INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

NAME
HISTORIC
Asher W. Bizzell House

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
SE corner US 13 and SR 1845
CITY, TOWN
Rosin
STATE
North Carolina

CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
_DISTRICT
_X BUILDING(S)
_STRUCTURE
_SITE
_OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
_PUBLIC
_X PRIVATE
_BOTH

STATUS
_OCCUPIED
_X UNOCCUPIED
_WORK IN PROGRESS
_ACCESSIBLE
_IN PROCESS
_BEING CONSIDERED
_N/A

PRESENT USE
_AGRICULTURE
_COMMERCIAL
_EDUCATIONAL
_Entertainment
_Government
_INDUSTRIAL
_MILITARY
_MUSEUM
_PARK
_PUBLIC ACQUISITION
_PRIVATE RESIDENCE
_RELIGIOUS
_SCIENTIFIC
_TRANSPORTATION
_OTHER

OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
John L. Hudson
STREET & NUMBER
Route 2, Box 324
CITY, TOWN
STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE
REGISTER OF DEEDS, ETC.
REGISTERS
SAMPSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE
CLINTON, N.C. 28328
CITY, TOWN
STATE

FORM PREPARED BY
NAME / TITLE
Thomas Butchko
Jim Sumner, Researcher
ORGANIZATION
Survey & Planning Branch
Research Branch
STREET & NUMBER
109 E. Jones Street
CITY OR TOWN
Raleigh,
STATE
North Carolina
DATE
5-16-85
TELEPHONE
919-733-6545
Asher W. Bizzell, a merchant from Wayne County, moved to this area about 1820 and built this vernacular-Coastal Carolina cottage form frame dwelling: the coastal cottage form was popular in the county in the first third of the 19th century before the construction of the more substantial two-story plantation houses. The Bizzell House displays the finest exterior ornamentation for this form in the county. The two-room house, having front and rear engaged porches and shed rooms, exhibits simple classical detailing. Here Bizzell operated a stop and tavern along the Fayetteville-to-Tarboro stage road. The handsome structure sits prominently at the junction of US 13, which follows portions of the former stage road, and SR 1845, a crossroads known as Rosin, or locally as Rosin Hill - a name taken from the substantial quantities of naval stores once produced here. The road originally ran in front of the house, until the 1940's when it was changed and now lies behind (north) of the house. One of the area's oldest houses, the Asher W. Bizzell House is a prime example of the early substantial dwellings in upper Sampson County.

The two-room frame structure rests on common bond brick piers, facing south. The gable roof extends to shelter an engaged front porch and engaged rear shed rooms. A central chimney, not common in the county, pierces a standing seam metal gable roof which lessens its upper pitch to incorporate the flatter pitch of the roofs over the engaged front porch and rear shed. The central bay of the rear was originally an open porch. Four heavy pillars carry the porch; the removed railing had a rounded handrail and a peaked bottom rail. Wide sheathed boards cover the porch facade; the rest of the four-by-four bay house is weatherboarded. Sash are six-over-six. The porch facade has handsome, classical pilasters framing the two central doors and the same pilasters - with a lower panel - at the window and at both porch ends. The other surrounds are either flat and unadorned or two-part with a simple molded band.

Wide board sheathing is used throughout the plain interior with the addition of a simply molded chair rail and baseboard and a small molded strip at the cornice. Similar molding marks the interior surrounds. The mantels of the interior chimney have been removed. Doors have five raised panels.

There are several medium sized oaks and sweetgums near the house, which has been vacant for a number of years with the exception of seasonal farm help. Located near the Bizzell House is the Jonas McPhail House, a traditional, one-story, late 19th century farmhouse decorated with a wealth of applied Victorian ornamentation, and the Annie McPhail Store, a two-story, frame, weatherboarded turn of the century structure, both included in this multiple resource nomination. The three structures, the only old surviving buildings at Rosin Hill, are surrounded by pleasant stands of mixed forests.

There are three contributing structures in this nomination.

The structures, of course, are closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.
The Asher Bizzell House was moved about 1870 by Bizzell's widow, Mary (Polly) Smith Bizzell. Mrs. Bizzell moved the house a short distance away, across a small stream. The reason she had the house moved is not known, but the house has been in its present location since about 1870, and has acquired a degree of significance in its new site in addition to its architectural merit as one of the earliest and most intact examples of the coastal cottage form which was popular in the county during the first third of the nineteenth century.
The Asher W. Bizzell House is one of the oldest houses in this part of the county, an area predominantly settled by those who moved from the eastern counties of North Carolina and from Virginia. In 1820 Asher Walter Bizzell (1785-1837), a merchant from neighboring Wayne County, moved here and erected his dwelling, using it as a stop and tavern along the Fayetteville-to-Tarboro stage road. In the late 19th century the house was acquired by Sampson Warren (1848-ca 1906) who gave the house to his daughter, Annie Warren McPhail (1874-1967); she and her husband Jonas (?-1933) built a charming house nearby in the 1890's and Annie operated an adjacent store; both house and store survive. The present owner, Jake Hudson, a great-nephew of the McPhails bought the house around 1967. The handsome house, built in the popular coastal cottage form with a double angled gable roof sweeping to engage a porch across the front and shed rooms along the rear, is one of the county's finest examples of this prevalent early 19th century vernacular form. Major stylistic details are provided by the handsome classical pilasters flanking the house's four front bays. Numerous large oaks shelter the house, and the neighboring McPhail buildings; together, these three comprise the last survivors of the rural crossroads of Rosin Hill, named because of the substantial amount of naval stores taken from the area's extensive pine forests in the late 19th century.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. Associated with the area's early development of agriculture, commerce and transportation, operating as a tavern and stagecoach stop along the Fayetteville-to-Tarboro stage coach after 1820. Associated with the development of the naval stores industry in the late 19th century.

C. One of the finer examples of the popular coastal cottage form, the house is a prime indication of the quality of the area's early architecture. Notable are the handsome classical pilasters flanking the front four bays.

CRITERIA EXCEPTION

B. The Asher Bizzell House was moved about 1870 by Asher Bizzell's widow, Mary (Polly) Smith Bizzell. The reason the house was moved is not known, but the house was relocated a short distance from its original site. The house is being nominated principally on its architectural merit, and has gained a degree of significance in its present site since 1870.
The Asher W. Bizzell House was built around 1820. It is located in the northern part of Sampson County, near the community of Rosin Hill. The house was built for Bizzell and remained in the hands of his descendants for many years.

Asher Bizzell was born in Wayne County in 1785. In 1810 he married Mary Smith and they established a general store at Grantham Crossroads. The Bizzells purchased land in Sampson County in 1820 and moved to the Rosin Hill area about that time.

Rosin Hill was a small community, largely devoted to the production of tar, pitch and turpentine. Bizzell was one of the earliest settlers in the community. He operated a general store and stagecoach stop and dealt in naval stores, in addition to farming. He and his wife had at least eleven children born between 1812 and 1836. Asher Bizzell died in 1837. His wife was listed as head of the household in 1840 and 1850 and the latter census shows that she continued to farm the Bizzell land. Eventually the house became the property of their eldest child, David A. Bizzell.

David Asher Bizzell was born in Wayne County in 1812 and moved to Sampson County with his parents in 1820. He married Mary Lee in 1839 and they had eleven children. David Bizzell was a land surveyor, a justice of the peace and a farmer. The 1860 census shows that he owned 3 slaves and farmed 465 acres valued at $2,400. Bizzell surveyed and mapped Clinton for its 1852 reincorporation. He died in 1863. Around 1870 his widow moved the house a short distance across a small stream, where it still stands. Mrs. Bizzell continued to farm the tract, with the help of her children at least into the 1880s.

In the latter part of the century the house was acquired by farmer Samson Warren, who willed it to his daughter, Annie McPhail, at his death in 1910. McPhail (1871-1964) operated a general store and other businesses in Rosin Hill with her husband, Jonah McPhail (1873-1932). The McPhails had built a house at Rosin Hill prior to Mrs. McPhail's acquisition of the Bizzell house. It is not certain who lived in the latter house during this period. The Bizzell house is presently owned by John L. Hudson, a great-nephew of the McPhails.

The Bizzell house has a long and varied history. One of the oldest homes in the northern part of the county, the house has been used as a tavern and a stagecoach stop, in addition to the more common usage as the center of a farming complex. This varied history increases the historical importance of the Bizzell house.

### Major Bibliographical References


### Geographical Data

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The property to be nominated is the 2.3 acre tract, shown as lot number six on the accompanying map of the Annie McPhail Estate, dated 11 October 1966. A copy of the map is attached.
NOTES


4 Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 514, 735; Sampson County Will Book 5, p. 1.