

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 Elmwood

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

2. Location

street & number 637 Avoca Farm Road  not for publication

city or town Merry Hill  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Bertie code 015 zip code 27957

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.)

Jeffrey A. Crow SHPO 11/18/02  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
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:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Elmwood  
Name of Property

Bertie County, North Carolina  
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	
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	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 structure

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

GEORGIAN  
FEDERAL  
GREEK REVIVAL

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls WEATHERBOARD  
LOG  
roof TIN  
other WOOD

**Narrative Description**

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

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County and State

### 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.

#### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

#### Period of Significance

ca. 1787 to ca. 1840s

#### Significant Dates

1787

1804

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

unknown

#### Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Survey and Planning Branch

Elmwood

Name of Property

Bertie County, North Carolina

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	3 4 4 4 0 0	3 9 8 5 3 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

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 Thomas R. Butchko

organization date September 1, 2002

street & number 401 West Fearing Street telephone 252-335-7916

city or town Elizabeth City state NC zip code 27909-4707

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 Jerry and Patricia Roberts

street & number 637 Avoca Farm Road telephone 252-482-3260

city or town Merry Hill state NC zip code 27957

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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**7. Architectural Description**

Elmwood is an impressive two-story plantation house situated approximately 200 yards from the southern bank of Salmon Creek in Merry Hill Township, Bertie County. The house is sheltered beneath a tall hipped roof that was covered with standing seam metal during the first quarter of the the twentieth century (with several early if not original round-ended roofing shingles found in the attic). Built in two phases, ca. 1787 and ca. 1810, Elmwood is an amazing seven bays wide, one of the few houses of such width in the Albemarle region of northeastern North Carolina. The handsome transitional Georgian-Federal style residence stands at the end of an unpaved lane that extends through flat and sandy plowed fields for approximately one-quarter mile northeast from Avoca Farm Road, named for a prominent early-nineteenth century plantation house associated with the Cullen Capehart family that stood about two miles south until its demolition about 1970. Salmon Creek is a small but historically important tributary of the Chowan River, a broad and slow moving river that forms about thirty-five miles north of Elmwood with the confluence of the Blackwater and Nottaway rivers at the North Carolina-Virginia border. Although the nominated two-acre tract does not extend to the creek, it does include a portion of the woods and dense undergrowth that covers the creek's steep southern bank. The nominated property contains the house, a late eighteenth-century brandy house, an other early nineteenth-century smokehouse, and a recently-remodeled two-story barn/packhouse. Several large shade trees and a section of an old pecan orchard provide shade to the house and frame its handsome appearance from Avoca Farm Road.

Elmwood reflects at least three building periods. The original house, erected about 1786 for planter and mariner Christopher Clark, was a hall-and-parlor plan dwelling that consisted of the present five western (left) bays (See Exhibit C). A centrally-placed door entered into the east end of the large hall room. Across the rear of the house was a three-room block of small rooms that were fully incorporated beneath the expansive hip roof that sheltered the entire house. A steep, three-flight stair occupied the central of these rear rooms. There is no extant evidence to determine the size of the original porch. Clark's house was expanded to its present size ca. 1810, probably by Stark Armistead, another ambitious planter who bought the property in 1805 (See Exhibit D). Armistead's additions included a tier of rooms along the east that allowed the original parlor to be transformed into an unusually spacious central passage hall; the

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stair remained in its central rear room but was reconfigured so as to open into the former eastern rear room which was appended onto the rear of the new hall. The new eastern wing was extended on the rear by a one-room two-story ell that terminated with a gable roof and a third exterior end chimney. This chimney was also removed during the mid twentieth century but has not been rebuilt.

As it stands today, the symmetrical seven-bay facade (south) of Elmwood is covered by a hipped roof that is anchored on each end by substantial single-shoulder exterior end chimneys. These chimneys were raised in Flemish bond brick in 1999-2000 to replace earlier chimneys (bond unknown) that were standing in 1957 but by 1979 had been replaced by slender brick flues. The roofing structure is composed of impressively large king post trusses, each with several tenoned upbraces connecting to the principal rafters. This was a common eighteenth century roofing method for large buildings, comparing favorably to that at the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse (NHL 1970) in nearby Edenton. The original block of the house stands on a tall English bond brick foundation that is raised six steps above grade while the ca. 1810 eastern section stands on three-to-one American bond brick piers with infill of similar bond. The house is sheathed with beaded weatherboard, some having been replaced during rehabilitation due to damage incurred with the removal of asbestos shingles applied between 1957 and 1979. During rehabilitation in 1998-1999 a full-width shed-roofed porch was built across the front, supported by handsome square-in-section posts that taper to simple vernacular pad capitals. It replaced a twentieth-century hip-roofed porch that sheltered only the three central bays. Family tradition relates that during the late nineteenth century the front elevation was sheltered by a full-width double-tier veranda, a form typical to coastal North Carolina and one shared by numerous Albemarle landmarks, including Greenfield (ca. 1752, ca. 1851) (NR 1976), Strawberry Hill (ca. 1785, ca. 1810s, ca. 1820-1860) (NR 1980), and the Barker House (1782, 1820s) (NR 1972) in Chowan County and Somerset Place (ca. 1838-1840) (NR 1970) in Washington County. This veranda was in all likelihood erected when Elmwood was enlarged ca. 1810. Though the second story roof had long since been removed, the central entrance on the second story remained until the early 1950s. As is typical of plantation houses of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the porch facade is sheathed with wide, flush boards so as to heighten its appearance and function as a secondary sitting room during warm weather. Completing the facade is an unembellished boxed cornice that was probably added during the expansion in ca. 1810.

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The fenestration consists of attenuated nine-over-nine sash on the first story with short six-over-six sash above. The sash are divided by wide transitional Georgian-Federal muntins and encased by mitered three-part Federal surrounds austere accented with simple beaded edges; the surrounds also appear to have been added ca. 1810. As testament to the house's ambitious size, windows flanking the end chimneys are full size, not narrower as usually seen on farmhouses erected in the Albemarle region during the late eighteenth and early and mid nineteenth centuries. The central single-leaf entrance is flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a transom, Greek Revival elements added during a stylistic updating of the house in the 1830s or 1840s. The original ca. 1787 five-bay house also had a central entrance, with the relocated and present ca. 1810 entrance replacing the two eastern window bays that illuminated the parlor room in the original house.

The side and rear elevations of the house are treated like the facade. The rear of the original house has only three bays--one to each of the original rear rooms--with the eastern bay now occupied by an entrance added ca. 1810 into the rear of the ca. 1810 central passage; the ca. 1787 entrance was most likely placed in the central rear room containing the stair. The central and eastern bays are sheltered by a shed-roofed porch with rebuilt foundation and deck; its new posts are identical to those on the front. A one-story wing was added onto the rear northwest corner of the house during nineteenth century. Its use and finish are unknown as it was demolished during the early 1950s. A smaller one-bay porch, also new, shelters an entrance on the east side of the rear ell. The rear second story elevation of the ell is blind.

The uncommonly spacious interior exhibits a wealth of Georgian, transitional Georgian-Federal, Federal, and Greek Revival woodwork. Upon first entering the central passage--the "parlor" of the original hall-and-parlor plan house--one notices that the space is unencumbered by the stair which is situated in a side extension at the rear of the central passage. The original parlor is also the room that has seen the greatest functional and stylistic changes through the years. It began as the most stylish Georgian room in the original house and was transformed when the house was enlarged ca. 1810 into a commodious central passage wide enough in which to dance; it was then finished with stylish Federal woodwork. As the most public of the house's rooms, it received the most updating when newly-fashionable Greek Revival elements were added during the 1830s or 1840s. These included not only a new entrance with trabeated transom and sidelights (the configuration of the ca. 1810 entrance here is unknown) but handsome symmetrically molded

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surrounds with cornerblock medallions at the doors. Greek Revival elements were added only in the passage hall, leaving the west parlor with its original Georgian woodwork and the east parlor with its Federal woodwork.

When the house was enlarged ca. 1810 the eastern of the three original rear rooms along the back of the house was appropriated for an extension of the new central passage through the depth of the house. This necessitated a reconfiguring of the stair in the center rear room that was now exposed to the rear of the new passage. Whereas the original stair in all likelihood began at the front southwest corner of its room and rose along the west wall before turning with winders to continue along the rear wall before turning again to ascend to the second story, the present stair configuration as built ca. 1810 was given a ninety degree turn so that it rises in the southeast corner of its alcove and continues with winders at each corner towards the rear (see exhibits C, D). While this provided for a more stately appearance from the passage, it necessitated the corresponding reversal of the entrance into the western rear room on the first story. Despite its somewhat cramped confines, the stair is anchored by a turned urn-shaped newel that rests on a molded base. The ramped handrail is carried by simple square-in-section balusters and is composed of three sections, one for each segment of the double dog-leg stair. Raised panels enclose the stair closet, with the interior of its door retaining remnants of early paint.

The finest remaining Georgian woodwork is in the west room, it being the former "hall" room and the largest room in the original ca. 1787 house. This room features a wainscot of raised panels with baseboard and chairrail finished with Georgian moldings. Enframing the doors and windows are robust Georgian mitered architraves having large ovolo backbands. The room is finished with a wooden boxed crown molding composed of a denticulated cornice with moldings on the wall and ceiling exhibiting Georgian profiles. Both the cornice and the wainscot are installed with wrought nails. Unfortunately, the mantel was removed during the mid twentieth century; its 2001 replacement is a skillful composition incorporating Georgian elements prevalent in Bertie and neighboring Chowan counties.

The east parlor, added to the house during the ca. 1810 expansion, is equal in size to the west parlor, each having three windows across the front. It is finished with reserved Federal woodwork common in the Albemarle region, particularly the flattened profiles of the three-part mitered door and window surrounds that have simple beaded edges with a molded outer backband. The mantel

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was removed during the mid twentieth century, with an appropriately-scaled replacement piece added in 2001.

Behind the east parlor are two small, rectangular rooms that originally (ca. 1810) comprised a single rectangular room. While the original function of this room is uncertain, there is evidence that a door once occupied the end elevation, providing access to the end of the house closest to the boat landing on Salmon Creek. This room also served in part as a passage to the rear ell as it continues today. During the early or mid twentieth century this room was partitioned to create a small bathroom in the eastern end, at which time the exterior door was closed. The recent renovation of the rear ell--perhaps originally a dining room because of its proximity to a separate kitchen that family tradition states stood nearby--revealed evidence of a fire in the room, serious enough to destroy the finish woodwork and char the ceiling joists but not so severe as to weaken the structure. The large single room in the ell has been outfitted with a modern kitchen.

While important Georgian woodwork survives on the second story, the singularly most intriguing feature is the diminutive arched bridge that spans the lowest flight of the stair so as to provide access to a small sleeping chamber in the western rear room. The elliptical shape of the arch is surmounted by a narrow walkway with two steps at each end and protected by a square-in-section balustrade. The front western sleeping chamber retains one of the few original six raised-panel Georgian doors at Elmwood and is still hung on original H-and-L hinges. The room also has a notable built-up chairrail accented with classical Georgian moldings; it is the only chairrail upstairs. Another raised six-panel Georgian door leads from the large west parlor chamber into the east hall chamber. It and the other upstairs doors are framed by mitered and molded surrounds, those in the older Georgian section being more robust than those in the Federal addition. Mantels in the west and east front chambers are large but austere Georgian and Federal compositions, respectively. The earlier and larger Georgian mantel has a wide but shallow shelf supported by robust ovolo and cyma moldings. The Federal mantel, consisting primarily of a widened mitered architrave band, has lost its shelf. Minor modifications undertaken during renovations in 2000-2001 include the closing of a door between the eastern chamber and the rear hall that extends nearly the length of the house, the partitioning of the eastern end of the hall for a laundry room approximately six-foot deep, and the addition of a small bathroom in a corner of the guest bedroom in the rear ell.

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### **Log Plank Smokehouse**

early nineteenth century, moved 1996  
Noncontributing building

This twelve-foot by fourteen-foot building is a notable example of plank construction utilizing full-dovetailed notching; the cypress planks measure three inches thick and ten inches thick. While such construction techniques were once common for ancillary building in the Albemarle region during the early nineteenth century, such buildings rarely survive in as good condition as here. It has an early batten door fastened with wrought strap hinges while the gable ends are sheathed with weatherboards and the roof is covered with twentieth-century standing-seam metal. The interior is unceiled. Moved here in 1996 (from approximately three miles away) when widening of U. S. Route 17 threatened its original site, the smokehouse nonetheless retains integrity of materials and design. Further research is needed to determine whether it meets the National Register criteria as a moved building. Its brick pier foundation was built in 1996.

### **Brandy House**

last quarter eighteenth century, moved 1996  
Noncontributing building

This brace-framed building measuring sixteen-feet by twelve-feet follows the same gable front form as the log plank smokehouse but is sheathed with flush weatherboards, some still attached with their early hand-wrought nails. It also is roofed with standing seam metal. It was moved here in 1996 from the same farm as the smokehouse, and was moved approximately 150 feet within the Elmwood site again in 2001. At that time it was given two small windows, and a porch during conversion into a garden/potting house. It is noncontributing because these recent alterations have compromised its architectural and historical integrity.

### **Barn/Packhouse**

ca. 1930, renovated and enlarged 2001  
Noncontributing building

This originally one-story-with-loft gable-front frame building has a central wagon passage flanked by storage rooms/stable stalls. The upper loft was originally used during tobacco cropping season for sorting and packing flue-cured tobacco for market. During the rest of the year it would have been used for storage of hay or other farm produce. In 2001 the building was considerably enlarged and remodeled for storage.

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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Summary

Like many plantation seats in northeastern North Carolina, the large two-story, seven-bay, Elmwood house was raised in at least three distinct building periods and thus reflects not only the changing architectural fashions of the period, but an expanding plantation economy during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The original (western) block was upon completion a symmetrical five-bay house that followed a generously-scaled hall-and-parlor plan with three small rectangular rooms across the rear. A steep three-flight stair was located in the central rear room while the plan of the second story largely followed that of the first. During the first decade, new owner Stark Armistead expanded the house by the addition of a block of rooms on the east at which time the original "parlor" room of the house was converted into a wide central passage that incorporated the eastern rear room, necessitating a reconfiguration of the stair in the central rear room. The original "hall" room and the second story retains notable Georgian woodwork, particularly the wainscot, surrounds, and wooden cornice in the former and doors, surrounds, chairrails, and mantels upstairs. The early nineteenth century portion of the house displays simplified Federal woodwork, with updated Greek Revival surrounds and a trabeated entrance being installed in the 1830s or 1840s by new owner William T. Sutton. Sutton, one of the largest and wealthiest owners of land and slaves in antebellum Bertie County, was among the landed class who operated seasonal fisheries in the county, the productive waters of Salmon Creek being two hundred yards north of the house. Elmwood is being nominated under Criterion C as a significant regional example of the large plantation house that exemplifies elements of the Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival styles as rendered in a large scale for the most successful and prominent of Bertie County's planter class. The property's period of significance, ca. 1787 to the 1840s, begins with the house's construction and ends with the significant Greek Revival redesign and alterations to the house sometime during the 1830s or 1840s.

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Bertie County, North CarolinaSection number 8 Page 8**Historical Background**

The site of Elmwood on the southern side of Salmon Creek in Bertie County has important connections to the earliest settlement of North Carolina even though this history has no connection to the present structure. The land was first associated with Nathaniel Batts (ca. 1620-ca. 1679), a "trader for beavers" from the Virginia colony who had been hired in 1653 to establish a fur trade with the Indians in what was then considered the "Southern Plantation" of Virginia. By July 1655 a house had been constructed for Batts on a site at the western end of the Albemarle Sound near where the Chowan River flows into the Sound. This was the first house known to have been built by Europeans after the Roanoke Colony of 1585-1586. Batts occupied this tract in Chowan Precinct (Bertie County not being split off from Chowan until 1722) until at least 1672 when he was visited by the Quaker missionary George Fox. The presumed site of Batts's house, located about 1.75 miles northeast of Elmwood at Edenhouse Point on the Chowan River, was excavated in 1997 preliminary to the construction of a bridge across the river (Cross ca. 1988, 2-4; McPherson 1989, 119; Lautzenheiser 1998, 18).

Seth Sothel (d. 1694), governor of the proprietary colony of Carolina from 1682-1689, acquired the Elmwood site in 1684 as part of a grant of 4,000 acres situated between Salmon Creek and the mouth of the Roanoke River to the south. He resided on the property from 1685 until 1688, when he was banished from the Albemarle region due to tyrannical abuses of power. He eventually made his way back from Charleston, South Carolina, and returned to his Salmon Creek plantation where he died in 1694. No sign of Sothel's home or grave has ever been found (Cross ca. 1988, 4-5; Lefler and Newsome 1976, 50-51).

Sothel's property was next owned by William Duckenfield (ca. 1645-ca. 1721), one of the leading English aristocrats in colonial North Carolina. A member of the Cheshire gentry, he apparently emigrated in the 1670s and served on the governor's Council, the colony's chief advisory body, from as early as 1684 until his death. Duckenfield resided along the Little River in Perquimans Precinct (about 30 miles east of Elmwood) until 1697 when he acquired Sothel's entire 4,000-acre plantation. He soon undertook improvements to or a replacement of the Salmon Creek plantation house, which in 1710 was described as "pretty good lodgings." Upon his death, the bulk of Duckenfield's estate went to nephew Nathaniel (d. 1749), the son of his brother Sir Robert Duckenfield, who apparently only resided in the colony from about 1719 until shortly after his uncle's death (Cross ca. 1988, 5-8; Parker 1986,

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111-112). The Salmon Creek plantation descended to son Sir Nathaniel Duckenfield, Baronet (1747-1824), who first came to North Carolina in 1769 was soon appointed to the Royal Council. Thwarted in an attempt to claim a senior position by virtue of his baronetcy, he left North Carolina in the spring of 1772 and resigned his seat the following year (Cross ca. 1988, 7-8; Price 1986, 111).

Duckenfield's North Carolina lands were seized by the state in 1778, and were sold along with lands belonging to other former Loyalists between 1784 and 1787. The state realized a greater return on Duckenfield's Bertie lands than on property seized from any single individual with the exception of Lord Granville. Duckenfield's 6,842 acres sold for a staggering 31,445 pounds at auction. In his claim for compensation from the British government, Duckenfield asked for 8,762 pounds but received only one-third that amount. Duckenfield's claim included a 1767 map of his property showing, among numerous buildings, a shipyard on the south bank of Salmon Creek. He claimed that "there was no better estate in that part of the Country" and that the property included "two small brick houses about twenty-four by twenty-six. They were intended as Wings for a large House which was designed to have been built" (Cross ca. 1988, 8-9; Price 1986, 111). Duckenfield's lands were divided among eighteen different owners after 1787, including Jonathan Jacocks and William Lockhart, both shown as owners of adjacent tracts on the 1767 plat. Much of Duckenfield's plantation eventually came into the ownership of George W. Capeheart, who built Scotch Hall (NR, 1982), a major plantation house in 1838 (Cross ca. 1988, 9; List of Confiscated Property Sales, 6-9; Bullock 1980, 8-1).

Among the purchasers of the confiscated Duckenfield lands was Christopher Clark (d. 1803) who had the Elmwood plantation house constructed most likely during the late 1780s. As early as 1761 Clark was acquiring property in Bertie County, paying Isaac Cook 100 pounds for 100 acres described only as bounded by various trees and being partially located along John Rutherford's line (Bertie Deed L-145). More importantly, in August 1775 Clark paid John Pearson, a Bertie resident who was acting as attorney for "Sir Nathaniel Duckenfield, Barnt now in the Kingdom of Great Britain," 127 pounds for thirty-seven acres. This tract was situated at the head of Poplar Run and was bounded by the lands of Charles Worth Jacocks (Bertie Deed M-245). Additional land acquisitions in the late 1780s not only established Clark as one of the largest owners in this section of Bertie County, but formed the sizeable plantation on the southern side of Salmon Creek on which Clark

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would situate his plantation house. In May 1786 Clark paid 200 pounds for 270 acres on the southern side of Salmon Creek from John Rutherford of New Hanover County, North Carolina. Rutherford was the son and heir of Frances Button Johnston Rutherford, the second wife and "divesee" of Gabriel Johnston (ca. 1698-1752), Royal Governor of North Carolina from 1722 until 1752. Johnston's first wife was Penelope (Galland) Maule Lovick Phenney Johnston (d. 1741), the stepdaughter of Charles Eden (1673-1722), Proprietary Governor of North Carolina from 1713 until 1722, and for whom the town of Edenton was renamed after his death. Eden acquired a considerable tract of land along the west bank of the Chowan River in 1719 and erected a fine residence known as Eden House, residing there until his death. The house site is in the vicinity of the western approach to the present US 17 bridge across the river, approximately three miles north-northeast of Elmwood. Samuel and Penelope Johnston resided at Eden House, where he died in 1752 and was buried on the plantation. While Johnston's daughter Penelope inherited the Eden lands, he left three plantations to his widow, Frances, including the "small Plantation lying on Salmon Creek in the County of Bertie, which I lately purchased of Lamb Hardy." She remarried a Mr. Rutherford and it is questionable if she ever resided on the Salmon Creek property (Bertie Deed O-153; Nash 1988, 300-301; Nash 1986, 134; Lautzenheiser 1998, 32-39).

In November 1787 Christopher Clark, by then having achieved the title of "Captain," paid 1,120 pounds to the state government for a tract of 193 acres that adjoined land already owned by Clark; this tract was also confiscated Duckenfield lands (Bertie Deed O-132). By 1788 Clarke owned 605 acres of rich productive farm land and forests on or near Salmon Creek. The construction of the Elmwood plantation commenced sometime during the late 1780s, most likely after his acquisition of the Johnston/Rutherford and Duckenfield tracts in 1786 and 1787, respectively.

Little is known of Christopher Clark's early life. Family tradition states that he came to the colonies from England about 1740 and soon thereafter settled in Edenton. He established himself there as a merchant and eventually purchased the sloop William, which traveled the east coast and as far away as Barbados (Clark letter, 13 November 2001). Indeed, the 1761 deed from Isaac Cook lists Clark as a "Marriner," and a biography of son James West Clark (1779-1843), a prominent legislator and congressman from Tarboro, lists his father as "a merchant of New England and Edenton." These indicate a successful and established reputation in Edenton, the prosperous former seat of the colonial government approximately eight miles east of Elmwood (Bertie Deed L-145;

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Parker 1979, 373). Clark was married twice, although the name of his first wife, with whom he had three daughters, is unknown. His second wife, whom he married in 1773, was Hannah Turner (Parker 1979, 373; Bertie Marriage Bonds 1938, 14; Clark 1990, "Christopher Clark").

In the first Federal census of 1790, Christopher Clark headed a household of ten: four white males (including himself) sixteen years of age and older, two white males under sixteen years of age, and four white females of unspecified ages (Bureau of the Census 1908, 11). Christopher Clark owned twenty-six slaves, placing him squarely in Bertie County's planter class of fifty-nine farmers who owned twenty or more slaves. The 1790 Federal Census, in including slaves, establishes the first comprehensive pattern of slave ownership in Bertie County, which, with 5,141 slaves, was second among counties in the state only to the 6,506 slaves in neighboring Halifax County. While fifty-seven percent (821) of the county's 1,430 households owned no slaves (including twenty free black households), another seventeen percent (243) owned just three or fewer slaves. The fifty-nine persons who owned twenty or more slaves, or just under ten percent of the total slaveowners in Bertie County, owned 2,011, or thirty-nine percent, of the total number of slaves in the county (Bureau of the Census 1908, 9. 11-15). This pattern, in which a considerable majority of households in a county owned none or few slaves while fewer but larger slaveholdings accounted for a disproportionate share of slaves, was a pattern that would continue and strengthen throughout the antebellum period within the Albemarle region (Butchko 1989, 14; Butchko 1992, 23; Butchko 1998, 7). Ten years later, the 1800 Census lists Christopher Clark's household as consisting of himself and three free blacks along with thirty-two slaves. His wife apparently had died, and there are no records to indicate the nature of the three free blacks residing with him (1800 Census, Bertie County).

At their Elmwood home the Clark family no doubt enjoyed a level of life commensurate with their wealth and status in the county. The children were most likely tutored at home, with son James West Clark (born 1779) probably being sent later sent to the region's leading private academy, the Edenton Academy. Indicative of the family's interest in education was James's graduation from Princeton College in 1797 at the age of eighteen (Parker 1979, 375).

Christopher Clark died in 1803, leaving a will written in September 1800 that was probated in Bertie County Court in August 1803. The Elmwood property, being included among "all my lands on

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Salmon Creek whereon I now live," was given to son James West Clark. James also received one-half interest in two tracts totalling 1,500 acres of land in Georgia his father had owned with Captain William Borrits (aka Borritz), a Swiss-born ship captain living in Edenton. James also received nine named negroes: "old Will, old Bob, Fred, Joe, Harry and little Bob and the negro woman Tressa and Milley and little Ned[,] Tressa['s] son." All the other negroes were to be divided between his daughter, Sarah Clements, and his "worthy friend" Captain George West, with the exception of "negro woman Jone and her daughter Meriah, which I give both their freedom after my death." Furthermore, Clark made a highly atypical bequest to Meriah of "a negro Girl named Jenny and three barrels of corn, and one hundred pounds of pork and twelve dollars in money yearly until she comes to the age of fourteen years." Aware that the last bequest was unusual, Clark added his wish that his son "I hope will comply with the above as it is the last request of your Affectionate Father." The nature of Christopher Clark connections with Jone and Meriah is unknown. The remainder of Clark's personal property went to son James West Clark. The status of Clark's other children are unknown as only son James West and daughter Sarah are mentioned in the will (Bertie Will Book E, 116; Butchko 1992, 164-165, 86, 198).

James West Clark (1779-1843) was a young man of just twenty-four years of age when he inherited the bulk of his father's estate at Elmwood. The ambitious young Clark had been elected the year before to a two-year term to represent Bertie County in the General Assembly. Also in 1802, he married Arabella Toole, daughter of a prominent Edgecombe County planter (Parker 1979, 375). James West Clark was still a Bertie resident in February 1804 when he sold his father's property of approximately 750 acres for 500 pounds. The new owner, John Drew, owned the property for just over a year before selling it to Stark Armistead (Bertie deed book T, 59, 306). Clark subsequently moved to Edgecombe County and became involved in state and federal politics, serving several terms in the state house and senate, one term in Congress, and as clerk of the state senate and the federal Navy Department. A son, Henry Toole Clark (1808-1874), was governor during the tumultuous first two years of the Civil War (Parker 1979, 375; Iobst 1979, 374-375).

Stark Armistead, who purchased the Elmwood house and the approximately 1,000-acre plantation in November 1805 for \$10,000, was a younger son of William Armistead (d. 1791), a wealthy Bertie planter. William was listed in the 1790 federal census as the owner of thirty-three slaves, being tied at fifteenth for the largest slaveholding in the county (Bureau of the Census 1908, 11).

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Upon William's death the next year he left a large estate to be divided among his wife, Sarah, and five sons and five daughters. Stark, or "Starkey" as named in the will, was to receive half of the home plantation, slaves, farm implements, and animals. The sons were also to share equally in all the other negroes as well as financial bonds and notes. The inclusion of book debts, "goods and produce of every kind whatever," and "vessels, boats, and tacking" strongly suggests that William Armistead, like Christopher Clark, was a prosperous merchant who maintained his own sailing fleet. Stark's share in his father's estate increased to one-fourth in 1796 upon the death of an unmarried older brother, William (Bertie Will Book D, 173, 337). Furthermore, in 1804 his mother acquired the moiety interest in her estate from son Jordan and sold it to son Stark, allowing Stark to acquire all of Elmwood upon her death (Bertie Deed Book T, 55). It most likely was Stark Armistead who undertook the expansion of Elmwood into center-passage plan about 1810.

By the 1830s the Elmwood plantation had been acquired by William T. Sutton (b. ca. 1810), in whose family it remained until 1874, the end of the nomination's period of significance (Bertie Deed book t, 49). In 1850 the Sutton household at Elmwood consisted of William T., age forty, his thirty-three year-old wife, Mary C., and four sons: Starkey A. (actually Stark Armistead), aged thirteen, whose name strongly suggests that wife Mary may have been a daughter of Stark Armistead; William L., aged eleven; John M., aged seven; and Plummer, aged, four. The three older sons had attended school during the past year, although where is not known (Bertie 1850 Census, Population Schedule).

In 1850 William T. Sutton was among the largest planters in Bertie County, owning 3,000 acres of land, 2,000 acres of which were improved and used for cultivation; the farm's cash value was \$27,750. His ownership of 151 slaves was among the largest in the county but was significantly less than the 204 slaves (the largest in the county) owned by neighbor Cullen Capehart at his immense, nearly 5,000-acre Avoca plantation located approximately two miles east of Elmwood at the mouth of Salmon Creek into Albemarle Sound (house demolished in 1970s). Sutton's slaves were almost evenly divided between men and women, and the sixty-one percent who were between the ages of ten and sixty provided their owner with a sizeable work force. Remarkably, only one child under the age of twelve months was listed (Bertie County 1850 Census, Slave Schedule).

Like other large planters in Bertie County, Sutton's primary crops in 1849-1850 were corn (7,000 bushels), sweet potatoes (1,500

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bushels), peas and beans (900 bushels), and oats (600 bushels). He was among the great minority of Bertie farmers--and they being only the largest planters--who raised cotton. While the thirty-two, 400-pound bales of ginned cotton produced at Elmwood no doubt brought significant cash at market, they paled in comparison to the 200 bales raised by Cullen Capehart at Avoca. Sutton's livestock holdings, valued at \$2,279, were typical of what was needed to meet the labor and food needs of a plantation of 157 persons: twenty-seven horses, nine asses and mules, thirteen milk cows (which produced 365 pounds of butter), six working oxen, seventy "other cattle," 250 swine, and sixty-nine sheep (which yielded 250 pounds of wool). While there are no records to indicate that Sutton was necessarily modern or "scientific" in his farming practices, the \$550 of farming implements and machinery in use at Elmwood was a greater proportion to that used by most other planters in the county (Bertie County 1850 Census, Agriculture Schedule; Bullock 1980, 8-1).

Like many Albemarle planters who owned extensive land along the sound, rivers, or large creeks, Sutton received a significant portion of his annual income from seasonal fishing. Fishing was an important activity in the Albemarle area since settlement, and by the 1730s the colonial General Assembly meeting in Edenton was increasingly petitioned by fishermen to prohibit mill dams from obstructing the springtime run of herring, the most numerous and popular species in the Albemarle (Saunders 1888, 288, 392, 394, 485-494). While the main fishing areas were the Albemarle Sound and the Chowan River, larger creeks and streams like Salmon Creek also proved to be advantageous fishing locations. The fishing season generally extended from late February until late May when annual runs of migratory herring, rockfish, and shad moved from the ocean and its adjacent briny sounds into freshwater spawning sites up rivers and creeks. The first known commercial fishery in the region was the Chowan River fishery of Irishman Richard Brownrigg in upper Chowan County during the early 1750s. The industry was sufficiently established that by 1774-1775 it was reported that 6,325 barrels of herring were shipped from neighboring Chowan County to the West Indies and Europe (Leary 1915, 174-175).

The heyday of fishing in the Albemarle Sound and its tributaries was during the antebellum period. Seines were first utilized in the sound and rivers in the 1790s and had become well-established by the late 1810s. The use of seines as long as 2,700 yards completely transformed fishing practices and provided the opportunity for substantial profits during the three-month season (Leary 1915, 175-178; Butchko 2002, 32-34). During the 1840s and

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1850s it was not unusual for large soundside fisheries to experience a single seine haul containing in excess of 100,000 fish, all of which were cleaned and packed for shipping by the time the next seine haul was landed five or six hours later. Although hauls on Salmon Creek, one of the more productive fishing tributaries of the sound, would have been proportionally smaller than those on the sound, the prospects for substantial financial success were great (Eby 1958, Butchko 2002, 39-40).

Fishing activity was well established on Salmon Creek by the early 1840s. In 1842-1843 it was necessary for the state General Assembly to enact legislation requiring owners of seines on Salmon Creek to remove their seines from the water between sunrise Saturday morning and sunrise Monday morning between March 1 and June 1 (Laws 1843, 175-176). This apparently did not solve the problem completely, for in 1856-1857 the legislature passed another act making it "not lawful" to haul any seine in Salmon Creek from sunset Saturday until sunrise Monday (Private Laws 1857, 23). Unencumbered passage on the Creek was still a problem in 1860-1861 when another law was enacted to prevent "any net, seine, or other fishing tackle whatsoever" to extend more than two-thirds across Salmon Creek between its mouth and Mill Landing, the latter being the site of a gristmill built ca. 1771 several miles upstream from Elmwood (Private Laws 1861, 177; Powell 1984, 326).

When William T. Sutton began his fishery on Salmon Creek is uncertain. It was most certainly before 1846-1847 when the General Assembly authorized him to build a "Draw or Float Bridge" across Salmon Creek, stipulating that the bridge be constructed so that the "free passage of vessels and boats shall not be obstructed or delayed." If delayed, the owner or captain of each boat shall "be entitled to recover" from Wm. T. Sutton the sum of \$2.00 per hour. While a fishery or other enterprise of Sutton's is not mentioned in the legislation, Sutton clearly had financial reason for contemplating such a private endeavor. More details, and whether or not the bridge was ever built, are not known (Laws 1847, 273).

In 1850 Sutton was one of six Bertie residents who operated a commercial fishery, three of whom, including Sutton, had each invested \$2,000 of capital in their respective venture. Utilizing horse-drawn windlasses and thirty men and ten women (in all likelihood his own slaves), Sutton's fishery produced 2,000 barrels of fish worth \$8,000 that were shipped to northern markets. Neighbor and fellow planter Cullen Capehart operated a fishery at Avoca as well, being identical in size, employment, production, and sales as Sutton's except with \$3,000 of invested capital. The county's largest fishery was owned by another Merry Hill planter

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and neighbor, Augustus Holley. With \$3,000 invested capital and the same number of hands as Sutton and Capehart, Holley's fishery produced 3,225 barrels of fish valued at \$13,884. The county totals for seven fisheries were 11,125 barrels of fish valued at \$39,084. As was typical of the industry, thousands of other fish were no doubt sold to local farmers and town residents for them to salt or smoke for personal use during the coming year (Bertie County 1850 Census, Industrial Schedule; Butchko 1992, 22-23; Butchko 2002, 36-40).

In 1860, the Sutton household consisted not only of the four sons listed earlier but also twenty-two-year-old Henrietta Sutton and her two-month-old son William; they were perhaps the wife and son of oldest son Stark. Betsy Cook, a thirty-eight-year-old seamstress also resided in the household, perhaps as a necessity to clothe all the members of the large plantation. Sutton valued his real estate at \$25,390 and his personal property at \$125,000. His 168 slaves, the fourth largest holding in the county, occupied forty-four slave houses. While his total worth was still considerably less than Cullen Capehart's \$376,000 (including 258 slaves), it was the sixth largest in a county in which a sizable majority owned less than \$500 (Bertie 1860 Census, Population Schedule).

Both William T. Sutton and his eldest son, Stark, then twenty-three-years old, are listed as farmers in the 1860 Census. The increased wealth of William T. Sutton indicates that the 1850s had been in many respects a prosperous decade. William owned 1,072 improved and 628 unimproved acres while Stark owned 260 improved and 630 unimproved acres, the total 2,590 acres being a fourteen percent reduction in acreage during the decade. The total value of both farms, \$35,600, was a significant improvement over 1850, and just over twice as much was invested in farm implements as in 1850. Commensurate with his slaveholding, the elder Sutton was the fifth largest producer of cotton in the county, his 197 bales being over six times his crop of ten years earlier. Yet, it was still less than half the 425 bales raised by Cullen Capehart at Avoca, but then Capehart owned nearly three times the acreage as did the Suttons (Thomas 1996. 5). Crop production reported by son Stark reflects the reduced acreage managed by him: 1,000 bushels of corn, 200 bushels of peas and beans, and 150 bushels of oats. The fact that neither father or son raised sweet potatoes, one of the staples in the slave diet in North Carolina, is surprising. The combined complement of livestock is also significantly reduced from 1850, amounting to only one horse, nine asses, two oxen, and sixty head of swine. Even though Stark recorded no milk cows, the year's

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production of 200 pounds of butter indicate that a small herd had either been sold or slaughtered (Bertie County 1860 Census, Agriculture Schedule).

Neither Sutton, father or son, were recorded as being involved with fishing during the 1859-1860 season. Seven fisheries were recorded in Bertie County with Cullen Capehart's Avoca fishery again being the best capitalized and most productive. While the county's total production, 3,402 barrels of "Shad, Herring, & c," was but a third of 1850's level, the value was less drastically reduced, resulting in a per barrel value more than twice that of 1850, \$7.55 in 1860 versus \$3.58 in 1850. For reasons unrecorded--perhaps the Elmwood fishery was leased--the Suttons did not partake directly in these profits (Bertie County 1850 Census, Industrial Schedule).

Like their neighbors, the Suttons bore the social, economic, and legal upheavals inflicted by the Civil War and its aftermath as best they could. Like many North Carolinians, the Suttons, or at least younger son William T., Jr. (who was by 1860 a physician), remained pro-Union in their sympathy during the state's cathartic secession crisis in late 1860 and early 1861. In fact, William T., Jr. was among those "influential and respected citizens of the county" who attended a county-wide pro-Unionist rally on December 8, 1860. The meeting's strong anti-secession resolution was then confirmed by a 632 to 138 countywide vote in a public election opposing a secession convention. But with the attack on Fort Sumter in April 1861, Virginia's subsequent secession, and Lincoln's call for troops from North Carolina, even Bertie's Unionists knew that secession was inevitable and they reluctantly prepared for war (Thomas 1996, 9, 11, 13). The three older Sutton sons each dutifully joined the Confederate army: Stark Armistead Sutton rising to captain of Co. F, 45th Regiment, NC Troops; William T, Jr. as a surgeon in the CSA Medical Department; and John M. as a private in Co. L, the "Bertie Volunteers," in the 1st Regiment, NC Infantry. The youngest son, Plummer, was apparently too young to enter service (Thomas 1996, 171, 11, 13)

The Albemarle region was largely controlled by Union forces, particularly the navy, after the fall of Roanoke Island, Elizabeth City, and nearby Plymouth (about ten miles south of Elmwood) in spring 1862. Although Bertie County remained behind Confederate lines, no sizable Confederate force was ever stationed there to protect its citizens. This allowed Federal gunboats out of Plymouth to routinely patrol area waterways, including Salmon Creek, confiscating Confederate supplies, destroying property, and carrying off slaves and Union sympathizers. In May 1862, during

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the height of the annual fishing season, Union forces destroyed the fishery of John Pool, located along the Chowan River several miles north of Elmwood, after learning that it was packing fish for the Confederate army. Another excursion in July 1863 burned warehouses near the mouth of Salmon Creek where Confederate supplies were being gathered. These warehouses were most likely on the Scotch Hall plantation of ardent secessionist George W. Capehart, a son of Cullen Capehart, which was situated to the south between Elmwood and Avoca. Union activity became so threatening that the younger Capehart fled into the state's Piedmont by the fall of 1863 (Thomas 1996, 78, 86, 81, 87, 91). While the remarkable success of the Confederate ram C. S. S. Albemarle in driving Northern forces from Plymouth on April 20, 1864 brought the western Albemarle Sound again under Confederate protection, its destruction on October 27 brought Union control and gunboats once again to Salmon Creek. In November 1864 George W. Capehart's overseer reported to him that the Yankees had overrun Scotch Hall, run off the hogs, and threatened to "destroy the place." While it cannot be assumed that the same threats were made against Elmwood, it seems probable that the Sutton plantation was at least visited and that an explicit threat was not necessary. In March 1865, with the war drawing to a close, a final Union raid was held on Salmon Creek. Though furniture and other household items had been looted from Scotch Hall the previous month, on March 24 two Union gunboats visited both Scotch Hall and Elmwood. At Elmwood soldiers loaded all of William T. Sutton's corn and departed with an undetermined number of former slaves (Thomas 1996, 145-146, 153-154).

William T. Sutton and wife Mary were still residing at Elmwood in 1870 when their household consisted of sons Plummer (unmarried) and William T., a thirty-one-year old "Physition," and William's wife Annie and their children William, aged ten, and Emma, aged nine. The elder Sutton listed real estate worth \$4,000 and personal property worth \$1,300, which, while considerably diminished from the prewar total, still made him one of only three of 253 households in Merry Hill Township owning property valued over \$5,000, and among the 65 out of 2,770 households in Bertie County (or upper two percent) to own as much. Whether William T. Sutton, Sr. and Mary died before the end of 1873 is uncertain, but on the first day of 1874 William T. Sutton, Jr. sold the 1,000-acre farm "in Merry Hill Township known as Elmwood" to neighbor George W. Capehart; it is the first known reference to the farm by that name. The \$12,500 purchase price, a significant amount in a state still under Reconstruction, was to be paid in installments over four years. George Washington Capehart (ca. 1811-1885), the son of

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Cullen Capehart of Avoca, had been a successful planter on his own right, building his Scotch Hall residence (NR 1982) ca. 1838. His inheritance of half of his father's estate in 1866 made him even wealthier and he remained until his death one of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens of Bertie County (Bertie deed book TT, 49; Bullock 1980, 8-2; Bertie deed book PP, 25).

Under Capehart's ownership Elmwood was occupied by family members, passing to son Cadmus Capehart after 1885. Cadmus and his wife, Pattie M., resided at Elmwood--most likely adding the three-bay front porch--and oversaw the farm's operations until 1921 when they sold it and the surrounding 121 acres to farmer Edward Stephenson Askew (1874-1958) (Bertie deed book 209, 521). Askew and his wife, Nellie (Bond) Askew (1874-1968), occupied Elmwood until 1948 when they sold the same 121-acre tract to Dr. Cola Castelloe (1886-1977), a physician in the Bertie County seat of Windsor. Elmwood remained in Castelloe family ownership as a tenant farm (the house was not occupied after the early 1980s) until 1993 when the deteriorated but structurally sturdy house and 4.5 acres were sold to Randy and Sandra Harrell of Salisbury. After beginning a rehabilitation of the house, the Harrells placed protective covenants on the house through the auspices of the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. and sold it and two acres in 1999 to Jerry and Pat Roberts of California. The Roberts have subsequently undertaken a through rehabilitation of the house.

Architectural Context

Elmwood is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a significant regional example of a large plantation house that illustrates combined elements of the Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival styles from three periods of construction. There are no eighteenth-century plantation houses comparable in size to Elmwood in Bertie County, and few within the Albemarle region. Period examples in neighboring Chowan County include Greenfield (NR 1976), a ca. 1752 single-pile, center-passage-plan house with exceptional interior Georgian woodwork that was significantly enlarged and updated into the Greek Revival ca. 1851 (Cockshutt 1975, 7, 7-1, 8), and Strawberry Hill (NR 1980), a ca. 1785 double-pile, side-passage-plan house which was updated with Federal woodwork in the 1810s before being expanded into a center-passage-plan dwelling before 1860 (Hinson 1979, 7, 7-1, 8 1-

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3). Neither of these houses in their original form ever approached the size of Elmwood as built ca. 1787. Buckland (NR 1986), a large fully-realized double-pile, center-passage plan house erected in 1795 in Gates County, unfortunately had its original interior removed in the early twentieth century (Butchko 1991, 25, 90-91).

The most significant architectural feature of Elmwood is its original plan in which a substantial five-bay two-story hall-and-parlor house is enlarged by a trio of small but nearly equal sized rooms across its rear, with the central room containing a double dog-leg stair. These rear rooms are fully integrated into the main structure of the house, creating in effect a double-pile plan. While this plan is not seen in a two-story version elsewhere in Bertie County or the Albemarle region of North Carolina, it is not uncommon elsewhere in the mid-Atlantic region. Similar houses were constructed in the 1780s or 1790s for the rural elite of English-Scotch-Irish ancestry, suggesting that Christopher Clark, the builder of Elmwood, might have had knowledge of such houses in his native England. Among these examples are several in Cumberland County in central Pennsylvania, most notably the ca. 1790 David Sterrett House and the pre-1798 James Irwin House. Both are of masonry construction in reflecting that area's predominant building material and have stairs situated in the central of three small room across the rear of the house (Van Dolsen 1990, 8-11). Other examples were built in southern New Castle County, Delaware before the 1820s (Herman 1987, 26-27). The plan at Elmwood is nearly identical to that at Rich Hill, a one-and-three-quarters-story frame house erected in Charles County, Maryland in 1783, the only exceptions being the placement of the exterior end chimneys and the orientation of the stair in its rear room (Rivoire 1990, 11, 15). Eastern North Carolina variations of this expanded hall-and-parlor plan are few, being seen primarily at the Duke Green House in Warren County (NR 1974) and at Cascine in Franklin County (ca. 1853) (NR 1973). While the Cascine floor plan is basically the same, the fact that the house is just one-and-a-half-stories in height and that the stair rising from the rear of the central of the three rear rooms is enclosed indicates how rare the original five-room, double-pile form at Elmwood is in eastern North Carolina (Survey and Planning 1972, 7, 7-1; Bishir and Southern 1996, 433-434).

While no record exists of the builder/carpenter of Elmwood, speculation suggests that it might be Gilbert Leigh (d. 1793), a leading builder in Edenton during the mid and late eighteenth

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century who would have been well known to a successful merchant and mariner such as Christopher Clark. Leigh has been mentioned as the probable--but as yet undocumented--builder of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse (NHL) in Edenton; he certainly was among the most skilled builders in the vicinity during his lifetime (Butchko 1992, 275, 195-196, 242-244). It is been noted that the massive upbraced king post framing system of Elmwood's hipped roof is not unlike that at the Chowan Courthouse. Furthermore, Leigh is the known builder of Rosefield (NR 1982), a 1786 two-story, single-pile, side-passage-plan house erected for Stevens Gray in the Bertie County seat of Windsor in which the original Georgian surrounds resemble the broad two-part mitered surrounds at Elmwood. Leigh and his family were living in Bertie in 1787 and his construction of the larger Elmwood could have followed his work on Rosefield. Like Elmwood, Rosefield was subsequently enlarged into a center-passage plan although at Rosefield this expansion occurred within several years of the completion of the original house and not approximately twenty-three years later like at Elmwood. Again like Elmwood, Rosefield was updated with Greek Revival elements, though in the 1850s when a rear ell and new front porch were constructed (Bullock 1982, 7: 8: 1-2; Bishir and Southern 1996, 277).

The center-passage-plan house as enlarged ca. 1810 is notable for its seven-bay facade, unusually broad even among other early nineteenth-century plantation dwellings erected for wealthy planters in the Albemarle region. Houses that underwent similar expansions from hall-and-parlor or side-passage-plan to center-passage plan, such as Strawberry Hill and Sandy Point (NR 1983) in Chowan County, are only five bays wide. Not even the region's two landmark Federal style houses--Hope Plantation (ca. 1796-1803, NR 1970) in Bertie County and Hayes Plantation (1815-1817, NHL 1974) in Chowan County--are wider than five bays. And the conversion of the original "parlor" room into the ca. 1810 center-passage yielded a passage much wider than usual among Federal period houses in the region. The extant Federal and Greek Revival woodwork at Elmwood--the former consisting primarily of mitered three-part surrounds in the east parlor and the latter by symmetrically molded surrounds with medallion cornerblocks in the central passage--are typical of their genre in the Albemarle area. The Greek Revival surrounds, though enframing only a pair of doors that face each other in the center passage, have a striking presence as they continue forms of Greek Revival architectural fashion that predominated regional architecture from the mid 1830s until 1860.

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## 10. Geographical Data

### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of Elmwood are delineated by the heavy black line on the accompanying 1 inch = 100 feet-scale map labeled Exhibit A.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses property that was historically associated with Elmwood and is currently owned by Jerry and Patricia Roberts.

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Elmwood  
Bertie County, North Carolina

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## Photographic Identification

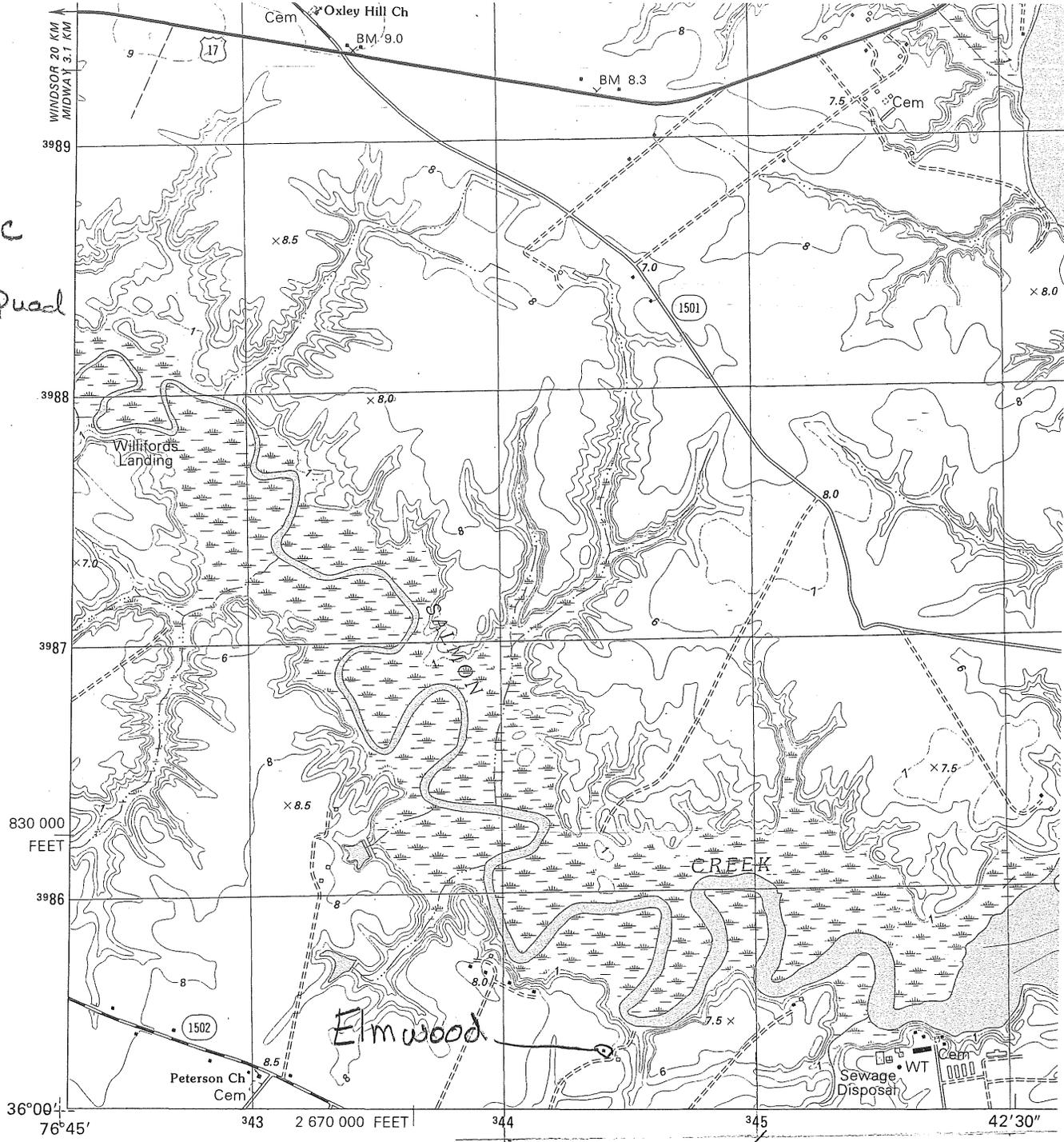
Information applies to all photographs.

Name of photographer: Tom Butchko, September 2002

Location of original negative: State Historic Preservation Office  
Survey and Planning Branch

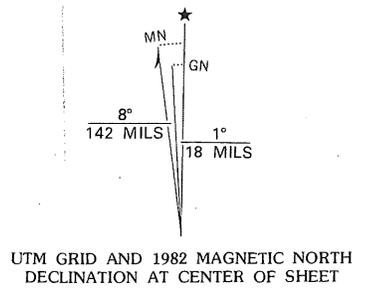
1. Facade of house, looking north.
2. Rear of house, looking south.
3. Smokehouse, looking east, with opened gate to garden on right.
4. Interior of "hall" room, looking towards center passage.
5. Center passage, looking towards rear door, with stair location at left rear.
6. Center passage, looking at door leading into east room.
7. Stair, looking from base at rear of center passage.
8. Upper stair, looking west towards arched "bridge" leading to rear northwest room on second story.

Elmwood  
 Bertie Co, NC  
 Zone 1B  
 Edenhouse Quad  
 E 3444000  
 N 3985340



(WOODARD)  
 5855 IV NE

**Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey**  
 Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and North Carolina Geodetic Survey  
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
 taken 1975. Field checked 1977. Map edited 1982  
 Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS chart 12205 (1981)  
 This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
 Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: North Carolina coordinate  
 system (Lambert conformal conic)  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18  
 1927 North American Datum  
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
 move the projection lines 12 meters south and  
 29 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
 Short dashed blue lines indicate elliptical bay outlines  
 visible on aerial photographs  
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
 the National or State reservations shown on this map



UTM GRID AND 1982 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

# EXHIBIT B

RES

**MARION C. PERRY**

DB. 532, PG. 321

N 48°33'50"E 260.70'

S 03°00'01"E 99.27'

SALMON CREEK

**TRACT 1**

N 29°36'10"E 262.94'

N 21°46'44"E 50.59'

N 14°12'29"E 165.18'

S 46°51'46"E 382.86'

34" EGRESS

34" EGRESS

N 35°15'09"E 286.73'

N 04°10'08"E 51.82'

30' PATH RESERVED FOR BOTH TRACTS

**TRACT 2**

N 80°30'21"E 43.30'

N 71°48'02"E 120.94'

N 68°03'00"E 127.15'

N 78°28'19"W 333.11'

N 244.12'

N 79°17'52"W

94.43'

RUN OF BRANCH IS LINE 373.71'

**CLEMENT A. BLOOM**

