

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Tinga Nursery

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number E side US 117, .62 miles N jct w/NC 132 n/a ☐ not for publication

city or town Wrightsboro ☒ vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county New Hanover code 129 zip code 28429

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

for
M. J. M. W.

10/4/00

Tinga Nursery
Name of Property

New Hanover 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	
6	6	buildings
	1	sites
	1	structures
		objects
6	8	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: horticultural facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: irrigation facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: horticultural fac.

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: irrigation facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls wood

roof asphalt shingle

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Tinga Nursery
Name of Property

New Hanover 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.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage/European

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1913-1950

Significant Dates

1913

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Tinga Nursery
Name of Property

New Hanover County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ±30 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	231110	3799000
Zone	Easting	North	ing
2	18	231700	3799100

3	18	231810	3798870
Zone	Easting	North	ing
4	18	231110	3798800

☐ 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 Edward F. Turberg
organization Architectural Historial date May 1, 2000
street & number 307 North 15th Street telephone 910-762-6301
city or town Wilmington state NC zip code 28401

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Eelco Tinga
street & number 2918 Castle Hayne Road telephone 910-762-5250
city or town Castle Hayne state NC zip code 28429

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

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

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7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION.

Established in 1913 and still in operation as a flourishing regional business, the Tinga Nursery is situated on the east side of U.S. Highway 117 (Castle Hayne Road), 0.4 miles north of Wrightsboro School. The area supports several agricultural farms which border the highway and extend in flat, alluvial terrain to the banks of the Northeast Cape Fear River two miles to the west, Prince George Creek to the north, Ness Creek to the east, and Smith Creek to the south. Clusters of modest ranch homes are interspersed among the older farmsteads and the rich, dark-soil fields are demarcated by drainage ditches and stands of deciduous trees. The open expanse of the nursery and its associated buildings, planting beds, irrigation canals and pond retain the character and ambience of a truck farm colony, and largely remain as it appeared during the first quarter of the twentieth century. Resources contained within the site include the main house, wash house and wood shed, employee's quarters, big barn, bulb barn and pump house, old office, new office, potting shed, garage, nursery lanes, field patterns, drainage ditches, cold frame, and pond.

Access to the Tinga Nursery is achieved by two driveways leading east from the north-south highway laid out c. 1905 by Hugh MacRae, as part of his development program of rural farm colonies linked to Wilmington by road and by rail. The driveways join at an unpaved parking area in front of a modern office and sales room (L). Surrounding the building and skirting the driveways are rows of flowering shrubs, trees, and decorative plants set out for display and sale. North of the office and set in a pecan grove among mature plantings, is the main residence (A), a 1918 Bungalow/Craftsman-style house of irregular plan under gabled roofs with broad eaves and exposed rafter ends. Typical in form and detail to many small dwellings of the period, the house was enlarged in 1938 and the early 1950s, and the shingled siding was covered with asbestos shingles in 1949. As it presently stands, the house is a progression of original 1918 features through modest improvements dating to about forty years ago. Facing west, the simple lines and low profile of the house blend with the broad landscape that surrounds the domestic and agricultural complex. Directly behind the house to the east are the 1921 employee's quarters (B), the 1918 combination wash house and woodshed (C), and the 1913 barn (D). To the south and east of the house are a bulb barn (E), garage (F), irrigation pump (G), restrooms (H), old office (I), pump house (J), potting shed (K), new office (L), and landscape features including a later pond and irrigation system. Although there have been changes and additions, the complex retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance in the fields of agriculture and European ethnic heritage.

A. The House: 1918, contributing. The one-story, T-shaped, Bungalow/Craftsman-style frame residence is typical of many suburban and rural dwellings built during the early-twentieth century, and preserves many of its original architectural details. Raised above the ground an average of three feet on brick piers, the exterior walls were originally sheathed with stained, butt-end shingles which, in 1949, were covered over with the then-popular white asbestos shingles. Five bays wide and four bays deep, the gabled roofs have wide overhangs and exposed rafter ends. Windows, arranged singly, in pairs, and tripled, contain six-over-one sash and molded architraves. The projecting, gabled porch occupying the southwest corner of the main block is

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supported by clustered, square posts on painted brick piers. Originally open, the porch was glassed-in during the early 1950s. A sun room, built in 1938, is attached to the south elevation and incorporates a former exterior end chimney.

The interior of the house consists of a living room entered directly from the front porch, an adjacent dining room to the left, a rear kitchen, two bedrooms, a bath, and attic and cellar ladder in the southeast wing, and a bed room and bath in the north addition. An original feature of the living room is a Colonial Revival-style fireplace in the south wall highlighted by fluted pilasters and center block, and denticulation below the mantel shelf. Separating the living and dining rooms is a single, fifteen-light pocket door. An unusual installation in the rear wing is a two-part wooden ladder that provides access to both the attic and the cellar--to the former by climbing the steps in place, and to the latter by separating the ladder by pulling two weighted ropes and dropping the lower portion down to the basement floor.

B. Employee's Quarters: 1921, contributing. The employee quarters, called "Louis' Room" after Louis Tancrelle, who lived and worked here from 1925 to 1930, is a diminutive, gable-front structure of similar construction and detail as the wash house and woodshed. A glazed upper-panel door is situated in the left portion of the south elevation, and a two-over-two sash window is centered in the west elevation. Inside the house are a bed room with a fireplace, and a closet. This is a unique example in the county of a detached worker's dwelling; and its intact condition and continued use add to its significance.

C. Wash House and Woodshed: 1918, contributing. The combined wash house and woodshed to the east of the residence is one of several intact structures on the property, and a rare surviving example of this type of outbuilding in the region. The two bay by one bay building combines an open-sided shed at the east end and an enclosed laundry with an original wash tub set into a concrete fire box at the west end. An exterior chimney is positioned at the northwest corner of the building adjacent to paired, six-over-six windows. The walls are sheathed with plain-edge siding and an exposed-rafter gable-end roof covers the structure.

D. Big Barn: 1913, contributing. The oldest building on the property is the 1913 "Big Barn." It was erected to serve the truck and nursery operations as well as domestic uses. The two-story, gable-front central bay has wide, sliding doors at the first and second levels, open sided shed-roofed outer bays, and small windows flanking the upper doors. Two mules and a cow were tabled within the barn; flower bulbs were stored in the loft. Although the barn was later reroofed and resided with vertical siding similar to the original, the interior retains its ground-floor braced framing, tool shelves, hay chutes, stalls, flower-bulb fumigation room, and open-string stair to the loft.

E. Bulb Barn: 1930, contributing. The 1930 gable-end bulb barn opposite the "big barn" was enlarged to incorporate a garage at the west end and one of the earliest irrigation pumps, installed in 1935, at the east end of the building. Despite replacement of doors, windows, exterior siding, and the roof covering in recent years,

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the building retains its original structural and functional character.

F. Garage: 1930s, contributing. The garage is a small, gable-front structure, sheathed with vertical siding. Double doors occupy the central portion of the front elevation, and the building is lighted by a series of one-over-one, aluminum-sash windows.

G. Irrigation Pump: 1985, noncontributing. The earliest irrigation pump in the area, installed in the early 1930s, was housed in a small structure that was destroyed during a storm. The current gable-end structure incorporates an open shed on its north side and vertical sided walls enclosing the original, intact pump.

H. Rest Rooms: 1980s, noncontributing. The double-room outbuilding has a low-pitched, gable-end roof and entrances on opposite sides for men and women. Small windows are placed in the upper walls of the end elevations.

I. Old Office: 1963, noncontributing. In the 1960s and 1970s, the nursery was transformed from in-ground to above-ground plant production. Part of this process was the construction of an office, and the installation of an irrigation pond and cold frames. The office has paired awning windows, an entrance in the left front bay opening on to a concrete patio, and a low-pitched gable-end roof that projects out above the patio.

J. Pond and Pump House: 1970s, noncontributing. The rectangular pond, located near the rear portion of the nursery property, was dug by the Tingas for the purpose of removing the brown algae from the local water. The pond provides water for irrigating the rows of cold frames nearby, as well as being an attraction for many birds and ducks. The shed-roofed pump house stands at the southern end of the pond and is sheathed with vertical siding.

K. Potting Shed: 1990, noncontributing. The most recent major building erected on the site is a large, open, gable-front metal structure that shelters a long conveyer belt and mechanical potting machine.

L. New Office: 1980, noncontributing. In 1980, a new office was built at the eastern end of the double driveways leading from the highway. The gable-end building is five bays wide and two bays deep, with the central entrance and flanking windows sheltered by a shed-roofed porch supported by square posts. Fenestration consists of paired, one-over-one sash.

M. Cold Frames: 1970s, noncontributing. The cold frames are a series of elongated tents covering parallel rows of above-ground plants. The tents are formed by arched metal frames covered by white plastic. Access is provided through screened openings at each end. The plastic coverings are used during the winter months and removed during the summer. To the east of these structures are additional rows of plants that are shaded by black mesh frames forming square arbors.

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N. Landscape: contributing. The continuing operation of the Tinga Nursery as it had been during its period of significance is testimony to the success of horticulture in the lower Cape Fear region of North Carolina, promoted by developer Hugh MacRae through his immigrant colonies, and propagated by Hollanders who brought their agrarian expertise to the area. The nursery preserves all the elements of a self-contained rural landscape combining residential, agricultural and commercial uses for the cultivation of marketable flower bulbs, ornamental shrubs, trees, and ground covers. A tall, brightly colored sign stands at the entrance to the nursery and the adjacent grounds skirting the highway are display areas for a variety of plants set out in carefully arranged sectors. The house is situated near the northwest corner of the tract where shade trees, foundation plantings, a broad lawn, and the unpaved main drive from the highway into the property visually separate the domestic and agrarian activities of the farm. The drive extends eastwardly passing barns and other service structures, parallel rows of cold frames, and an irrigation pond and pump house. A second drive to the southeast of the house loops through a parking area in front of the sales office and joins the south drive, likewise unpaved, which skirts the southern section of the site and passes additional ranks of cold frames and the southern end of the bulb barn. Narrow drainage and irrigation ditches stretch along the eastern border of the highway, behind the office, and between the cold frames. Additional trenches run east-west along the sides of the lanes to provide continuous water courses for the nursery.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE.

Summary Paragraph

The Tinga Nursery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A within the categories of significance of Agriculture and Ethnic Heritage/European. The nursery is the last intact link with Hugh MacRae's early-twentieth-century, European-settled Castle Haynes agricultural colony; it helped generate the nursery industry in the area; and it continues to be cultivated as a nursery on its original lands by descendants of Eelco I. Tinga, one of the colony's early settlers.(1) Situated within the picturesque Cape Fear River basin amid small truck farms and associated residences, the Tinga Nursery is thought to be the last surviving New Hanover County manifestation of Hugh MacRae's interest in the establishment and operation of truck and experimental farms that brought attention to the region in the early twentieth century. The nursery is one of the earliest types of businesses in the area and continues its strong historic and economic associations in a region that historically supported a variety of agricultural pursuits. The resources on the site are typical of domestic and farm-related buildings erected by European immigrants during the period extending from 1913 to 1950. In addition, the continual improvement of the land by irrigation ditches and pond, cold frames and clustered plantings add to the historic continuum of occupation on the site, and constitutes a rare vestige of the agricultural settlement projects undertaken by Hugh MacRae.

Historical Background/Agriculture and Dutch Settlement Context.

The rich, fertile land that comprises the lower Cape Fear River basin of North Carolina was first settled by Native Americans who found the area ideal for raising corn, fishing in the numerous streams, and hunting in the dense forests and swamps. Archaeological discoveries of pottery shards in the region indicate human habitation over a period of seventeen centuries, between 500 B.C. and 1200 A.D.(2)

It was not until the first quarter of the eighteenth century, however, that European settlers moved into the region, first establishing rice plantations along the river, and later instituting naval stores production of tar, pitch, and turpentine that was the basis for the southeast's economic importance well into the nineteenth century. The Civil War had a dramatic effect on the social life and economy of the area with the emancipation of slaves who labored on the plantations and the breaking up of large land holdings. Nevertheless, old families, freed men, and immigrants acquired small farms and began raising vegetables and fruits for their own use and for market sales. The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and the north-south highway through the middle of the county provided the means by which the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century truck-farm economy could grow and prosper.(3)

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The greatest moving force behind the regeneration of post-Civil War farming along the Northeast Cape Fear River was Hugh MacRae (1865-1951), a prominent Wilmington businessman whose innovations in real estate development were to have a long-range impact on the agricultural practices and life of the region. MacRae received his advanced education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, where he studied mining engineering. After a brief stint working at a mica mine in western North Carolina near Linville, he returned home to assume the operation of his father's cotton mill, as well as the presidency of the MacRae-owned Tidewater Power Company. The utility not only provided electric service to the city and rural communities, it also owned and ran Wilmington's city and interurban streetcars as well as trolley service to Wrightsville Beach.(4)

MacRae's interest in railroads, both those owned by the power company and by the important Atlantic Coast Line, spurred him to focus his attention on buying and developing worn-out or abandoned agricultural properties in rural quarters accessible by train. By an ingenious turn of mind, MacRae devised a plan to propagate a series of independent agricultural colonies and populate them with European farmers whose expertise, enthusiasm and energy would enable them to turn the land back into arable production, for the benefit of the farmer as well as for the railroad.

Several ethnic farm colonies rose in the Cape Fear region, an outgrowth of MacRae's belief that small, family-owned farms provided the solution for overcrowded European conditions and the South's labor and economic problems. One of the first of these colonies was Castle Haynes, originally settled in 1861 and known as Spring Garden. By 1882, it was renamed in honor of Captain Roger Haynes who built a fort here during the Revolutionary War. A second settlement was St. Helena, in Pender County just south of Burgaw. Settled in 1908 by a colony of Italians, it was later occupied by Russian immigrants. Marathon, north of Castle Haynes was established for Greek farmers, but was unsuccessful. The Van Eden community was established in 1909 on land purchased by Frederik van Eeden (1860-1932) and Hugh MacRae for a colony of Dutch farmers. In 1939 the remaining land was purchased by a New York corporation as a refuge for Jews fleeing Germany; the last Dutch family left in 1949. New Berlin, in Columbus County, was established in 1913 as a settlement for German farmers. In 1918, the name was changed to Pershing to honor General John J. Pershing. Six months later it was renamed Delco in celebration of the installation of a Delco electric light generator in the local high school.

In the Summer of 1905, the Castle Haynes agricultural project began by MacRae's acquisition of several large tracts of farm and wood lands from the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad at a cost of \$1.00 to \$2.00 per acre. The Carolina Trucking Company, one of MacRae's operations, surveyed and improved the tracts by laying out streets and subdividing the land into ten-acre farms selling for \$50.00 per acre, with a commissary, superintendent, and a cooperative of tools and machinery for the use of the farmers. Promotional brochures were printed in Dutch, French, Hungarian, Polish, Italian, Slovak, Czech, and German and brought abroad by agents to Europe. Castle Haynes was later changed by the Post Office Department to Castle Hayne.(5)

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The majority of settlers in Castle Haynes were truck farmers who supplied vegetables to northern markets. In 1908, however, three Hollanders: J. Hondius, A. Van Leeuwen, and Hugo De Wilt, moved from Worcester, Massachusetts to the Cape Fear region and opened a fifty-acre nursery. Called the Horticultural Company, the partners imported, grew, and sold fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs, herbaceous plants and bulbs. A second farm, The Holland Nursery, was begun in 1909 by Hugo Van Nes and Eelco I. Tinga. These two nurseries were the beginning of the flower and bulb industry of the Castle Hayne area. Shortly thereafter, the nurserymen realized that they could yield greater profits if they shipped flowers, rather than bulbs, to the distant markets.(6)

Eelco Idzard Tinga was born in 1882 in Sappemeer, The Netherlands. He studied horticulture in his native country, and continued his education by working in England for a year. In 1906, at the age of twenty-four, he emigrated to the United States and was soon employed at a nursery on Long Island, New York. There he met a fellow countryman, Hugo Van Nes, and the two decided to become partners in their own nursery. In 1908, having read about Hugh MacRae's experimental agricultural colonies in North Carolina, they set out for the South and settled in Castle Haynes north of Wilmington. The 1909 they opened the Holland Nursery which soon proved that the rich soil was well-suited for growing assorted flowering shrubs. Tinga and Van Nes boxed their plants and sent them north and west to wholesale florists in Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Chicago. In addition to export plants, the farm produced garden vegetables, daffodils and Dutch iris, that were sold locally.(7)

In 1912, Van Nes married Catherine Blossom, and the two nurserymen dissolved their partnership. While Van Nes retained the Holland Nursery, Tinga purchased thirty-acres south of the nursery in 1912 on a section of the MacRae development and took up temporary residence in a boarding house nearby. He rode to his property on a bicycle and cleared the land with a mule and dynamite.(8) The new nursery followed the pattern similar to that of the Holland Nursery in 1908, and was based on experience in their native Netherlands. The fields were arranged in strips with narrow irrigation ditches bordering each sector to supply water for the planting beds throughout the site. In 1913, Tinga built a large barn on the property to store farming equipment and to stable two mules and a cow at the first level, and to provide a large loft for sorting and storing flower bulbs.

In 1917, Tinga married Tjitske Hennes (1884-1977), also a native of the Netherlands. In 1918, the couple moved into a comfortable new bungalow adjacent to the 1914 barn and constructed a combination wash house and wood shed between the house and barn. Working steadily at building up the truck farm and nursery, business prospered to the extent that the Tingas had to hire help. In 1921, they added an employee quarters behind the house. A photograph taken during the early 1920s shows the house sheltered by several trees, a few outbuildings, and neat rows of plants arranged between the house and the highway. The Tinga Holly, planted near the house in 1920, is a recognized specie of American Holly developed and introduced by Eelco Tinga.(9)

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In 1923, Tinga and two other farmers sent an order to Holland for daffodil bulbs. Within twelve months they shipped flowers from their bulbs by railway express to Atlantic City and Philadelphia. Will Rheder, whose family florist business in Wilmington dates to 1872, furnished northern dealer addresses. In 1924, a New York wholesale commission agent visited Tinga and other Castle Hayne farmers, and bought the entire crop of daffodil blossoms, grown on less than an acre, for six cents per dozen. In New York, the flowers commanded a price of fifty cents a dozen. The following year, the nurserymen established direct connections with New York markets.(10)

In 1927, nematodes were discovered on bulbs imported from Holland, whereupon the local Dutch farmers successfully urged federal officials to put an embargo on imported bulbs. The embargo lasted for six years and was a great incentive for the expansion of the southern bulb business. In 1928, the floriculturists of the region formed the North Carolina Bulb Growers Association for the purpose of buying and selling collectively. EelcoTinga was the association's first president.

An outgrowth of the association was the 1946 establishment of a Horticultural Research Station in Castle Hayne near the Tinga Nursery. Another organization, begun by thirteen associates including Tinga, was the North Carolina Association of Nurserymen. Now numbering more than 1,500 members, E.I. Tinga, E.H. Tinga and E.H. Tinga, Jr. have all been president of the body.(11)

The continued expansion of the Tinga Nursery on its thirty-acre tract made it necessary to expand the facilities on the site. In 1930, a bulb barn was added to the nursery and bulb storage in the big barn was relocated to the new building.

Eelco and Jessie Tinga had three sons, and all entered professions related to horticulture. John, the eldest, was a successful commercial cut flower and soybean farmer. Jacob, a Doctor of Horticulture, taught at the University of Georgia, Athens. The youngest, Eelco, assumed management of his parents' nursery in 1947 and his two sons manage the place today. In 1999, the nursery celebrated its eighty-sixth anniversary, encompassing three generations of the family in a business that proves MacRae's belief that small, family-owned farms were the future of the South's prosperity. Mary Tinga (Mrs. Eelco, Jr.), wife of the second-generation operator of the business, wrote that "the Tingas and the Tinga Nursery are a remnant of the Dutch Community started by Hugh MacRae. We are the only family from that era still living and farming on our original land."(12) Today, in the Castle Hayne and surrounding area, about 1,400 acres are planted in flowers. Gladioli comprise 800 acres, daffodils 400, and iris 200. These flowers bring in approximately \$3,000,000 annually.(13)

As in the past, Tinga Nursery continues to work closely with the research station in a variety of agricultural experiments, experimental gardens, horticultural and community programs. In 1963, an office was built and subsequent agricultural improvements were made. The family has supported and contributed to the New

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Hanover County Arboretum, and has worked closely with the New Hanover County Extension Service. E.H. Tinga, Jr. was an organizer of the plant identification program used in classes of the North Carolina Landscape Contractors Registration Board, where he served as Chairman. Wrightsboro School, Bethany Presbyterian Church, and the local Scout Troops, are just a few of the organizations that have been helped through the years by the Tinga family, and the nursery itself is considered a landmark in the region.(14)

Endnotes

1. Marvin A. Brown, Greiner, Inc., "Addendum To An Historical Architectural Survey Report For The Wilmington Bypass." (Raleigh, NC, 1995), p. 10
2. New Hanover County Planning Department, "Wrightsboro, An Eye On The Past...A Step Towards The Future." (Wilmington, NC, 1991), p. 4
3. ibid., p. 4-5
4. Brown, p. 6
5. W. Frank Ainsley, PhD, "Dutch Settlers in the Cape Fear Region: Hugh MacRae's Agricultural Colonies." (Wilmington, NC, 1987), p. 1
6. Ainsley
7. Brown; Historic Wilmington Foundation, Inc. Plaque File: Tinga Nursery
8. Mary Tinga, undated letter in Tinga family papers
9. Mary Tinga, Letter to Debbie Bevin, NC Department of Cultural Resources, Survey Branch, May 9, 1995
10. ibid.
11. Corey, p. 62
12. Mary Tinga
13. Corey, p. 63
14. Mary Tinga

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Major Bibliographical References

Ainsley, W. Frank, PhD. "Dutch Settlers in the Cape Fear Region: Hugh MacRae's Agricultural Colonies."
Wilmington, NC: University of North Carolina at Wilmington, 1987.

Brown, Marvin A. "Addendum to An Historical Architectural Survey Report for the Wilmington Bypass."
Raleigh, NC: Greiner, Inc., 1995.

Corey, John Faris. "The Colonization and Contributions of Emmigrants Brought into Southeastern North
Carolina by Hugh MacRae." (Thesis, Appalachian State Teachers College, August 1957).

New Hanover County Planning Department. "Wrightsboro: An Eye on the Past...A Step Towards the
Future." Wilmington, NC, 1991.

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10. Geographical Data.

Acreage of Property

+/- 30 acres

Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed National Register boundaries for the Tinga Nursery encompass three former strips of land comprising approximately 30 acres, extending from the eastern side of Castle Hayne Road (US 117/NC 133) to Ness Creek. The property is part of the original real estate purchased by E.I. Tinga in 1912 after he and his partner, H. Van Nes, dissolved their co-ownership of the Holland Nursery in Castle Haynes. The southern third of the site was acquired by Tinga in 1925 to extend his agricultural activities. The thirty acres continue in their same historic agricultural use. Five acres presently part of the nursery are not included with the proposed boundaries. Although they were part of the original 1912 purchase, they were sold in 1919 and not reacquired by the Tinga family for the nursery until 1993. The three-quarter-century gap in their connection with the nursery excludes them from its National Register boundaries.

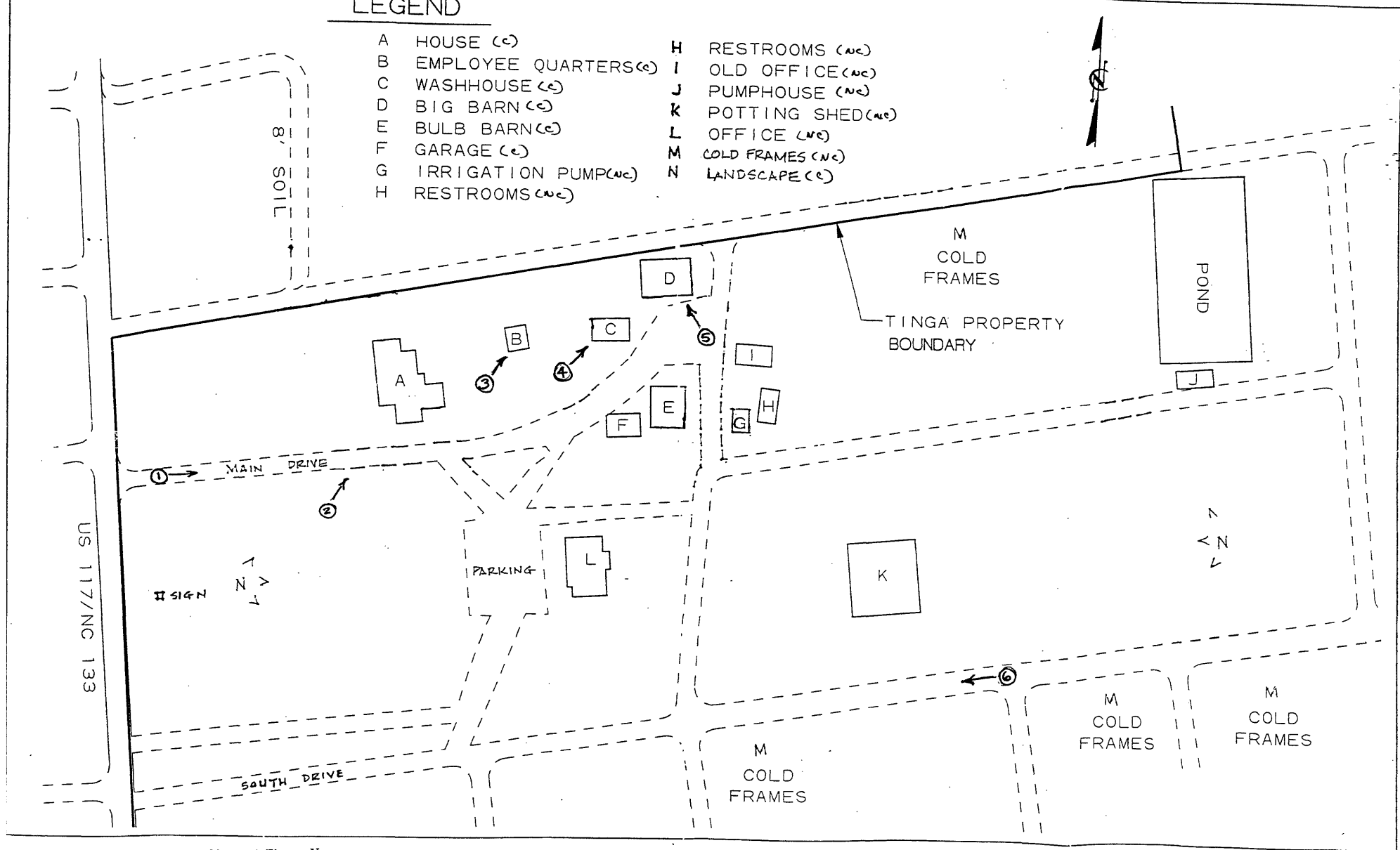
The proposed National Register boundaries of the property are concurrent with those pictured on New Hanover County Tax Map 33-07, Block 2, Parcel 4, and Tax Map 33-08, which pictures the easternmost section of the property.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the approximately 30-acre tract that is historically associated with the Tinga Nursery.

LEGEND

A	HOUSE (c)	H	RESTROOMS (nc)
B	EMPLOYEE QUARTERS (c)	I	OLD OFFICE (nc)
C	WASHHOUSE (c)	J	PUMPHOUSE (nc)
D	BIG BARN (c)	K	POTTING SHED (nc)
E	BULB BARN (c)	L	OFFICE (nc)
F	GARAGE (c)	M	COLD FRAMES (nc)
G	IRRIGATION PUMP (nc)	N	LANDSCAPE (c)
H	RESTROOMS (nc)		



Sketch Map of Tinga Nursery
Wrightsboro vic,
New Hanover County, NC

Copied from: Marvin A. Brown,
"Addendum to An Historical
Architectural Survey Report for the
Wilmington Bypass." Raleigh, NC:
Greiner, Inc., 1995.

NO SCALE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 00001185

Date Listed: 10/4/00

Tinga Nursery
Property Name

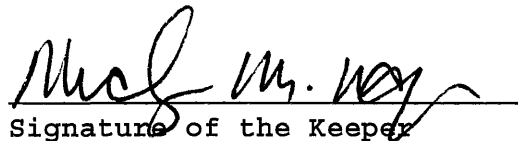
New Hanover
County

NORTH CAROLINA
State

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

10/4/00
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 5

This nomination is amended to delete one noncontributing site and add one contributing site. The inventory identifies the landscape as contributing and the alterations to its appearance caused by its conversion to above-ground cultivation do not appear to have destroyed its historic character.

This amendment has been confirmed with the North Carolina SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)