (1883-1960) and James Addison (J. A.) Stephenson (1875-1964).¹ The Stephensons married in 1903, and before their purchase of the property, they lived in a rented house on Raleigh Road in Middle Creek Township near Fuquay-Varina.² The couple had seven children and established a homeplace that would be enjoyed by four generations.³

Although the property Mary and J. A. Stephenson purchased in the early-twentieth century no



Mary Frances and James Addison (J. A.) Stephenson, date unknown, courtesy of Amy Baker Bynum

longer functions as a working farm, its origins and subsequent story are firmly tied to the history of agriculture in this part of Wake County. In addition to family oral tradition, the understanding of the history of agriculture in the county is enhanced by the records of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture Statistics Division. Between 1918 and 1948, the Division produced a farm census for each year between 1918 and 1948 for individual farm owners using their property tax data. The North Carolina State Archives retains only a few years of these records, namely 1925, 1935, and 1945. Most of the remaining years have been destroyed according to State Archives retention schedules.⁴

¹ Wake County Deed Book 253, page 140, dated December 26, 1910; the current owner believes the house was standing when her great grandparents, the Stephensons, bought the property.

² 1910 United States Federal Census, Middle Creek, Wake County, North Carolina.

³ "James A. Stephenson," obituary, (Raleigh) *News and Observer*, October 9, 1964, page 8.

⁴ North Carolina Department of Agriculture Statistics Division Farm Census Reports for 1925, 1935, and 1945, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina (note: these records are not available without permission of the Statistics Division). A contemporaneous overview of the farm census is provided in North Carolina Department of Agriculture and United States Department of Agriculture, "North Carolina Farm Forecaster, Crop and Livestock Report for North Carolina," December 1928 p. 10, North Carolina Digital Collections, digital.ncdcr.gov.

The 1925 farm census does not include J. A. Stephenson in its information for Panther Branch Township. While the census provides useful data about the output and character of individual farms in the first half of the twentieth century, the accuracy and thoroughness of the information varies considerably depending on the township, the period when the data was collected, and the individual tax office employees compiling the data.

Although the farm census cannot shed light on J. A. Stephenson's farming activities in 1925, it can provide information about farm size, crops, livestock, and tenancy in Panther Branch Township. That year, the census recorded 189 farms with fifty embracing 101 acres or more. Cotton, produced on over three thousand acres, covered more land than any other crop, followed by corn, which grew on a little over two thousand acres. Tobacco covered 658 acres. Truck crops, which could be sold at market in downtown Raleigh, occupied a little over 235 acres and did not represent a major cash crop. A total of 891 pecan trees stood in the township.⁵

Crop production in Panther Branch Township reflected agricultural production in the county. In 1927, cotton, grown on 57,603 acres, covered more land area than any other crop, followed by corn (49,046 acres) and tobacco (32,708 acres). A total of 5,545 acres in Wake County yielded truck crops including Irish and sweet potatoes.⁶

According to the 1925 farm census, four farms were of comparable size to the 101-acre Stephenson farm and only one, the John W. Pagan farm, grew tobacco. The four farms produced cotton, corn, and truck crops including melons, berries, and potatoes. The W. A. Goodson farm, owned by a Black farmer, was the only 100-acre farm in the township that did not have a tenant.⁷

The Mary and J. A. Stephenson farm appears in the 1935 farm census report with thirty-two acres worked by the family and twenty acres worked by tenants. The rest of the acreage was idle (four acres) or categorized as non-farmland (thirty-four acres). Seventeen acres of farmland was devoted to tobacco, sixteen acres to corn, and eight acres to cotton. Another sixteen acres yielded hay, a crop that promoted soil conservation and whose production expanded in North Carolina in the mid-1930s. Irish and sweet potatoes grew on less than two acres with another two acres set aside for other commercial truck crops, such as vegetables sold at market. In the mid-1930s, the Stephensons tended to twenty-five fruit trees, most

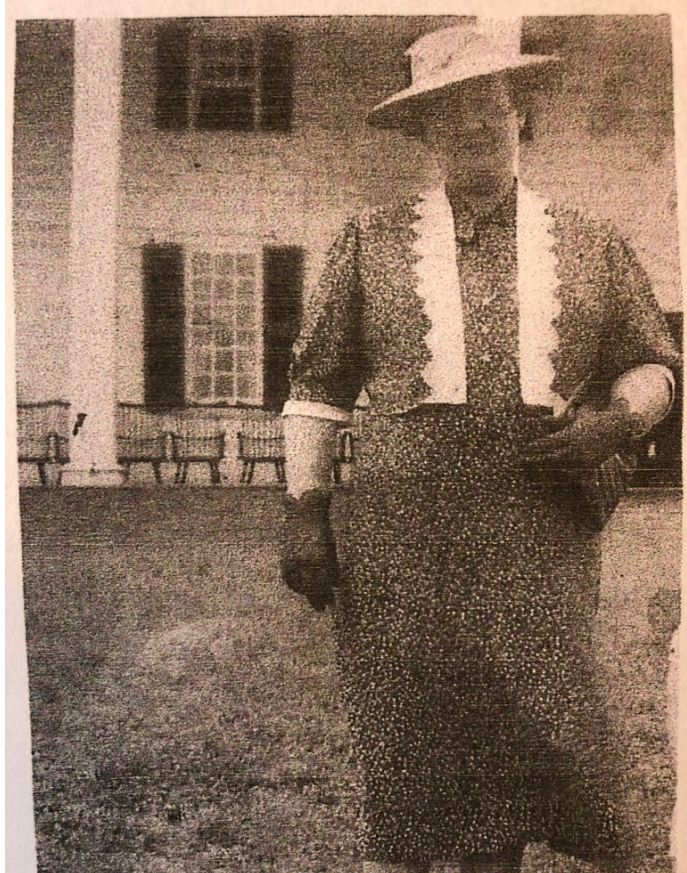
⁵ North Carolina Department of Agriculture Statistics Division Farm Census Reports for 1925, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

⁶ North Carolina Department of Agriculture and United States Department of Agriculture, "North Carolina Farm Forecaster, Crop and Livestock Report for North Carolina," December 1928 p. 8-9, North Carolina Digital Collections, digital.ncdcr.gov.

⁷ North Carolina Department of Agriculture Statistics Division Farm Census Reports for 1925, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

likely apple, peach, or pear trees, which were most common in the 1930s in North Carolina. Their livestock included just four horses or mules and three milk cows.⁸

Tenants farmed more acres in Wake County in the mid-1930s than did owners. In 1934, tenants worked over 72,000 acres in the county, while owners tended to 58,533 acres.⁹ The population census provides clues to the presence of tenants on the Stephenson farm. In 1930, the Stephenson family included eight members and by 1940, that number had decreased to five. The 1935 farm census report documented eleven people living on the farm indicating tenant farmers likely occupied the property.



Mary Frances Stephenson, date unknown, courtesy of Amy Baker Bynum

The farm census report provides an overview of the size and output of farms in Panther Branch Township in 1935. The report documented 301 farms, including five corporate farms. Sixty-two farms were larger than the Stephenson's 101-acre tract. The crop that covered more acreage than any other was corn, which grew on 3,000 acres in the township. Tobacco grew on 2,101 acres while cotton grew on 1,341 acres. A little over 600 acres was devoted to truck crops including sweet potatoes, which grew on almost 200 acres. Like the Stephensons, most farmers had fruit trees. The 1935 farm census report indicates 5,680 apple, pear, or peach trees in Panther Branch township.¹⁰

Four other farms in the township contained approximately one hundred acres and, like the Stephenson farm, produced corn, tobacco, cotton, hay, and fewer than five acres of truck crops. All

⁸ North Carolina Department of Agriculture Statistics Division Farm Census Reports for 1935, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina; North Carolina Department of Agriculture and United States Department of Agriculture, "Farm Forecaster: Crop and Livestock Report for North Carolina, November 1937," page 22, North Carolina Digital Collections, digital.ncdcr.gov.

⁹ North Carolina Department of Agriculture and United States Department of Agriculture, "Farm Forecaster: Crop and Livestock Report for North Carolina, February 1935," page 10-11, North Carolina Digital Collections, digital.ncdcr.gov.

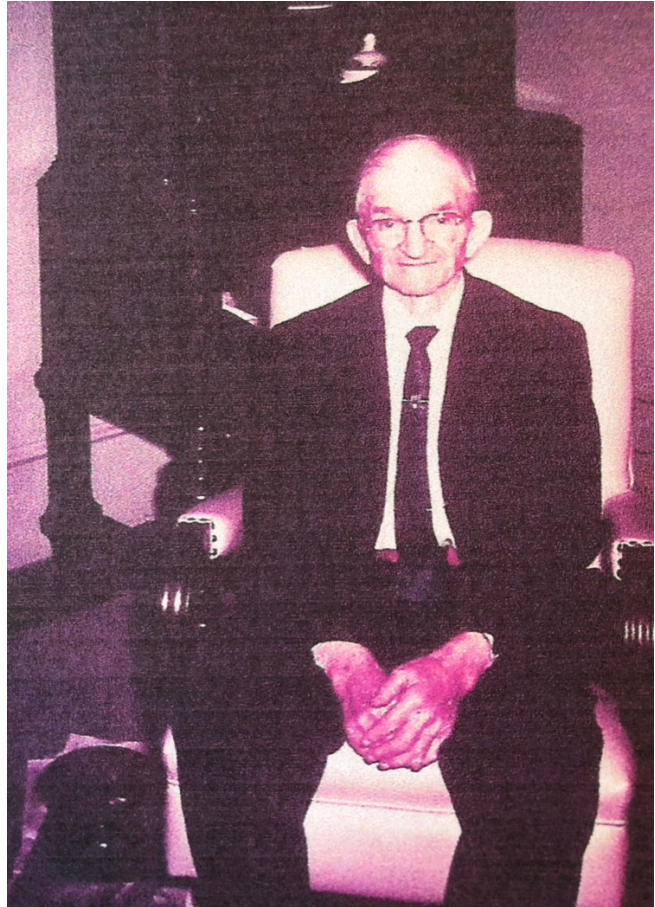
¹⁰ North Carolina Department of Agriculture Statistics Division Farm Census Reports for 1935, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

these farms, like most farms of the period, used tons of fertilizer to boost production.¹¹

As the state emerged from the Great Depression, farmers in Panther Branch Township and elsewhere in Wake County, concentrated on crops that possessed the most value. In 1936, tobacco reigned as the most valuable commodity, followed by cotton, corn, and commercial truck crops. Apples and peaches together earned almost six million dollars across the state in 1936.¹²

The last available farm census reports, which date to 1945, indicate that J. A. Stephenson, who was in his early 70s, had practically stopped farming and given over most of his acreage to a tenant or tenants. In 1946, one of those tenants, J. M. Stevens, faced charges of assault against Stephenson over a disagreement over the tobacco crop on the farm.¹³ Stephenson's tenants farmed sixty-eight acres of the 101-acre farm, while woodland or other non-farmland occupied twenty-seven acres. Corn (25 acres), tobacco (15 acres), and cotton (5 acres) remained the principal crops. The home garden took up one acre and twelve fruit trees remained. In the mid-1940s, the Stephenson's chicken flock included seventy-five hens.¹⁴

The 1945 farm census for Panther Branch Township recorded approximately 400 farms. Sixty of those, including Mary and J. A. Stephenson's farm, contained one hundred acres or more. Seven farms in the township contained 100 acres, plus or minus five acres. Tenants worked at least half the acreage on all seven farms and each farm grew corn, cotton, and tobacco and produced hay. Corn, grown on over three thousand acres, dominated the township's fields, followed closely by tobacco, which covered over two thousand acres. As was typical for the



J. A. Stephenson, date unknown, courtesy of Amy Baker Bynum

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² North Carolina Department of Agriculture and United States Department of Agriculture, "Farm Forecaster: Crop and Livestock Report for North Carolina, November 1937," page 36, North Carolina Digital Collections, digital.ncdcr.gov.

¹³ "A Plea Accepted," (Raleigh) *News and Observer*, September 6, 1946, page 14.

¹⁴ North Carolina Department of Agriculture Statistics Division Farm Census Reports for 1945, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

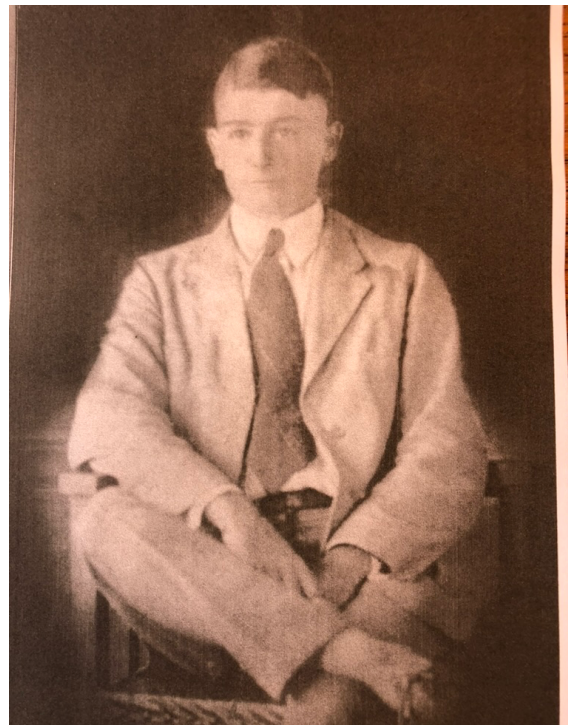
period, all the 100 acres farms included a home garden and most cultivated fruit trees. The 1945 farm census noted that nearly all farmers in the township practiced soil conservation and improvement by plowing under a portion of their land or leaving it fallow. Copious amounts of fertilizer continued in use.¹⁵



Bernice Stephenson Sauls, date unknown, courtesy of Amy Baker Bynum

Simon Peter (S.P.) Sauls, like his wife, was born and raised in Panther Branch Township. After his service in the military in World War I, the couple married in 1920 and went on to have nine children.¹⁸ Bernice, S. P. and the Sauls children continued the tradition of farming established by Mary and J. A. Stephenson. Their granddaughter, Amy Baker Bynum, recalls the family grew tobacco and truck crops.¹⁹ Tragically, S. P. Sauls died just

Not long after the 1945 farm census was taken, Bernice Stephenson Sauls (1903-1997), the oldest of Mary and James Stephenson's children, and her husband, Simon Peter Sauls (1896-1953), acquired 41 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres of the family farm from her parents by deed dated February 14, 1946. The sale included the homeplace.¹⁶ Prior to the acquisition of her parent's farm, Bernice Sauls and her husband were tenants on the Sherriff N. F. Turner farm on Old Smithfield Road.¹⁷



Simon Peter Sauls, date unknown, courtesy of Amy Baker Bynum

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Wake County Deed Book 935, page 283, dated February 14, 1946.

¹⁷ 1940 United States Federal Census, Panther Branch, Wake County, North Carolina; "They Come Double on Farm in Wake," (*Raleigh*) *News and Observer*, March 30, 1942, page 10.

¹⁸ Gloria Sauls Baker, "Simon and Bernice Sauls Family," in *The Heritage of Wake County* (Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing, 1983), 466.

¹⁹ Amy Baker Bynum, interview with Jennifer Martin, February 15, 2023.



Bernice and Simon Peter Sauls, date unknown, courtesy of Amy Baker Bynum

Architectural Context and Comparable Properties in Wake County

The one-story, side-gabled, single-pile frame house with a gabled rear ell was a common vernacular form in Wake County beginning in the late nineteenth century. Likely inspired by the picturesque mode made popular by pattern books of the period, centered front gables began appearing on this straightforward house form in the early decades of the twentieth century. The typically three-bay, weatherboarded house with a front gable, often referred to as a “triple-A” for the roof’s three gable ends, nearly always follows a center hall plan with one room flanking each side of the passage. A rear shed room and one-story ell, often with a porch along one side

seven years after the couple acquired the farm, leaving Bernice a widow for almost forty-five years.²⁰

In June 1971, Bernice Sauls deeded the property to one of her daughters, Gloria Louise Sauls Baker (1942-2017), and her husband, Charles Lee Baker (1939-2018). The Bakers, who resided in the house with Bernice Sauls, deeded a life estate back to her so that the property passed to the Bakers upon her death, which came in 1997. Gloria and Charles Baker resided at the farm until their deaths in 2017 and 2018, respectively. The property then passed to their daughter, Amy Baker Bynum, and her husband, John Bynum. Amy Baker Bynum is the fourth generation to own the property. The property is no longer a farm. The house is leased to a family member.



Charles and Gloria Baker, courtesy of Amy Baker Bynum

²⁰ North Carolina State Board of Health Certificate of Death, Simon P. Sauls, dated May 15, 1953, accessed on ancestry.com.



The Morris House (WA0789) at 303 North Salem Street in Apex is a typical triple-A house

elevation, expanded the family living space. It was not uncommon that a free-standing kitchen was later joined to the house by incorporating it into the rear ell. In her work, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina*, historian Kelly Malloy, née Lally asserts “judging from their prevalence on the landscape, one- and two-story triple-A-roofed dwellings were the most popular houses among Wake County’s turn-of-the-century residents.”²¹

threatened by intense development pressure taking place in southern Wake County, a significant number of one-story, triple-A houses remain south of Raleigh due to their ubiquity on the landscape in the early twentieth century. The Morris House (WA0789), located just north of downtown Apex, is an intact and unrestored example of a triple-A house. The John H. and Nevada Seagroves Farm (WA0676; Study List 1991, Apex Local Landmark 2011) at 1617 Ten Ten Road (also known as Center Street) in Apex remains one of the most intact one-story, triple-A-roofed houses in the county. John H. and Nevada Seagroves had the house built around 1910 on their ninety-acre farm east of Apex. When documented by historic Kelly Lally, the house stood in what she identified as, “an unspoiled rural setting.” Currently, the house occupies less than one acre and contains a commercial office. Despite its change in physical context, the house retains its wraparound porch and decorative shingled front gable. Several historic, frame

Although historic buildings, especially farmhouses and outbuildings, are



John H. and Nevada Seagroves house facade, view to the north



Outbuildings on the Seagroves farm, view to the northeast

²¹ Kelly A. Lally, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina* (Raleigh: Wake County Government, 1994), 105.

outbuildings, including a tobacco packhouse, a chicken house, and various sheds, accompany the house. After donating an easement on the house to Capital Area Preservation (CAP) in 2007, the then-owner rehabilitated the house and outbuildings according to CAP standards.²²

Like the Stephenson-Sauls House, the Swannie and Arthur Atkins House (WA1245) at 6524 Ten Ten Road near Garner is a one-story, triple-A dwelling that includes a weatherboard-sided gambrel-roof barn. Atkins built the barn sometime after 1937, the year he and his wife bought the property. Along with the house and barn, several small sheds stand on the 1.7-acre parcel. The house, likely dating to around 1905, displays louvered diamond vents in its gables, including on the gabled ell, and cornice returns. Posts supporting the hipped-roof porch are likely replacements but original two-over-two windows remain. A porch on the east side of the ell has been enclosed. The Atkins family grew tobacco and raised truck crops they sold at the market in Raleigh.²³

The weatherboarded dwelling on the Jones Family Farm²⁴ (WA5734) at 10221 Jordan Road near Garner retains turned posts supporting a shed-roofed front porch and diamond vents in the gables. Windows are a mix of original and replacement sash. The porch along the ell has been enclosed. Across Jordan Road stands a collection of frame tobacco barns, a



Swannie and Arthur Atkins House, view to the south



Swannie and Arthur Atkins House, view to the north, photo from Realtor.com

²² "Seagroves Farm," Capital Area Preservation website, capitalareapreservation.com.

²³ Mattson and Alexander, "Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report: Complete 540-Triangle Expressway Southeast Extension," for North Carolina Department of Transportation, November 2014, 383-391.

²⁴ The Jones House was field-checked on February 14, 2023, but not photographed.

packhouse, and sheds originally associated with the house but now under separate ownership.

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation

Integrity

The following provides an evaluation of the seven aspects of integrity for NRHP eligibility of the Stephenson-Sauls House (WA8812):

- *Location: High*

The Stephenson-Sauls House occupies its original acreage on the east side of Old Stage Road just north of Rock Service Station Road and therefore retains its integrity of location.

- *Setting: High*

Agricultural land and outbuildings contribute to the house's rural setting. The area where the house is located retains its pastoral character with expanses of open land unencumbered by modern development. Therefore, the Stephenson-Sauls House retains its integrity of setting.

- *Design: Low*

The form and plan of the Stephenson-Sauls House has been altered but mostly at the rear where porches have been enclosed and additions built. The center hall plan has been retained on the interior of the main block. Changes to the materials and texture in the form of synthetic siding, new windows, and porch alterations compromise the dwelling's integrity. Finally, removal or concealment of original or early interior finishes on the walls and ceilings negatively impacts its integrity of design.

- *Materials: Low*

Due to alterations occurring primarily in the late twentieth century, the Stephenson-Sauls House does not retain its character-defining exterior materials, namely weatherboard siding, windows, and the front porch elements. In addition, the integrity of materials on the interior has been adversely impacted by removal or concealment of finishes on the walls and ceilings. The removal or obscuring of original fabric has compromised the dwelling's integrity of materials.

- *Workmanship: Low*

Because of alterations to the original appearance and materials of the Stephenson-Sauls House, evidence of the workmanship employed to build the dwelling is no longer apparent.

Changes to the original craftsmanship necessary to construct the house severely compromise the house's ability to convey its integrity of workmanship.

- *Feeling: Medium*

The Stephenson-Sauls House remains in a rural setting like the surroundings that existed during the property's historic period. Two tobacco barns linked by a looping shed are the only major outbuildings that have been removed. The acreage's combination of cleared fields and woodlands remains much as it was throughout the twentieth century.

- *Association: Medium*

The Stephenson-Sauls House retains its association with the Stephenson, Sauls, and Baker families, whose descendant still owns and maintains the property. Changes to the house have been made by several generations as they expanded and updated the dwelling to accommodate a growing family and to keep up to date with changes in taste and the availability of construction materials. Undoubtedly, the element of association is compromised greatly by changes to the house's historic physical features and character.

Criterion A

The Stephenson-Sauls House is not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A. To be eligible under Criterion A, the property must retain integrity and be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American prehistory of history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, state, or nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.

The Stephenson-Sauls House is one of many early twentieth century triple-A houses with an historic outbuilding remaining in rural Wake County. Other dwellings that have not been significantly altered and retain their historic outbuildings better convey and illustrate major trends in the history of agriculture in the county. Furthermore, the dwelling's lack of integrity compromises its ability to convey significance under Criterion A.

Criterion B

The Stephenson-Sauls House is not recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B as it does not have any associations with any significant historical figure. For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past and be associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when that person achieved significance.

Starting with Mary and J. A. Stephenson, owners, and occupants of the Stephenson-Sauls house have farmed the land and served as productive members of the small rural agricultural community outside Garner. However, no one associated with the house made the specific types of contributions to local, state, or national history necessary for the property to qualify for the NRHP under Criterion B.

Criterion C

The Stephenson-Sauls House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C. For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either embody distinct characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, possess high artistic value, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

The Stephenson-Sauls House represents an extremely popular house type built in southern Wake County in the early-twentieth century. The house has undergone significant changes including the application of synthetic siding, the replacement of its porch posts, the reduction in size of the window openings, and the replacement of original sash. Several other examples of one-story, single-pile, side-gable frame houses with decorative front gables stand in the county. The early-twentieth-century gambrel roof barn standing behind the house remains mostly intact, but numerous such barns still stand in the county.

Criterion D

The Stephenson-Sauls House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D. For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must have or have had information to that contributes to our understanding of human history or prehistory and the information must be considered important.

The Stephenson-Sauls House is not eligible under Criterion D because it is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology.

IV. Bibliography

1910 United States Federal Census. Middle Creek, Wake County, North Carolina.

1940 United States Federal Census, Panther Branch, Wake County, North Carolina

Baker, Gloria Sauls. "Simon and Bernice Sauls Family." In *The Heritage of Wake County*. Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing, 1983.

Bynum, Amy Baker. Interview with Jennifer F. Martin. February 14, 2023.

"James A. Stephenson" Obituary. (Raleigh) *News and Observer*, October 9, 1964, page 8.

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

Mattson and Alexander. "Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report: Complete 540-Triangle Expressway Southeast Extension." For North Carolina Department of Transportation, November 2014.

North Carolina Department of Agriculture Statistics Division Farm Census Reports for 1925, 1935, and 1945. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and United States Department of Agriculture. "North Carolina Farm Forecaster, Crop and Livestock Report for North Carolina." December 1928. North Carolina Digital Collections, digital.ncdcr.gov.

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and United States Department of Agriculture. "Farm Forecaster: Crop and Livestock Report for North Carolina, February 1935." North Carolina Digital Collections, digital.ncdcr.gov.

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and United States Department of Agriculture. "Farm Forecaster: Crop and Livestock Report for North Carolina, November 1937." North Carolina Digital Collections, digital.ncdcr.gov.

North Carolina State Board of Health Certificate of Death. Simon P. Sauls. Dated May 15, 1953. Accessed on ancestry.com.

(Raleigh) *News and Observer*. Raleigh, North Carolina.

"Seagroves Farm." Capital Area Preservation website. capitalareapreservation.com.

Wake County, North Carolina Deed Books. Wake County Register of Deeds Office. Raleigh, North Carolina.