

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

**Bracebridge Hall Additional Documentation and
Boundary Increase**

Macclesfield vicinity, Edgecombe County, ED1172, Listed 12/16/2005
Nomination by Davyd Foard Hood
Photographs by Davyd Foard Hood, January 2005

See photo at the end of the nomination

**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 any 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 Bracebridge Hall: Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 7714 Colonial Road, both sides of Colonial Road (SR 1601)
at junction with Carr Farm Road (SR 1611) not for publication N/A
city or town Macclesfield vicinity X
state North Carolina code NC county Edgecombe code 065 zip code 27852

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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
X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
_____ nationally X statewide _____ locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
_____ 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): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Bracebridge Hall Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase

Name of Property

Edgecombe County, NC
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>6</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>11</u>	<u>11</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

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Cat: DOMESTIC
- DOMESTIC
 - AGRICULTURE
 - AGRICULTURE
 - AGRICULTURE
 - LANDSCAPE
 - FUNERARY

- Sub: single dwelling
- secondary structure
 - processing
 - agricultural field
 - agricultural outbuilding
 - forest
 - cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Cat: DOMESTIC
- DOMESTIC
 - AGRICULTURE
 - AGRICULTURE
 - LANDSCAPE
 - FUNERARY
 - VACANT/NOT IN USE

- Sub: single dwelling
- secondary structure
 - agricultural field
 - agricultural outbuilding
 - forest
 - cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

- Greek Revival
- Other: tobacco barn
- Other: gable-front barn

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation brick
- roof metal
- walls weatherboard
- brick
- other stone
- wood

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheets

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Name of Property

Edgecombe County, NC
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.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a 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
- Politics/Government
-
-
-

Period of Significance

1820-1923

Significant Dates

ca. 1835-1840
1860
1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Carr, Elias

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: North Carolina Division of Archives and History

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Name of Property

Edgecombe County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property app. 145.71 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing		Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>18 269920</u>	<u>3960780</u>		3	<u>18 270600 3960800</u>
2	<u>18 270230</u>	<u>3960880</u>		4	<u>18 270550 3960260</u>
					<u>X</u> 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 Davyd Foard Hood

organization _____ date 31 December 2004

street & number Isinglass, 6907 Old Shelby Road telephone 704/462-1847

city or town Vale state NC zip code 28168

12. 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mrs. Martina Fillmore Taylor/Martina Fillmore Taylor Revocable Trust

street & number 600 Northwest 42nd Street/same telephone 405/528-2604

city or town Oklahoma City/same state OK/same zip code 73118/same

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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BRACEBRIDGE HALL

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Overview

In the 1970 nomination of Bracebridge Hall to the National Register the nominated acreage was “4 acres.” Although the four acres were not defined on a map or described, the acreage was understood to include the immediate site and setting of the plantation seat on the west side of SR 1601 (Colonial Road), south/southwest of its junction with SR 1611 (Carr Farm Road). The dashed line on the USGS map is the conjectural estimate of the 1970 boundary. Then, as now, Bracebridge Hall stood in the expansive agricultural landscape of broad flat fields and woodlands of south central Edgecombe County, just north of the Edgecombe/Pitt County line. The house stands about ten miles due south of Tarboro, the Edgecombe County seat. Although Bracebridge Hall (#1) was described in part eight of the 1970 nomination as “one of the best preserved plantation complexes in eastern North Carolina,” only the house was described, with brief mention of the grove, picket fence, and gardens. The additional subsidiary buildings and structures (#3-18) making up the complex, together with the family cemetery (#19) were neither cited nor described.

This “Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase” enlarges the nominated historic acreage to approximately 149.71 acres. The boundary increase is an irregularly-shaped tract that lies at the heart of the Carrs’ Bracebridge Plantation which extended to just over 2,000 acres at its greatest extent. The historic path of the Tarboro-Greenville highway, today’s Colonial Road, traverses the acreage on a north/south axis generally parallel to the course of the Tar River, crosses a creek known as Jumping Run, and continues to the south to join NC 43. About midway on its path through the nominated acreage, Carr Farm Road heads at a simple junction and continues westward to its junction with US 258 in the village of Crisp. This larger historic property, comprising three adjoining (tax) parcels at the intersection of Colonial and Carr Farm roads, includes the site and setting of Bracebridge Hall, its surviving domestic and agricultural outbuildings, the Carr Cemetery, and the fields (#20) linking the plantation seat and its complex of buildings to the cemetery where seven generations of the Carr family lie buried. Bracebridge Hall (#1) and the House Grounds (#2), previously listed, and twenty of the resources (#2-#18) are located in the largest of these three parcels, a 67.78-acre wedge-shaped home tract in the southwest corner of Colonial and Carr Farm roads. The Carr Cemetery (#19) is located in the northeast corner of the rectangular, 54.40-acre “Long Field” tract on the east side of Colonial

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Road in a verge where field joins woodland. The greater, remaining acreage of this tract is a combination of fields and woodlands. The third parcel, a rectangular 27.53-acre portion of the "Shop Field," comprises fields and lies in the northwest corner of Colonial and Carr Farm roads.

The boundaries of the nominated acreage are a combination of historic bounds, legal lines reflecting the division of property in the early-twentieth century among the Carr descendants, the paths of both Colonial and Carr Farm roads, and later bounds reflecting the subdivision of the plantation lands through the mid-twentieth century. Of these, the course of Jumping Run is the oldest historic boundary of Bracebridge Plantation. It forms the long southwest boundary of the nominated acreage and a portion of this border is coterminous with a length of the southwest edge of the plantation that has remained unchanged since 1816. The boundaries along the two public roads are also marked by ditches, parallel with the roads, that drain the adjoining fields. The thirteen fields on the three tracts, in turn, are set apart, one from another, and from those of other adjoining property owners, by simple hedgerows, woodland edges, ditches, and farm lanes. Of these, the lane which forms the south boundary of the nominated acreage on the east side of Colonial Road is coincident with the historic path from the plantation complex to the family-maintained landing on the Tar River where cotton and other crops were shipped to markets and goods for house and farm received.

A description of Bracebridge Plantation, written by Professor Joseph Austin Holmes (1859-1915), the state geologist, was published under the heading "Side Notes From A Geological Exploration Down the Tar River," in *The Progressive Farmer* on 17 February 1891.

Col. Carr's farm--Bracebridge--skirts the river on the south side, a couple of miles below Old Sparta. His low land, with mostly a sandy and gravelly soil and with an elevation of 15 to 20 feet above low water, extend (sic) from the river bank back for a mile and more in places, when the surface rises abruptly onto a level plateau region, which has an elevation of about 65 feet above the river, and 45 feet above the town of Tarboro. It is on this elevated plateau that the better part of Col. Carr's farm lies surrounding a grove of fine oaks, which, in turn, surround his handsome residence. It is often the case that a public-spirited man, in his attention to public matters, neglects his own. But such is not the case at Bracebridge. Here one finds the improvements of modern progressive agriculture in the way of houses, sheds, silos, and farm implements, and everything is kept in good shape, as would be expected by those who know of the push and energy and business like way of the manager of this farm, now President of the State Alliance.

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While many of the buildings and agricultural improvements seen by Professor Holmes have vanished--along with the great grove--Bracebridge Hall (#1) continues to stand in handsome state on its grounds (#2) with two of its nineteenth-century frame domestic outbuildings, the plantation office (#7) and servants' house (#10), and the brick ruins of its dairy (#3), ash house (#8), and ice house (#9). Less visible in this informally arranged grouping are two additional nineteenth-century brick structures, the brick well and its later cover (#5) and a metal boiler/basin in a brick mount (#6). Three further resources are located at the west edge of the domestic grounds: a rudimentary storage shed (#11), a board-and-batten tobacco barn (#12), and a pair of brick troughs (#13) inset in the ground.

Bracebridge Plantation's agricultural work yard and related buildings were in a fenced enclosure known as "The Lot." The Lot occupied the area north of the plantation seat and domestic grounds, between it and today's Carr Farm Road. Today the fence is long lost, the area traversed by a secondary drive off Carr Farm Road that leads to Bracebridge Hall. There is little sense of separation between the domestic and agricultural areas. Two frame barns (#14 and #16) stand here together with a concrete-block barn (#15). A quintet of modern bulk tobacco barns (#17a-e) stands at the north edge of The Lot area, on the immediate south side of Carr Farm Road. The overseer's house (#18), seen by Professor Holmes in 1891, stands nearby. It overlooked fields (#20) to the north and east included in the nominated acreage.

The Carr Cemetery (#19), where members of seven generations of the family are buried, including North Carolina Governor Elias Carr (1839-1900), exists in isolation in the northeast edge of the nominated acreage. When set apart in 1820 it was near the family's first residence on this property, the seat of their Aspen Grove Plantation, which remained the home of the first Mrs. Elias Carr until her death on 20 June 1840 and has been long lost.

The accounts of the resources in the following inventory list reflect this author's field recording and additional research, together with his reference to two important articles by Professor Lala Carr Steelman, published in the *North Carolina Historical Review* and cited in the bibliography, the "Architectural and Finishes Analysis" for Bracebridge Hall prepared in 1984 by George T. Fore and Associates, and "Mapping and Limited Archaeological Survey, Bracebridge Hall, Edgecombe County, North Carolina" by Susan E. Bamann and Loretta Lautzenheiser. The revised dating of the component parts of Bracebridge Hall is based on a comparison of architectural fabric and finishes with family history and surviving historical records. This author's telephone interview with William L. Ferguson, a restoration contractor in Rocky Mount, was useful in a general reconciliation of the history of the plantation office (#7), the servants'

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house (#10), and the overseer's house (#18). Mr. Ferguson has developed restoration plans for the three buildings.

The resources date from 1820 when the first known burial occurred in the Carr Cemetery (#19) to ca. 1971 when a trio of bulk tobacco barns (#17c-e) were added beside two existing ones (#17a-b). As was typical on eastern North Carolina plantations the majority of the historic buildings are of frame construction with attention and expense focused on the plantation seat. The frame outbuildings are well-built and workmanlike in their essential fabric. Elias Carr was prolific with the use of brick construction, using it for three of his domestic outbuildings which have become ruinous (#3, #8-9) and the 1885 kitchen addition to his house which appears to represent the first known surviving instance of a major brick addition to an important frame building in post-Civil War North Carolina. He also used brick for the construction of a pair of troughs (#13), whose use is believed to have been horticultural, for lining his well (#5), and as the mount for a boiler/basin (#6). Frame construction continued in the twentieth century, and concrete block was also used for a shed addition to the servants' house (#10) and for building a barn (#15). Eleven of the total resources contribute to the significance of the property while eleven others do not because of their condition or recent date.

Inventory List

1. Bracebridge Hall
ca. 1830-32, ca. 1835-1840, ca. 1880-1881, 1885
Contributing building (previously listed)

Bracebridge Hall is a large, imposing two-story weatherboarded frame house whose exterior fabric and appearance reflect major building programs in the Greek Revival and Victorian periods undertaken successively by Jonas Carr and his son, Elias Carr, in the nineteenth century. The facts of its history, however, document a house that began about 1830-1832 as a small side-hall plan one-and-a-half story Federal-style dwelling erected by Jonas and Elizabeth Jane Carr who were married in 1832. They named their house Bracebridge Hall in tribute to Washington Irving's novel of that name which was published in 1822. Their house faced north with its hall at the east end and paired chimneys on the west elevation serving paired chambers. In the later 1830s Jonas Carr essentially remade Bracebridge Hall into a landmark of the Greek Revival style by adding the handsome five-bay center-hall-plan block across the east end of his original house, which then was relegated to the status of an ell. The finish of the new block is based on plates appearing in two important Greek Revival-style pattern books: Asher Benjamin's *The Practical House Carpenter* of 1830, and *Practice of Architecture* of 1833.

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Bracebridge Hall stood with its two-story side-gable roof main block and one-and-a-half story ell from about 1840 to ca. 1880 when the first of two 1880s projects further enlarged its footprint and embellished its appearance. About 1880-1881 Elias Carr raised the ell to a full two stories and added a two-tier porch across the full width of its three-bay north elevation. Whether the one-story one-room deep extension occupying the west end of the ell was added then or (probably) dates to an earlier project is uncertain. Some question also exists as to the date of the shallow one-story (now two-room) hyphen that occupies the rear west side of the main block, south of the ell, and in plan appears to be an extension of the ell's hall. It certainly predates 1885 and probably functioned as some combination of porch, passage, and pantry linking the dining room with the earlier, probably freestanding kitchen. Whatever the case, both predate the diminutive two-story brick kitchen ell that Mr. Carr added in 1885. While the earlier frame ell is inset about two feet behind (south of) the main block's north gable end, the brick ell is offset and wraps the southwest corner of the main block occupying portions of both its west and south elevations. Bracebridge Hall has the general appearance of a rectangular house; however, its plan is really a reverse U-shape with a narrow court between the two ells. It has remained essentially unchanged since 1885 to the present.

To facilitate this description and an understanding of the house's complex history, photocopies of its first- and second-story plans are enclosed. These plans, with the rooms enumerated, were prepared in 1984 by George T. Fore, a preservation consultant. This enumeration is referenced in the description. The following description addresses the three essential blocks of the house in hierarchical sequence, beginning with the ca. 1835-1840 main block, continuing with the overbuilt north ell, and concluding with the 1885 brick south ell. The description of the interior follows the same order. The frame blocks of Bracebridge Hall stand on brick piers with brick infill of varying bonds and of varying but early dates. The elevations of the house, except for the kitchen ell, are sheathed with weatherboards. The roofs of all parts of the house are covered with painted standing seam metal.

Bracebridge Hall's two-story, single-pile main block is archetypal in both its appearance and finish, and it represents a handsome, well-crafted, and richly detailed Greek Revival character. Its elevations, rising from tall plain sill boards, are framed with molded decorative corner boards that rise to a molded dentil cornice which encircles the block below relatively shallow eaves. Its unusually broad, five-bay façade, looking east across a deep lawn to today's Colonial Road, its former fields, and on to the Tar River, is dominated by a one-story Doric portico. Centered on the façade, reflecting the center-hall plan, the portico is remarkably impressive, well-proportioned with fluted Doric columns rising with entasis from its wood floor to a fully realized Doric entablature. These columns and cornice are based on Plate #6, "Doric Order--Example No.

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3,” in *The Practical House Carpenter*, and the finish of the columns and the entablature follows the description of the plate appearing on pages twenty-five and twenty-six of the book. The mutules, positioned above the triglyphs in a paneled soffit, are enriched with guttae which also appear at the base of the triglyphs. The raking cornice of the porch’s pediment is also finished with corresponding mutules.

A full-width wood staircase, fitted with five steps inside boxed ends that descend to a brick landing, is effectively the architectural base of the portico. Its presence and architectural power are further enhanced by the picket fence that curves forward and then extends to the north and south in long straight lines parallel to the façade. This fencing, seen at a distance by most passersby, at the back of the deep lawn, is the height of the house’s foundation, and brilliantly ties the house to its grounds.

The rich framing at doors and windows of the façade are likewise taken from plates in Benjamin’s 1830 and 1833 patternbooks. At the back of the porch, the entrance to the house, with its fretwork pilasters, is copied directly from Plate #28 in *The Practical House Carpenter*, “Design for Front Door Case,” with only slight exception. The sidelights at Bracebridge Hall are fitted with four panes above molded panels instead of Benjamin’s prescribed three panes. Also, the builder of Bracebridge Hall substituted a single-leaf ten-panel door for the double-leaf door Benjamin illustrated. The corresponding window openings on the first and second stories are fitted with nine-over-nine and nine-over-six sash respectively. They are framed with symmetrically molded architraves fitted with medallion cornerblocks that are copied from Plate #43 in Benjamin’s *Practice of Architecture*.

The north and south gable ends of the house’s main block are symmetrical and virtually identical. Flemish bond brick chimneys with stepped shoulders rise in the center of each elevation from stepped bases. They, in turn, are flanked by windows at each level which replicate the fenestration on the façade. The upper gable ends are pedimented, flush sheathed, and finished with molded rake boards. The rear, west elevation of the main block is occupied by the north ell and other parts of the house except for a small blind section.

The appearance of the three-bay, double-pile-overbuilt Federal ell is dominated by the handsome full-width double-tier porch on its north elevation, looking north to Carr Farm Road, and the pair of brick chimneys which rise on its west gable end. The finish of this ell effectively dates from the ca. 1880-1881 project except for the survival of paired Federal period windows on the south side, in their (apparently) original locations, and a second such pairing on the west end of the one-story extension that are believed to represent a reuse. While Bracebridge Hall’s Greek Revival doorway and portico on its east façade remains the principal entrance, the doorway on

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this north porch came to enjoy an important secondary “everyday” usage as it gave onto the garden on the north side of the house. The porch stands on brick piers with lattice infill. It is a co-equal, stylistic counterpoint to the classical porch and reflects the rich eclectic character of later-nineteenth-century architecture. On both levels its robust chamfered posts rise from molded piers enriched with decorative shields to molded capitals supporting bracketed impost blocks. Lattice railings, made up of alternating, linked hexagons and circles, feature unusually heavy hand rails. The porch eaves are finished with a molded, bracketed cornice. Wood steps with boxed ends rise from ground level to the first story where the entrance is set in the easternmost bay. It comprises a single-leaf door ornamented with four applied, molded octagonal panels, flanked by four-pane sidelights above complementing decorative panels, and surmounted by a two-pane transom. A similar pendant doorway links the second-story porch with the upper hall. The window openings on the first story have been refitted with two-over-two sash while the corresponding second story windows retain their six-over-six sash. The windows and doors are set in simple plain board surrounds.

The west end of the two-story ell is occupied on the first-story by a single-pile hip-roof extension whose north side is blind. Paired, symmetrical window openings on its west elevation hold nine-over-nine sash in two-part Federal surrounds fitted with rounded sills. (Although the date of this extension is unknown two possible original sources for these windows and frames are (probably) the east wall of the hall (103) of the Federal house, which was obscured with the Greek Revival addition, or (possibly) the north wall, under the present porch, where the window openings have been refitted.) On the second story of the ell a single opening is set between the chimney stacks and fitted with six-over-six sash which illuminate the northwest corner bedroom (211). The south elevation of the one-story block has a single opening, holding four-over-four sash in a simple two-part Greek Revival-style surround, in its western half which illuminates a bathroom (111) in this corner, and later paired six-over-six sash windows flanking a door, all under a shed porch, in the eastern half. The south elevation of the ell has the aforementioned pair of Federal window frames on the first story, holding nine-over-nine sash, and a trio of corresponding openings on the second story holding six-over-six sash.

Bracebridge Hall’s diminutive two-story brick kitchen ell, whose first-story is near ground level, was built to provide a large kitchen for the house and the smaller, rectangular conservatory at its east end which abuts the brick chimney of the Greek Revival addition. Its walls are laid up in a one-to-five bond. The ell’s picturesque Gothic-like south elevation has a principal three-bay section with corresponding openings on each level. The openings in the three-quarter height second story are set in gable-face wall dormers protected by a trio of shallow gable roofs set perpendicular to the ell’s ridge line.

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On the first story the center and westernmost bay hold four-over-four sash that illuminate the kitchen (106) while the easternmost of the openings, taller than its counterparts, becomes one of three very tall, almost floor-to-ceiling windows in the conservatory (107). Here the center opening was actually the only access to the conservatory for nearly a hundred years. A fully-glazed eight-pane door is set below a four-pane transom. The flanking bays have complementing six-over-six sash as does a fourth window set in the shallow east side of the conservatory. The second story openings, also fitted with flat arches, hold four-over-four sash. The west gable end of the ell is blind. The brick ell's north elevation, facing on the shallow brick paved court between the Hall's two ells, has a doorway, near its center, that opens into the kitchen and a window opening to its right (west) side. The tall two-panel door is surmounted by a three-pane transom. A pair of inset gables protect symmetrical window openings on the second level that also contain four-over-four sash. At the east end of the court, the west elevation of the one-story hyphen (present-day kitchen) that links the ells has a trio of six-over-six sash windows beside a partially glazed door in the southernmost bay. This treatment dates to the 1980s when the kitchen (#104) was refitted.

The interior of Bracebridge Hall reflects the same stylistic complexity seen on the exterior and the taste of the Carr family as it evolved through the five generations who have occupied its rooms and halls since ca. 1830. In its plan and architectural finish it retains the essential character and fabric of the original ca. 1830-1832 building, the ca. 1835-1840 expansion in the Greek Revival style, both by Jonas Carr, and the two 1880s building programs undertaken by his son Elias Carr. Unlike the exterior, the interior also retains features, principally wallpaper and carpet in the parlor and wallpaper in the dining room, that reflect Elias Carr's return to the house after his marriage and subsequent surface improvements in its interior decoration. Except in the matter of paint color and wallpapers, the fitting up of the present kitchen (104) by Dr. and Mrs. Taylor in the 1980s, and the creation of a full bathroom (111) in the first story of the north ell, and modern fixtures in the old bathroom (207), the house remains essentially as it stood at the death of Governor Elias Carr in 1900. The following description follows the pattern utilized for the exterior description. It begins with the principal Greek Revival block of ca. 1835-1840, continues with the north wing, which represents a ca. 1880-1881 overbuilding of the original Federal house, and concludes with the 1885 kitchen ell that remains the least disturbed part of the large twenty-five-room dwelling.

Bracebridge Hall's two-story, center-hall, single-pile block of ca. 1835-1840 remains virtually intact since its construction and retains the wealth of architectural finish copied from plates in Asher Benjamin's *The Practical House Carpenter* of 1830 and *Practice of Architecture* of 1833. It is finished with heart pine flooring, painted baseboards, decorative graining, and plaster walls

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and ceilings. The east portico entrance opens into the rectangular center, stair hall (100) where doors in the north and south walls, respectively, open into the parlor (102) and dining room (101), and a fourth door at the west end of the hall opens into the ca. 1880-1881 secondary stair hall (103) in the east end of the frame ell. The staircase rises on the south wall to a landing in the southwest corner of the hall, northward to a second landing in the northwest corner, and up along the hall's north wall to the second story. Simple square newels support a shaped, ramped handrail and oak-grained pickets. The plaster ceiling medallion comprises a richly foliate centerpiece in a plain field encircled by seven concentric ring bands. The fluted, symmetrically molded door surrounds in the hall, rising from plinths to square-paneled cornerblocks, are copied from Plate #48 in *The Practical House Carpenter*. The tall doors onto the portico and into the parlor and dining room have an unusual symmetrical ten-panel arrangement that is a stylistic variant of the eight-panel doors appearing in Benjamin's 1833 patternbook. The door into the ell's hall and another opening into the closet under the southwest landing, used as a wine cellar, have a six-panel arrangement. All these doors and their surrounds have a handsome oak-grained finish.

Benjamin's Plate #48 was also utilized for the door and window architraves in the parlor (102); however, they and all the woodwork are painted white in this most formal room of the house that communicates with no other. The mantel is reproduced from Plate #50 in *The Practical House Carpenter* and features fluted pilasters rising to the well-known fretwork capitals. Plate #43 in *Practice of Architecture* is also the apparent source for the flat panel aprons under the parlor windows. The parlor's interior decoration dates to the return of Elias Carr and his young bride in 1859-1860 and includes both the carpet and wallpaper of that period. The bordered Aubusson-style carpet is made up of twenty-four inch-wide strips that are sown together to create an overall floral and trellis pattern in shades of rich rose, gold, chocolate brown, and Prussian blue. This carpet and that in the parlor of Coolmore (NHL, 1978), also in Edgecombe County, are among the few such antebellum carpets to remain in place in North Carolina. The wallpaper, which is possibly that for which W. A. Bassett was paid for papering (and painting) on 19 June 1860, has floral bouquets with white highlights on a wave-patterned surface with twigs of tarnished copper. At the ceiling it is finished with a foliate border that joins the classical border of the ceiling paper. The wallpaper was painstakingly restored and reglued in spring 2002. The gilt and crystal chandelier, with eight arms holding two candles each, was never electrified. The piano in this room also dates to early in the period of the Carrs' return; however, the suite of rosewood furniture, brought here from Fairmont, the Warren County home of Governor Carr's brother, was stolen in a break-in in the 1970s.

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The woodwork and general finish seen in the hall and parlor also appears in the dining room (101) except for two important differences. The mantel here is a variant of Benjamin's Plate #51. Instead of his prescribed freestanding fluted Doric columns, this mantel has fluted pilasters that rise to the frieze and its applied fretwork band seen in the plate. The other variation begs sure understanding. In the west wall of the room are two doors clearly installed to provide access from the kitchen(s) and pantries of Bracebridge Hall. The framing and panel configuration of the door at the north edge of the wall, adjoining the northwest corner of the room, is the same as that which opens into the hall. The second doorway, positioned to the south, is Federal in design and date and was probably reused here from somewhere in the original house. Its installation may well coincide with the construction of the brick kitchen in 1885 as it opens into a pantry (105), that communicates directly with the old kitchen (106). The wallpaper here, very early but not original to 1860, features an overall, repetitive pattern of fanciful lyre-shaped medallions set in interlocking pendant cartouches enframed with ribbons of color and scrollwork.

The second floor plan replicates that of the first story with its provision for two bedrooms above the parlor and dining room together with a third, small room (202) intended possibly for a nursery or sewing room. It is set between the rooms and on the east side of the landing (200) at the top of the staircase. The finish of these rooms is generally consistent. Mitred, molded architraves enframe the doorways into the three rooms that are fitted with ten-panel doors seen on the first story. The door and window surrounds in the large bedrooms are of like character, also rising from plinths, and the windows are fitted with paneled aprons. The mantels in both bedrooms are virtually identical to that in the parlor and copied from Benjamin's Plate #50. Both bedrooms are wallpapered as is the small chamber whose mitred architraves are of different, but contemporary character. Originally this room opened only from the hall; however, a doorway was installed in the partition wall linking it with the southeast bedroom (201) and fitted with a five, horizontal panel door. When the ell was raised to two stories, an opening was centered in the west wall of the northeast bedroom (203) enabling communication with the addition. That opening and a second doorway in this wall, opening into a large closet, are both fitted with four-panel doors in simply molded architraves with backbands.

The interior plan and finish of the north ell, representing the ca. 1880-1881 Victorian overbuilding of the Carrs' one-and-a-half story Federal house, reflects these two principal building programs and the one-story west extension of the ell whose date is uncertain. The general character of the ell dates to ca. 1880-1881 when new fabric was installed in both the original house and the addition. Except for the upgrading of the bathroom facilities in the southwest corner of the ell extension, this part of Bracebridge Hall has seen little change except in the matter of paint colors and wallpaper selections since Governor Carr's death. The floors are

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heart pine and the walls and ceilings plastered, fitted with baseboards, and painted or papered. The side-hall plan of the Federal house, with a long hall (103) on a north/south axis at the east end of the house and paired rooms of unequal size on the west, was preserved and replicated on the second story when the ell was raised. The original stair was removed and replaced by a single-flight stair, fitted with a bold, robust octagonal newel, shaped handrail, and turned pickets. It rises on the hall's west wall, on a south to north axis, where floor-to-ceiling bookshelves have been added under its entire length. In addition to the doors onto the north porch and the Greek Revival hall, doors also open into the present kitchen and the paired rooms beside the hall. The kitchen door is six-panel, the two others are four-panel, and all are finished with wood-grained molded panels. The architraves here and throughout the ell have plain boards with molded, applied backbands of the period. The larger room (109), with windows onto the north porch and used as a library and sitting room, was refitted with an Eastlake-style mantel on its west wall, which retains traces of its original marbleizing. Six-panel doors on the mantel's south and north sides open respectively into a closet and the northwest corner room (113) of the extension which was simply fitted up as a kitchen for a tenant/caretaker who resided in these first-story rooms west of the hall in the 1990s. The architraves in this "kitchen" have a simple two-part, flat Greek Revival character, which clearly indicates the original lower status of this room and its utilitarian usage. A four-panel door opens from the sitting room into the ell's smaller principal room (108) which is the only first-story bedroom in the house. Although the fireplace was refitted with a Greek Revival-style mantel, the room retains Federal-period architraves on the windows and the horizontal board wainscot with a molded chair rail. The six-panel door beside (south of) the mantel opens into a passage (110) that connects with the bathroom (111) and a small storeroom (112) that have tall two-panel Greek Revival doors in two-part architraves.

The ell's second story follows the same hall and two-room plan of the first story except that its south end was partitioned off to enclose a bathroom (205) and closet, and a pair of closets are situated on the east side of the hall. These three closets are original features to the ca. 1880-1881 overbuilding and serve the two new bedrooms here and the northeast bedroom in the main block. The finish in the bedrooms (210-211), which communicate with each other through a door fitted with a two-pane transom, includes conventional later-nineteenth century mantels with chamfered pilasters, plain frieze boards, and shaped, molded shelves. The small room (205) appears to have been used originally as a bathroom and retains an early tub on stand and the marble top for a fitted basin.

Bracebridge Hall's 1885 brick kitchen wing is a remarkably intact utilitarian domestic space that has survived essentially unaltered to the present. Interior access to its rooms is through the present-day pantry (105) at the south end of the one-story hyphen linking the ells. The exact

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construction history of the hyphen, first known as a porch with a water pump, is uncertain; however, it and the pantry were possibly part of a one-story shed block that linked the seat's old freestanding kitchen to the dining room. In her later years Mrs. Elias Carr, Jr., utilized the hyphen as an ad hoc kitchen, and that usage was made permanent by the Taylors when they fitted up the kitchen with pine cabinets and counters in 1983-1984. The pantry is sheathed with unpainted pine boards and fitted with double-tier cabinets on its north and south walls where doors also open into the kitchen (104) and the conservatory (107), respectively. A previously noted door opens in its east wall into the dining room while paired four-panel doors set together in its west wall open onto steps descending into the old kitchen (106) and another parallel enclosed flight rising to the second story.

The kitchen (106) is a single large room with whitewashed plaster walls and an exposed beam ceiling. The floor, probably originally brick paved, is now poured concrete. The flue for the cook stove Mr. Carr ordered in 1885 is visible in the room's blind west wall. An enamel on cast iron sink, probably a replacement for the one Mr. Carr also ordered in 1885, remains on a wood stand in the kitchen's southwest corner. Two large plantation tables are also here. The extent to which other original or early fittings and furnishings remain here is uncertain as the room has been used for household storage for nearly a half-century and is filled with boxes, crates, trunks, furniture, etc. The Taylors installed a washing machine and dryer in the northeast corner under the enclosed stair. The conservatory (107) originally had no means of access from the house and appears to have been intended to winter-over plants rather than as a pleasure space. In the 1983-1984 Taylor renovation a doorway was installed linking it with the pantry. It has an original brick floor and plaster walls.

The enclosed service stairs rise in a single flight westward to a landing (206) on the second story. The stairwell and landing are finished with a vertical tongue-and-groove wainscot, molded chair rail, and plaster walls. Four-panel doors, retaining their original brown paint open into the bathroom (207), and a sizable rectangular bedroom or dressing room (208). All of these rooms retain their heart pine floors, plaster walls, architraves with mostly original paint, and four-panel doors that are painted in a two-tone brown and ochre Victorian scheme.

The bathroom (207), retaining much of its original hardware and fittings, survives as possibly the earliest such domestic space of its type in North Carolina. The rectangular lead well in which the tub stood is built into the southwest corner of the room. Although the tub is lost the spigots and pipes remain in place. The ceramic commode and its wood water tank, mounted high on the room's east wall, stands in the southeast corner. The marble-top lavatory, ordered by Mr. Carr in 1885, is positioned under the water tank.

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The Taylors have added a modern commode, lavatory, and fiberglass shower stall in the room's north offset. The adjoining bedroom (208) is rectangular, intact, and said to have long been the bedroom of Governor Carr's son, Dr. John Buxton Carr (1862-1907). Whether it was originally his room, as possible given his age, is uncertain. Paired steps on its east wall are positioned at the foot of a door that opens into a plastered trunk room (209), above the conservatory, whose floor has two levels linked by two steps.

2. The House Grounds
ca. 1840 to the present
Contributing site (previously listed)

In 1970 when Bracebridge Hall was nominated to the national register, the grounds were described in the concluding paragraph as follows: The house is set in a grove of beautiful deciduous trees and enclosed by a simple picket fence. The grounds include extensive informal gardens with unusually large crepe myrtles, and plantings of camellias, azaleas, english boxwoods, and towering magnolias.

In the "Significance" section the house was again described as "Shaded by a grove of large oaks and fronted by a wide lawn, . . ." Landscape architecture was cited as one of four areas of significance.

Now, thirty-four years later, these descriptions hold true except for one important change. The "grove" is largely lost. A series of storms and hurricanes has uprooted a majority of the aged trees that graced the grounds as well as many of the younger trees that might have taken their place. However, these losses are in fact part of the historic evolution of the grounds. In a memorandum dated 26 March 1884, Elias Carr wrote "At 1:50 o'clock this morning a cyclone struck "Bracebridge." The most fearful and destructive I ever witnessed. In the grove, the pigeon house, belfry, blacksmith shop, cotton shelter and nineteen trees were blown down. Also damaging seriously the roofs of several other buildings" (Elias Carr Papers). Today most of the older, largest trees, which stand in the area of the house, are a group of volunteer pines and some fewer deciduous trees along the extended frontage on Colonial Road. The tree cover appearing on the USGS map is no longer an accurate representation of circumstances.

Nevertheless, the splendid, once-shaded expanse in which Bracebridge Hall stands continues to provide a grand, necessary setting for the house. It also conveys the remarkable scale of domestic grounds that were set apart in such large plantation acreages, here just over 2,000 acres. With the loss of the cooling grove, the broad historic lawn serves as a forecourt for the house and enhances an even greater dignity. Now, rather than standing in a grove, Bracebridge Hall stands

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at the back of a lawn and in front of a backdrop of mixed evergreen and deciduous trees that have grown up in the verge to the west and south of the house where the domestic grounds meet field and woodland, respectively. Rather than replant the grove the present owners have chosen to retain the openness. They have added a series of interplanted *Magnolia grandiflora*, pale lavender crape myrtles, and oak trees in an informal row in the easternmost edge of the front lawn, near the volunteer border, and generally parallel to it.

Here, at the front of Bracebridge Hall, the half-circle drive off Colonial Road continues to be the principal access to the house. Its path, once defined by gravel, is now partially covered over with grass. At Colonial Road, the north head and south end of the drive are framed by quartets of painted, square-in-plan brick piers. In each instance one pairing of piers, closest to the public road, is linked by iron railings to a second parallel, recessed set which hold the iron gates protecting the drive. The driveway leads up to the house, to a mounting block centered in front of the entrance, and, back to Colonial Road.

The lengths of picket fence, which carry to the north and south from the portico, effectively define the respective areas adjoining the house that are enhanced with garden plantings. Between the fence and the house a mixed planting of azaleas, spireas, and boxwood have the general character of a foundation shrubbery and merge at the north and south ends of the house with more pronounced landscape efforts. At the south end, a row of American hollies grow behind, west of the fence. This tall, hedge-like planting screens the domestic outbuildings to the rear and southwest of the house from view. Clumps of volunteer bulbs appear in the grass cover here and may indicate an older, likely development of this area which adjoins the conservatory. Through the lifetime of Mrs. Elias Carr, Jr., a service lane exited off the main drive and carried around the south end of the hedge to the now-lost carriage house and later car shed (#4). Since her death this lane has been abandoned and its path has effectively disappeared.

Family accounts and historical records, including a precious few documentary photographs, provide important evidence of the family's development of its pleasure garden on the north side of the house in the area overlooked since ca. 1880-1881 by the two-tier north porch. One of the earliest known accounts of the pleasure garden at Bracebridge Hall appears in a letter Elias Carr wrote on 4 September 1876 to his wife then in residence at the couple's Warrenton summer house. "I have been doing some work in the flower garden this evening. Took up the bulbs preparatory to transfer them to the permanent bed. Found all the hyacinths and tulips but very few of the smaller ones. The garden was some what neglected during my last absence but still looks much better than _____. One of the scarlet geraniums has 25 clusters of flowers."

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Later, in June 1881, Mr. Carr recounted the erection of pillars in the north garden to support honeysuckles. The pillars do not appear in a turn-of-the-century photograph of the north garden, looking south along a path that was not axially aligned with either the door or porch steps. Instead, a rosebush is climbing up a support at the east end of the porch to the height of the second story brackets. (The lower two-thirds of the chimney stack is covered with dense ivy, and in the garden the tall plumes of an ornamental grass clump stand in counterpoint to the evergreens.) Today, the plan of the garden, once defined by walks and paths that flanked its borders, is covered with grass, and it has the character of an informal shrubbery. Parts of a brick walk are visible however. The principal survivors of the nineteenth-century garden are a quartet of aged crape myrtles and a pearl bush. Magnolias, azaleas, yucca, bulbs, lilies, periwinkle, and iris also remain here. It remains unclear how the garden was enclosed on its north and west borders. The area immediately west of the house and the garden remains the site of surviving domestic outbuildings and ruins of others and appears to have been grass covered and shaded by trees with virtually no enhancement. "The Lot" and the agricultural work yard of the plantation was fenced to the north of the garden, and was surely set apart from it.

3. Dairy Ruins

ca. 1860

Noncontributing building

Believed to date to Elias Carr's return to Bracebridge Hall following his marriage in 1859, the dairy was used to keep milk, butter, and other perishables cool before the advent of refrigeration. The small brick building, square in plan and measuring ten feet (plus a couple of inches) on each side, was probably in daily use into the early-twentieth century and until the purchase of the first refrigerator. In the mid and later twentieth century as the building fell into disuse its condition steadily deteriorated, the mortar of its brickwork collapsed, and finally sections of its walls fell when the roof was blown off in the later 1990s.

Today most of the north wall, which held a centered doorway, survives to a height of about seven and one-half feet, and sections of both the east and west walls survive in diminishing height and condition from north to south. The building's south wall has collapsed to near ground level. The loosened bricks lie in piles about the base of the building and inside its square foundation. The mortise-and-tenon frame roof with its sheet metal roofing lies at the northeast edge of the ruins.

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4. Shed
ca. 1940-1950
Noncontributing building

The older part of this simply-constructed frame building is the elongated rectangular block with full-width openings on its east and west ends that was erected as an automobile shed by Mrs. Elias Carr, Jr. It has long weatherboarded north and south side elevations and a sheet metal roof. The structural framing incorporates older, reused members including a heavy nineteenth-century board-and-rail door in its south wall. A simple open frame shed, with sawn uprights and a sheet metal roof, was later added by Dr. Taylor along the full south elevation of the older block.

5. Well and cover
ca. 1860-1880
Contributing structure

While the actual history of this well is not known, it likely dates to the period soon after Elias Carr returned to Bracebridge Hall following his marriage. The interior of the circular well is brick lined; the brickwork survives in remarkably good condition. The well is protected by a square-in-plan curbing of concrete blocks. Loose boards lie across the top of the opening.

6. Metal boiler/basin
ca. 1880-1900
Contributing structure

This circular structure comprises a large cast iron basin set in a low brick mount. The area between the rim of the basin and a concentric metal ring atop the outer edge of the mount was originally covered with stucco, small sections of which survive today. An opening in the side of the mount provided means by which to tend the fire under the basin. The boiler/basin was used for a variety of nineteenth- and early-twentieth century domestic purposes, including boiling water and rendering lard at hog butcherings, soap making, etc.

7. Plantation Office
ca. 1860-1885
Contributing building

This office is one of three outbuildings, including the servants' house (#10) and the overseer's house (#18), whose construction and/or their appearance date to two or more building efforts by Elias Carr following his return to Bracebridge Hall in 1859/1860. Structural evidence in this

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building, including the use of wrought nails in fixing the plate to the uprights and the steep pitch of the roof suggest this building might date to Jonas Carr's time or the late antebellum period and was refitted by Elias Carr as an office. Whether it might also have been moved here from Aspen Grove or stood on another part of the plantation is not known.

The small rectangular hewn and sawn frame building, measuring about eighteen feet in width and twelve feet in depth, stands on a low brick foundation and is covered with a standing-seam side-gable roof. Its elevations are sheathed with weatherboards. A simple box cornice carries across the east (front) and west elevations; the gable ends are flush. The symmetrical front elevation features a doorway, holding a four-panel door, at its center flanked by window openings fitted with four-over-four sash. Simple two-part Greek Revival architraves frame the openings. The door is protected by a braced pent of sheet metal. A brick chimney, laid up in one to six bond, stands at the west edge of the south elevation. Its stack, above stepped shoulders has been restored and the shaft has been repointed. The office's north and west elevations are blind. The interior is simply finished with wide board wood flooring, whitewashed plaster walls, and an open beam ceiling.

8. Ash house ruins
ca. 1860
Noncontributing structure

Also dating from Mr. Carr's return to Bracebridge and the building up of a complement of domestic outbuildings, the ash house was a small brick structure, measuring about eight by six feet, for the storage of ashes. Ash collected from the house's fireplaces was used both in making soap and as fertilizer in the garden. The structure probably fell into disuse in the early twentieth century, and only low sections of its brick walls survive.

9. Ice house ruins
ca. 1860
Noncontributing structure

Few ice houses are known to have existed on North Carolina plantations, and even in ruin, this example is rare. Portions of the submerged brick structure are visible to about twelve feet below grade and sections of wall rise about a foot to a foot and a half above ground level. The brick is laid in varying common bond. The four walls once making up its square plan, fifteen feet on each side, survive in varying degree. Nearly all of the north wall is intact and most of the east wall survives; however, its face is bowed. The south wall is lost and most of the west wall as

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well. The brick are believed to have collapsed into the pit which was deeper than the visible twelve feet. The roof covering the structure is long lost.

10. Servants' House (Aunt Pattie's House)
ca. 1860-1885
Contributing building

According to Carr family tradition this small frame house, originally a two-room cottage, was the long-time house of "Aunt Pattie" (1841-1944) who came to Bracebridge Plantation as a slave with Elias Carr's new bride and remained here as a servant until shortly before her death. Both she and her husband Sam Kearny (1846-1941) are buried in the Carr Cemetery (#19) and are the only domestic servants to enjoy that honor. Although the early history of the house may remain open to confirmation, its essential structural fabric appears to date to ca. 1860. The visible finish, including four-panel doors, wainscoting, and architraves with Victorian molded backbands, is similar to that seen in the two renovations of Bracebridge Hall in the 1880s. Whatever the facts of its original construction, the cottage was expanded in the twentieth century in two stages with the addition of two rooms on the rear elevation and a shed roof porch.

The two-room weatherboarded frame one-story house stands on a low brick foundation, similar to that on the plantation office, has simple boxed cornices on its east (front) and west elevations, and is covered with a sheet metal side-gable roof. Rectangular in plan, the house has a four-bay façade with separate entrances for its two rooms in the center bays. These doorways, fitted with replacement doors with glazing above three horizontal panels, are sheltered by a shed-roof porch on brick stacks. The flanking window openings hold six-over-six sash in plain board architraves that also frame the doors. Like windows are centered in the house's gable ends where later brick flues stand on the western edge of both elevations. The one-room frame shed behind the north room was probably added first. It stands on concrete blocks as does its shed porch which has a weatherboarded apron around its lower half. The second shed room was built of concrete blocks.

The partition wall for the two-room plan interior abuts the center brick chimney which houses fireplaces for each room. The flooring in both rooms is narrow pine boards and both are finished with a vertical tongue-and-groove wainscot. The upper walls and ceilings are covered with painted wallboard. The connecting door, east of the chimney, and the doors on closets on the west side of the chimney have a four-panel arrangement. Their architraves have an applied backband that is similar to that in the house's overbuilt north ell. The fireplaces are fitted with identical mantels of Greek Revival character with wide pilasters, deep two-part friezes, and shallow shelves. The rooms in the addition are finished in simple, conventional fashion.

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After Sam Kearny's death in 1941 and Aunt Pattie's departure to live with a daughter, the house was occupied for a time by Nathan Wooten who worked as a field hand for John Norville when he cultivated the Bracebridge lands.

11. Storage building
ca. 1930-1950
Noncontributing building

This simple rectangular frame storage building stands on cement blocks and is sheathed with sheet metal that also covers its gable-front roof. A board-and-rail door is centered on its east front and an opening on the north side contains a six-pane sash. The interior has a wood floor and waist-high wood counters on its west and south sides. The building appears to have been built for household storage and used by the occupants of the servants' quarter (#10).

12. Tobacco Barn
ca. 1920
Contributing building

This conventional tobacco barn is typical of thousands which once stood in the eastern North Carolina landscape and were used before farmers turned to the metal bulk barns that are also represented (#17) on the nominated acreage. It is the earliest building associated with the cultivation of tobacco at Bracebridge which began in the 1890s. The tall rectangular frame building stands on a low concrete block foundation. Its elevations are sheathed with unpainted board and batten and the side-gable roof is covered with sheet metal. Atop the ridge line is a later metal ventilator bearing an inscription "THE CAMERON VENTILATOR." Openings set low in the north and south elevations hold board and batten doors. The tall interior space remains fitted with staggered horizontal tier poles on which tobacco hung for curing. The remains of a collapsed pole shed lie on the north side of the barn.

13. Troughs
ca. 1890-1920
Contributing structure

The origins and use of this pair of long narrow parallel troughs, inset at ground level and situated northwest of the house and at the edge of the fenced agricultural work area known as "The Lot," is not known. While they might have had some agricultural purpose, their likelier use is horticultural as a cold frame. For a time Mr. Carr raised asparagus as a cash crop, and these troughs might have had some association with its cultivation or that of another crop. Situated on

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a general north/south axis, the two are unequal in length; however, both terminate at a common point at their north ends. The easternmost trough is about fifty feet in length while the second one, on the west, is about forty feet long. The troughs are built of brick and have a stucco finish. The perimeters of the troughs are edged with flat brick, laid side to side, which might have originally been laid in mortar.

14. Large Barn
ca. 1890-1915
Contributing building

The largest of the surviving agricultural outbuildings on Bracebridge Plantation, this large rectangular gable-front frame barn was built as a stable for the mules used in the cultivation and harvesting of crops. It stands at the west head of the farm road leading easterly to the plantation's Tar River landing. In July 1916 Elias Carr, Jr., executed a deed of trust for an indebtedness of \$1,000 to the First National Bank of Tarboro and used as collateral "Those certain nine mules, which (are) now on the farm on which I reside, and which are being worked in the cultivation of the crops on my said farm in Edgecombe County, N.C." (Edgecombe Deeds, 190/153). While mules were generally replaced by tractors through the course of the twentieth century for plowing and tilling, they remained in use here for harvesting tobacco, to draw wagons and carts, into the 1960s.

When built the barn was sheathed with weatherboards and covered with a front-gable roof of (wood shingles or) sheet metal. It stands on a concrete block foundation. In the later 1960s, the elevations of the barn were sheathed in sheet metal and the large double-bay shed, essentially doubling the footprint of the building, was added on its south side. The concrete block base of the shed incorporates earlier brickwork of unknown origin. The shed, also sheathed and covered with sheet metal, is fully open on its east end for access. The barn, proper, has paired doors on its east gable end which open onto a platform in the barn's southeast corner. The remainder of the interior functioned as a stable for the mules. Ground level openings fitted with paired doors in the center of the barn's north and south elevations enabled the mules to move back and forth from an adjoining fenced pen. The barn's west elevation is blind except for an opening at loft level, which like the similar opening on the east gable front, is fitted with a door.

15. Concrete-Block Barn
ca. 1935-1945
Noncontributing building

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This substantial rectangular one-story building, built of concrete block with sheet metal sheathing in its gable ends, is covered with a front-gable roof of sheet metal. It has conventional door openings centered on its west and east elevations that are fitted with board and rail doors. Two openings are also positioned symmetrically on the north side for ventilation. A later, rudimentary shed occupies the building's south side. The interior, one large space with a wood floor, was used to grade and store tobacco after curing in the barns. The barn is believed to have been built while Phillip Wiggs was farming the Bracebridge lands for Mrs. Carr, Jr. Mr. Wiggs preceded John Norville here. The barn was last used for processing tobacco for the crop of 2000 by Edwin G. Stokes, Jr. It is now used for incidental agricultural storage.

16. Barn
ca. 1920
Contributing building

Standing on concrete block stacks (which may be replacements for brick piers), this rectangular frame one-story barn is sheathed with weatherboards and covered with a front-gable roof of sheet metal. Parts of its north, east, and south elevations have been overlaid with sheet metal for weatherproofing. Openings fitted with board-and-rail doors are centered on its east and west gable ends. The interior is one space with a wood floor and was used for grading and storing tobacco after curing. This barn, like the concrete-block barn above (#15), was last used for the crop of 2000.

- 17a-e. Bulk Tobacco Barn Cluster
1968-ca. 1971
Five Noncontributing structures

This group of five bulk metal tobacco curing barns was placed here by John Norville in two stages and used for curing tobacco through the crop of 2000. Metal labels on each of the barns bear the following identification:

Long Portable Bulk Barn
Tobacco-Curing - Crop Drying
Mfg. by Long Mfg. Co.

LONG
Long Manufacturing Co., Inc., Tarboro, N.C. - U.S.A.

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The prefabricated rectangular structures, standing on poured concrete bases, are positioned in a row, parallel to each other, and close together. They have full-width openings on their south ends, fitted with double-leaf doors, for handing the tobacco, and access on their long sides to the drying equipment. The easternmost two barns (#17a-b) were placed here in 1968; the additional three (#17-c-e) were installed about 1970 or 1971. These barns were used yearly until 2000 when Mr. Stokes began using newer "box barns" that are located on Mrs. Taylor's "West End" holding of the Bracebridge Plantation.

18. Overseer's House
ca. 1860-1885
Contributing building

The overseer's house, the third of three frame buildings whose essential construction and appearance date to the period following Elias Carr's return to Bracebridge Plantation has a somewhat complicated history that includes the reuse of materials, principally six-panel Federal period doors, from an earlier building. Whether the house began as a one-room building (the present east ell) that was expanded by two rooms on the west to form a reverse L-plan, or was built as a small three-room house remains to be confirmed. The existence of both traditional Greek Revival-style finish and (chronologically later) Victorian finish in this three-room block also supports the view that the house was built early after Mr. Carr's return and updated in the 1880s. Whatever the actual facts may prove to be, the three-room house was expanded around the turn of the twentieth century by the addition of a fourth room in the form of a shed-roof west ell, occupying the south half of the house's west elevation.

The house was occupied by the resident overseers employed by Elias Carr and his son, Elias Carr, Jr., from its construction into the 1920s. It was occupied for a time by John Norville (1910-1983), who farmed the residual Bracebridge Plantation lands for Mrs. Carr, Jr., prior to the building of his own house on nearby Norville land in Pitt County. Norville was the last known occupant of the house which has stood vacant for at least thirty (?forty) years.

Situated in the southwest corner of the junction of Carr Farm Road with Colonial Road, the original house was built on a reverse L-plan with its like L-shaped front porch occupying the north and east elevations of the "inside" of the L and looking northeast to the intersection and across the plantation's fields. This three-room block stands on brick piers, with brick and brick lattice infill, and is covered with a standing-seam hip roof. The flush eaves have a wide frieze board and simple Greek Revival-style molding. The original block's weatherboard sheathing is wider than that on the one-room ell which stands on smaller brick piers and replacement concrete blocks and is covered by a sheet metal shed roof. This ell occupies the south half of the original

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block's west, rear elevation. The window and door openings have plain board architraves with shallow lintel caps except for the window on the ell facing east to Colonial Road which has an applied molded backband. The six-over-six sash windows were removed from the openings, some of which are covered with sheet plywood. The front porch was likely supported by square posts; however, sawn timbers now uphold its roof. A door on the south side of the front ell, overlooking "The Lot," is protected by a deep hip roof pent supported by brackets. This entrance was used by the overseer in the conduct of his supervision of laborers and field hands. An L-shaped service porch, occupying the north side of the rear ell and the west elevation of the original block, has been taken down; however, its presence is recalled in ghost traces on the walls.

The interior of the cottage is finished with pine floors, plaster walls, and ceilings of plaster or flush tongue-and-groove boards. Deteriorated plaster has been removed in some of the rooms. The window and door architraves include both Greek Revival and Victorian-style moldings. The doorways are fitted with both four-panel doors of the period and six-panel Federal doors that were obviously reused in the cottage's construction. The rooms of the original block are fitted with a waist-high wainscot of vertical tongue-and-groove boards. An interior brick chimney provided fireplaces to two rooms in the original house; however, only the mantel in the front ell remains in place. Greek Revival in character, it has molded flat pilasters supporting a deep frieze, enhanced with a Tudor arch above the firebox, and a shallow shelf.

19. Carr Cemetery 1820 Contributing site

The Carr Cemetery is a private family burial ground in which the graves of seventeen members of the family are buried together with two faithful family retainers. The open, flat, grass-covered cemetery is rectangular in shape and measures approximately fifty feet, across its west (front) and east sides, by twenty-two feet on its north and south ends. The oldest part of the cemetery, the center and south end, comprising about two-thirds of its area, is enclosed in an inset brownstone curb which serves as the base of a later wrought iron fence of simple classic character. In 1966 the cemetery was extended to its present dimensions following the death of William Haydock Fillmore on 2 June and his interment here. At that time an inset poured concrete curb was placed around the addition and the fence was extended. Aside from its grass cover the cemetery enjoys no landscaping except for a crape myrtle in its extreme northwest corner.

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The nineteen interments are arranged in two parallel rows with a generally consistent placement of headstones and footstones. The graves are marked by eighteen stones: a single stone marks the graves of the servants Sam Kearny (1846-1941) and his wife Pattie Plummer Kearny (1841-1944) in the southeast corner of the cemetery. The gravestones are all of white marble except for the granite stones marking the graves of William Carr Fillmore (1926-1986) and his granddaughter Caitlin Grace Fillmore (1986-2000); these are the most recent burials. In their design and inscriptions, the stones reflect conventions of their period.

The interments span eight generations of the Carr family and date from 1820 to 2000, with the nineteenth century burials in the front, westernmost row. The earliest interments are those of Martha Lucy Carr (1809-1820) and Elizabeth Carr (1814-1821), the daughters of Elias Carr (1775-1822), whose gravestones were erected later by the bequest of their brother Jonas Johnston Carr. Their father Elias Carr was buried next, in 1822, and his interment was followed five years later by that of his youngest son William (1807-1827). The burial of Celia (Johnston) Hines Carr (1770-1840) was followed six months later by that of her daughter-in-law Elizabeth Jane (Hilliard) Carr (1810-1840) who died on Christmas Day and whose husband Jonas Johnston Carr (1805-1843) built Bracebridge Hall. Bryan and Maitland, a Norfolk marble yard, was paid \$21.72 for the "Head & foot piece" for Celia Carr's grave in January 1841. The graves of Jonas and Elizabeth Carr are marked by ledger stones. In item eight of his will Jonas Carr made provision for the cemetery. "I hereby direct my executors to have a suitable iron railing made around the family grave yard and have Tomb Stones placed over such graves as have none." Presumably, it was on that direction that stones were erected at the graves of Jonas' three siblings whose markers carry the inscription "Erected to her/his memory by her/his brother J. J. Carr." On 24 November 1845 his executor paid \$426.76 to "Messrs. Adam Tread_____ and Son for Iron railing and Tombstones for Graveyard."

The Carr Cemetery was tended from 1843 until 1900 when the next interment occurred. Governor Elias Carr died on 22 July 1900 and a large citizenry accompanied his coffin from Bracebridge Hall to the cemetery. His gravestone, a three-part short, heavy obelisk was signed by its makers "Coopers, Raleigh." His interment, in the northwest corner of the original enclosure, filled the front row. When his son, Dr. John Buxton Carr (1862-1907), died he was buried in what became the east row of interments. In time his body was joined here by that of his mother Eleanor (Kearny) Carr (1840-1912), his sister Eleanor (Carr) Matthews (1880-1919), his brother Elias Carr, Jr. (1866-1923), and his sister-in-law Maud Inge Carr (1880-1982) who occupied Bracebridge Hall longer than any member of the family.

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Meanwhile, in 1966, when the original cemetery was nearly full, William Haydock Fillmore was buried outside its bounds in the rectangular area added on the north end. His grave and that of his wife Martina (Carr) Fillmore (1904-1972) are marked by handsome ledger stones. As noted, their only son was buried here in 1986 and his granddaughter in 2000.

20. Agricultural landscape
Nineteenth century
Contributing site

In 1913 when the three court-appointed commissioners and their engineer John J. Wells set about the division of Bracebridge Plantation's 2,014.60 acres among three children of Governor Elias Carr they were cognizant of the necessity to make an equitable division of the property. Consequently, they divided the acreage of the estate into three lots that were nearly equal in value and in total acreage, and included a proportionate share of open, arable fields and woodlands. In the course of farming this property through four decades (1860-1900) Elias Carr had gained a thorough understanding of the properties of the soils at Bracebridge, and had placed the productive lands within his holding in cultivation. Conscious of good husbandry, he maintained certain of his woodlands for timber and left acreages which were poor for cultivation undeveloped or in woodland. Throughout his lifetime and that of his son, the agricultural outbuildings and work yard were principally located in an area known as "The Lot" that lay north of the plantation seat and domestic grounds and adjoined the overseer's residence.

Through the course of the twentieth century, the agricultural patterns and practices set in place by Elias Carr and continued by his son up to his death in 1923, changed in varying degrees during the shift from patriarchal to matriarchal management and the fact that the family-held fields were farmed by others under lease arrangements. The area known as "The Lot" remained the location of the agricultural work yard and the outbuildings (#14-18). This area was in constant use up to 2000 when the second generation of tobacco barns (#17a-e) were replaced off-site by newer barns utilizing newer technology. Today these outbuildings are used for incidental agricultural storage and their grounds are used for parking equipment that is generally brought to the farm by its lessee from his off-site quarters and taken away after work is completed. Edwin G. Stokes, Jr., farms the residual Bracebridge Hall lands under an agreement with its owner.

The appearance of the residual plantation acreage that retains its association with the plantation seat at the heart of Bracebridge survives surprisingly little changed. An examination of the three tracts making up the residual lands of Bracebridge Hall and their thirteen field divisions reflects this historic character. All of the thirteen fields in the residual, nominated acreage are accessible from either Carr Farm or Colonial roads except two small fields on the home tract that are linked

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by simple farm lanes to the historic "Old Orchard Field." Except for the fields in the northwest corner of the roads, a portion of the "Shop Field" tract, the fields are partially or totally bordered by native woodland, now as in the period of significance, where they do not adjoin either road. Highly productive, they are well-farmed and well-kept by the lessee. Now, as in the period of significance, they are planted on a rotating basis. Crops of corn, cotton, and tobacco, are planted now as then, while soy beans are a later crop introduction.

The home tract, the wedge-shaped parcel of 67.78 acres in the southwest corner of Colonial and Carr Farm roads, comprises the heart of the large holding set apart as lot "No. 1" in 1913, assigned to Elias Carr, Jr., and now owned by his granddaughter, Mrs. Taylor. As shown on the 1913 map, this tract is the site and setting of the plantation seat (#1), its grounds (#2), and the complement of domestic and agricultural outbuildings (#3-18), together with "The Lot," that formed the core of the plantation. A comparison of these resources on the 1913 map and the current Edgecombe County Land Records map (included in this submission) reflects the remarkable degree of integrity they and their setting enjoy to the present. The second important feature of this tract, also noted on the 1913 map, is the "Old Orchard Field" which lies to the west of the plantation complex. It survives as the largest of six fields on this tract whose acreage was cleared and cultivated during the period of significance. Except for their edges along Carr Farm Road, these fields are bordered by the native woodlands that also stand along Jumping Run.

The integrity of the "Long Field" tract, a rectangular parcel of 54.40 acres lying on the east side of Colonial Road, can also be understood from a comparison of the 1913 map with the current Edgecombe County Land Records map. On the 1913 map a curving line represents the border between field and woodland that remains essentially intact to the present and reflects a pattern of cultivation continued since the period of significance. Its arable acreage, cultivated today in five fields of varying size, comprises the "Long Field" by which the tract is known. In 1913, as now, the Carr Cemetery is located in the clearing at the edge of the tract. The historic farm lane, providing access to the cemetery, is coterminous with the north boundary of this tract while the south boundary of the tract lies along the path of the plantation road, also visible on the 1913 map, that carried on axis from the large barn (#14) and The Lot to the landing on the Tar River.

The third, smallest tract of the three comprising the residual Bracebridge Hall lands, is the rectangular 27.53-acre holding in the northwest corner of Colonial and Carr Farm roads. It is a portion of the "Shop Field" tract that was set apart to Annie Bruce Carr Sterrett in 1913. Its present boundary dates to 1919 when Mrs. Sterrett's inheritance was subdivided and sold. This tract, lot #10 in the Sterrett subdivision, was part of a large open field that was divided into three

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lots. The other two lots were sold out of the family. In 1913, as now, this tract was entirely cleared and cultivated. It is farmed today as two fields.

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8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Bracebridge Hall, the seat of the Carr family's Bracebridge Plantation near Old Sparta in lower Edgecombe County, holds distinction among a small group of great antebellum plantation houses in eastern North Carolina and possesses statewide significance in the areas of architecture, agriculture, and politics/government. Bracebridge Hall has been home to the Carr family for a period of about 170 years. Its importance is intertwined in the public and private life of a family which has figured large in the society of eastern North Carolina, enjoying important associations with the enclaves of privilege in its rich community of wealthy slave-holding planters. After the Civil War, when so many failed to make the adjustments to a new social order, Elias Carr (1839-1900), the scion of the family, prospered to an extent enjoyed by few of his class and station. He ended a long career as a public advocate for farmers' rights, agricultural reform, and agricultural education, and service as president of both the North Carolina Farmers' Association and the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance, by election as governor of North Carolina in 1892. Elias Carr served from January 1893 into January 1897 when he departed the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh and returned to Bracebridge Hall where he died and is buried. Elias Carr, Jr. (1866-1923), followed his father's example and served as secretary and purchasing agent for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture from 1908 through 1914 when he returned to Bracebridge Hall where he, too, died and is buried. The period of significance begins in 1820 with the establishment of the family burying ground, where the governor was interred eighty years later, and ends in 1923 with the death of Elias Carr, Jr., at which time the patriarchal management of the plantation was succeeded by ownership and descent in the female line of the family where it resides today.

Bracebridge Plantation and Bracebridge Hall came into existence in the 1830s through the initiative of Jonas Johnston Carr (1805-1843), a son of the first Elias Carr (1775-1822), who married Elizabeth Jane Hilliard in 1832 and built a new house which he and his wife christened Bracebridge Hall in honor of Washington Irving's novel of that name. Before the decade was out he expanded the original house with the imposing Greek Revival-style block whose finish was based on plates in two of Asher Benjamin's architectural pattern books: *The Practical House Carpenter* of 1830, and *Practice of Architecture* of 1833. With its completion about 1840 Bracebridge Hall became one of the earliest, most important houses in the state, whose architectural woodwork was based on a book, *The Practical House Carpenter*, that became the leading pattern book of antebellum North Carolina.

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The ascendancy of Bracebridge Hall occurred with the return of Elias Carr in 1859/1860 following his marriage to Eleanor Kearny (1840-1912) in 1859, and his acquisition in 1860 of his brother's interest in their 2,000-plus ancestral acres. Through enterprise, skill, and a remarkable talent for farm management he built Bracebridge Plantation into the very model of a successful farm in the four decades of his ownership. He also greatly built up the complex of domestic and agricultural outbuildings which survive in part (and in ruin) to the present. Throughout its nineteenth-century history Bracebridge Plantation was operated with a resident overseer and this practice was continued by his widow until her death in 1912 and thereafter by their son, Mr. Carr, Jr.

The death of Eleanor Kearny Carr in 1912 prompted the division of Bracebridge Plantation in 1913 and its eventual diminution. Bracebridge Hall, its complex of adjoining outbuildings, and two tracts totaling 659.80 acres, were awarded to Elias Carr, Jr. Before a decade had passed nearly 1,000 acres of Bracebridge Plantation, awarded to his sisters, were sold out of the family. Elias Carr, Jr., died in 1923, and his widow, Maud Inge Carr (1880-1982), lived on in Bracebridge Hall. During her long tenure as chatelaine of Bracebridge Hall its fields were farmed through lease arrangements with area farmers. In 1983, the residual lands of Bracebridge Plantation were divided among her three grandchildren. By family agreement Bracebridge Hall and the tracts that comprise its site and setting, together with the lands surrounding the family cemetery, were conveyed to Martina Carr (Fillmore) Taylor (b. 1927), now the last surviving great-grandchild of Governor Carr.

The Bracebridge Hall Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase meets National Register Criteria A, B, and C for its farm buildings, fields, and woodlands that reflect nearly unaltered patterns of the 1820 to 1923 period of significance. Additional documentation for the original four-acre listed boundary of Bracebridge Hall establishes its importance as one of the earliest and most important Greek Revival plantation houses in North Carolina based on the architectural pattern books of Asher Benjamin and reinforces its significance, and that of its outbuildings, under Criterion C. The Bracebridge Hall Boundary Increase, which expands the boundaries to 149.71 acres, meets National Register Criterion A, for agriculture, for its farm buildings, fields, woodlands, and family cemetery that reflect family life and agricultural history during the period of significance from 1820 to 1923. In addition, the property meets Criterion B as the seat of progressive agriculturist Elias B. Carr from 1860 to 1900. As the first president of the North Carolina Farmers' Association, the president of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance, and as governor of the state in 1890s, Carr has statewide significance in agricultural and politics/government.

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Introduction

The purpose of this submittal is to provide new information on the property and its significance since the initial submittal and listing and to expand the boundary to include associated historic outbuildings that stand near the house, the family cemetery where seven generations of the family were buried between 1822 and 2000, and the agricultural lands linking the house and the cemetery that comprise the setting of the historic resources and remains associated with the ownership of Bracebridge Hall.¹ In the thirty-four years since listing important changes have occurred in the ownership of the lands the Carr plantation once encompassed. In 1971 Bracebridge Hall and its residual acreage were owned by Mrs. Elias (Maud Inge) Carr, Jr. (1880-1982) who resided here until her later years when she stayed with family at Chosummeda (Dr. A. B. Nobles House and McKendree Church, NR, 1980), and removed last to a nursing home in Rocky Mount. She outlived both her only child, Martina (Carr) Fillmore (1904-1972), and her son-in-law William Haydock Fillmore (1893-1966). Bracebridge Hall passed in the 1980s to Mrs. Carr's three grandchildren. Today Bracebridge Hall and the lands that form its site and setting, including those surrounding the Carr Cemetery (#19), are the property of Governor Carr's last surviving great-grandchild, Martina Carr (Fillmore) Taylor, and her husband Dr. Fletcher Brandon Taylor, Jr. The Taylors maintain a residence at Bracebridge Hall and in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. (Adjoining agricultural fields, leased to local farmers, and woodlands held by the heirs of her late brother William Carr Fillmore (1926-1986) are not included in this submission.)

Historical Background

The Carr family of Bracebridge Hall, Edgecombe County, descend from Robert Carr (____ - 1773), the English-born emigrant, who came to America and settled in Nansemond County, Virginia. He was a brother of Thomas Carr, who likewise settled in Virginia, whose progeny included Dabney Carr, the builder associated with Thomas Jefferson in the construction of the academical village comprising the University of Virginia. Robert Carr married Mary Williams, and together they had at least eight children who are mentioned in Mr. Carr's will. Titus Carr (1745-ca. 1805), the couple's second son, was the progenitor of the branch of the family which established itself in North Carolina.²

Titus Carr, like many other younger sons of Tidewater Virginia families, looked south to northeastern North Carolina and its upper Coastal Plain, for their fortune. It was sometime soon after his father's death in 1773, and his work as a co-executor of his estate, that he came to North Carolina and settled in today's Greene County. He married Winifred Stephens of Southampton

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County, Virginia, in 1770, and the couple were living in Greene County in 1775 when Elias Carr (1775-1822), their eldest surviving son was born. The details of Titus Carr's life in Greene County are little known except that he acquired land there in 1785 and fathered two other sons, Titus (1788-18__?) and Robert (__?__ - __?__) Carr, who survived and raised families.

It was Elias Carr who settled his branch of the Carr family on the rich lands watered by the Tar River in Pitt and Edgecombe counties. He entered Edgecombe County society in 1797 when he married Celia (Johnston) Hines (1770-1840), the eldest daughter of Revolutionary War patriot Colonel Jonas Johnston (1740-1779) and the widow of Jesse Hines (17__-1793), who were both Edgecombe County planters. With this marriage he gained both a stepson, Richard Hines (1792-1851) and a portion of the Johnston-Hines lands. At this distance it is unclear whether he and Mrs. Carr occupied the house and lands that had formerly been her home as the wife of Jesse Hines, but that possibility is a likelihood. If so, those lands may have lain in both counties. In January 1804 when Elias and Celia Carr sell a 214-acre tract on the south side of Town Creek in Edgecombe County to Peter Hines, they are identified as "of the county of Pitt." However, the description of the bounds of the tract include "the dividing line between the said Elias Carr and wife and Jonas Johnston Bell" and references to adjoining property then owned by Mr. Hines, Esther Johnston, and Amos Johnston (Edgecombe Deeds, 11/187). These were all kinspeople. Esther (Maund) Johnston (ca. 1751-1840) was Mrs. Carr's mother, Amos Johnston was her uncle, Peter Hines was the husband of her sister Prudence (1775-1855), and Mr. Bell was her young nephew, the son of her sister, Elizabeth, and John Bell.

By 1814 Elias Carr made the decision to locate his family in Edgecombe County, and between 1814 and 1816 he purchased three adjoining tracts totaling 1,227 acres on the south/west side of the Tar River from members of the intermarried Evans, Hines, and Copeland families. In all three transactions, one each in 1814, 1815, and 1816, he is identified as "of the county of Pitt." These were his first and only purchases of land in Edgecombe County and have the appearance of a consolidation of new lands with those already held. This acreage, together with the lands which came into his use through Mrs. Carr, who received her dower of one-third of her husband's 350 acres in 1796, comprised the plantation he called Aspen Grove and the principal part of the lands that later made up his son Jonas Carr's Bracebridge Plantation. On 31 March 1814 Elias Carr purchased a tract of 520 acres on both sides of Jumping Run, for \$2,080 from Margaret Drake and Peter Evans. The description of the property bounds began "at a pine on the north side of Jumping run, in Jesse Hines decd. line" and then carried for 190 poles west along that line and that of Elisha Copeland, also deceased (Edgecombe Deeds, 15/117-18). His second purchase, 277 acres on Jumping Run, was bought of Richard Hines, then resident in Washington, North Carolina, for \$1,662 (Edgecombe Deeds, 15/390-91). This property also shared a

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boundary with the late Mr. Copeland's property. On 15 October 1816 Elias Carr bought a tract of 430 acres that comprised lots three, four, five, and six of the Elisha Copeland lands that were divided among his heirs. These lots had been assigned to Nancy (Copeland) Evans, and they were sold by Mrs. Evans and her husband Peter to Mr. Carr for \$3,000 (Edgecombe Deeds, 00/176). This price, appreciably higher than that for the 520-acre purchase, suggests that it was probably developed, perhaps with a house and dependencies. Its boundary included the course of the Tar River, with a turn at "Ellis's Landing & Samuel Randolph's corner," and the lines of both Mr. Randolph's and Mr. Carr's existing lands.

Elias Carr was master of this extended Edgecombe County plantation for just under six years. He wrote and signed his will on 8 February 1822 and died ten days later, on 18 February, at Aspen Grove, the family residence. Following the custom of the day, for many families like the Carrs who lived on large holdings, removed from towns, churches, their consecrated grounds, and the benefit of clergy, the family had selected a choice spot on their plantation in 1820, and set it apart for use as a family cemetery (#19). Here they buried the progenitor of the Carr family in Edgecombe County beside the bodies of his two young daughters: Martha Lucy (1809-1820) and Elizabeth (1814-1821) Carr. He was survived by his wife and six of their eight known children: Esther Johnston (Carr) Blount (1798-18__); Winifred Williams (Carr) Eason (1800-18__); Mary (Carr) Fowle (1802-18__); Jonas Johnston Carr (1805-1843); William Carr (1807-1827); and Celia Ann Lucilla (Carr) Prince (1812-1838).

The settlement of Elias Carr's estate was complicated and protracted by his widow's dissent to her husband's will and its provisions for her and the fact that three of his named heirs were minors, under the age of twenty-one. He had also failed to appoint an executor, and county court appointed his stepson Richard Hines as administrator. At this distance the basis of Mrs. Carr's objection to her husband's provision for her appears unclear, if other than the fact that his chief bequests to her were life estates in lands, slaves, household and kitchen furnishings, and the interest income of eleven shares of Bank of North Carolina stock rather than their actual ownership. She was willed ownership only of four slaves (Charles, Flora, Dave, and Jenny) and "one fifth of my corn, wheat, fodder, peas, bacon, and lard" (Edgecombe Wills, E/289-293).

He made a generally equitable division of his slaves, numbering thirty-eight in an estate inventory, devised the home plantation to his younger son William Carr and his lands in Georgia and seven slaves there to Jonas Johnston Carr, his eldest son. His daughters Esther, Winifred, and Celia Ann Lucilla each received \$2,000 in cash. No provision was made for Mary who is said to have married over her father's objections. Her wedding to Josiah G. Fowle occurred on 27 January 1822, less than two weeks before Mr. Carr signed his will. A sale of perishable

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property was held on 23 March 1822, and another, principal sale of crops, livestock, and farm implements, was held on 23 December 1822. After Mrs. Carr's dissent to the will was entered a jury met at Aspen Grove on 28 December 1822 and laid off a tract as her one-third dower. Subsequently two sales were held in Twiggs County Georgia, of Mr. Carr's property there. The eight Carr slaves were sold at Marion, the county seat, on 19 February, and quantities of corn, bacon, fodder, and cotton were put up at auction at the plantation the following day. It would appear that Jonas Johnston Carr never took possession of the Georgia lands originally bequeathed him by his father. Even though he was only sixteen, he was the oldest male in the family, and he was needed at home in Edgecombe County where he would remain until his death. Meanwhile, on 1 November 1822 Winifred Carr was married to John S. Eason.

In the spring of 1823 Celia (Johnston) Carr was living at Aspen Grove with her three youngest children: Jonas, William, and Lucilla Carr. Under what circumstances any of them might have undertaken to build the small one-story house that survives today as the ell and earliest portion of Bracebridge Hall is unclear. Popular tradition includes ca. 1815 and 1826 as possible dates for its construction; however, there is no obvious correlation between those dates and events within the family that would have prompted its construction. Jonas Carr was sixteen, approaching seventeen on his birthday, 15 March, when his father died, while his younger brother William was fourteen years of age, approaching fifteen on his birthday on 1 September 1822. Their younger sister, Lucilla had turned ten on 16 February 1822, two days before her father's death. This family quartet remained together until William Carr left the plantation for the newly-established University of Virginia from which he is said to have graduated with honors. Ill health was complicated by typhoid fever and he died at Aspen Grove on 1 September 1827 at the age of twenty. He left his estate in equal shares to his brother Jonas and sister Lucilla; however, that bequest was complicated by the fact that their mother still held a life estate in much of his property by virtue of his father's will. Next, on 20 August 1829, Lucilla, the young heiress, was married at the age of seventeen to Thomas McCarroll Prince (d. 1871). The Princes moved to Alabama where she died in 1838.

Although Jonas Johnston Carr may have undertaken to erect a house after inheriting an undivided interest in the Aspen Grove lands from his brother in 1827, there is little reason for him to have set up a separate household until his marriage in 1832. According to family tradition Mr. Carr had long sought the hand of Elizabeth Jane Hilliard (1810-1840), the daughter of James Hilliard (1768-1832) and his wife Mourning Boddie (1778-1847) of Nash County. On 20 September 1832 the couple was married at Hilliardston, the Hilliard family plantation in Nash County. Mr. Carr was twenty-seven, Miss Hilliard was twenty-two. The construction of the

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original block of Bracebridge Hall was probably coincident with their marriage in 1832, or ca. 1830-1832, in anticipation of the event.

While happy, their marriage and life together at the house that came to be called Bracebridge Hall was short-lived in the history of a plantation that now spans almost two centuries. Between 1833 and 1840 four children were born to the couple: Mary Boddie Carr (1833-1917), born on 18 July 1833 at Hilliardston; William Byas Carr (1835-____), born here on 25 May 1835; Elias Carr (1839-1900), born here on 25 February 1839; and James Hilliard Carr (1840-1841). He was born on Christmas Eve 1840, and his mother died on Christmas Day of complications. Her body was interred in the Carr Cemetery (#19) at Aspen Grove and her infant son was taken by his maternal grandmother Hilliard to Hillardston to be raised. Instead, he died in 1841 and was buried in the Hilliard family cemetery at Woodlawn.

Given family circumstances, Jonas Carr set about the expansion of his seat in the later 1830s--as his family grew--even before his youngest sister died in 1838 and before 1840 when his mother died on 20 June, leaving him in undisputed possession of the entire Carr lands here on the Tar River. The physical evidence, analyzed by George T. Fore, indicates that the great Greek Revival-style front block, facing east to the Tar River, was built in two sections. Its center hall and the north parlor, positioned axially, symmetrically on the east gable end of the Federal block, stand on brick piers with later infill. The south parlor, always used as a dining room, stands on brick piers with screened brick panels. This difference is not critical; however, the existence of double sills (and other varying features) here under the partition wall between the hall and the south parlor indicate that the south room was an addition to what was then a side-hall plan block. Short of dendrochronology, the exact date sequence of these blocks--the original Federal house, the side-hall plan addition, and the south parlor--cannot be precisely dated. However, one plausible explanation for the fact that the Greek Revival front part of Bracebridge Hall, incorporating the second and third elements cited above, has a handsome, consistent finish appearing to be of one date, is that Mr. Carr started its construction with one view and changed his mind, perhaps coincident with the death of his sister, and then ordered his builder to add the south parlor and finish the whole work in the planned handsome state utilizing the 1830 and 1833 Asher Benjamin architectural patternbooks.

The one known surviving document relating to this work is a letter Elizabeth Jane Carr wrote to her sister Temperance Williams on 25 February 1838: “. . . It is now time to be gardening & everything is frozen up. I think we shall have a very late spring. My husband is still much engaged in house building, it has been a deal of trouble. I think we shall have room enough for two children. My health is tolerable good at present . . .” (Elias Carr Papers)

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Given that statement and the fact that she was then a mother of two small children--and not yet pregnant with her third child, the February 1838 "house building" is probably the construction of the side-hall plan block. Its expansion by a tier of rooms on the south side of the hall may then have been associated with the death of Lucilla (Carr) Prince in Mobile, Alabama, the expected birth of the couple's third child, Elias, who was born on 25 February, 1839, the death of the dowager Mrs. Carr in June 1840, or the expected birth of a fourth child in December 1840.

In the period from ca. 1835 to 1840 Jonas Johnston Carr accomplished two important feats: he rebuilt his family house as the imposing Greek Revival-style plantation seat that continues as a family residence to the present; and he acquired adjoining tracts, totaling 584 acres, that, added to the lands inherited through his mother and those purchased by his father, comprised the Bracebridge Plantation farmed by his son Elias from 1860 until his death in 1900 and that remained intact until the division of 1913. In short, he created the ancestral holding that has survived as a legacy to his descendants. The first of his land purchases came on 22 July 1836 when he acquired a 178-acre tract of the John Ellis lands from his heirs in four transactions. The individual one-fifth interests in the lands were acquired for \$356 each (Edgecombe Deeds, 22/225-26, 258, 263, and 499). On 25 May 1840 he received title to 406 acres formerly belonging to John F. and Martha Hughes that was put up at auction to settle an indebtedness. Jonas Carr was the final bidder at \$1,218 (Edgecombe Deeds, 22/441).

The death of his mother at the age of seventy on 20 June 1840 and the death of his wife on Christmas Day--six months later--left Jonas Johnston Carr a widower at the age of thirty-five, with four children ranging in age from seven years to the one-day-old infant. According to family tradition he never recovered from the death of his wife, followed by that of his youngest son, James Hilliard Carr (1804-1841). He died in the care of his maternal grandmother and is buried at Woodlawn in Nash County. Whatever construction was still in process was finished, no doubt, but he appears not to have undertaken any building projects after 1841, when he was settling his mother's and brother's estates, seeing to his three children, and managing a force of slaves on his plantation.

Jonas Johnston Carr's tenure as master at Bracebridge Plantation came to an end with his death on 16 May 1843, six months after filing the final settlement of his mother's and brother's estates on 10 December 1842. He, too, was buried in the family cemetery, beside his wife and with his parents and two sisters. His three surviving children were all under the age of ten: Mary being nine, William was nine days short of being eight, and Elias was four. His will signed on 27 March 1843 made the necessary provisions for their education, care, and fortune. He named "my friend Richard Williams of Pitt County" guardian of the three children and Dr. Robert Williams,

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also of Pitt County, as his executor. Jonas Carr gave his Pig Basket Plantation in Nash County to his daughter and the lands of the Bracebridge Plantation to the two sons. The slaves were to be equally divided, after Mary received the “negro girl Emily” and the boys had their choice of one each. One-half of one-third of the division was to become each child’s property immediately and the second one-half of each one-third share was to be held in trust for the benefit of their heirs. Meanwhile, they were to have the use of those slaves as a life estate. Other individual bequests were made to the three, including the late Mrs. Carr’s gold watch and wearing apparel given to Mary. Whether Jonas Carr was prescient in his bequests, or as a second son understood the obligations and responsibilities that derived to one in that position, is not known. However, he appears to have foreseen that the four-year-old Elias was destined to be master of Bracebridge Hall and gave him both the sword that had belonged to his own grandfather, Revolutionary patriot Colonel Jonas Johnston, and “my family clock that belonged to my father” (Edgecombe Wills, F/289-292).

In the seventh clause of his will Jonas Carr left “the education and supervision of my daughter, Mary B. Carr to my friend Mrs. M. H. Williams of Warren County.” In the event Mary Temperance (Hilliard) Williams (1816-1866) and her husband John Buxton Williams (1815-1887) took on not just the education of Miss Carr but the guardianship of her and her brothers until they reached maturity or married. During this period the children lived in Warrenton with the Williamses except when they were in school. Mary attended St. Mary’s School in Raleigh during the period from 1846 to 1850. Elias Carr attended William James Bingham’s school at the Oaks in Orange County in 1854, studied at the University of North Carolina in 1855 and 1856, and subsequently, briefly attended the University of Virginia. Mr. Williams, a wealthy Warren County planter, was also the effective administrator of the Carrs’ Bracebridge Plantation from 1843 until Elias Carr gained full ownership of the property. While the precise details of the operation of the Bracebridge Plantation during this period remain hidden in history, the identity of two of its resident overseers in the period from 1845 to 1852 are known. “H. Rodgers,” the first of the two, was paid \$219.50 for his work in 1845. His successor, James O’Neal, oversaw Bracebridge Plantation in 1846 for \$250 and continued his duties here through 1852 for which he was paid \$300 in January 1853 (Jonas Carr Estate Record, State Archives). Some parts of the plantation lands were also rented out for periods and so too was the hire of certain slaves skilled in crafts and trades.

This arrangement continued from Mr. Carr’s death in May 1843 until 1853 when Mr. Williams gave up his powers as Mary Carr’s guardian and the settlement of Jonas Carr’s estate began. The impetus to this action was Mary Boddie Carr’s marriage on 31 March 1852 to her (second) cousin David Hinton of Wake County. She came into possession of the Pig Basket plantation in

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Nash County, comprising 1,689.50 acres valued at \$2,547.75. Her marriage also prompted a division of the Carr slaves. Excepting Emily, her offspring, and the slaves chosen by Mr. Williams for his two wards, the estate owned 100 slaves on 3 January 1853 when they were valued at \$46,650.00. That valuation was reduced by \$200 to \$46,450 because of two slaves, Dave and Patty, who were listed as eighty years of age and described as "expensive," an expense to the state. Two others, "Philip & Moses were not valued" without explanation. Dave and Patty stayed at Bracebridge. There was no further mention of the disposition of Philip and Moses. The estate commissioners, Baker Staton and Richard Dupree, then assigned Mary Carr Hinton and her husband thirty-five slaves valued at \$14,945 in the division. Her brothers were also to pay her \$5,456.16 $\frac{2}{3}$ to equalize the total value of the Carr lands and slaves (Jonas Carr Estate Record, State Archives).. The remaining sixty-five healthy slaves plus the aged Dave and Patty, together with Philip and Moses, remained at Bracebridge Hall in the undivided ownership of her brothers.

The management of the Carr brothers' Bracebridge Hall Plantation apparently continued under the guardianship of John Buxton Williams until William Byas Carr reached the age of twenty-one in 1856 and Elias Carr achieved that milestone in 1860. During this period the future of Bracebridge Hall was resolved between the brothers and both were married. Although William Byas Carr had acquired a tract of 170 acres adjoining Bracebridge Hall, described as the Bell lands and lying along the Tar River in both Edgecombe and Pitt counties, from Mr. Williams in 1856, he decided to settle in Warren County (Edgecombe Deeds, 27/276). There the celebrated Warren County builder Jacob Holt built for him a lavishly-detailed house known as Fairmont (McFarland, 214-15). That house is believed to have followed on his marriage in June 1856 to Bettie M. Irwin of Nash County. On 24 May 1859 Elias Carr married William Eleanor Kearny (1840-1912), the daughter of William Kinchen Kearny (1785-1869) and his wife Maria Alston (1793-1883). Mr. Kearny was one of the wealthiest planters in Warren County and therefore one of the wealthiest men in eastern North Carolina.

Whether the couple went directly to Bracebridge Hall after their wedding and lived there is uncertain, but likely. In March 1860 Elias Carr purchased his brother's interest in the Bracebridge Plantation for \$25,000. The receipt, dated 3 March, survives in the Elias Carr Papers; however, it was not until 20 October 1862 that the deed for the sale was drawn up (Edgecombe Deeds, 28/700-01). The deed for William Byas Carr's sale of the adjoining 170-acre Bell tract, lying on the Tar River in both Edgecombe and Pitt counties, to Elias Carr for \$4,500 was dated 27 October 1862 (Edgecombe Deeds, 28/701-02). Elias Carr thus became the owner of Bracebridge Hall whose lands remained intact until the 1913 division.

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For a few, short years Elias Carr operated the plantation with slave labor, then made the adjustment to operating his extensive acreage with paid laborers. The expert tutelage that Elias Carr received from his guardian bore fruit in Mr. Carr's private and public life through the remainder of the nineteenth century. The example of his uncle, as he managed his own Warren County plantation property, including both Sunny Hill and Buxton Place and the affairs of Bracebridge, together with that of other members of the Warren County plantation community, which was then the wealthiest in North Carolina, was matched by an intuitive nature, a mathematical bent, and schooling at the Bingham School, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Virginia. Mr. Carr also came to enjoy the advice of his father-in-law William Kinchen Kearny. He approached farming as a business and utilized scientific methods in his planting, fertilizing, and the rotation and diversification of crops. Cotton was the principal cash crop on the plantation from 1860 through the turn of the twentieth century. In the 1890s Elias Carr also began raising tobacco as a cash crop. Through his four decades here, Mr. Carr also raised corn and oats for both sale and consumption on the plantation by livestock, in addition to wheat, peas, peanuts, clover, and orchard grass. He raised asparagus for a time, and he also had a small herd of Jersey dairy cattle. He was up early, in the fields with his workers, kept close records on the products of fields and livestock, bought good implements and the latest machinery, understood the prospects of his lands and woods, and maintained an ever watchful eye across the breadth of his operations from the planting of seed until the crop was harvested, bagged, barreled, or baled and sent to market whether in Norfolk, New York, or Liverpool. He utilized factors and commission houses in both Norfolk and New York, of whom A. T. Bruce & Company in New York long enjoyed his patronage.

He quickly gained renown and respect as an agriculturist and in the 1880s took to championing the cause of agriculture by serving as the first president of the Farmers' Institute of Edgecombe County. These efforts first culminated in his election as president of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance in 1889. Lala Carr Steelman, the historian who addressed Mr. Carr's career in two important, learned essays published in the *North Carolina Historical Review* in 1980, observed that "The Farmers' Alliance movement catapulted Carr into the limelight." And so it did. In 1892 the North Carolina Democratic Party nominated Mr. Carr for governor. He was elected by a margin of over 40,000 votes, receiving 135,519 votes while his Republican challenger earned 94,684 votes and the Populist candidate received 47,840 votes. Mr. Carr served as governor from 1893 until 1897. After his term as governor he returned to Bracebridge Hall and lived here until his death three years later.

Elias and Eleanor Carr enjoyed a rich and comfortable life at Bracebridge Hall. Through enterprise in his agricultural efforts and early investment in the Rocky Mount mills, the second

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oldest textile mills in the state, he was, as John T. Bruce, president of the A. T. Bruce Company, observed in a letter in 1873 “comparatively independent of the world.” Their life was insulated by inheritance, intelligent and resourceful management, and investment. Unlike so many others of his class and station in the Tarboro community, his county, and eastern North Carolina, he quickly adjusted to the new social order after the war, and with remarkably productive soil made a series of good crops in the 1860s when others suffered mightily. In 1865-1866 he utilized the offices of Dancy, Hyman & Company, general commission merchants in New York, to acquire Haviland china, silver from Tiffany & Company, carpets, curtains, oilcloths from A. T. Stewart & Company, and a suite of “Black Walnut Furniture” for his bedroom. Through the following decades they continued to patronize New York firms, including R. H. Macy and B. Altman, for clothing, furnishings, foodstuffs, and the necessities of life.

The family circle at Bracebridge Hall included six children of whom four were born in the 1860s, and two others followed in the 1880s: William Kearny Carr (1860-1915), who lived most of his adult life in Washington, D.C.; John Buxton Carr (1862-1907); Mary Elizabeth Carr (1864); Elias Carr, Jr. (1866-1923); Eleanor Kearny (Carr) Matthews (1880-1919); and Annie Bruce (Carr) Sterrett (1884-1931).

The orders placed for furnishings with Dancy, Hyman & Company indicate the first of a series of enhancements and improvements to the plantation seat, its grounds, and the domestic complex in the post-Civil War period. When Elias and Eleanor Carr came to Bracebridge the plantation seat (#1) was here as was the house at Aspen Grove, the family cemetery (#19) in an adjoining grove, and a series of houses nearly all of which were occupied by slaves and later by hired help. No sure record exists as to the extent of other buildings on the domestic and farm landscape; however, the usual storage and processing buildings stood with proximity to their purpose. All have been lost except (possibly) a one-story, two-room frame house whose construction history remains uncertain. It stands abandoned at the edge of a field about one-half mile west of Bracebridge Hall. The plantation office (#7) was possibly standing here or elsewhere on the plantation. Its appearance dates to the mid-nineteenth century and Mr. Carr’s return here. Soon after his arrival, Mr. Carr is believed to have erected a house occupied by Uncle Sam and Aunt Patty Kearny (#10), and the overseer’s house (#18) which survive as well as the ice house (#9), ash house (#8), and the brick dairy (#3), now in ruin. Other buildings were added when and where needed, including a “cattle shed in Low-ground,” a “four-room dwelling in New Ground,” and “a small freight shed at Landing” in 1891. A cotton press and a house for the plantation cotton gin also stood here.

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In the 1880s Mr. Carr completed two major additions to Bracebridge Hall which produced the asymmetrical U-plan and finish it retains to the present. These building programs involved, first, the addition of a second story to the original Federal-style block, the house's west ell, and the addition of the two-tier north porch, and the erection of a two-story brick kitchen wing off the southwest corner of the house. The improvements to the west ell probably date to ca. 1880-1881 and appear to have been completed by June 1881.³ Its first story passage, situated parallel to the Greek Revival block, was raised as a two-story stair hall and fitted with a handsome Italianate stair. The second story was partitioned further to provide paired bedrooms directly above two rooms on the first story, three closets accessible to the two new bedrooms and the master bedroom at the north end of the main block, and a small bathroom. Handsome doors with sidelights were installed at the north end of the new (secondary) stair hall for access to the porch. Because of its location on the north side of the house, protected from the mid-day and afternoon sun, these porches became outdoor sitting areas. The greensward north of the porch was enhanced as an ornamental garden. At this date the principal source for dating this addition is a notation made on 2 June 1881 in one of Mr. Carr's daybooks. "Have this day put up three (3) pillars around the north porch upon which to train the honeysuckles. No. 1, immediately in front of the door is of course grain lightwood, not very "fat" and I predict will last longest. No. 2 next on the left is very "fat". What is known a (sic) good "hard lightwood" a little worm eaten but will last, say, 15 years. No. 3, at the west end, is very poor quality but from a dead heart tree, I give it just five (5) years." (Elias Carr Papers).

These pillars were positioned on center between the four posts supporting the porch. The pillar "in front of the door" and the "next on the left" flanked the center steps which gave onto the pleasure garden; the third pillar stood at the west end of the porch.

The brick kitchen ell dates to 1885 and its construction is confirmed by Mr. Carr's order for the kitchen and bathroom fittings and equipment on 26 October 1885. According to family tradition the brick for the fire-proof kitchen block were made on the plantation. The diminutive two-story addition embraces the southwest corner of the Greek Revival block which contained pantries linking the dining room with the then freestanding kitchen. A large rectangular kitchen and a small glazed conservatory occupy the first story while the second level, accessible by the house's third staircase, was partitioned to form a large bathroom and two rooms that were finished either for servants and storage and/or a dressing room, adjunct to the bathroom. Mr. Carr's order of 26 October, following on quotations by Crook, Horner & Company of Baltimore, dealers in "Gas, Water, Steam and Plumbing Materials," included a Paris kitchen range with water backs and an 18" x 36" cast iron sink with trap for the kitchen, a five-foot copper bath tub and a counter sink with a marble slab and fourteen-inch bowl for the bathroom, a 30-gallon copper boiler (water

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heater) with cast iron stand, and sheet zinc, sheet lead, pipe, water cocks, plugs, and traps, etc. (Elias Carr Papers). The Hygeia Improved Water Closet & Cistern with trap, quoted by the firm on 1 September, was apparently ordered separately. When installed, this bathroom surely became one of the earliest indoor bathrooms in a private residence in rural North Carolina. This work is believed to have been completed late in 1885 or early 1886. The former kitchen building apparently stood on its foundations until December 1886 when Mr. Carr recorded its relocation on the 21st in a daybook. "Moved back old kitchen and added two rooms. Total cost \$398. This includes everything."

During Governor Carr's term as governor, his son Elias Carr, Jr. supervised the farm operations at Bracebridge when the property was operated under the style of "Elias Carr and Son." He, Mrs. Carr, and their two young daughters departed the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh in January 1897 and returned to Bracebridge Hall. Their days together as a family proved short, lasting three and a half years, and during this period Governor Carr's health declined. Elias Carr died on Sunday morning, 22 July 1900, at Bracebridge Hall. His coffin was placed in front of the fireplace in the parlor. The funeral was held at Bracebridge on Monday and his body carried to the family cemetery, accompanied by the crowd of friends who came out from Tarboro. By his will Elias Carr bequeathed a life estate in all his real and personal property to his wife. It was to be divided equally among his five surviving children at her death. Written in June 1899 when his daughters were unmarried, as was his son John Buxton, he directed that "Each of my children, Shall so long as he or she remains single, Shall have a home, and a reasonable support, and maintenance, at my residence in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, known as Bracebridge Hall" (Edgecombe Wills, H/486-87).

The operation of Bracebridge Hall continued without any obvious interruption for another dozen years, under the superintendence of a resident overseer and under the guidance of Mr. Carr, Jr. Governor Carr's widow, Eleanor, remained here with her two daughters through their marriage and later spent time at the Washington, D.C. home of her eldest son and namesake, William Kearny Carr, and his wife Martina Van Riswick. She died in Washington on 29 March 1912, and her body was brought back to Bracebridge for burial next to her husband. During this period Bracebridge Hall was occupied for varying periods by Mrs. Carr, Sr., and members of the family including the governor's second son, Dr. John Buxton Carr (1862-1907) who never married. On 25 February 1903 Elias Carr Jr. married Maud Montgomery Inge (1880-1982), the daughter of Adolphus Inge (1848-1915) and his wife Mary Della Cochran (1859-1938), at Ingehurst, Halifax County, North Carolina. They lived in Rocky Mount, where Mr. Carr had business interests, until 1907 (or 1908) when the couple moved to Raleigh where Mr. Carr served from 1908 as secretary and purchasing agent for the North Carolina Board of Agriculture through 1914. They

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were the parents of one child, Martina Van Riswick Carr (1904-1972). During the first decade of the new century the family circle was altered with the death of John Buxton Carr on 20 November 1907 and the marriages of the late governor's daughters. Eleanor Carr married Hugh L. Matthews and Annie Bruce Carr married W. B. "Douglas" Sterrett .

The death of Mrs. William Eleanor (Kearny) Carr in spring 1912 precipitated the settlement of Governor Carr's estate and the first division of the Bracebridge lands since they were assembled by Jonas Johnston Carr in the 1830s. On 2 August 1913 William Kearny Carr and his wife executed a quit claim deed to his siblings for his interest in the property (Edgecombe Deeds, 165/458). With John Buxton Carr's demise in 1907 and the disinterest of William Kearny Carr, who remained in Washington, childless, until his death 7 October 1915, the estate had three heirs: Elias Carr, Jr., and his two sisters (and their husbands). None of the three were then resident at Bracebridge Hall or in Edgecombe County. Mr. Carr was in Raleigh performing the office of secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Mrs. Matthews and her husband were living in Philadelphia, and Mrs. Sterrett and her husband resided in Washington, D.C. In August 1913 the Edgecombe County Superior Court appointed Benjamin Franklin Eagles, Lam Lawrence, and Job Cobb commissioners to divide the Bracebridge lands. They, in turn, engaged John J. Wells, a civil engineer in Rocky Mount, to survey the property. The second, larger part of his work was to set apart the acreage in a series of tracts, assigning equitable shares of the good arable lands to three lots and the less productive "piney" fields and woodlands into another three lots (Elias Carr Estate Records).

Mr. Wells went about his work quickly and produced a "Map of Bracebridge plantation, Edgecombe Co, North Carolina, belonging to Gov. Elias Carr Estate" on 27 September 1913. The outline of the estate, comprising 2,014.60 acres and forming a general but irregular rectangle, had a wide frontage along the Tar River on the east, a nearly straight north boundary of two long calls slightly offset at its center, a narrow west boundary of 2,062 feet adjoining the McNair farm, and an irregular south/southwest boundary that was partially defined by Jumping Run and White Oak and Long branches, and shared lines with J. J. Hearne and Mr. Eagles, one of the three commissioners. The estate was divided into eight tracts comprising three lots of near equal value totaling \$54,397.30. Lot One, made up of two tracts, including the plantation seat, its domestic and agricultural outbuildings, totaling 659.80 acres valued at \$18,533.35, was assigned to Elias Carr, Jr. Lot Two, made up of four tracts totaling 682.40 acres valued at \$17,722.45 was devised to Annie Bruce Carr Sterrett. The two tracts making up Lot Three, totaling 672.40 acres valued at \$18,141.50, was set apart to Eleanor Carr Matthews (Elias Carr Estate Records; Edgecombe Deeds, 172/116-18, 182/16-17, 19-22).

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Before the decade ended both Mrs. Matthews and Mrs. Sterrett had set about disposing of their inheritance. In July 1918 Mrs. Matthews, by then ill, divorced from her husband, and a resident of Baltimore, sold her major tract of 543.50 acres comprising the northeast and northern parts of the ancestral estate for \$25,000 to Benjamin Franklin Eagles whose heirs retain ownership to the present (Edgecombe Deeds, 206/483-85). Mrs. Matthews died on 7 October 1919 and her body was brought back to the family cemetery for burial. In fall 1919 Mrs. Sterrett, then a resident of Canada, had her acreage surveyed and platted into a series of fifteen lots. Sidney W. Mosher, an engineer with the Atlantic Coast Realty Company, prepared the plat map. Lots one through six, ten, eleven, twelve, and fifteen, totaling 371.20 acres were acquired through time by Elias Carr, Jr., and his family and remain in the ownership of his descendants. Lots seven through nine, thirteen and fourteen, comprising 304.40 acres were acquired by Benjamin Franklin Eagles and remain with his descendants.

These sales had continued up to 1934, after Mrs. Sterrett's death, when Mr. Sterrett conveyed to Mrs. Elias Carr Jr. and her daughter, Mrs. Fillmore, lots ten and fifteen (Edgecombe Deeds, 329/239-41). Lot ten (28.40 acres) was a valuable field in the northwest corner of today's Colonial and Carr Farm roads while lot fifteen (21.1 acres) was the site of the plantation's landing on the Tar River. Meanwhile, in April 1919, Elias Carr, Jr. and his wife sold the isolated "Old Field" tract in the extreme southwest corner of Bracebridge Hall's lands, a parcel of 54.70 acres for \$5,470 to Benjamin Franklin Eagles (Edgecombe Deeds, 208/389). Except for inter-family divisions within the Eagles and Carr families, respectively, no significant conveyances of the old Bracebridge Hall lands has occurred to the present.

The matter of how the Bracebridge Hall lands were farmed after the division of 1913, through Elias Carr, Jr.'s return to Bracebridge Hall to take up residence in 1915, to the late 1910s when some 847.90 acres were sold out of the family is unclear. Early in this period the overseer/farm manager system, in place while Elias Carr, Jr., was living in Rocky Mount and Raleigh probably continued. Alas, he did not continue the extraordinary system of record keeping practiced in the closing decades of the nineteenth century. One useful record is a deed of trust, dated 1 July 1916 and executed by Mr. Carr to Henry C. Bourne, trustee of the First National Bank of Tarboro, for \$1,000 which was secured by "Those certain nine mules, which (are) now on the farm on which I reside, and which are being worked in the cultivation of the crops on my said farm in Edgecombe County, . . ." (Edgecombe Deeds, 190/153). Whether Mr. Carr's sisters leased their fields to him or to other Edgecombe County planters remains to be confirmed. In any event, by 1919-1920, Elias Carr, Jr., had possession of about one-half of the lands that had comprised Bracebridge's greatest extent under his father's ownership..

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While Elias Carr, senior, enjoyed a long tenure as owner of Bracebridge Plantation from 1860 until his death in 1900, his son's years here, as owner and sole proprietor, were few in number. Having returned in 1915 he probably made his first crop in residence that year or in 1916. His last was made in 1922. Elias Carr, Jr., died on 9 January 1923 at the age of fifty-six. His funeral was held from Bracebridge Hall with burial in the family cemetery. His widow Maud (Inge) Carr would live on in near solitary splendor at Bracebridge Hall for over a half century. For a very short time she had the company of her only child, Martina Van Riswick Carr (1904-1972), who married William Haydock Fillmore (1893-1966) in 1924 and relocated with him to California. After World War II, when the Fillmores returned to Edgecombe County to live, they bought in 1946 the McKendree Farm with its handsome Victorian Gothic brick cottage built by A. B. Nobles and 354-plus acres (Edgecombe Deeds, 430/49). They called it "Chosumneda."

The death in 1923 of Elias Carr, Jr., the last surviving of the governor's three sons, of whom none sired sons, meant the end of a dynasty of male planters bearing that name. Hereafter, the family would continue to own important acreages; however, under this matriarchy the cultivation of their lands would pass from the resident farm manager to its cultivation under a series of lease and rental agreements with area farmers including the late John Council Norville (1910-1983) who also occupied the overseer's house (#18) for a time and was its last occupant. He farmed for Mrs. Carr and her daughter until his death. One step in this process was the actual division of Mr. Carr's lands between his two heirs: his wife, and their only child Martina. On 23 December 1925, Martina (Carr) and William H. Fillmore, then resident in Alameda County, California, conveyed the two major parts of Lot #1 of the 1913 division allotted to her father to her mother (Edgecombe Deeds, 275/19-20). This included Bracebridge Hall, the house, and its outbuildings, gardens, grove and fields in the southwest corner of today's Colonial and Carr Farm roads, comprising 81.8 acres, and the larger 262-acre parcel laying on the east side of Colonial Road, between it and the Tar River, in both Edgecombe and Pitt counties. Combining this with the property she held already, the acreage under control of the chatelaine of Bracebridge Hall amounted to about 450 acres. In October 1929 Mrs. Carr leased this acreage, excepting the grove, gardens, and adjoining house grounds, for three calendar years (1930-1932) for \$1,200 per annum to Benjamin Franklin Eagles and Z. A. Harrell (Edgecombe Deeds, 301/63-64). This is the only such lease recorded by the Register of Deeds; any others that might have been in practice outside the earlier management by the resident overseer are not known.

Although the lands associated with the Carr plantation were diminished in their extent and the mode of living at Bracebridge Hall was supported by rents, dividends, and other investment income, nearly as much as its agricultural operations, Mrs. Elias Carr, Jr., would exercise social precedence in Edgecombe County plantation society until her death. During these years she

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opened Bracebridge Hall and its gardens for tours sponsored by the Garden Club of North Carolina and hosted gatherings of her own immediate family and the extended network of families of which the Carr family was a part. When the National Register program was initiated in North Carolina in the 1960s, Bracebridge Hall was one of the first 100 properties nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. It was listed in the National Register on 18 February 1971. By then, Mrs. Carr, ninety years of age, was maintaining Bracebridge Hall but had taken residence with her daughter, also a widow, at Chosummeda. Her husband, William Haydock Fillmore, had died in June 1966 and was buried in the Carr cemetery. But this arrangement would prove all too short. Martina Van Riswick (Carr) Fillmore died on 23 November 1972. She was survived by her mother, then ninety-two years of age, and her three children. In time Mrs. Carr removed to a nursing home where she died on 1 January 1982 at the age of 101. Her body was buried from Bracebridge Hall in the Carr cemetery.

As the settlement of the estates of Mrs. Fillmore and Mrs. Carr advanced, respectively, the future ownership of Bracebridge Hall was resolved. Mrs. Fillmore's three children, William Carr Fillmore (1926-1986), Martina (Fillmore) Taylor (b. 1927), and John Kearny (Fillmore) Hooker (1929-2002), received equal shares of her interest in the Bracebridge Hall house tract. The remainder of her estate was bequeathed to them as well with Mr. Fillmore receiving fifty percent and his sisters twenty-five percent each (Edgecombe Estates Records, 72-E-236). On 21 June 1974 Joan Fillmore Hooker and her husband, then residents of Brooklyn, New York, conveyed her one-fourth interest in the property she inherited from her mother to her brother William Carr Fillmore (Edgecombe Deeds, 835/309-316). This sale included both her share of Chosummeda, other farm property in Edgecombe, and her interest in the Bracebridge Plantation lands formerly held by Mrs. Fillmore. The Bracebridge property comprised 474.60 acres in six lots including 150.40 acres of the "West End Plantation" assigned in 1913 to Elias Carr Jr. that in 1925 was conveyed by his widow to their daughter Martina. William Carr Fillmore now held seventy-five percent of his mother's Bracebridge acreage and Martina (Fillmore) Taylor held twenty-five percent. During the six months following Mrs. Hooker's conveyance, Mr. Fillmore and Martina (Fillmore) Taylor resolved the division of their individual interests in this 474.60 acres by paired deeds dated 16 December 1974.

William Carr Fillmore became the sole owner of 279.44 acres of the "West End Plantation" of Bracebridge and Mrs. Taylor became the owner of 125.06 acres of the "West End Plantation" and three tracts totaling 70.10 acres of the former Sterrett lands lying between today's Colonial Road and the Tar River. Mrs. Taylor's portion included a tract of the old Aspen Grove acreage surrounding the Carr Cemetery (Edgecombe Deeds, 840/514-529). Mr. Fillmore's heirs and Mrs.

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Taylor hold this property to the present. These deeds also divided other non-Bracebridge Plantation investment property in Edgecombe County.

Maud Inge Carr signed her will on 23 September 1970, four years after the death of her son-in-law and a month shy of her ninetieth birthday; she did not change it following the death of her only child, Martina, two years later. There was no real need to do so. Mrs. Carr willed her personal property and the fittings and furnishings in Bracebridge Hall to her daughter, together with the stock in Rocky Mount Mills. After seven cash bequests totaling only \$2,400, the residue of her estate, including Bracebridge Hall, was devised to her three grandchildren: Mr. Fillmore, Mrs. Taylor, and Mrs. Hooker. The distribution was unequal; Mr. Fillmore received fifty percent, Mrs. Taylor received thirty-three and one third percent, and Mrs. Hooker was bequeathed a one-sixth interest or sixteen and two-thirds percent. Her Bracebridge Plantation property was surveyed, its 502.26 acres divided into seven lots on a plat, and assigned by her executors, Mr. Fillmore and Arthur B. Hooker, among the three siblings on 24 January 1983. Bracebridge Hall, its outbuildings, and 67.92 acres comprising its site and setting in the southwest corner of Colonial and Carr Farm roads was deeded to Martina Fillmore Taylor together with the 28.82-acre field in the adjoining northwest corner of the intersection. Mrs. Hooker was conveyed two tracts totaling 58.16 acres. Mr. Fillmore received three tracts totaling 347.36 acres including the largest parcel of 254.40 acres, lying across Colonial Road from the plantation seat and stretching north to the Tar River (Edgecombe Estate Records, 82-E-25, Edgecombe Deeds, 933/666-677). In February 1983 some adjustment was made when the Taylors conveyed the 3.87-acre Tract A to Mrs. Hooker and she, in turn, conveyed her Tract B of 1.6 acres to Mr. Fillmore (Edgecombe Deeds 933/678-81). Two months later Mr. and Mrs. Hooker conveyed her two tracts totaling 60.43 acres to their three children who next sold the property to Joan C. Fillmore, William Carr Fillmore, Jr.'s, widow, in 1988 (Edgecombe Deeds, 935/848-50 and 1010/671-72).

The real estate divisions of Mrs. Fillmore's and Mrs. Carr's estates in 1974 and 1983, respectively, reflected both the intentions of the deceased and family realities. Mrs. Hooker and her family were residents of Brooklyn, New York, and had no expectation of returning to live in Edgecombe County at Bracebridge Hall. William Carr Fillmore, Jr. was ensconced at Chosummeda and would live there until his death in 1986. His widow resides there to the present. Although Martina (Fillmore) Taylor was a resident of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with her husband, her long affection for Bracebridge Hall was realized in the decision to make it her own and to use it as a residence, together with her Oklahoma City home, and a camp in California. With the estate settlements Mrs. Taylor and her husband own adjoining parcels at the heart of the plantation, including Bracebridge Hall, its outbuildings and immediate house grounds, and the fields which link the plantation seat to the Carr Cemetery which are included in this nomination.

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The Taylors' fields here as well as those in a separate holding to the west on the north side of Carr Farm Road are leased to Edwin Grey Stokes, Jr. (b. 1950) who had been recommended by John Norville to the family and also farms the Fillmore lands. Through recent years the first story of Bracebridge Hall's ell, fitted with its own kitchen and necessary facilities, has been occupied by a resident caretaker.

Agriculture and Politics/Government Significance

The significance of Bracebridge Hall in the areas of agriculture and politics/government are intertwined in the history of the settlement of the Carr family in Edgecombe County by Elias Carr (1775-1822) in the 1810s, and the development of their rich, productive plantation on the Tar River by Mr. Carr and his son Jonas Carr (1805-1843). Their efforts secured the status of the family's Bracebridge Plantation as one of the most prominent in Edgecombe County, which has long been recognized as one of the most important plantation communities of nineteenth-century North Carolina. The highly successful operation of Bracebridge Plantation by Mr. Carr's grandson Elias (1839-1900), whose outstanding leadership in regional and state agricultural associations was nurtured here and culminated in his service as governor of North Carolina from 1893 to 1897, reflects the richest chapter in the history of this remarkable place..

Its period of significance in these areas begins in 1820 with the interment of Martha Lucy Carr (1809-1820), a daughter of Elias Carr on the grounds of his Aspen Grove Plantation and the creation of the Carr Cemetery (#19) and continues through the life of his great-grandson Elias Carr, Jr. (1866-1923), who continued his father's farming operations, served as secretary and purchasing agent of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, and was the last male member of the family to exercise the role of master of Bracebridge Plantation. With his death the plantation passed into the matriarchal stewardship of his widow Maud (Inge) Carr (1880-1982), who operated it through a series of lease and rental arrangements with the area's important farmers, and to the distaff line of the family where the ownership and management of Bracebridge Hall and its much-reduced associated lands remains today.

The initial settlement here on the Tar River in today's Edgecombe and Pitt counties, much predated the Carrs' arrival in the area in the later eighteenth-century. When Edgecombe County was created in 1741 from Bertie, and named for Richard Edgecombe who became first Baron Edgecombe in 1742, it comprised a large area including essentially all of today's Granville, Vance, Warren, Halifax, Franklin, and Nash counties, and a portion of what is now Wilson County. With the formation of Wilson in 1855, the residual boundary of Edgecombe County was essentially established except for some minor separations to Nash and Wilson counties in 1871 and 1883, respectively. In 1764, following the formation of Granville County in 1746 and

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Halifax in 1758, the county seat was established at Tarboro beside the Tar River, which emerged as both a seat of government and an important trading point for the region's planters. They used the Tar River, navigable to Tarboro, to transport their cash crops to the port at Washington where the waterway's course took on the name Pamlico River and continued on to the Pamlico Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. The Carr family, like other large planters on the Tar River, used it to both ship and receive goods, and they maintained a landing for private use through the nineteenth century.

Old Edgecombe County, lying at the southern edge of Northeast North Carolina, in what since came to be known as the Coastal Plain, attracted settlers both from abroad and the northeast section of the state, as well as many sons of the southern counties of Virginia who sought opportunities and fertile lands in North Carolina. Coming from a part of Virginia whose topography was similar to that of Edgecombe, they quickly understood the value of rich soils lining the rivers and creeks, the stands of pine forming large woodlands, and the commercial value of the waterway. Thus the best lands along the rivers were taken up first and settlement spread along the creeks and lesser water courses emptying into the Tar River. The story of this settlement and the planting of an agricultural society is well told in both the *History of Edgecombe County* of 1920 and Professor Alan D. Watson's *Edgecombe County: A Brief History* of 1979.

As the Carr family had succeeded the Copeland, Evans, Hines and Johnston families on these Tar River lands, the young scion of the Carrs set about to remake the family plantation to his own design. In this effort, like others of his class, he followed both precedent and established pattern. Eighteen-thirty-two was the critical year for this venture. The novelist Washington Irving (1783-1859) had published *Bracebridge Hall* in 1822 and on 20 September 1832 Jonas Johnston Carr married Elizabeth Jane Hilliard (1810-1840). Mr. Irving opened *Bracebridge Hall* with his narrator's return to the Hall to attend the wedding of young Guy Bracebridge to Julia Templeton. Whether it was Mr. Carr or his bride who suggested Bracebridge Hall as the name of their future house is uncertain but Irving's fictional manor house in Yorkshire, England, soon had its counterpart in Edgecombe County, North Carolina.

The marriage occurred between two other literary events that also shaped the appearance, character, and future of Bracebridge Hall: the publication of *The Practical House Carpenter* in 1830 and *Practice of Architecture* in 1833. The birth of four children followed between 1833 and 1840. When Jonas Carr erected the small frame house here for his family Asher Benjamin's 1830 patternbook had not gained his attention; however, in the mid years of the 1830s, it did, and his carpenters utilized it and the 1833 book for the finish of the expansion. Thus, by about 1840,

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Bracebridge Hall was not only the new home of the Carr family and the seat of their increasingly prosperous plantation, but also one of the earliest, most imposing of the Greek Revival houses that came to shelter much of plantation society in antebellum eastern North Carolina.

Agricultural Significance: Criteria A and B

Bracebridge Plantation meets Criterion A as a model farm and the laboratory for Governor Elias Carr's experiments in agricultural reform following the collapse of slavery, from the early 1860s to his death in 1900. From 1900 to 1923 his son Elias Carr, Jr., continued his father's agricultural innovations and good husbandry of the ancestral plantation. The residual 145.71 acres of fields, woodlands, and agricultural outbuildings, including the plantation office (#7), the overseer's house (#18), and the large barn (#14), retain a high level of integrity from the period of significance. The property also meets Criterion B for its association with Governor Elias Carr from 1860 to 1900. Carr, the first president of the North Carolina Farmers' Association, the forerunner of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance of which he was also president, was a progressive agriculturist of statewide significance who enacted agricultural reforms during his term as governor.

During the forty years Elias Carr was the owner-proprietor of Bracebridge Plantation, he employed scientific methods of farming, a close attention to the economies of crop production, cost, and labor, and a degree of personal supervision, even with the engagement of a paid overseer resident on the plantation, over the cultivation and harvesting of crops that was exceptional in his day. In 1860 when he assumed both ownership and direct management of Bracebridge Hall and its plantation of about 2,320 acres, he was the owner of seventy-five slaves of whom forty-two were sixteen years of age or older. They constituted an important and valuable work force cultivating and harvesting cotton, principal among the plantation crops, that sustained the family and their life. Elias Carr enlisted in September 1861 in Company G, 41st Regiment, North Carolina Troops, but, following the passage of the Conscription Act in April 1862, he was ordered back to Edgecombe County and to Bracebridge Hall to supervise farming operations. An exemption provision enabled owners of twenty or more slaves to stay on Southern farms and plantations and to produce the wide range of provisions needed by Confederate forces. As Professor Steelman notes Elias Carr supplied "cotton, corn, oats, rye, fodder, molasses, wool, and pork."

In the post-Civil War period, when most of his fellow planters in Edgecombe County and much of the South were crippled by the loss of their slaves and suffered from indebtedness incurred in the antebellum and war years, Elias Carr prospered. Family life at Bracebridge Hall never suffered the constrictions experienced throughout rural North Carolina. Giving special care to his

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production of cotton and other valuable cash crops, and enjoying larger yields than those of his neighbors, Elias Carr maintained a financial position that allowed him to hold his cotton for good prices, never selling it by necessity.

Elias Carr was wise in another avenue. A New South businessman, he invested in Rocky Mount Mills, a textile manufactory in nearby Rocky Mount that utilized the region's important cotton crop. Stock dividends added their support to the family's more than comfortable life at Bracebridge Hall through the lifetime of his daughter-in-law who died in 1982. Serving for a time on the company's board of directors, he quickly saw the discrepancy between agricultural and manufacturing production and the profits each generated, and it was this knowledge and his long experience at the family's Bracebridge Plantation that stirred him to action as an agricultural reformer and spokesman for North Carolina's farming interests.

Elias Carr's role in the public and political life of North Carolina began early, in local affairs, and it revolved around agriculture to its end. For over a dozen years he was a member of the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners and served as the first president of the short-lived Farmer's Institute of Edgecombe County. He promoted transportation improvements in the 1870s as an investor in both the Roanoke and Tar River Railroad, which later became a part of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad, and the Tar River Navigation Company which proved short-lived in part because of the greater efficiency of rail transportation. In 1886 Governor Alfred Moore Scales sent Mr. Carr to the National Farmer's Congress in St. Paul, Minnesota. Elias Carr's principal involvement in progressive agriculture, however, came in the late 1880s with the Farmers' Alliance, a national organization which originated about 1875 in Texas to protect the rights and interests of farmers and maintained a broad and effective membership through state and regional branches. But first, in 1887, he served as president of the North Carolina Farmers' Association whose primary objective, the establishment of a state agricultural college, was secured later that year. Elias Carr became a member of the original board of trustees of the North Carolina College of Agricultural and Mechanical Arts (today's North Carolina State University).

In October 1887 Elias Carr cooperated with two other state agricultural leaders, Leonidas Lafayette Polk (1837-1892) and Sydenham Benoni Alexander (1840-1921), a nephew of Governor William Alexander Graham, in the organization of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance at Rockingham. Mr. Alexander was elected president; Mr. Polk, then the editor of *The Progressive Farmer*, was chosen secretary; and Elias Carr was selected as chairman of the association's executive committee. When he returned to Bracebridge he organized farmers and planters in his community and they established the Sparta Alliance No. 218 in December 1887; Mr. Carr was the founding president of this sub-alliance. Expanding his sights he led the effort to

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organize the Edgecombe County Alliance in March 1888 and became its first president. His involvement in the Alliance grew through 1888 and 1889 when, in August, he was elected president of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance and served through re-election in 1890. The Alliance experienced its greatest growth during his tenure, as Professor Steelman relates, increasing from nineteen county Alliances with 72,000 members to ninety-six Alliances with over 100,000 members.

Politics/Government Significance: Criterion B

It was Carr's highly visible association with the Alliance and its growth that encouraged the Democratic Party in North Carolina to nominate him as its candidate for governor in 1892. In a three-party race, he won election with 135,519 votes while the Republican candidate David M. Furches received 94,684 votes, and the Populist candidate Patrick Wyatt Exum received 47,840 votes. Elias Carr's tenure as governor from 1893 to 1897 was marked by the same progressive views he had expressed in both private and public life leading up to his election. He was a forceful advocate for North Carolina and sought capital investment from beyond its borders in both speeches and articles. One lasting achievement in this vein was the publication in 1896 of *North Carolina and its Resources Illustrated* by the State Board of Agriculture which conveyed a remarkable contemporary view of the state, its physical resources, manufacturing and agricultural operations, and county-by-county descriptions in a handsome promotional volume of over 400 pages. Intended to attract investment and capital improvements, it remains today an important historical reference work.

He likewise sought the support of the legislature for road and public school improvements and increased support for higher education. Governor Carr also addressed the critical need for improvements in public health and the state's penal and charitable institutions. In each of these areas North Carolina saw progress during his term, but not the absolute results or landmark legislation with funding that he sought. In retrospect his enlightened views, shaped by the privilege of his upbringing and the hard work he never shirked to sustain it for his family, were ahead of his time. Narrow, entrenched interests and a conservative legislature, reluctant to levy necessary taxes, failed him and frustrated his hopes for people in both town and country. Also, fractures within the Farmers' Alliance led it to fuse with the Republican Party creating a Fusionist movement that supported the Republican candidate for governor in 1896. Although a "Good Roads Day" was held on 25 October 1894 at the state fair it was not until the 1920s that the state undertook the improvements that earned it acclaim as the "Good Roads State." Improvements to public schools, firm commitments to higher education, and sustained support for the state's colleges and universities also came long years after his death. However, by giving

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voice to views that Professor Steelman described as “enlightened, progressive, and humane,” he painted a scene of North Carolina and the possibility of its people that the state’s political and civic leaders would strive to achieve through the twentieth century.

At the end of his term in January, with the inauguration of Daniel Lindsay Russell as his successor, Elias Carr returned to Bracebridge Hall where he resumed an active role in the management of the plantation. He died three and a half years later at the age of sixty-one and was interred in the Carr Cemetery (#19).

Although Governor Carr’s death ended his long term as owner of Bracebridge Plantation, and its association with his leadership in the Farmers’ Alliance and his advocacy for farming interests while governor, Bracebridge Hall remained important in the agricultural history of North Carolina for another generation. Elias Carr, Jr. (1866-1923) had overseen operations on the plantation, with the assistance of an overseer, while his father was in Raleigh and again, increasingly, in the last years of the governor’s life when his health failed. Mr. Carr, Jr. continued oversight, with a resident overseer, in the dozen years from 1900 until the death of his mother in 1912. In 1913 Bracebridge Plantation, comprising just over 2,000 acres, was divided in equal shares between Mr. Carr and his two sisters. Meanwhile, in 1903, Mr. Carr married Maud Inge and the couple lived in Rocky Mount until moving to Raleigh. There he served under William Alexander Graham, Jr. (1839-1923), Commissioner of Agriculture, as secretary and purchasing agent for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture from 1908 through 1914 when he resigned. Elias Carr, Jr., then returned to Bracebridge Hall and managed his inheritance and probably that of his sisters until they set about disposing of their lands in the late 1910s. He acquired a further portion of the Bracebridge lands from Annie Bruce (Carr) Sterrett and reunited them with his own inheritance. His tenure of this enlarged domain was short-lived as he died on 9 January 1923 and was buried in the cemetery with his forebears. His obituary published in the NEWS AND OBSERVER on 11 January concluded with this paragraph. “Offices of the State Department of Agriculture which was headed by Mr. Carr for a number of years were closed for the day when news was received of the death early yesterday afternoon and the flag was lowered to half mast. The offices will probably remain closed today.”

While the period of significance for Bracebridge Hall might have ended with the division of the Bracebridge Plantation in 1913, the more critical juncture in its evolution came with Mr. Carr’s death in 1923. From January 1923 until her death on New Year’s Day 1982 Bracebridge Hall and its principal lands were held by his widow and after her death the house passed to her granddaughter, the present owner. The changes attendant in the transition from a plantation managed by a planter with an overseer to one headed by a matriarch, who operated it with

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leasing and rental arrangements that reflected both the changing character of agricultural production and the scale of farming operations in the twentieth century, became visible in the landscape. During this period, as those who worked the fields came in the morning with their equipment and left the plantation at the end of the day, farm housing was lost, hedgerows were eliminated, fields were combined and enlarged, and many of the outbuildings which once housed the produce of field and garden lost their utility. This modern, transitional phase in the life of Bracebridge is reflected in the barns and portable bulk tobacco barns (#14-17) that stand west and southwest of the overseer's house (#18) and the broad many-acre fields, enclosed by woodlands, that continue to form the larger setting of the historic house.

Architectural Significance: Criterion C

Bracebridge Hall, the seat of the Carr family's Bracebridge Plantation, is a nineteenth-century house that enjoyed at least three important enhancements of the original, ca. 1832 Federal dwelling, which now forms the first story of its north ell. The most important of these was the addition of ca. 1835-1840, the imposing Greek Revival-style block, that earned the house a wide appreciation and renown. Its finish, including the handsome Doric-style portico on the façade looking east to the Tar River, was taken from plates in two of Asher Benjamin's architectural pattern books: *The Practical House Carpenter* of 1830 that enjoyed unprecedented popularity and was reissued in eighteen known editions through 1856; and *Practice of Architecture* that was first published in 1833 and reissued in six editions up to 1851. The house has stood essentially unchanged, well preserved since that time.

The statewide architectural significance of Bracebridge Hall derives from its status as one of the earliest, most important, and best preserved houses in North Carolina whose finish was based on the plates of the first two of Asher Benjamin's four highly influential Greek Revival style pattern books: *The Practical House Carpenter* and *Practice of Architecture*. As such it became an exemplar of the style among the plantation society of the Coastal Plain where the rising tide of agricultural prosperity sponsored an important series of houses and public buildings in the years up to the Civil War. During this period, from the early 1830s to 1861, house builders and carpenters utilized Benjamin's *The Practical House Carpenter* more often than any other building guide and it became the most popular architectural pattern book in nineteenth-century North Carolina. Today, the plates from these two books are often conflated and the images of North Carolina's Greek Revival buildings are almost universally associated with *The Practical House Carpenter*, which provided the models for most Greek Revival woodwork here at Bracebridge Hall and elsewhere throughout the state. However, the *Practice of Architecture* published in 1833 was an important supplemental text. In its Plate #43, *Practice of Architecture*

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provided the design for window architraves with medallion cornerblocks which became one of the leitmotives of the style throughout North Carolina. The now-unknown builder who erected Bracebridge Hall used Plate #43 for the exterior window frames on the house, and succeeding generations of carpenters and builders utilized the design into the early twentieth century.

The use of architectural pattern books in eighteen and nineteenth-century America, and North Carolina, and their role in popularizing architectural style in both town and country have been addressed by scholars ranging in status from compilers of county-wide architectural surveys to distinguished professors of national reputation. Dell Upton's article published in *Winterthur Portfolio*, "Pattern Books and Professionalism: Aspects of the Transformation of Domestic Architecture in America, 1800-1860," is surely the most comprehensive and articulate of the group. Asher Benjamin was the most prolific author of pattern books during the period analyzed by Mr. Upton. His first work, *The Country Builder's Assistant*, appeared in 1797, and his last book, *Elements of Architecture*, his seventh building guide, was published in 1843. Both of these works gained a wide audience but neither came close to the influence exerted by *The Practical House Carpenter* of 1830 that was reissued in eighteen further editions through 1856.

Benjamin's influence on American architecture had been examined anew in the early-twentieth century when architects working in the Colonial Revival style turned again to the man who architectural historian John F. Quinan described as having "dominated the field of architectural writing for more than 50 years in America through two stylistic eras . . ." Aymar Embury II, the prolific Colonial Revivalist, pioneered this effort and selected plates from Benjamin's first five books for his *Asher Benjamin* published in 1917. In 1972-1974 Da Capo Press, a short lived but exemplary architectural publisher, reissued the first editions of all seven books with an introduction by Everard M. Upjohn. Meanwhile, John F. "Jack" Quinan, who would become the foremost American scholar of Asher Benjamin, had turned his attention to Benjamin and his pattern books and completed his doctoral dissertation, "The Architectural Style of Asher Benjamin," in 1973.

His dissertation remained unpublished; however, a synopsis of his research appeared in 1979 in an essay "Asher Benjamin and American Architecture," published in the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*. Secure in his knowledge and gifted by insight, Mr. Quinan analyzed Benjamin's output in a few brief pages giving precedence to the pattern books over a small body of known buildings in the Northeast, principally in Boston where Mr. Benjamin relocated in 1803 and lived until his death. Born in either Connecticut or Massachusetts, Benjamin was a "country-trained housewright of humble origins." Little is known of his education; however, his gifts as a writer and "his experience as a housewright enabled him to establish a natural rapport

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with his country builder audience” which he cultivated through the publication of seven important pattern books between 1797 and 1843. *The Country Builder’s Assistant*, the first of the group, appealed directly to its intended audience, and it was followed by *The American Builder’s Companion* in 1806 and *The Rudiments of Architecture* in 1814. These books promoted the Federal style and enjoyed successive reprints up to 1830 when Benjamin’s embrace of the Greek Revival style appeared in the plates of *The Practical House Carpenter*. Quinan states that Benjamin’s seven books were printed in a total of forty-seven editions between 1797 and 1856. *The Practical House Carpenter* accounts for nineteen of that number. The linear geometry of the 1830 book was soon superseded, in print, with a more florid Greek Revival style in *Practice Architecture* in 1833. Benjamin held to this richer appearance in his designs when he published *The Builder’s Guide* in 1839 and *Elements of Architecture* in 1843. However, his “country builder” audience remained remarkably faithful to *The Practical House Carpenter*.

No doubt Benjamin’s pattern books were quickly brought to North Carolina by booksellers and house builders alike, and soon found their way into the hands of housewrights and carpenters. When and how this occurred remains to be confirmed; however, Catherine Bisher offers some preliminary views on the subject in “Asher Benjamin’s *The Practical House Carpenter* in North Carolina.” Like Quinan she recognized Benjamin as “a great popularizer and disseminator of style” and continued her analysis of the influence in North Carolina through the identification of several houses whose architectural finish reflected both the literal copying from its plates and adaptations to local situations and conditions. Her work, together with the many county-wide architectural inventories published in North Carolina, confirm an especial appreciation for certain plates. Benjamin’s “Design for Front Door Case,” appearing in Plate 28, and the “Chimney Piece(s)” appearing in Plates 50 and 51 were the most often copied among those utilized by builders for porches, columns, door and window frames, cornices, and other exterior and interior woodwork on houses from the Coastal Plain through the Piedmont. She cites and illustrates the 1830s Land’s End in Perquimans County, the ca. 1837 Creekside in Burke County, the ca. 1850 Lawrence-Wrenn House in Randolph County, and the Arrington-Alston House of ca. 1850-1856 in Warren County as representative examples. Land’s End and Creekside, like Bracebridge Hall, are seats of important plantations and distinguished families. Research subsequent to the publication of her article in 1979 indicates that both were under construction in the later 1830s when Bracebridge Hall was built for Jonas Carr.

At least seven plates in *The Practical House Carpenter* were utilized in the finish of Bracebridge Hall. Benjamin’s “Design for Front Door Case,” Plate 28, with its fretwork decoration was reproduced as the main east-facing entrance at Bracebridge Hall. It was sheltered by a Doric tetrastyle portico supported by columns copied from Benjamin’s Plate 6, “Doric Order--Example

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No. 3.” The mantels in the parlor and two principal second-story bedrooms are reproduced exactly from Plate 50 which features fluted pilasters rising to bold fretwork capitals in the frieze. In the making of the dining room mantel, based on Plate 51, the bold fluted Doric columns of the “Chimney Piece” are replaced by fluted pilasters. As Benjamin advised it is “painted black and varnished, which will give . . . a neat appearance.” The door and window surrounds in the Carr’s new Greek Revival block were copied from the various options appearing on Plates 46, 47, and 48. The channeled architraves enframing the windows on Bracebridge Hall’s elevations feature medallion cornerblocks and are copied with a slight variation from Plate 43 in *Practice of Architecture* of 1833. When completed the Carr family’s new house was a remarkably complete expression of the Grecian taste except for the stair railing, newels, and stair ends which followed earlier, simple Federal models.

With research at its present state the completion of Bracebridge Hall appears to have been contemporaneous with the construction of both Land’s End and Creekside. Research in the future may establish certain dates of construction for one or all of the houses, but at present they represent the construction of major plantation seats in three distinct regions of the state: at the coast, in the Coastal Plain, and in the western edge of the Piedmont. The quick adoption of the Greek Revival style in the later 1830s, exemplified by the plates in Asher Benjamin’s pattern books, by Jonas Carr, James Leigh of Land’s End, and Thomas George Walton of Creekside, was soon emulated. Planters of differing means throughout North Carolina, including many in Warren and Caswell counties, and both James Owen and Osborne Giles Foard in Rowan County, among countless others, erected houses in the antebellum period whose fittings, moldings, and other features were taken from the plates of Asher Benjamin’s books, especially *The Practical House Carpenter*.

While other architectural pattern books, including Owen Biddle’s *The Young Carpenter’s Assistant* of 1805 and those issued by Minard Lafever beginning in 1833, had been used in the eighteenth century and opening decades of the nineteenth century in North Carolina, none saw the appreciation and widespread adoption given to *The Practical House Carpenter*. Utilizing Benjamin’s plates, builders throughout North Carolina produced a large and handsome series of plantation seats, townhouses, and public buildings from the 1830s up to the Civil War. Reflecting the benefits of agricultural prosperity, slave ownership, and increased trade facilitated by newly-built railroads, these buildings were important landmarks in North Carolina’s architectural history. Erected early in the antebellum period, Bracebridge Hall quickly gained the admiration of regional planters, and for a generation it served as an important prototype for a body of stylish buildings that defined a brilliant era in the state’s history.

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In this expanded nomination Bracebridge Hall holds local architectural significance for the survival here of the house and a small but important group of frame outbuildings at the heart of the plantation. These buildings (#7, 10, 14, and 18), standing west and north of the plantation seat, were once part of a large complex of buildings that housed the domestic and agricultural operations of the plantation. They and others, either now in ruins or lost, appear on the 1913 map of Bracebridge Plantation. While the scale and prosperity of the Carr family's operations were exceptional in Edgecombe County, these buildings and their arrangement in relation to the seat and the plantation work yard, were typical of the place and period.

Here, as elsewhere in Edgecombe County and the Coastal Plain, the surviving domestic outbuildings are located behind the plantation seat and in an informal arrangement. They also follow local and regional precedent in being of frame construction and sheathed with weatherboards. The intact one-room plantation office (#7), one of the few that survive in Edgecombe County, reflects the scale and affluence of the Bracebridge Plantation. A rare building type in the county, it is also among the small number that survive in the region where only the largest, most highly developed plantations usually included such administrative offices. The servants' house (#10) is typical of many such residential dependancies that survive in Edgecombe County and the region where domestic servants were housed in small dwellings in close proximity to the plantation seat. Its original plan, with two rooms joined by an interior chimney, is also commonly seen. Although expanded by additions, the fabric of the original block is intact. The plantation kitchen and privy, both frame buildings, were replaced in 1885, by the two-story brick addition to Bracebridge Hall. Elias Carr also used brick construction for his dairy (#3), ash house (#8), and ice house (#9), whose ruins survive to the present, as well as for the well (#5) and the mount for the metal boiler/basin (#6). His use of brick construction for these buildings and structures reflect the innovative mindset that he applied to husbandry on the plantation. Most dairies in the Coastal Plain were of frame construction, and few ice houses are known in the region.

The complex of agricultural outbuildings at Bracebridge Hall were situated to the north of the plantation seat and most were located in a fenced enclosure known as "The Lot." In a manner not unlike that seen on Edgecombe County's Bryan Farm, and elsewhere in the county and region, these buildings are grouped together and mostly on either side of a farm lane off today's Carr Farm Road. Like most other such agricultural outbuildings in Edgecombe County, these mostly gable-front frame buildings are sheathed with weatherboards. A clear hierarchy is seen in the positioning of the large barn (#14) on the west side of the farm lane and at the head of another, more important plantation road leading eastward to the Carrs' Tar River landing. While Bracebridge Hall is the obvious seat of the plantation, it occupies a relationship to the large barn

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that is matched on the north by the pendant positioning of the overseer's house (#18). Such buildings, like the plantation office, were to be found on the largest, most prosperous plantations in eastern North Carolina. The finish of the overseer's house bespoke both the affluence of the plantation and the value of the overseer to its successful administration. While relatively few in number in the nineteenth century, their survival today is rare, and the overseer's house at Bracebridge is exceptional in its integrity and its meaning in the history of the Carr family's Bracebridge Plantation.

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ENDNOTES

1. In fall 1970 when the original National Register nomination for Bracebridge Hall was prepared, little published record of the house, the Carr family, and its plantation, beyond accounts of the life of Governor Elias Carr (1839-1900) existed. Biographical sketches of the governor had appeared in standard reference works since the later-nineteenth century, including *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* of 1891, *Biographical History of North Carolina* of 1917, and the *Dictionary of American Biography* up to the entry in *North Carolina: The Old North State and the New, Volume III* in 1941, and in Messrs. Turner and Bridgers' *History of Edgecombe County* in 1920. An entry also appears in *Who was Who in America* published in 1943. The county history was one of the four sources cited in the bibliography, including Edgecombe County records in Tarboro and the State Archives, together with *The Early Architecture of North Carolina* in which photographs of Bracebridge Hall's façade and its dining room mantel were published in 1941 (pp. 229, 231). Mary Hilliard Hinton's typescript manuscript, "The Carrs of 'Bracebridge Hall,' Edgecombe County," of 1950 was apparently unknown to the nomination's writers. In the fashion of the time the noted areas of significance, Agriculture, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Political, were supported by a few declarative sentences.

In the event the listing of Bracebridge Hall in the National Register of Historic Places on 18 February 1971 was accompanied by other actions that would encourage one particular scholar, Lala Carr Steelman, to address the governor, his career, and the family life at Bracebridge Hall. Whether listing, and the attention paid Mrs. Elias Carr, Jr., was an encouragement to action is now unclear; however, in the winter of 1970-1971, she resolved to deposit the family papers that had accumulated at Bracebridge Hall in the Joyner Library Manuscript Collection at East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina. This was done through two gifts. The first was on 27 March 1971 and consisted of two cubic feet of records. On 22 April 1971 another ten cubic feet were placed in the collection. These records consist of correspondence, ledgers, reports, day books, journals, letterpress books, newspapers, speeches, pamphlets, photographs, and other miscellaneous paper records of the family and its plantation operations that now comprise the Elias Carr Papers.

The Elias Carr Papers quickly gained the attention of Dr. Lala (Carr) Steelman, a professor in the department of history at East Carolina University. Mrs. Steelman (1923-1998), a native of Milledgeville, Georgia, was no relation of the Edgecombe County family. While she would undertake study on various topics during her career, she devoted much of her energy to the study of the Farmers' Alliance and the life of Governor Carr and his family

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and produced essays that have not been superceded. The first of her four published works is the biographical sketch of Governor Carr published in 1979 in the first volume of the *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*. In January 1980 the *North Carolina Historical Review* published her "The Life-Style of an Eastern North Carolina Planter: Elias Carr of Bracebridge Hall." Four months later the quarterly published her second essay, "The Role of Elias Carr in the North Carolina Farmers' Alliance." She revisited the career of Elias Carr near the end of her own career as a historian and produced "Elias Carr: A Profile" that was published in the inaugural issue of the *Journal of the Association of Historians in North Carolina* in 1992. Another valuable resource is the "Architectural and Finishes Analysis" on Bracebridge Hall that was prepared by restoration consultant George T. Fore of Raleigh in 1984 for the current owners of Bracebridge Hall who subsequently undertook the stabilization and restoration of the ancestral seat.

2. The principal genealogical source on the Carr Family of Bracebridge Hall is Mary Hilliard Hinton's typescript account, "The Carrs of 'Bracebridge Hall,' Edgecombe County, North Carolina." Copies of the work, totaling eighty-four pages plus illustrations, survive among members of the Carr and Hinton families. Martina (Fillmore) Taylor provided a photocopy to this author. Miss Hinton (1869-1961) was the great-granddaughter of Elias Carr (I) who established the family in Edgecombe County. For an account of Miss Hinton see *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, s.v. "Hinton, Mary Hilliard."
3. This addition has also been dated to ca. 1890, largely on family tradition; however, the ca. 1880-1881 date is supported by the birth of the couple's fourth surviving child, Eleanor Kearny, on 21 December 1880. Closer inspection of the family accounts and correspondence may further confirm either proposed date.

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10. Geographical Data

UTM References

- | | | |
|----|----------|---------|
| 5. | Zone | 18 |
| | Easting | 269870 |
| | Northing | 3959750 |
| 6. | Zone | 18 |
| | Easting | 269330 |
| | Northing | 3960450 |

Verbal Boundary Description

The property included in this “Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase” is outlined on the enclosed Edgemcombe County Land Records/GIS Map. It comprises all of two parcels bearing PIN numbers #4733-15-4050 and #4733-26-1411, and the larger rectangular part (Sterrett Lot #11) of #4733-36-2226, lying on the immediate east side of Colonial Road, minus the secondary tract (Sterrett Lot #12) offset at its southeast corner.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the “Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase” is drawn to include the site and setting of Bracebridge Hall, its surviving, adjoining domestic and agricultural outbuildings, and the Carr Family Cemetery, which comprise the historic heart of the family’s Bracebridge Plantation. This boundary surrounds approximately 149.71 acres of just over 2,000 acres which defined the plantation at its greatest extent and which remained intact in one ownership up to the division of 1913. This boundary includes the 4.00 acres listed in 1971 and an increase of 145.71 acres. One part of this boundary, carrying along Jumping Run between White Oak Branch and Colonial Road, about one-half of the nominated acreage’s southwest boundary, is coterminous with the boundary of Bracebridge Plantation as of 1816.

This boundary has been drawn to reflect the history of the property and its significance, the associations of history and place that have been preserved in the ownership of the nominated acreage through the twentieth century, and divisions and sales of portions of the plantation that began with its equitable division among three children of Governor Elias Carr in 1913. The largest of the three parcels included herein is a 67.78-acre wedge-shaped parcel (4733-15-4050) that is the site and setting of Bracebridge Hall, twenty of the twenty-two resources, and six of the

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fields that form a part of the agricultural landscape (#20). It is a part of Lot No. 1 (659.80 acres) that was assigned to Elias Carr, Jr. (1866-1923) in 1913 and which remained in the estates of his only child Martina (Carr) Fillmore (1904-1972) and his widow Maud (Inge) Carr (1880-1982) until a division of 1983 in which it was awarded to the governor's great-granddaughter Martina (Fillmore) Taylor (b. 1927), the present owner and resident of Bracebridge Hall. The long north border of this house tract, coterminous with the path of Carr Farm Road, is the north border of Lot No. 1 and the dividing line between his lands and Lot #2 that was awarded to his sister Annie Bruce (Carr) Sterrett (1884-1931). A third length of this expansion's boundary also dates to the 1913 division and was another part of the dividing line between the lots assigned to Mr. Carr, Jr., and Mrs. Sterrett. It is the south border of the 54.40-acre rectangular "Long Field" tract (the majority of PIN #4733-36-2226) and Sterrett Lot #11 that lies on the immediate east side of Colonial Road and is coterminous with the plantation lane linking Bracebridge Hall and the Carr landing on the Tar River. The north border of this "Long Field" tract also dates to 1913.

In 1913 when the commissioners divided Bracebridge Plantation between the three siblings they were aware of the fact that only Elias Carr, Jr. was likely to remain at Bracebridge as a planter. His two sisters lived out of state and were not likely to ever reside in either Edgecombe County or North Carolina. Eleanor (Carr) Matthews (1880-1919) quickly sold her inheritance (672.40 acres), Lot #3, comprising the north edge and west end of Bracebridge Plantation, out of the family where it remains. In November 1919, Sidney W. Mosher, an engineer for the Atlantic Coast Realty Company, acting on the orders of Mrs. Sterrett (1884-1931) subdivided her Lot #2 (682.40 acres) into fifteen tracts that were then offered up for sale. Five lots totaling 304.40 acres were sold to Benjamin Franklin Eagles who had bought Mrs. Matthews' acreage. The remainder would eventually return to the Carr family. In 1934 Mr. Sterrett conveyed the 27.53-acre field lot in the northwest corner of Carr Farm and Colonial Roads (PIN #4733-26-1411) to Mrs. Carr, Jr., her daughter, Mrs. Fillmore, and the three Fillmore siblings. This conveyance reunited this critical acreage in the viewshed of the plantation seat with the ownership of Bracebridge Hall. As a result, Mrs. Taylor, the owner of Bracebridge Hall, has held an undivided interest in this portion of the "Shop Field" tract since 1934 when she was in her seventh year.

For reasons now unclear, the 71-acre acreage on the east side of Colonial Road, bearing PIN #4733-36-2226 and surrounding the Carr Cemetery, was sold out of the family, to Mr. Eagles and W. M. Cobb, by the Sterretts as lots #11 and #12 of the Sterrett subdivision) and was not bought back in until 1963 when purchased by William Haydock Fillmore (1893-1966). It passed to his wife and in the settlement of her estate it was devised in 1974, with other property, by the heirs to Martina (Fillmore) Taylor. The large rectangular tract of 54.40 acres lying alongside Colonial Road and including the Carr Cemetery appears at Lot #11 of the 1919 Sterrett

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subdivision. Since it includes the Carr Cemetery where Elias Carr (1775-1822), the progenitor of the Carr Family in Edgecombe County, is buried, where his son Jonas Johnston Carr (1805-1843), the builder of Bracebridge Hall is interred, and where his son, Elias Carr (1839-1900), a governor of North Carolina, is also interred, along with other members of the family who occupied Bracebridge Hall, this tract, whose present dimensions date to 1919, is included as the third of three parcels making up the residual lands of Bracebridge Hall.

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Photography Schedule (the following information applies to all photographs)

1. Name of property: Bracebridge Hall
2. Location: Edgecombe County, North Carolina
3. Name of photographer: Davyd Foard Hood
4. Dates of photographs: 22 March 2002 and 1 January 2005
5. Location of original negatives: North Carolina Division of Archives and History,
Raleigh, North Carolina

Photographs

- A. Overview of Bracebridge Hall (#1) and its grounds (#2), looking southwest, 4 January 2005.
- B. Bracebridge Hall, east façade and north side elevation, looking southwest, 22 March 2002.
- C. View of domestic yard with outbuildings, including well and cover (#5) in right foreground, metal boiler/basin (#6) in left middle ground, the plantation office (#7) on left, and the servants' house (#10) in right background, looking west/southwest, 22 March 2002.
- D. Ice house ruins (#9), looking east, 22 March 2002.
- E. View of agricultural outbuildings in "The Lot" area, including easternmost bulk tobacco barn (#17a) on right, barn (#16) and concrete block barn (#15) on left of lane, and the large barn (#14) in right middle ground, with west end of the plantation seat (#1) in the center background, looking south, 22 March 2002.
- F. Overseer's house (#18), looking west, 22 March 2002.
- G. Landscape view, looking west on Carr Farm Road from its head with Colonial Road, with overseer's house (#18) and bulk tobacco barn cluster (#17a-e) in southwest corner and field being a portion of the "Shop Field" tract in the northwest corner, 4 January 2005.

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Bracebridge Hall: Additional Documentation and
Boundary Increase

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- H. Landscape view of "Old Orchard Field," looking east/southeast with tobacco barn (#13) in center background, 4 January 2005.
- I. Landscape view of westernmost fields on south side of Carr Farm Road, looking west/southwest, 4 January 2005.
- J. Landscape view of the "Long Field" tract, looking east from reverse of vantage point for view G above, 4 January 2005.
- K. Landscape view of north end of the "Long Field" tract, looking east to Carr Cemetery (#19), with farm lane/boundary edge visible on left, 4 January 2005.
- L. Carr Cemetery (#19), looking northeast, 22 March 2002. The obelisk marks the grave of Governor Elias Carr (1839-1900).

