

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Tull-Worth-Holland Farm

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number N side of SR 1579, 0.05 mi. E of jct. with SR 1578 N/A  not for publication

city or town Kinston  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Lenoir code 107 zip code 28503

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally,  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William J. Rain, Jr. 7-29-92  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tull-Worth-Holland Farm  
Name of Property

Lenoir County, N. C.  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
14	5	buildings
1		sites
	2	structures
		objects
15	7	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling  
Domestic/secondary structures  
Agriculture/Subsistence/processing  
Agriculture/Subsistence/agricultural outbuildings  
Agriculture/Subsistence/agricultural field  
Landscape/forest

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling  
Domestic/secondary structures  
Agriculture/Subsistence/agricultural field  
Landscape/forest  
Vacant/ not in use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic/Federal

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Weatherboard  
Tin  
roof Tin  
other Wood  
Asphalt

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1825-1942

**Significant Dates**

1869

1898

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Tull-Worth-Holland Farm  
Name of Property

Lenoir County, N. C.  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property approximately 184 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	8
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2	6	4	0	6	0
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3	9	1	1	7	9	0
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3 

1	8
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2	6	4	8	0	0
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3	9	1	0	1	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

Zone Easting Northing

Zone Easting Northing

2 

1	8
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2	6	4	5	1	0
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3	9	1	1	8	1	0
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4 

1	8
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2	6	4	1	2	0
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3	9	1	0	0	0	0
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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Drucilla H. York

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date May 14, 1992

street & number 1903 E. Fourth Street telephone (919) 752-5260

city or town Greenville state N. C. zip code 27858

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Burwell Holland Heirs, c/o Mrs. Ruth Holland Sugg (183 acre tract)  
Kay Holland Sugg and Samuel Clarkson Sugg, Jr. (1.2 acre tract)

street & number P. O. Box 1088 telephone (919) 522-3792

city or town Kinston state N. C. zip code 28503

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Lenoir County, North CarolinaSection number 7 Page 1

Encompassing approximately 184 acres of woodland and prime farmland in Vance Township of Lenoir County, the Tull-Worth-Holland Farm contains a significant cross section of domestic and agricultural buildings constructed between 1825 and 1942. Bounded by Briery Creek to the south and woodland to the north, the farm is bisected at the lower end by SR 1579 and bounded by agricultural land to the east and urban development to the west. Its site plan follows a traditional format which clearly defines domestic and agricultural use and complements the topography. All buildings on site are frame except for three log tobacco barns. The homeplace, a Federal-style, two-story dwelling built ca. 1825 with gable-roof, exterior end chimneys, and hall-and-parlor plan, is situated on a rise in a mature grove of oak trees approximately 250 feet down a well traveled lane north of SR 1579. Important interior features include Federal-style mantels and wainscoting as well as an enclosed stair rising from the hall. Outbuildings contemporary with the post-Civil-War, two-room shed addition to the house are the one-room cook's house, gable-roof barn, eight-stall stable, and one-and-a-half-story gin house. The house's one-story rear ell addition dates from the early twentieth century as do the delco house, playhouse, three tenant houses, and six tobacco barns. Domestic buildings are clustered to the north and east of the house with the gin house, stables, and barns in a north-south line further to the east. The tobacco barns skirt the woods' edge in the center of the farm, and the three tenant houses line the south side of SR 1579. All these auxiliary buildings today are used for storage or are vacant, and the agricultural land is rented for cultivation. Fourteen buildings and one site contribute to the significance of the farm and reflect a diversity in use and period of construction. Noncontributing resources include five buildings and two structures, all of which date from the twentieth century.

(C) The Landscape

The property comprising the Tull-Worth-Holland Farm is dominated by cleared farmland and timberland. The land rises from the farm's southern boundary, Briery Creek, and is bisected on a north and south axis by a natural drainage run into the creek. The soil is fertile and classified as Norfolk fine sandy loam; the woodland mainly consists of pine, sweetgum, dogwood, water oak, scrub oak, holly, and myrtle. The approximately 4-acre house tract, which includes the main house and outbuildings surrounded by a grove of trees, is centrally located along the western boundary. The house and lane leading up to it were originally situated on axis with the old road into Kinston until the late 1930s when two 90° turns were removed from the road. Its orientation is now with SR 1579.

Although, the property's overall land use has remained the same through the years, its plan has not. The 1863 field map of Lt. Col. Koerner [Exhibit #1] identifies in detail the house as the home of W. Hill with cleared acreage located principally north and west of the homeplace. Woodland dominated the area to the east. In contrast, the present land use pattern predates 1914 and in all probability developed between 1869 and 1898, during the ownership of William H. Worth. Woodland frames both the northern and southern boundaries. In the middle, the cleared farmland is divided into seven fields totaling approximately 71 acres. North of SR 1579 are the farm's four principal fields: two large, approximately 22-acre fields along the eastern boundary, a smaller nine-acre one just north of the homeplace, and a 5.7-acre field to the east. A narrow irregular strip of woodland separates the two

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back fields. South of SR 1579, the three smaller cleared parcels are directly paired with the farm's three tenant houses. The western tenant house and field are presently fenced in for pasture. As described, the delineation of the farm and its use has remained a constant up to the present.

Main Residential Complex(C) 1. Tull-Worth-Holland House

A deep-cut lane lined with young pines extends for approximately 125 feet toward the main entrance of the house before gently curving to the east to open onto a large barn, stable, and garage. Mature pin oaks, magnolias and post oaks distinguish the expansive front yard. Various outbuildings are placed to the rear, east, and southeast of the house. As the lane curves, it follows a rail fence connecting the barn and stable and physically separates the domestic buildings from the agricultural ones. A low cement curbing edges the front lawn. Another farm road, now abandoned, lies just west of the house. Its trace is also lined with young pines, and daffodils are naturalized in the side yard between it and the house. Traditional flowering vegetation includes forsythia, quince, and crepe myrtle.

A typical Federal-style two-story house with hall-and-parlor plan, the Tull-Worth-Holland House, built ca. 1825, illustrates how farmhouses were traditionally enlarged. The original portion, a single-pile, gable-roof structure with a one-story shed-roof front porch, remains remarkably intact. The house was first enlarged ca. 1875 at the rear by a two-room shed addition with a small central porch area. It was expanded again ca. 1900 with a one-story rear ell containing a dining room, kitchen, and porch extension. The front porch was also updated with a wraparound addition on the east and the installation of Colonial Revival columns. As evidenced by the tapered rake board at the west end of the porch, the flush gable ends of the main roof were extended at this same time.

Built on brick piers, the original dwelling, measuring approximately 18 feet by 32 feet, exhibits several typical masonry construction features. Much of the primary pier foundation, however, has masonry infill and is covered with a cement skim coat. The porch has brick lattice infill. An exterior-end chimney dominates each side elevation and features stepped single shoulders, offset stack, and stepped base. Laid in Flemish bond with queen closure and scored mortar joints, these chimneys have undergone repair including the surface application of a cement skim coat which rises 4 feet in height from the base.

Several exterior features of note are the weatherboard exterior and three-bay fenestration pattern. Original beaded weatherboard sheathes the earliest section, with plain weatherboard applied to the additions. The facade's slightly asymmetrical fenestration pattern exhibits nine-over-nine light sash on the first floor and nine-over-six on the second. The central facade and rear entrance bays contain handsome four-light transoms and original Federal-style six-panel doors. The rear transom is now exposed only on the interior. Both the front door and the side door into the parlor were modified ca. 1900 by the replacement of the two central flat panels with glass. Elsewhere on the side elevations, windows flank and abutt the chimneys and have six-over-six sash on the first floor and six-

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over-four on the second. The gable-end attic windows contain a single light and are replacements for the original four-light sash. All openings have a simple two-part surround with mixed molded backband and beaded inner edge. The window sills are plain. All shutters are modern replacements; however, one original fixed louvred shutter survives in storage.

The interior of the house clearly conveys in detail and layout its three distinct building phases. The original section has plaster walls throughout. Only the hall, the most formal room, features typical Federal-style wainscoting with flat panels as well as a handsome mantel with deep cornice and scallop detailing. This scallop motif is repeated in both the chair rail and mantel of the parlor. All door and window surrounds are three-part, but the window surrounds are slightly more elaborate and have mitred corners. The floors in both rooms are obscured by modern coverings. Located just inside the front door, an enclosed stair rises along the partition wall from front to back and creates a stair closet in the parlor.

The second-floor plan evolves around a central hall flanked by bedrooms with a smaller room, presently a bathroom, at the head of the stair. Federal-style details continue to accent the six-panel doors, three-part mantels, chair rail, baseboards, and stair railing. The chair rail and surround profiles repeat those found on the first floor. The baseboards feature a plain beaded edge. Here the floors are the original pine with straight, tight grain. The stair railing has a square-in-section newel with a molded cap and diagonally set balusters.

The attic is entered by way of another similarly placed enclosed stair and features a large open area that is completely floored. All rafters are reinforced with collar beams and diagonally set wind bracing. Roman numerals identify all primary rafter joints, and whitewash covers the entire roof area.

The addition of rear shed rooms ca. 1875 marked the first major alteration to the original house. The rear windows in both the hall and parlor were removed and replaced by doors leading into each room of the addition. These original windows were then incorporated into the new side elevations. A central porch initially separated the two rooms in the addition. These rooms today have sheet rock walls, five-panel doors, and plain board surrounds.

The next major addition was the incorporation ca. 1900 of a kitchen/dining room rear ell at the east end of the house. An open porch originally extended along the west side of the ell and featured a combination sink and water pump. It was enclosed ca. 1935 by Burwell Holland. A bathroom is located at the end of this porch. Another small porch and a pantry are located off the kitchen on the east end of the ell. The interior features narrow beaded tongue and groove board sheathing in the dining room area and an early wall telephone in the kitchen.

Since 1940, several modifications were made at various times to the rear of the house. During the 1940s the west shed room was enlarged and a bathroom added. Also, the small porch

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off the east side of the ell was enclosed for a laundry room. In the mid 1970s, the kitchen was updated, and the partition wall separating the kitchen and the dining room was adapted into an island. A large pass-through-type opening was also cut between the porch and dining room to allow more light.

Other Buildings On House Tract

(NC) 2. Garage: ca. 1945 gable-front two-car garage constructed with cinder block and built for Burwell Holland; pent roof with scalloped edge and diagonal stick bracing shelters opening; side entrance leads to main house; asphalt shingles; central cupola with weather vane, louvred vents, and bell curve roof.

(C) 3. Cook's House: ca. 1890 one-story single-bay structure with gable-roof; stepped-shoulder end chimney primarily laid in common bond with slightly off-set stack; cinder block foundation; one-room plan; unfinished interior features exposed reused timber, concrete slab floor, whitewash evidence and plaster chimney face; potting shed attached to east gable end; standing-seam tin sheathing; asphalt shingle roof; resource stands as rare and important example of a type and form of a once typical domestic outbuilding, a cook's house.

(NC) 4. Smokehouse: ca. 1945 gable-front cinder block smokehouse; exposed rafter ends; asphalt shingles; concrete slab floor; bird house in front gable.

(NC) 5. Pumphouse: ca. 1945 small cinder block pump house; standing-seam-tin shed roof; built when house received electricity.

(C) 6. Privy/Chicken House: ca. 1850, ca. 1930, originally four-hole gable-roof privy, measuring 6 feet by 6 feet located northwest of house near grill; moved by Burwell Holland who converted it into a chicken house; original features include heavy timber framing, diagonal bracing, remnants of whitewashed flush interior sheathing, door frame with wooden pintal, exposed lap cut rafters and plain weatherboard with ochre paint; concrete slab floor; shed-roof frame addition; bird house attached to gable-end.

(C) 7. Delco house: ca. 1900 gable-front frame delco house built for Emily Hill Holland; single entrance bay with board and batten door; plain weatherboard exterior; asphalt shingles; extended eaves; bird house in gable; cinder block pier foundation; unfinished interior with wooden floor and masonry base for delco unit.

(C) 8. Playhouse: ca. 1925 one-room gable-roof frame playhouse built for Burwell Holland's two daughters; vertical flush exterior sheathing; asphalt shingles; exposed rafter ends; diagonally braced shed-roof shelters entrance bay; unfinished interior with board floor; four light casement sash; bird house in gable end.

(NC) 9. Grill: ca. 1965, brick grill built for Ruth Holland Sugg.



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Lenoir County, North CarolinaSection number 7 Page 5Agricultural Buildings and Tenant Houses

- (C) 10. Barn: ca. 1880 frame one-and-one-half-story gable-roof barn with attached shed; primary structure measures approximately 36 feet by 18 feet and features three asymmetrical entrance bays; brick pier foundation; encased within agricultural metal; first floor interior originally partitioned into three rooms: a small tobacco tying area, cotton/tobacco storage area with stair, and corn shelling/storage area; before partition wall removed, tobacco tying area finished with horizontal tongue and groove sheathing; upstairs contains additional open storage area with loft door in west gable end; attached shed roof shelter features at east end large batten door supported by huge strap hinge with pintle; circular saw marks evident throughout.
- (C) 11. Stable: ca. 1870, one-story gable-front frame stable with loft and flanking sheds; measures approximately 43 feet by 46.5 feet; north shed contains four enclosed stalls and south one an open-ended equipment storage area; an open passage and four additional stalls originally comprised central area; two central stalls converted by Burwell Holland ca. 1930 into corn storage with raised floor and stair to loft; stalls contain sliding doors; loft storage area features feed openings to stalls below, gable end hoist entry, and crude wind bracing; foundation brick along outer perimeter of stalls with brick piers on interior; sheathed with agricultural metal.
- (C) 12. Cotton gin: ca. 1880, moved in 1920s from original site directly across SR 1579 from main house by Burwell Holland to be used as pack house; one-and-a-half-story gable-front frame cotton gin with central gable projection along side elevation for hoist; measures approximately 30 feet 4 inches by 32 feet 5 inches; brick pier foundation; six-over-six sash; entrance located on each gable end; interior first floor divided into unequal rooms extending depth of structure; narrow open stair rises to expansive loft area; trap door located in gable hoist area of second floor; wind bracing; sheathed with weatherboard, presently covered with agricultural metal; two shed additions along east side.
- (C) 13. Tobacco barn: ca. 1925 gable-roof frame tobacco barn measuring 17.5 feet by 16.5 feet; cinder block foundation; standing-seam tin roof; horizontal flush boards sheathed with asphalt roll roofing applied with battens; interior contains 8 tiers with 3 poles in each; diagonal bracing extends from sill to plate.
- (C) 14. Tobacco barn: ca. 1925 gable-roof frame tobacco barn measuring 17 feet by 16 feet; cinder block foundation; sheathed with agricultural metal; gable-end shed includes large area for stacking tobacco sticks; interior contains 8 tiers with 3 poles; poles are 3 X 4 inch timbers; diagonal bracing extends from sill to plate.
- (C) 15. Tobacco barn: ca. 1920 gable-end frame tobacco barn measuring 20 feet 5 inches by 18 feet 3 inches; cinder block foundation; sheathed with asphalt roll roofing; agricultural metal roof; gable end shed gone; interior contains 8 tiers with 3 log poles; corner bracing.

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(C) 16. Tobacco barn: ca. 1900 rough sawn log tobacco barn with gable roof; measures 18 feet 3 inches by 18 feet 3 inches; shed 11 feet deep wraps two sides; clay chinking; brick pier foundation with brick infill; board-and-batten sheathing partially covered with asphalt roll roofing; agricultural tin roof; interior contains 8 tiers of 3 log poles.

(C) 17. Tobacco barn: ca. 1900 log tobacco barn with square notching; measures 17.5 feet by 18.5 feet; gable roof covered with agricultural metal; flush vertical board sheathing covered by asphalt roll roofing and batten fastening; shed extends 11 feet from gable end; brick foundation; interior 8 tiers with 3 rows of poles, first six tiers notched into log walls, remaining two tiers tied into roof system.

(NC) 18. Tobacco barn: ca. 1900 log tobacco barn with square notching, mud chinking; brick foundation; gable roof; shed wraps two sides; battens affix asphalt roll roofing; poor condition, on the verge of collapsing.

(C) 19. Tenant house: ca. 1875, ca. 1900; originally two-room kitchen/dining room for main house; moved to present location for tenant house and enlarged at rear; gable roof; central chimney; Greek Revival details; brick piers; shed-roof porch; rear additions in deteriorating condition.

(NC) 20. Tenant house: ca. 1950 three-room gable-front shotgun dwelling, six-over-six sash.

(NC) 21. Tenant house: ca. 1900 three-room gable-front shotgun enlarged by single room addition on the west side elevation at the front; interior chimney; German siding removed in 1990; brick piers; hip-roof porch; although in poor condition, stands as important example of early twentieth century tenant house illustrating shotgun form and its adaptability.

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Lenoir County, North CarolinaSection number 8 Page 7Summary

Totaling approximately 184 acres of woodland and agricultural land, the Tull-Worth-Holland Farm near Kinston in Lenoir County exhibits a remarkable cross section of domestic and agricultural buildings which reflect current farming practices and building types from 1825 to the early 1940s. As a plantation and slave associated economy based on corn and cotton production grew in eastern North Carolina during the first half of the nineteenth century, studies associated with the development of scientific farming were coming under the scrutiny of the educated elite. It was not until after the Civil War, however, that the tenets advocated by the progressive farming movement became more widespread. Although the cotton economy suffered following the war, tobacco eventually replaced cotton as the primary cash crop after its introduction to eastern North Carolina in the mid 1880s and remained strong throughout the early twentieth century. This historical evolution is clearly illustrated by both the range of extant buildings on the Tull-Worth-Holland Farm and its succession of owners. The sole surviving intact structure built prior to the Civil War is the main house probably constructed ca. 1825 by Henry Tull, whose plantation became one of the most prosperous in Lenoir County during the antebellum period. The Federal-style two-story frame dwelling with gable roof and hall-and-parlor plan is typical of the period but a rare survivor. Both Henry and his son John greatly expanded their land holdings and eventually this house became the home of the plantation overseer, J. W. C. Hill, prior to the Civil War. In 1869, William H. Worth and two investors bought from John Tull 2,053 acres, which included this property where Worth lived for nineteen years. A Quaker, Worth was active in the local Loosing Swamp Agricultural Club, the Grange, and the Farmer's Alliance, becoming its State Business Agent in 1889 and moving to Raleigh. The farm's most substantial agricultural buildings, the barn, stable, and cotton gin, all appear to date from Worth's tenure. In 1898 Worth sold 200 acres, including the homeplace, to J. W. C. Hill, the former overseer. He bought the property for his daughter Emily Hill Holland and her husband Jesse B. Holland. As they continued to farm the land with the help of tenants, tobacco became the primary crop. Three tenant houses, six tobacco barns, the delco house, the chicken house, and the playhouse date from this period. All are frame except for three log tobacco barns. Today, the 183-acre farm remains in the ownership of the descendants of J. W. C. Hill.

Historical Background

Early records associated with the Tull-Worth-Holland Farm are sketchy due to two disastrous courthouse fires in 1878 and 1880 that destroyed nearly all the Lenoir County records; however, both the Tull and Hill families are traditionally linked to the early history of the property. John Tull (b. 1744 - d. 1820) was a farmer who raised a family of five children and parlayed his inheritance into large land and slave holdings.<sup>1</sup> Between 1790 and 1810, his slave holdings increased from 15 to 32.<sup>2</sup> On the other hand, Richard Hill (d. 1818) appears to have been a farmer of more modest means, having purchased 285 acres in 1793 north of Briery Creek.<sup>3</sup> His household included nine children, and by 1810 he owned only one slave.<sup>4</sup> Richard died in 1818 without a will, and as a result, his property was divided among his children by a committee of five men which included John Tull and his son Henry (b. 1787 - d. 1856).<sup>5</sup>

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In all probability it was Henry Tull for whom the sophisticated two-story Federal-style dwelling was constructed ca. 1825. By 1820 Henry Tull had established his own household near his father's which was located at the site of the present day Caswell Center near Kinston. He remained single but owned 19 slaves, 7 of whom worked in agriculture.<sup>6</sup> The death of John Tull later in 1820 may have provided the impetus as well as the means for Henry to establish his own plantation north of Briery Creek. Between 1823 and 1831, Henry acquired two-thirds of Richard Hill's land north of the creek. This property had belonged to Hill's six youngest children.<sup>7</sup> It was the marriage ca. 1831 of Henry Tull and Richard Hill's oldest daughter, Susannah Hill (b. 1790 - d. 1861), however, that united the two families. They had one child, a son named John Tull (b. 1832 - d. 1895).<sup>8</sup>

Henry Tull and his family are known to have lived in the house. According to an 1844 tax list, Tull now owned 5,869 acres valued at \$17,607.<sup>9</sup> By 1850 he had become the fourth largest planter in Lenoir County, owning 6,200 acres valued at \$30,000. As Tull's land holdings increased, so too did his slave holdings. In 1840, he owned a total of 85 slaves, 45 of whom were male and 40 female. Forty of these slaves worked in agriculture. The 1850 census indicates that his slave population had increased to a total of 98, with 52 males and 46 females.<sup>10</sup>

Tull's farming operation in 1850 was centered on 1,000 acres of cleared land producing a variety of crops. Both farming implements and livestock assisted in farm production. These implements were valued at \$184 and livestock included 15 horses, 14 asses/mules, and 7 working oxen. Other livestock included 30 milk cows, 70 cattle, 120 sheep, and 300 swine. All livestock was valued at \$2,870. The principal crops raised were Indian corn (7,500 bushels), peas/beans (650 bushels), and sweet potatoes (600 bushels). Other crops included wheat, rye, oats, and rice. In addition, 200 pounds of wool and only one bale of cotton were produced. The value of homemade manufactures was \$250 and the value of animals slaughtered was \$600.<sup>11</sup>

On November 18, 1856, Henry Tull died, leaving his estate to his wife and son, John. Henry was buried in the family cemetery not far from the Tull-Worth-Holland House (but outside the boundaries of the nominated property). The management of the plantation fell to John Tull, who was then twenty-four years old. Four years earlier, he had married Cynthia Ann Dunn (b. 1834 - d. 1860) on December 29, 1852.<sup>12</sup> In all probability, John had the dwelling known as "The White House" constructed ca. 1852 for his growing family. It was located south of Briery Creek at the intersection of the old Kinston road to Snow Hill. According to the 1860 census, John's mother Susannah was also a member of his household which included three children and Bettie Rouse, age 20.<sup>13</sup> On December 9, 1860 Tull's first wife died and in the following year so did his mother.<sup>14</sup>

Listed simply as a farmer in the 1860 census, John Tull was one of the most prosperous ones in the county. The cash value of his real estate was \$90,000 and his personal property was valued at \$143,000. His real estate holdings totaled 7,500 acres, the second largest in the county. Tull had also increased the plantation's number of improved acres to 2,500, more than doubling that of his father's in 1850.<sup>15</sup> To assist with the plantation management, he

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hired an overseer, James Waitzell C. Hill (b. 1827 - d. 1899), who settled on the plantation in the Tull-Worth-Holland house. According to the 1860 census, Hill's household included his wife Susan E. Rouse (b. 1830 - d. 1880) and three children. He also had personal real estate holdings valued at \$350.<sup>16</sup>

The Tull plantation in 1860 reflected significant improvements in farming practices and agricultural production. An increasing reliance on farm machinery and implements is indicated by a tremendous hike in their valuation to \$1,500. Livestock still played an important role in crop production as signified by increasing numbers now totaling 20 horses, 24 asses/mules, and 20 working oxen. The value of all livestock rose to \$10,000, which may also indicate a growing interest in developing good breeding stock. Indian corn was still a primary crop with 10,000 bushels produced, but cotton had now become the all important cash crop with a total of 125 bales raised. Production of wheat had increased to 250 bushels and rye remained virtually the same. The volume of peas/beans decreased significantly to 200 bushels as did sweet potatoes. Fodder was a new commodity with 62 tons raised. A sharp rise to \$3,000 occurred in the value of the animals slaughtered.<sup>17</sup>

Progressive farming techniques may well have influenced several aspects of agricultural production on the Tull plantation, but slave labor continued to be its backbone. In 1860 the slave population totaled 148 and was housed in 25 dwellings.<sup>18</sup> Many of these slaves worked in agriculture but a few may have worked at Tull's milling operations which produced lumber, corn meal, and flour. The saw mill and blacksmith shop were located on the road between his home and Briery Creek. In 1860 this steam-powered saw mill on average was operated by seven men and produced 900,000 feet of lumber valued at \$9,000. On the other hand, the corn mill was operated by one man and ground 3,000 bushels of meal valued at \$2,400.<sup>19</sup> Slave labor was also probably used in the production of turpentine which netted \$4,000 for Tull in 1860.<sup>20</sup>

Throughout the Civil War, John Tull remained on the plantation with his family. Early in the war, on June 4, 1862, he married Winifred Rountree Jackson (b. 1840 - d. 1899), and a little over a year later they had their first child.<sup>21</sup> The plantation did suffer from hostile action just before the war ended. On March 18, 1865 a foraging party from General Schofield's command with General Sherman's army raided the plantation, taking 21 horses and mules, 1,000 bushels of corn, 10,000 pounds of fodder, 2 carts, 1 saddle, and 21 bridles valued at \$4,320.<sup>25</sup> Afterwards, Tull submitted a claim supported by eight affidavits seeking restitution from the United States government stating ". . . that he [the claimant] is and has ever been loyal to the government of the United States."<sup>22</sup>

The Civil War most certainly had an impact on the plantation's daily operations and agricultural production, particularly as the war continued. Its overseer, J. W. C. Hill, enlisted on June 9, 1863 in Company A, 40th Regiment North Carolina Troops, 3rd Regiment, North Carolina Artillery, but his family remained in the overseer's house on the plantation.<sup>23</sup> [Exhibit #1 and #2] Over a year later, on August 10, 1864, John Tull wrote to Hill expressing concern over the use of "some spades and shovels" which belonged to Hill and would no longer be available to Tull. The sharp tone of the letter reflected Tull's need for these basic farming implements, which were probably scarce, as well as his annoyance with

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Hill. At the time, Tull was providing free of charge to Hill's family a home, food, horse, and garden spot with someone to work it as needed.<sup>24</sup>

Information on the Tull plantation during the early Reconstruction period from 1866 to 1870 is sketchy. John Tull was nearly bankrupt but was able to retain ownership of a significant portion of this property.<sup>25</sup> Whether or not Tull continued to retain the services of J. W. C. Hill following the war is uncertain. Production figures for the farm in 1869 reflect a decrease in both crop diversity and quantity raised. These figures are as follows: 1,000 bushels Indian corn, 30 bales cotton, 50 bushels peas/beans, 25 bushels Irish potatoes, 100 bushels sweet potatoes, 50 gallons molasses, 75 pounds beeswax, 400 pounds honey, and 30 gallons of wine.<sup>26</sup> On December 31, 1869, Tull sold 2,058 acres to Daniel Worth, P. D. Swain, and W. H. Worth for a sum of \$8,000. This sale included the former overseer's house.<sup>27</sup> In the meantime, Tull purchased from Robert Hart Rountree a property east of Kinston known as "Tower Hill" and moved his family there.<sup>28</sup> By 1870, J. W. C. Hill had moved his family to Moseley Hall Township and was working on a farm. The valuation of his assets had decreased to \$175 in personal property.<sup>29</sup>

The ownership and management of the farm by William Henry Worth (b. 1839 - d. 1931) from 1869 to 1898 is characterized by his life as a member of the Society of Friends and his growing commitment to the progressive farming movement. A member of a prominent Quaker family, Worth was raised and educated in rural Guilford County. From 1866 to 1870 he lived in Fayetteville and served as Assessor of Internal Revenue for the Third North Carolina District.<sup>30</sup> He then moved to Kinston shortly after purchasing the farm and established his home in the Tull-Worth-Holland House formerly occupied by Tull's overseer. On April 25, 1872 Worth married Sallie M. Henley from New Salem in Randolph County. It was not until March 23, 1878, however, that the Worth family requested and was granted a certificate to Neuse Monthly Meeting in Wayne County.<sup>31</sup> By 1880, his family included four children, and Worth had organized a neighborhood Quaker school called Worth's School near his home for their education.<sup>32</sup> He firmly believed that it was ". . . true economy to educate every child in the land, and to build up schools at home."<sup>33</sup>

Little is known about Worth's farming activities during his early years in Lenoir County. The information provided by the 1870 census is limited due to the recent purchase of the farm. The farm, however, was well stocked by summer with 14 horses, 1 mule, 8 milk cows, 1 working ox, 21 cattle, and 90 swine. The value of the livestock as well as farm machinery and implements was \$195 and \$300, respectively.<sup>34</sup> The 1880 census figures illustrate in more detail Worth's farming operation which included the following acreage: 400 improved, 2 meadows and 1,100 woodland. Several valuations were also listed: \$8,000 for the farm, \$1,500 for livestock, and \$1,000 for farm implements and machinery. Since 1870, Worth had increased the number of working farm animals but decreased the number of horses. Other livestock changes included a reduction in the cattle herd, elimination of swine, and introduction of sheep. Ten milk cows contributed in the production of 900 pounds of butter and 30 pounds of cheese. A wide range of crops were raised on the farm, including oats, wheat, cow peas (pulse), Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, and peaches. Cotton and Indian corn

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remained the two primary crops, with 1,600 bushels of corn grown on 160 acres and 80 bales of cotton raised on 125 acres.<sup>35</sup>

From the 1870s until 1894, William H. Worth became actively involved in progressive farming and the organization of farmers in North Carolina. A member of the Lousin Swamp Agricultural Club during the late 1870s, Worth not only served as its secretary but the meetings were oftentimes held at Worth's school house.<sup>36</sup> The proceedings of these meetings were published in The Kinston Journal and on occasion give insight into Worth's farming practices and opinions. He was a firm supporter of labor-saving machinery, especially the two-horse plow, Thomas harrow, and the sewing machine.<sup>37</sup> Buying on credit was objectionable to Worth who believed ". . . if we do do it we should meet our obligations without grumbling."<sup>38</sup> In a discussion centering on the topic "How to make the Farm pay," Worth states:

We own too much and try to cultivate too much. If we would put our manure on one-half of the land we would make more profit. We ought to make the farm self-sustaining--sorghum and cane for molasses--raise chafas peas and potatoes for our hogs. (It won't pay to raise them on corn.)

A good farmer is the most independent man on earth, having the noblest profession followed by any man.<sup>39</sup>

A fellow club member, Buchner Hodges, made the following statement as a part of a discussion entitled "Agricultural Economy":

. . . Billy Worth has the best tenents in the country. He is a fast walker and keeps going all the time looking after them. He don't make much on his own farm, but he watches his tenants tight and gets them to work; and I think we had better follow his example.<sup>40</sup>

As farming organizations were becoming more structured and politically rooted, Worth identified early on with the local Grange organization and then with the local Farmers' Alliance when it organized in this section of the state. First, he was made Business Sub-Agent for his local Alliance group, and then was named Business Agent of Lenoir County. His focus shifted to the state level in 1889 when he was named State Business Agent for the Farmer's Alliance and moved to Raleigh.<sup>41</sup> In this capacity, according to Dr. Lala Steelman:

Worth negotiated with merchants and manufactures and purchased foodstuffs, fertilizers, household and farm equipment, candy, smoking tobacco, and cigars. In August 1890, the records indicated that sales to Alliance members for the preceding year had totaled \$324,437.17; one year later the total was \$494,195.42.<sup>42</sup>

In 1891, Worth also served as one of the North Carolina delegates to a national Farmer's Alliance meeting held in Indianapolis.<sup>43</sup> Worth resigned on December 31, 1894 from his

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position as state business agent for the Alliance following his election to the office of North Carolina State Treasurer, a position he held until 1901.<sup>44</sup>

During the period from 1881-1916, Worth gradually sold the 2,058 acre farm he had purchased from John Tull. Although ownership remained constant in the 1870s, he sold a total of 743 acres during the next decade. Following Worth's move to Raleigh in 1889, he slowly sold off the bulk of his remaining land holdings. Only 19 acres remained in 1902.<sup>45</sup> The one-third investment interests of both Daniel Worth and Peter D. Swain were purchased by William Worth in 1880 and 1885, respectively.<sup>46</sup> In 1889 Worth took out a mortgage on 1,078 acres with a group of eight family members, friends, and local alliance men in order to secure a \$30,000 bond associated with fulfilling his duties as business agent of the North Carolina Farmer's Alliance. Three of his supporters were: S. H. Abbott, a prominent Kinston businessman and developer of the Eureka One-Horse Cultivator; J. W. Grainger, one of the most dynamic business and political leaders in Lenoir County; and E. R. Rouse.<sup>47</sup> By 1895 when Worth's job as business agent ended, he had sold ten parcels of land totaling 966 acres, practically all his unsecured acreage. The piecemeal sale of the farm continued until 1916 and produced little profit for Worth.<sup>48</sup> In all probability it reflects Worth's commitment to selling the property to neighboring property owners and individuals previously associated with the farm as either tenants or employees.

On January 8, 1898 the sale of 200 acres including the Tull-Worth-Holland House for \$1,500 to James Waitzell C. Hill, John Tull's former overseer, marked the property's renewed association with the descendants of Richard Hill and the introduction of a new crop, tobacco.<sup>49</sup> Hill had moved in the mid 1870s from Moseley Hall Township back home to the Falling Creek area west of Kinston. There he jointly operated in 1878 a general store call Hill and Arendell, and by 1884 Hill was proprietor of his own general store.<sup>50</sup> He continued to operate a general store in the Falling Creek area through 1897. In 1896 and 1897 he was farming once again in the Kinston area.<sup>51</sup> The year following Hill's purchase of the Worth farm, he deeded the property on October 19, 1899 to his daughter Emily Catharine Hill Holland (b. 1855 - d. 1929), retaining a life estate for himself.<sup>52</sup> Hill died November 15, 1899.<sup>53</sup>

Emily C. Hill had married Jesse Bright Holland (b. 1852 - d. 1913) ca. 1881 and by 1892, they had three sons.<sup>54</sup> Little is known about their early years of marriage; however, Holland did operate a grocery store in Kinston in 1896 and 1897. Holland also served in 1905 as a Justice of the Peace in Vance Township.<sup>55</sup> When the Holland family moved to Emily Hill Holland's childhood home, the Tull-Worth-Holland House, is uncertain. Family tradition maintains that as early as 1895 they may have moved to the farm.<sup>56</sup>

The importance of farming to the Holland family is signified by the 1900 census which lists Jesse B. as a farmer and his two eldest sons, Roland B. and Burwell, as farm laborers within his household.<sup>57</sup> The farm was nearly doubled in size on January 1, 1901 when William Worth sold 182 adjoining acres to Emily H. Holland for \$2,935. The mortgage for the property was held by Worth until 1909 when payment was completed.<sup>58</sup> Jesse B. Holland was also operating Worth's former cotton gin in 1905.<sup>59</sup> Little is known about farm production



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specifics, but cotton, tobacco, and corn were the primary crops in the early 1900s. Living in three houses on the farm, tenants continued to assist with farming the property.

Following the death of Jesse B. Holland on October 27, 1913, Burwell Holland (b. 1885 - d. 1955) continued to live with his mother and manage the farm. He married Sybil Dixon in 1917 and they had two daughters.<sup>60</sup> Tobacco and corn were now the farm's primary crops. By 1929, six wood-fired tobacco barns were in use. In addition, the cotton gin was converted into a tobacco pack house following its move in the 1920s to a new site northeast of the main house.<sup>61</sup> Burwell Holland also applied agricultural metal to many of the farm buildings in an effort to reduce ongoing maintenance requirements. Shortly after the death of Emily H. Holland on July 25, 1929, the property was divided among her three sons. [Exhibit #3] This division specifically included the six tobacco barns. Burwell Holland received an 124-acre tract containing the main house and outbuildings.<sup>62</sup> By 1940, he had acquired an additional 59 acres through inheritance and deed. This land constituted the western half of his younger brother Paul H. Holland's inheritance from his mother.<sup>63</sup>

Tobacco continued to be an important crop and at least three new barns were constructed after 1930. With the development of an oil fired curer in the late 1920s, all barns were converted to this new method. After a fire destroyed one of the tenant houses in the early 1950s, Holland had another shotgun-style one built.<sup>64</sup> On August 29, 1955 Burwell Holland died. At this time, the real estate value of the farm was \$14,320, and it was described as having a 15.5-acre tobacco allotment, 75 acres of cleared land, 7 tobacco barns, 3 general purpose barns and 4 dwelling houses. Holland's will stipulated that his wife was to receive a life estate to the farm and following her death, his two daughters, Ruth Holland Sugg and Jessie Holland Syers, would then inherit the property. Sybil Dixon Holland died March 4, 1961. The subsequent division of the farm was equal except for the main house including the household and kitchen furniture.<sup>65</sup> They were bequeathed to Ruth Holland Sugg. The Suggs have lived in the main house since 1959. Today the farm remains much as it did in 1950s. The farmland has been rented for nearly thirty years, and recently cotton was re-introduced as a crop. All outbuildings are currently used for either storage or are vacant.

### Agriculture Context

Lenoir County was formed from Dobbs County in 1791 with Kinston becoming the county seat. Bisected east-west by the Neuse River, the county contains 399 square miles. Farming occurred first on ". . . the terrace soils along Neuse River, but it soon spread to the uplands."<sup>66</sup> The lands north of the Neuse River were more fertile than the sandy soil to the south. The two most fertile areas within this northern region were the Valley of the Neuse to the west and the Neck which extended from Falling Creek to the Pitt County line.<sup>67</sup> Historically, farmers in these two areas fostered progressive agricultural trends in Lenoir County throughout the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century.

The earliest detailed sketch of Lenoir County was written on May 1, 1810 by John Washington at the request of Thomas Henderson and Company, publisher of The Star, a weekly Raleigh based newspaper. Washington noted the physical, economic, and social characteristics

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of contemporary Lenoir County as well as provided a good insight into current agricultural practices. He stated:

The product of this County is mostly Indian corn and pease with some Cotton, sweet potatoes, wheat and Rye. The former of the last two articles is much increas'd within the last ten years, farmers that then raised but small patches, now sow large or considerable fields.

Pork being the staple of this County, a part of the Corn crop with a little of the Wheat (in flour) is sent to market, and the residue (perhaps) much the largest part of the Corn crop, as well as wheat and all the Rye and nearly all the pease and potatoes is given to the Hogs for fating.<sup>68</sup>

He indicated that the average yield for Indian corn did not exceed ten bushels per acre. Agricultural production was not considered highly developed but did include the change of crops and the use of the spade. Fallow lands were oftentimes planted with small grain which served two purposes, to rest the land and provide a "salutary" crop for livestock. Domestic animals were considered of midling quality. Horses, mules, and oxen were employed to work the farm. Washington also acknowledged an increasing use of mules.<sup>69</sup> He further stated:

Lenoir has in it 16 or 17 grist mills, most of which have saws attached to them, and five or Six Cotton Ginns that go by Horses and perhaps some few by Water.<sup>70</sup>

Throughout his sketch Washington never references the slave population.

The years from 1810 to 1830 marked the beginning of organized agricultural promotion in North Carolina. The first agricultural societies were formed in 1810 in New Hanover and Edgecombe counties. Helen D. Wilken in her thesis entitled "The Promotion of Agriculture in North Carolina, 1810-1860" explains:

The State Agricultural Society, formed in 1818, encouraged the organizing of additional local societies by securing state aid and functioning through the Board of Agriculture which conducted a geological survey, published agricultural articles, and distributed seed and agricultural periodicals. Poor transportation, hard times, class cleavage, indifference, and the small number of progressive farmers brought about the decline of this premature movement for reform by 1830.<sup>71</sup>

In contrast, Wilkin goes on to state:

The period of the 1840s . . . was characterized by an economic and intellectual awakening. The State was committed to a program of internal improvements and a statewide educational program. The newspapers and periodicals increased and took a lively part in promotional activities. It was a period of able statesmen. The farm journals and the newspapers were urging a State society and local societies.<sup>72</sup>

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The agricultural promotion of the 1840s took root in the 1850s. The Farmer's Journal, first published in the eastern North Carolina town of Bath, provided a strong educational tool for farmers in North Carolina as did the six other in-state farm journals. County agricultural societies quickly formed in the counties neighboring Lenoir. The societies in Wayne, Pitt, and Greene counties formed in 1852, followed by ones in Duplin and Onslow the next year. Craven County and New Bern agricultural societies were organized in 1856 and 1858, respectively.<sup>73</sup>

Both the farm journals and agricultural societies espoused and actively promoted "the fundamental principles of successful farming," namely deep ploughing, thorough draining, and heavy manuring.<sup>74</sup> To promote increased subscriptions and evaluate local agricultural progress, the editor of The Farmer's Journal, John F. Tompkins, would periodically tour areas in eastern North Carolina. On one such tour in 1852, he recounted a visit to Lenoir County:

We next come into the county of Lenoir, where we saw fine fields for Agricultural improvement. Indeed we saw in this county the finest specimens of marl that we ever saw any where, many of the beds containing a large quantity of phosphate of lime, which is highly valuable as a fertilizer.<sup>75</sup>

Tompkins went on to state:

We obtained a large list of subscribers to the Farmer's Journal in that county, mainly through the active part taken by one gentleman, Mr. John C. Washington, who in two days, during Court week, handed us seventy-five names accompanied by the cash. Mr. Washington is a thorough going man; he is making fine improvements upon his farm, which is beautifully situated near Kinston.<sup>76</sup>

On the other hand, county agricultural societies promoted agricultural improvement by sponsoring county fairs and awarding prizes. Isaac B. Keely, Secretary of the Duplin Agricultural Society recounted that they had ". . . quite a respectable delegation from Sampson, Wayne, Lenoir, Jones and Onslow Counties . . ." at their fair in 1856.<sup>77</sup>

The decade from 1850 to 1860 was marked by improved economic conditions in Lenoir county as well as North Carolina overall. Wilken goes on to state:

Rising prices, internal improvements, and the movement for agricultural reform resulted in a striking increase in the crop income and production and in the value of farm machinery, stock and land during the decade of the 1850s. The production of cotton, tobacco, and wheat more than doubled.<sup>78</sup>

In Lenoir County, similar figures are noted. The valuation of farms increased from \$1,191,461 to \$2,432,030. In addition, the cash value of farm implements and machinery more than doubled from \$23,669 to \$56,832. Cotton production rose tremendously from 185 bales to 4,283 bales, wheat increased from 6,718 bushels to 11,167, and Indian corn rose from 322,584 bushels to 372,174 bushels. On the other hand, reductions in several crops were significant.

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Rice decreased from 94,130 pounds to 12,270 pounds, and peas and beans declined from 47,637 bushels to 8,336 bushels. Production of oats and rye also suffered major reductions. Livestock figures in most cases increased slightly, but the number of mules and asses nearly doubled from 364 to 725. As crop prices rose, the average size of a farm in North Carolina was decreasing from 369 acres in 1850 to 316 acres in 1860.<sup>79</sup>

On large plantations, however, an overseer was usually hired to assist with the management of the crops and slaves. A good overseer was an integral part of a successful plantation. Low wages and laborious work were hallmarks of the profession.<sup>80</sup> According to Dr. Guion G. Johnson:

It was customary to furnish an overseer lodging and to pay him in one of three ways: a money wage payable in notes which might be converted into cash at a discount, a smaller money wage supplemented with a specific amount of provisions, or a share in the crop and certain specified provisions.<sup>81</sup>

In 1850, 989 overseers were working in North Carolina. Lenoir County had fourteen, nine of whom maintained their own household on the plantation. The remainder were members of their employer's household. By 1860, the number of overseers in the county had more than doubled to thirty-three. Separate households were maintained by twenty-five overseers, however, six of these are now listed as owning real estate with valuations ranging from \$450 to \$4,100.<sup>82</sup>

The Civil War brought many changes to the farming community in Lenoir County. Large and small farmers alike were impacted by some aspect of the war. Confederate conscription, the slow depletion of slave labor, and at the end of the war foraging by troops, all had a negative impact on the farm economy.<sup>83</sup> Clifford C. Tyndall in his thesis "Lenoir County During the Civil War" states:

. . . farms and related agricultural activities were in poor shape as early as 1862 and their condition worsened through the next three years. The county was dotted with abandoned farms, empty fields and plundered buildings. Lenoir County farms were severely hampered by the mid-war years, and agricultural operations had almost ceased by the end of the war, especially the larger operations.<sup>84</sup>

Following the Civil War, North Carolina's agrarian economy struggled to adapt to dramatic changes brought about by the war. With money in short supply, farmers generally had to rely on credit which was expensive and scarce. Supplied primarily through crop liens, credit provisions reinforced a farmer's reliance on cash crops, such as cotton and tobacco. Unfortunately, even though pre-war production levels had in many cases rebounded by 1870, prices for crops had significantly decreased. This fact sharply increased the farmer's financial distress. Fertilizers, farm machinery, and transportation were expensive but necessary in order to improve farm earnings. The most dramatic change occurred within the labor system, following the abolition of slavery. This occurrence combined with the poor economic climate produced a share cropping tenant system.<sup>85</sup> As tenancy increased during the

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late nineteenth century, so too did farm ownership; however, the average size of farms had significantly decreased--from 212 acres in 1870 to 101 acres in 1900.<sup>86</sup>

Three factors--poor economic condition, a loss in political power, and an increased understanding of progressive farming techniques--created a steady rise in interest among farmers to organize during the late nineteenth century. The first national farmers organization in North Carolina was the Patrons of Husbandry, known as the Grange and founded in 1869. North Carolina's first Grange was organized on March 3, 1873 at McLeansville, in Guilford County. Focusing primarily on social and economic objectives, the Grange movement at its peak reached 500 lodges and 15,000 members; however, by 1885 it had declined to 26 lodges and 700 members. Like the Grange, the Farmer's Alliance was a national organization primarily concerned with farmers' social and economic problems. This organization formed in North Carolina in 1887 and rapidly filled the void created by the declining Grange.<sup>87</sup> It was served by a group of salaried officers, and an executive committee determined policy. Annual state Alliance conventions were held in August; county Alliances held meetings quarterly; and subordinate groups gathered at least once a month. Quarterly membership dues were \$.25, which was divided by the four organizational levels. The Progressive Farmer was its primary organ. By August 1891, there were 2,147 sub Alliances, 96 county Alliances, and over 100,000 members with every county in the state organized.<sup>88</sup>

The progressive farming movement advances in Lenoir County are little documented during the late nineteenth century; however, their positive influence on farming in the area is noted. The 1896 publication North Carolina and the Resources describes farmers in Lenoir County as follows:

There is a high order of intelligence among the farming population, and they are well abreast with the recent improvements in farming and are well informed in agricultural chemistry. They take rank with the most successful farmers of the south. Their lands are scientifically cultivated, and their farms are models of neatness.<sup>89</sup>

An area known as "the Neck" was regarded as the finest portion of the county.

Agricultural clubs, the Grange, and the Farmer's Alliance were all active in Lenoir County and followed statewide trends. The Lousin Swamp Agricultural Club was one such club active during the late 1870s. It apparently met twice a month, a figure which was reduced to once a month in the summer.<sup>90</sup> Topics were set for each meeting, and the information discussed in these meetings was disseminated by published proceedings in The Kinston Journal. Little is known about the activities of the Grange and Farmer's Alliance except that William H. Worth was actively involved in each; and J.M. Mewborne of Lenoir County was a member of the state Farmer's Alliance executive committee.<sup>91</sup>

The rise in interest in farm organizations corresponded with the sharp rise in the number of farms in Lenoir County during the late nineteenth century. In 1870 there were 641 farms listed in the county; by 1880 the number had more than doubled to 1,523 with only 675

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cultivated by owners.<sup>92</sup> The 1900 census noted an increase to 2,179 farms and 770 owner cultivated ones. These figures also reflect the pervasiveness of the tenant farming system.<sup>93</sup>

The agricultural economy of Lenoir County following the war mirrored that of most counties in eastern North Carolina. Nearly every available acre in Lenoir County was planted in cotton until the late 1880s when cotton prices began declining dramatically, causing a serious recession to begin in Kinston and Lenoir County. The 1893 cotton crop on average brought as little as five cents per pound.<sup>94</sup> Acreage figures for cotton production rose from 19,150 acres in 1880 to 23,770 in 1890 and then declined to 16,797 by 1910. On the other hand, Indian corn remained steady during the late nineteenth century. Rice was also considered an important crop during this period, and by the mid 1890s truck farming was becoming another important resource.<sup>95</sup> The cultivation of bright yellow tobacco was successfully introduced during the late 1870s near La Grange; however, it was not until the 1890s that it became popular due to the promotional efforts of Jessie W. Grainger, president of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad. In 1895 Grainger purchased \$500 of tobacco seed and urged Lenoir County farmers to plant it, pledging that he would build a sales warehouse and find buyers for their crop.<sup>96</sup> The 1880 census indicates that only 45 acres were planted in tobacco, producing 13,500 pounds, figures which dramatically increased to 4,975,690 pounds of tobacco grown on 5,992 acres in 1900.<sup>97</sup>

The early twentieth century marks an explosive commitment to and reliance on tobacco as a cash crop in North Carolina as well as Lenoir County. According to the 1910 census, in Lenoir County 6,588,205 pounds of tobacco were raised on 8,337 acres, figures which nearly doubled to 12,143,624 pounds grown on 16,125 acres by the 1920 census. The number of farmers continued to rise, and in Lenoir County, it represented a shift from 2,423 in 1910 to 3,162 in 1920; those operated by owners rose from 810 to 907 respectively. A substantial number of acres was still planted in cotton, reflecting a rise in acreage and yield. A significant increase in corn was also reported. From 1910 to 1920, corn production rose from 402,525 bushels on 32,192 acres to 626,216 bushels on 36,943 acres.<sup>98</sup> Published in 1917, a Chamber of Commerce tract entitled Kinston and Lenoir County, North Carolina states:

Trucking is extensively engaged in, and the excellence and quantity of the product bespeak the intelligence of the farmers, as well as the generosity of the soil. Lettuce, asparagus, beans, peas, cabbage, white and sweet potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, all kinds of berries, pecans and nuts, and other truck are produced in large quantities, while hay, grain, clover, alfalfa, corn, and peanuts do not claim less attention from farmers.<sup>99</sup>

Farmers in Lenoir county benefitted during the early twentieth century from three new developments: the creation of the Agricultural Extension Service, the establishment of rural telephone service, and the invention of an oil-fired curer for tobacco barns. The decline of the Farmer's Alliance in the 1890s had created an informational void for many farmers. In 1909, the appointment of J. C. Parker as the Agricultural Extention Service's first county agent in Lenoir County provided welcomed help to the farmer. This assistance not only included instruction in modern farming methods but setting up markets for crops and obtaining

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loans for capital improvements.<sup>100</sup> The introduction of the telephone into rural areas opened time saving communication opportunities for the farmer. By 1916, Lenoir County had 112 telephones on 21 "farmer's lines."<sup>101</sup> Another advance for the farmer was the invention of an oil-fired tobacco curer in 1929 by Forrest H. Smith, a resident of Kinston.<sup>102</sup> A milestone in the production of flue cured tobacco, this invention eliminated the need for farmers to tend wood fires. Most tobacco barns were quickly converted to this new method. Tobacco and cotton price decreases in the late 1920s and early 1930s led to the establishment of federally imposed allotments.<sup>103</sup>

Architectural Context

Domestic architecture in eastern North Carolina during the early nineteenth century reflects the persistence of traditional building patterns among the planter elite and yeomen farmers as well as the slow adoption of stylistic trends. Nearly all residences were heavy timber frame with mortise-and-tenon construction. Most were rectilinear in form and followed traditional open plans, especially the hall-and-parlor plan. The use of passages, central-hall or side-passage, was rising, however, many wealthy families still preferred entering directly into the principal room. The two-story gable-roof dwelling, usually with exterior end chimneys, was quickly becoming the most popular house form among more affluent property owners. Owners usually relied on size and craftsmanship to convey status; however, on the interior, decorative woodwork clearly illustrated stylistic preferences.<sup>104</sup>

As the popularity of the two-story gable-roof dwelling increased, many of its early characteristics were adapted. Traditional elements included flush gable ends with tapered rake boards, a steeply pitched gable roof, asymmetrical fenestration, paved double-shouldered chimneys laid in Flemish bond, nine-over-nine sash on the first floor with nine-over-six on the second, and brick pier foundation. Oftentimes these dwellings had one-story shed roof porches and complementary rear shed additions. As Catherine W. Bisher states in North Carolina Architecture: "Tokens of changing fashion appeared in subtle adjustments of proportion, a trend toward symmetry, and artisans' individualized embellishments from builders' guides."<sup>105</sup>

The Tull-Worth-Holland House in Lenoir County, built ca. 1825, embodies many of the characteristics associated with the developing two-story gable-roof house form during the early nineteenth century. Lenoir County, located in the heart of North Carolina's coastal plain, to date has not had a comprehensive architectural survey; however, the documented findings of the Tar-Neuse reconnaissance survey and two comprehensive architectural surveys in neighboring Pitt and Craven counties confirm the evolution and popularity of this house type. Most followed a traditional single-pile form which was enlarged usually by a one-story shed-roof front porch and occasionally by rear-shed rooms. In the areas neighboring Lenoir County, several examples stand out, namely the Moses Tyson, John Joyner, and Issac Joyner houses in Pitt County and the William McKinney, Alfred Chapman, and Church Chapman houses in Craven County.<sup>106</sup>

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The Tull-Worth-Holland House is located north of Kinston near Mewborn Crossroads, in an area associated with the early settlement of Lenoir County. This fertile agricultural region supported a growing plantation economy until the Civil War. Several early nineteenth-century two-story dwellings in the vicinity which relate in form to the Tull-Worth-Holland House are the Foster-Moore House, the Taylor House, and the William Harper House. All are three-bay gable-roof structures with exterior end chimneys. The Foster-Moore and Taylor houses both have attic areas and one-story shed-roof porches. On the other hand, the William Harper House, though similar in form, illustrates the use of a more sophisticated dentil cornice in combination with flush gable ends. Both the Foster-Moore House and William Harper House have single shoulder chimneys laid in common bond in contrast to those of the Taylor House laid in Flemish bond.<sup>107</sup>

The late Federal-style features which enhance the traditional character of the Tull-Worth-Holland House are outstanding in that their application is uniform throughout the house. Three-part surrounds and six-panel doors with flat panels are found both downstairs and upstairs. The sophisticated late Federal-style mantels of the hall and parlor are striking in their use of a decorative scallop motif and a deep molded cornice shelf. In comparison, the mantels in the upstairs bedrooms are very restrained in character.

Renovations made to the Tull-Worth-Holland House during the mid 1870s and ca. 1900 follow traditional building patterns. The addition of rear shed rooms to enlarge a two-story dwelling was a common practice in the early nineteenth century. William H. Worth's decision to expand his home in this manner in the mid 1870s represents a late example of this practice. On the other hand, the incorporation of the kitchen/dining room ell by Emily Hill Holland ca. 1900 reflects a contemporary modernization of the dwelling.



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### Verbal boundary description

The property being nominated consists of an approximately 184 acre tract of land as outlined by the dark lines of the accompanying sketch map, drawn to a scale of approximately 525 feet equals 1 inch. The map was drawn from deeds, plat maps, and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service maps.

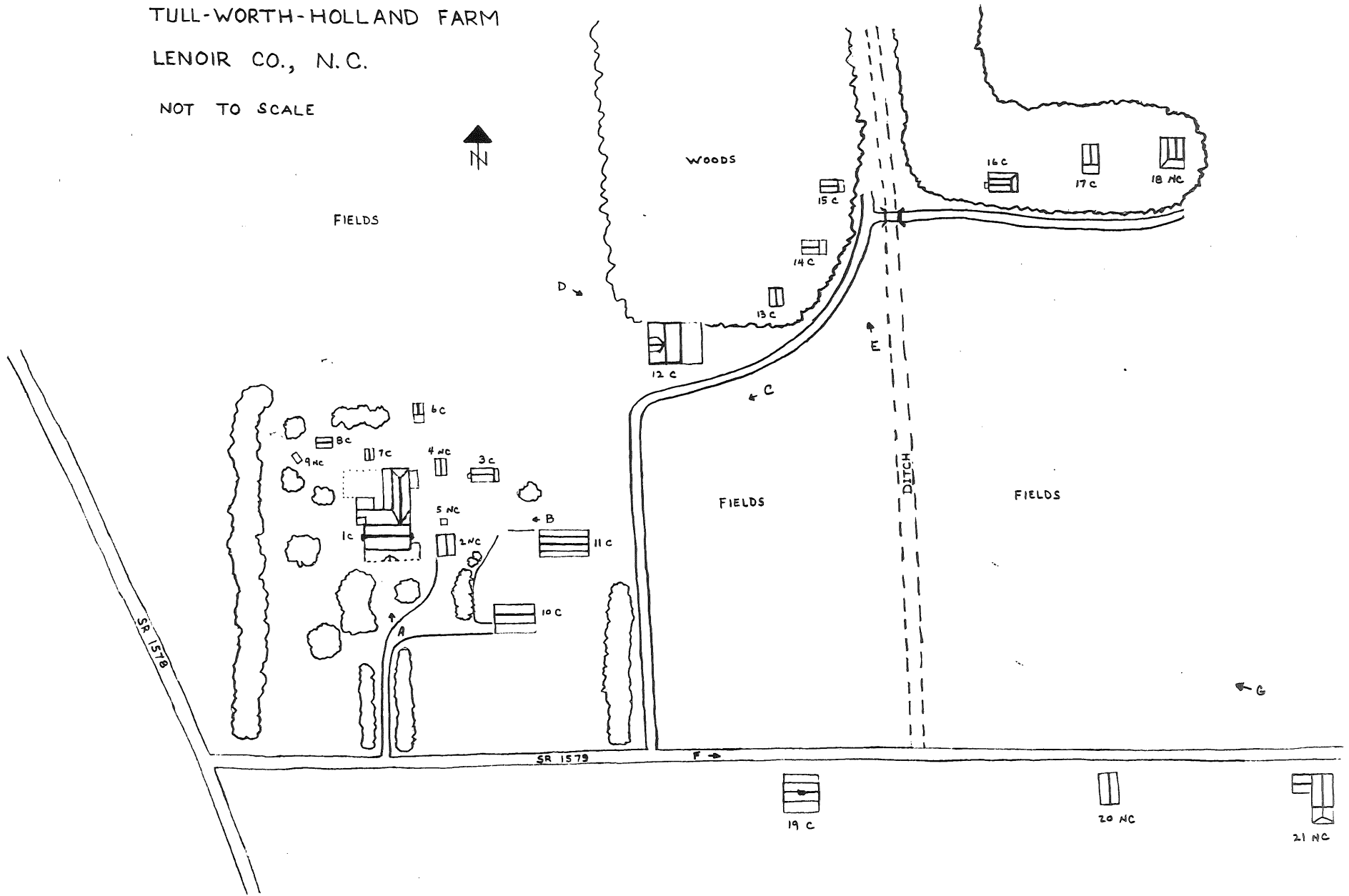
### Verbal boundary justification

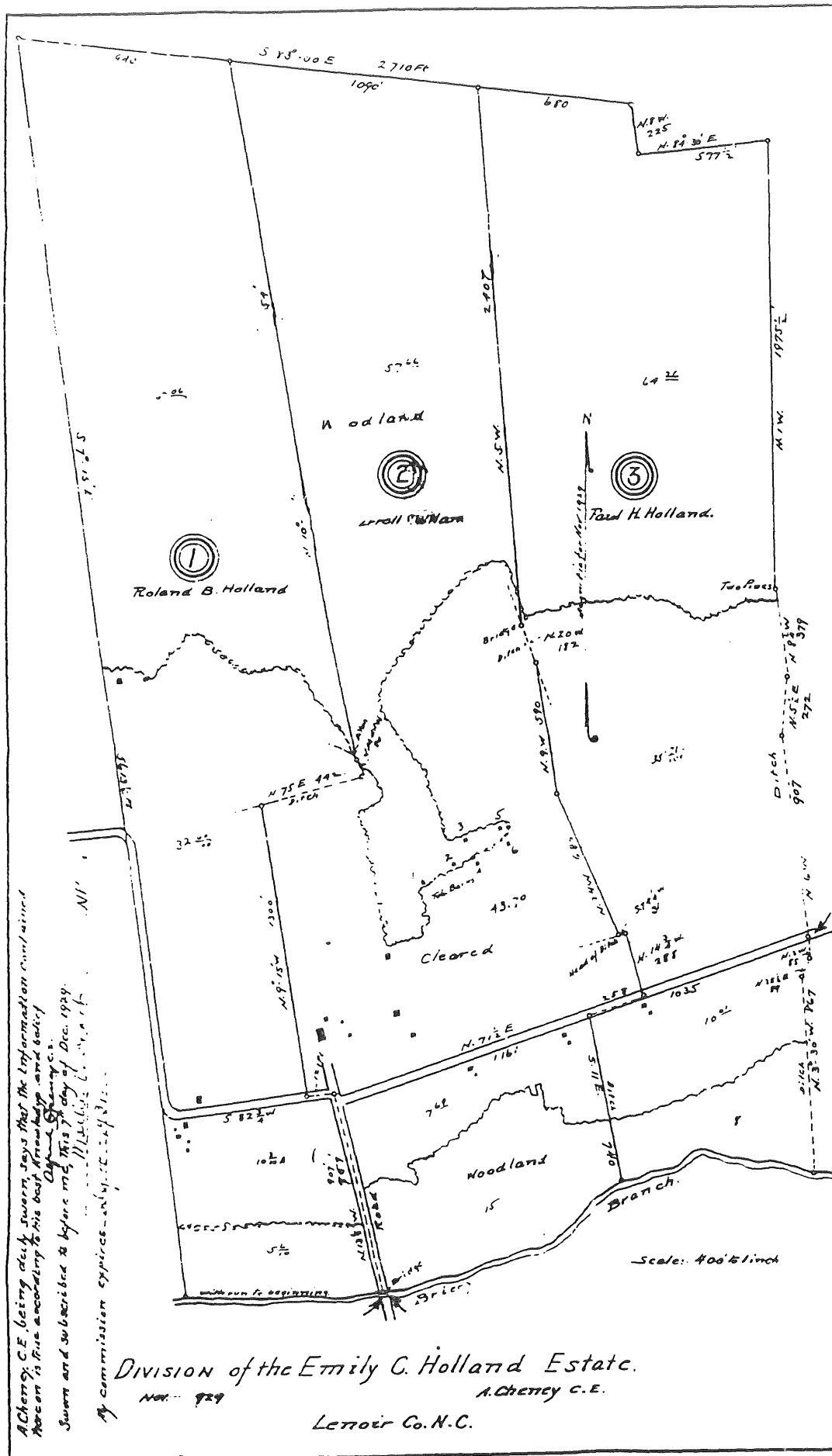
The property being nominated is an approximately 184-acre site which stands as the only intact portion of the once prosperous Tull plantation. It includes the former plantation seat and significant domestic and agricultural buildings associated with important late nineteenth and early twentieth century farming trends. The tract contains approximately 67.4 acres of crop land, 3.2 acres of pasture, 110 acres of woodland, and a 4-acre house site.

TULL-WORTH-HOLLAND FARM

LENOIR CO., N.C.

NOT TO SCALE

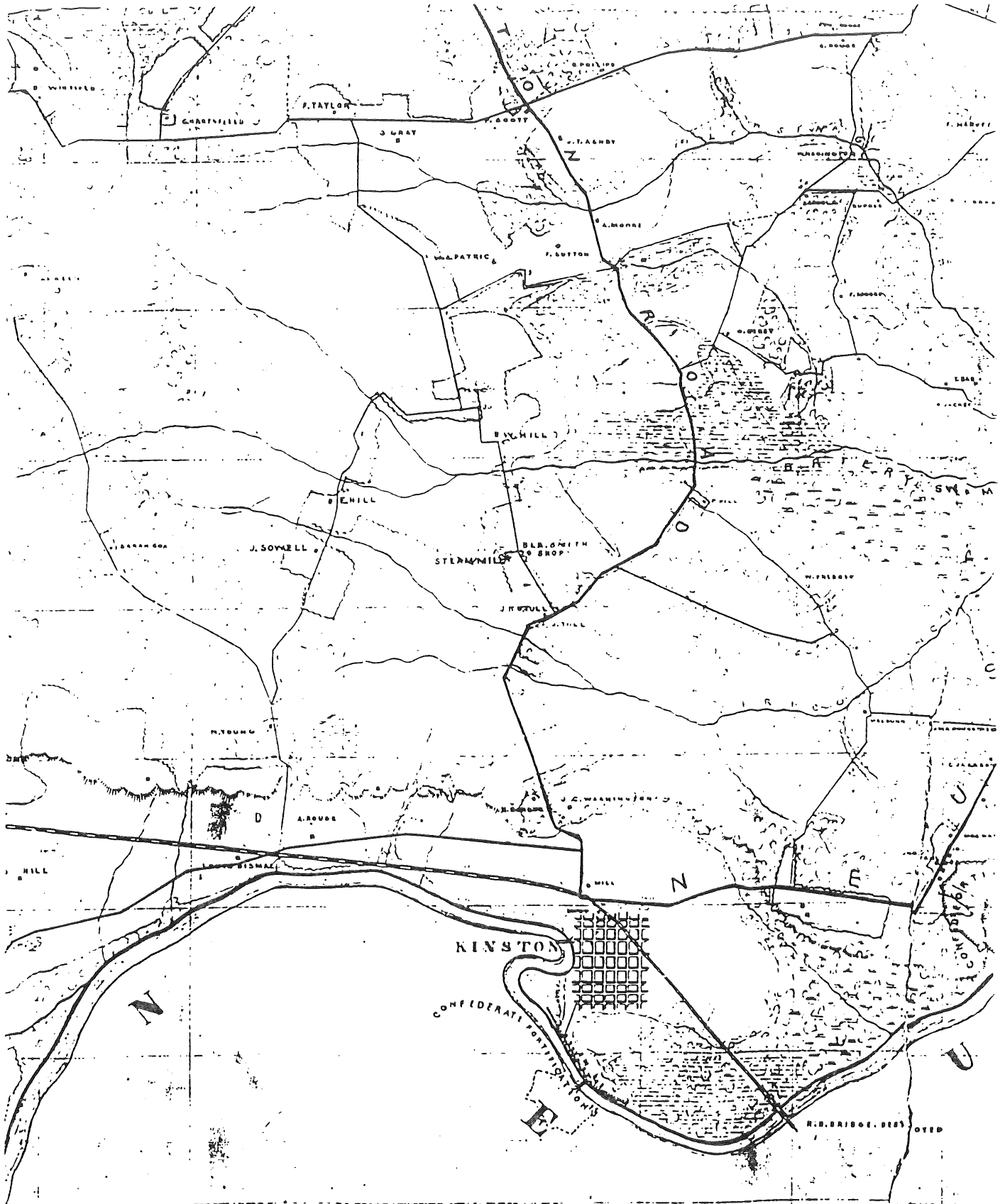




Field Map of Lt. Col. Koerner Military Survey between Neuse and Tar Rivers, N. C.  
H. J. Miller, draftsman July 28, 1863

North Carolina Division of Archives & History: MC 101-C

Exhibit #1



North Carolina Division of Archives & History: MC 101-A.1





Tull-Worth-Holland  
Farm  
Lenoir Co., N. C.  
KINSTON QUAD  
1:24000

1. 18/264060/3911790<sup>11</sup>
2. 18/264510/3911810
3. 18/264800/3910160
4. 18/264120/3910000



54541 SW  
(FALLING CREEK)

